

The Official USU Newsletter

# the pulse

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*Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way*

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# Students, Faculty Learn About GYHC

by Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class Laura Bailey, writer and photographer



Students and faculty at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) attend the Guard Your Health Campaign (GYHC) seminar at USU. The GYHC supports medical readiness objectives in the Army National Guard. (Photo by Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class Laura Bailey)

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics recently hosted the National Guard's Guard Your Health Campaign (GYHC) to inform USU students and faculty about social marketing techniques.

It's widely known the Department of Defense uses social media and other web-based platforms for engaging service members on a number of important military fronts including health and fitness.

The Guard Your Health Campaign (GYHC), Small Steps to a Healthier You Challenge, funded by the Army National Guard's (ANG) Office of the Chief Surgeon, is one such example. A seminar about the campaign was held at the Uniformed Services University at the beginning of March.

The campaign supports the ANG's efforts to build and sustain a resilient, adaptable, and medically-ready force, said Dana Stirk, the lead associate and project manager of the GYHC at Booz Allen Hamilton. The GYHC uses a responsive website, Facebook, smart phone applications and other communication tools to increase awareness of medical readiness and health promotion.

Staff and faculty at USU attending the seminar can attest the campaign succeeds at engaging service members. After all, research shows that service members like receiving information through web-based mediums, according to Stirk. Analytics

prove the campