

The Official USU Newsletter

the pulse

Volume 9, Issue 17 • September 15, 2014
www.usuhs.edu



A Day in the Life of USU

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the USU Office of External Affairs unless otherwise indicated. The Pulse staff may include or exclude articles based upon news value, impact on the university and space availability.

Submissions

The Pulse is published biweekly on Mondays. The deadline for submissions is at 4 p.m. Tuesday prior to the publication date. Submissions can be sent to christine.creenan-jones@usuhs.edu or by calling 301-295-3338.

Class of 2018 starts new tradition with ceremonial commissioning

by Christine Creenan-Jones, editor



Photo by Thomas Balfour

The Uniformed Services University hosted a Ceremonial Commissioning for incoming F. Edward Hébert Medical Students, Aug. 29.

Medical students from the Class of 2018 at the Uniformed Services University participated in a ceremonial commissioning, Aug. 29. The event – the first of its kind at USU – was held to publicly recognize the oath taken by Army, Navy, Air Force and Public Health Service officers to support and defend the United States Constitution through careers in uniformed service in USU’s F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine.

Since all Hébert medical students are officially commissioned before school starts, the ceremony was largely symbolic and a way for family and friends to participate in a time-honored military tradition.

“As I’ve gotten older, I’ve come to recognize how very important ceremonies like this are,” said the event’s keynote speaker, Dr. Eric Schoomaker, former Surgeon General of the Army and a current Scholar-in-Residence at USU.

During his speech, Schoomaker also commended USU’s new officers for commissioning “during troubling times.” However, despite their

heavy responsibilities, Schoomaker implored the new officers to always to remember the “importance of promises kept.”

For the Class of 2018, reaffirming their promise in front of loved ones at USU was a way to validate the significance of the Oath of Commissioned Officers.

“My family wasn’t at my first commissioning ceremony, so it felt a little bittersweet to embark on a major milestone without them by my side. Turns out a lot of my USU classmates felt the same way, which I discovered after a survey went out about our commissioning experiences,” said Army 2nd Lt. Donald Rees. “A group of us got together and decided to host a redo of sorts. The response from the Class of 2018 was overwhelming and the end result was perfect. More than 40 students participated, families came from across the United States, and we had wonderful guest speakers. It felt real and it felt good to take our oaths in front of people who matter the most to us at USU.”



Photo by Christine Creenan-Jones

On the cover

In an effort to showcase the incredible people who work at the Uniformed Services University, the Office of External Affairs took candid pictures of USU’s faculty, staff and students in action on August 25 for the Day in the Life of USU photo project. View some of the collection on pages 4-7 and 11.

USU alumnus receives American Legion Distinguished Service Medal

by Sharon Holland, managing editor

The national leadership of the American Legion recently named F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine graduate Dr. Donald Jenkins ('88) its 2014 Distinguished Service Medal recipient.

Jenkins, a retired Air Force colonel, is an actively engaged affiliated faculty member in USU's Norman M. Rich Department of Surgery, and currently serves as the Consultant, Division of Trauma, Critical Care and General Surgery, Associate Professor of Surgery, and Medical Director of the Trauma Center at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

The American Legion awarded its first Distinguished Service Medal in 1921 "as tribute to those who made great contributions to veterans." The initial award was presented to five individuals to recognize the importance of Allied forces in the victorious battles of World War I. Jenkins joins former U.S. Presidents, Congressional and military leaders, philanthropists, leaders in science and health care, and other pioneers and luminaries in receipt of this medal and is the fifth surgeon to receive the honor.

Jenkins was presented the Distinguished Service Medal during the American Legion's National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, in August for his contributions to combat casualty care research, which "resulted in the most advanced trauma system in history resulting in the lowest fatality rate recorded in war," according to the award resolution. Jenkins was also lauded for his use of a "different transfusion formula that reduced the mortality rate from 70 percent to 20 percent" and for reintroducing the use of tourniquets on the battlefield.

"It is truly a team effort and no one individual can truly lay claim to such distinction," said Jenkins. "This award belongs to every medic and corpsman, every nurse and technician, every one of the personnel in lab, pharmacy, blood bank, radiology and all the logisticians and biomedical engineers and respiratory therapists as well as the physicians and surgeons and leaders and administrators in uniform and



Photo by Tom Strathman, The American Legion

Dr. Donald Jenkins, an F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine alumnus ('88), was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal from the American Legion.

DoD civilians. We should all take pride in our work but not settle on these accomplishments, but strive to improve care of the injured combatant that much more."

Jenkins earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from the University of Scranton, followed by his Doctorate of Medicine from USU in 1988. He completed a surgery residency at Wilford Hall Air Force Medical Center in San Antonio, followed by a fellowship in Trauma and Surgical Critical Care and Focused Abdominal Sonography in Trauma at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He served 24 years on active duty in the Air Force, with his last assignment at Wilford Hall, where he served as the trauma medical director responsible for all trauma medical care and administration of the U.S. Air Force's only American College of Surgeons Verified Level 1 Trauma Center in the decade prior to his retirement in 2008.

Back to School Trivia Question #2

The F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine implemented a new curriculum in 2011.
What is it called?

The first person to e-mail the correct response to christine.creenan-jones@usuhs.edu wins a large coffee and doughnut courtesy of the USU cafeteria.

A Day in the Life

The Uniformed Services University is buzzing with exciting research, learning, teaching and behind-the-scenes work every day. In an effort to capture a candid but typical view of campus life, the Office of External Affairs armed its staff members with cameras and open access

to USU's classrooms, labs, centers, offices and shared spaces on August 25.

The pictures they took bring to life the sum of USU's many parts. This special edition of the Pulse is dedicated to the faculty, staff and students who keep USU moving at the cutting edge.



Photo by Sgt. Jeffrey Dillon

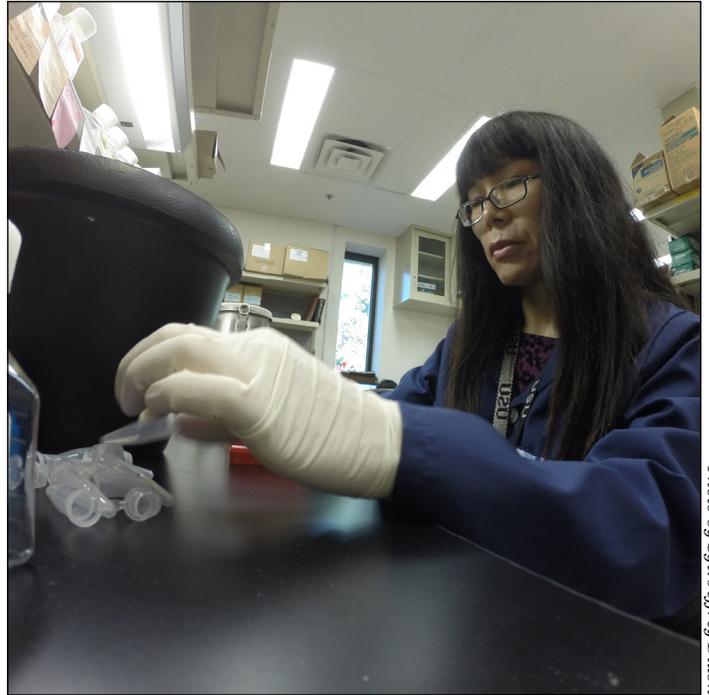


Photo by Sgt. Jeffrey Dillon



Photo by MC3 Laura Bailey



Photo by Sgt. Jeffrey Dillon

Campus Life

Courtesy of the Postgraduate Dental College



Photo by Kyle Furhman



Photo by Christine Creenan-Jones



Photo by Christine Creenan-Jones

Student Body

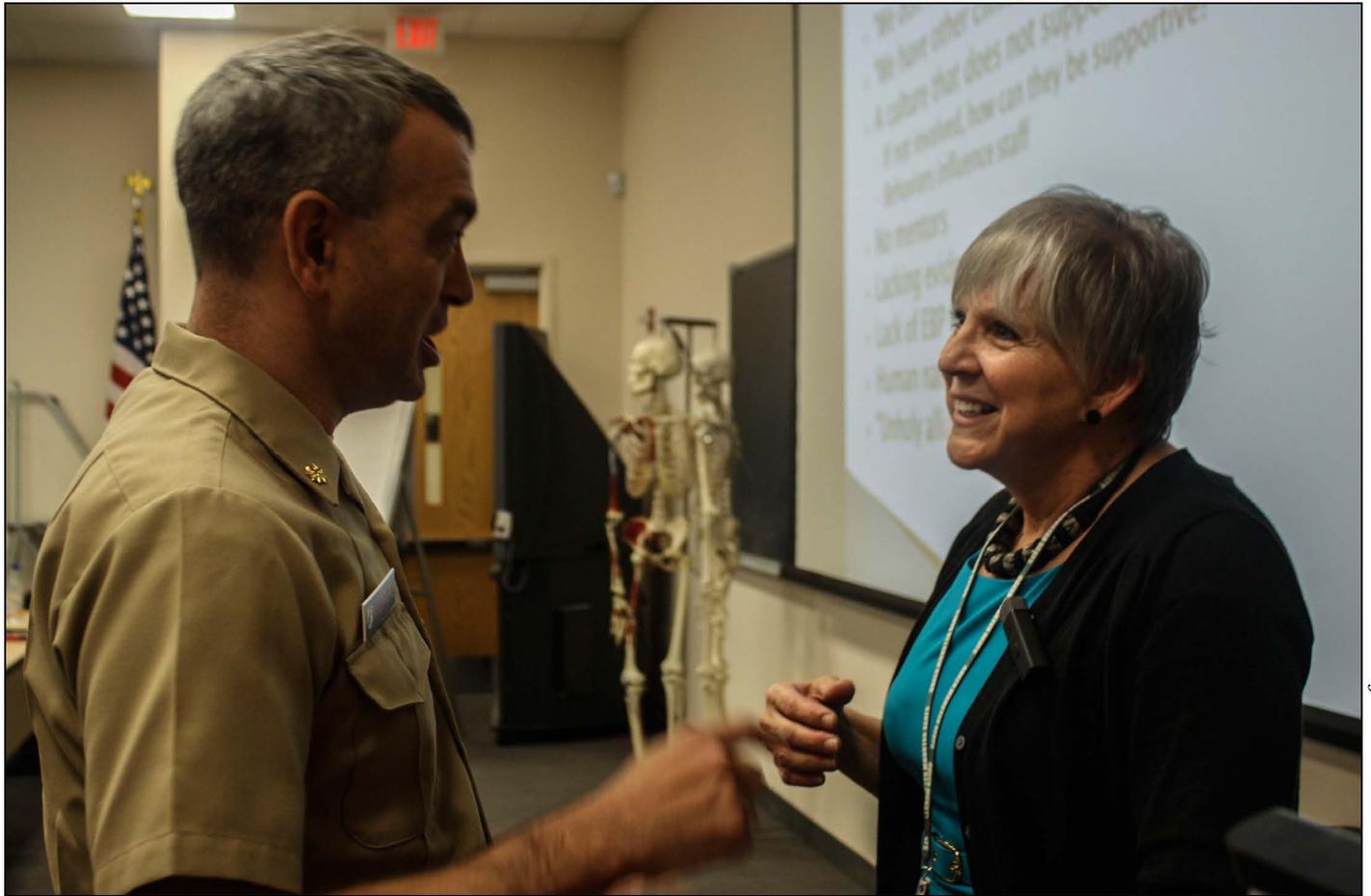


Photo by Christine Creeman-Jones



Photo by Kyle Fuhrman



Photo by Thomas Balfour

Faculty

Photo by Sgt. Jeffrey Dillon



Photo by Sgt. Jeffrey Dillon



Photo by Thomas Balfour

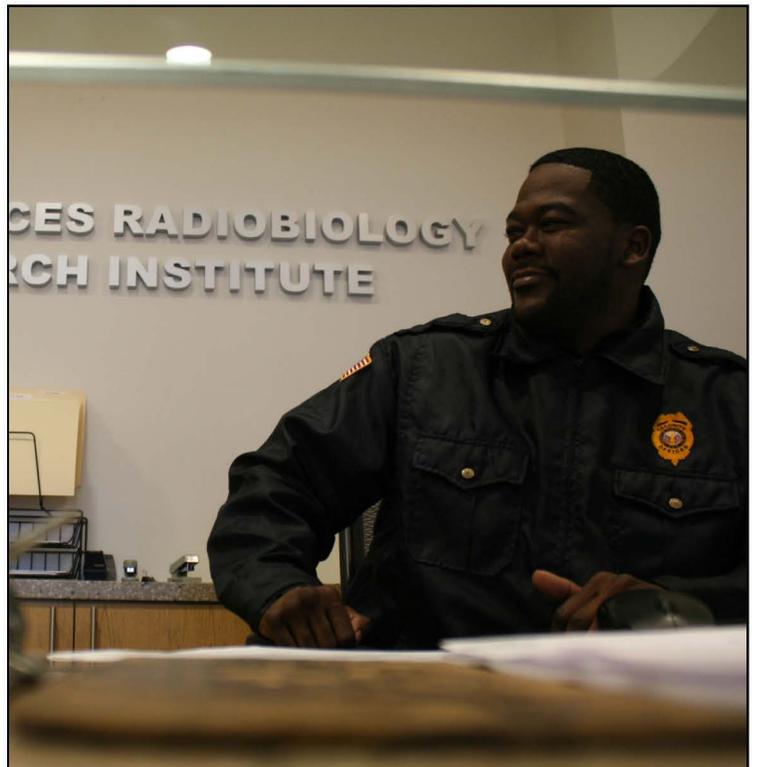


Photo by Sgt. Jeffrey Dillon

Staff

USU pediatric capstone students recognized at national meeting

courtesy of USU Pediatrics Department

Two members of the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine class of 2015, Air Force 2nd Lt. Philip Matthews and Army 2nd Lt. Christopher Stark, were invited to present their Capstone Program research at the First Annual Pediatric Medical Student Research Forum, an academic meeting held in Orlando, Fla., Aug. 29-31.

In an invited platform session, Matthews presented his qualitative research project titled, “How Professionalism is Learned: Assessing the Impact of Curriculum Reform on Student’s Perceptions of Professionalism at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS).” His work used medical student reflections on how the new curriculum impacts on their learning of professionalism, an area of education where there has been little formal work presented to date. Their initial findings uncovered a need for development and application of new qualitative research methods to track novel themes regarding professionalism which may be emerging from students experiencing the new curriculum. He performed under the mentorship of retired Army Col. (Dr.) Virginia Randall, associate professor of Pediatrics.

Stark presented a poster titled, “Association of Prematurity with the Development of Infantile Hypertrophic Pyloric Stenosis.” His team used the Military Health System database to demonstrate that premature infants have a higher incidence of infantile hypertrophic pyloric stenosis (obstruction of the gastric outlet) than full term infants, yet present at a later chronological age. He performed this work under the mentorship of a team of pediatric faculty led



Courtesy photo

F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine students, Air Force 2nd Lt. Philip Matthews (left) and Army 2nd Lt. Christopher Stark (middle), presented their Capstone Program research at the First Annual Pediatric Medical Student Research Forum in Orlando, Aug. 29-31. They were joined by Dr. Scott Rivkees, chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Florida.

by Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Cade Nylund, assistant professor of Pediatrics, a SoM Class of 2004 alumnus.

In addition to both students having been selectively invited from a large pool of potential attendees, Stark was awarded 2nd place for excellence in research among the poster presentations.

Both projects were performed under the structure of the Capstone Senior Student Research Program, which was implemented beginning in April 2014 as the final component of the new curriculum that began with the Class of 2015.

“These results were a synergy of many of the best aspects of the academic environment in the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University,” said retired Air Force Col. (Dr.) Martin Ottolini, the Capstone Program director. “We start with very highly motivated students, strongly led by two of the University’s best mentors

who have long track records in successfully guiding student research.” The students’ work was supported by a combination of resources from the Department of Pediatrics, the Capstone Program within the Dean’s Office, and the Office of Research.

“It was a win-win for everyone,” continued Ottolini. “The University community has been tremendously supportive of many similar independent projects for members of the Class of 2015. We have an enthusiastic and generous academic community.”

The Capstone Program is initially phasing in as an advanced elective, as it expands its capabilities, and will eventually be an integrated part of the post-clerkship educational experience for all medical students. More than 30 members of the class of 2015 have already begun their independent projects and many students from the class of 2016 are beginning the planning for their experiences.

PDC program director, jack of many trades

by Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

Army Col. (Dr.) Pete Guevara, a program director for the comprehensive dentistry program at the Army Postgraduate Dental School, comes from a long line of dentists. His grandfather, father and brother share his profession. His ambition, however, stretched farther than dental medicine alone.

Guevara joined the Army after completing dental school at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. Back then, he saw the military as an opportunity to explore the world.

“I didn’t want to be one of those people who went to school in Pittsburgh and never left. I wanted to experience the world,” Guevara said.

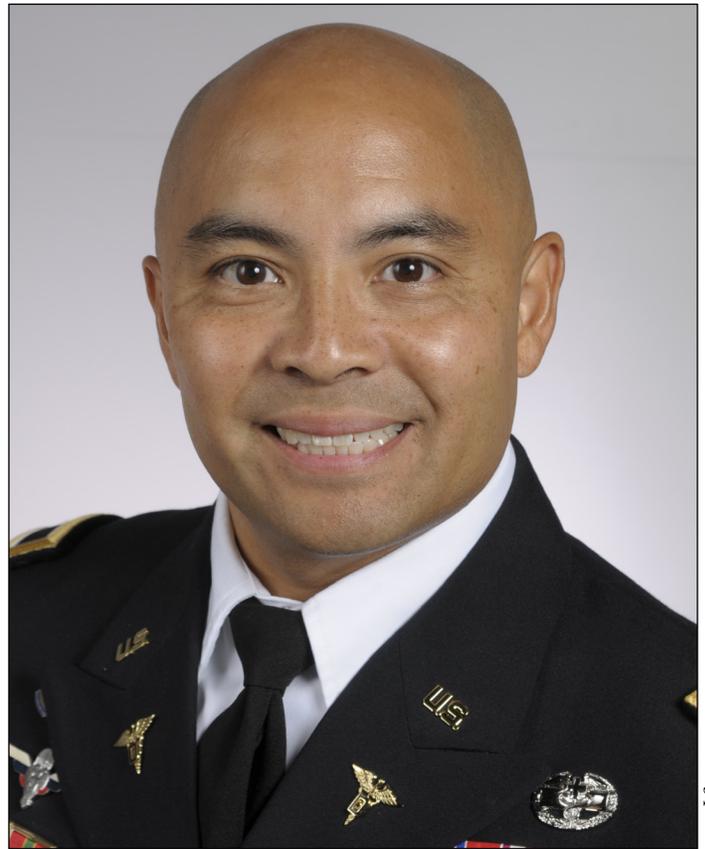
His longing for adventure became a fast reality in the Army. Besides his stateside duty assignments, Guevara has practiced dentistry in Germany, Bosnia, Nigeria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

“I’ve worked in a lot of places, some harder than others, and I’ve met and treated a lot of really incredible service members everywhere I’ve gone. This is especially true in hot war zones. We all have it pretty rough on deployments but line troops seem to have it the toughest. They make a lot of sacrifices in the line of duty. Being able to take care of them has been a real honor,” he said.

The camaraderie that accompanies military service was something Guevara missed when he took a two-year reprieve from the Army to teach at his dental school alma matter in 2007.

“My father taught at Pitt, so for me it was pretty neat to go back and follow in his footsteps. Still, I couldn’t wait to commission again,” he said. “There are a lot of perks that come with military dentistry. For one, I really enjoy being part of a group practice. My uniformed colleagues have become my friends and sounding boards for sharing ideas. I also like that military dentists can spend their whole day focused on teaching or dentistry. Civilians don’t have that luxury because they have administrative issues and insurance limitations to consider.”

A soldier at heart, Guevara was back in Army green by 2009. His uniform, however, looked slightly



Courtesy photo

Army Col. (Dr.) Pete Guevara

different than most fatigues worn by dental corps officers.

“Mine has parachute wings,” he said. “I joined the Army as a dentist but also spent a lot of years as a paratrooper and jump master for airborne units.”

For Guevara, it was mentally and physically challenging work that allowed him to both learn and teach military-unique skills. At certain points in his career, Guevara spent more time jumping out of planes than in his dental clinic.

Although still proud to be an airborne soldier, these days Guevara’s feet are planted firmly on the ground at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, where he’s teaching USU master’s students the art of comprehensive dentistry.

“I really love teaching. It’s my way of adding to the future of the dental corps,” said Guevara.

Do you have a story for Pulse staff members? Submit your ideas to the new editor, MC3 Laura Bailey at laura.bailey@usuhs.edu.

USU center contributes to national preparedness year round

by Liz Brasington, NCDMPH

September may be National Preparedness Month, but the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health at the Uniformed Services University works year round to improve national preparedness and resilience through the education and training of the disaster health workforce.

The NCDMPH supports national disaster preparedness through original research, online accredited lessons and interdisciplinary national events.

The center recently hosted a “Learning in Disaster Health Workshop,” which featured multidisciplinary experts and a talk by keynote speaker, Dr. Arthur Kellermann, dean of the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine.

The NCDMPH is also sponsoring a qualitative case study called, “Examining Long-Term Community Recovery to Identify Opportunities for Improved Education and Training.” The study examines communities impacted by Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy with a special focus on the lived experience of community leaders, emergency managers and other members of the disaster health workforce as they move toward recovery.

A research collaboration via a Centers for Disease Control-funded study with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the State of Maryland’s Department of Health is another ongoing NCDMPH program. This study will examine and enhance public health workers’ sense of efficacy during the recovery phase of disasters. The NCDMPH created a comprehensive, evidence-based educational curriculum intervention to increase self-efficacy and threat perception among local public health workers in this poorly understood phase of the disaster cycle.

Furthermore, the center has multiple accredited online lessons and materials that focus on pediatric disaster issues. Developed with subject matter experts, these lessons focus on how disasters can uniquely affect children. Current topic areas include psychosocial needs of children in disasters, radiation disaster issues in children, and reuniting children with their parents or legal guardians in disasters. All of these resources aim to foster increased preparedness in the disaster workforce.

These resources can be downloaded at the center’s website at ncdmph.usuhs.edu.



Photo by Ronald Rivenburgh

USU donors honored

Members of the Marine Corps honor guard fold the American flag for a fellow Marine Corps veteran whose body was recently donated to the Uniformed Services University’s Anatomical Gift Program. He, and other donors, were honored during a memorial service held at Arlington National Cemetery.

Final Frame: A Day in the Life

Photo by Christine Creenan-Jones

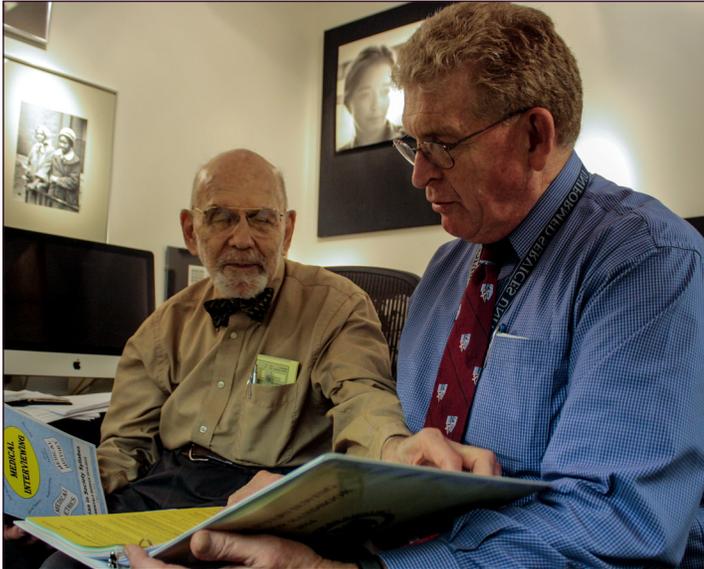


Photo by Sgt. Jeffrey Dillon



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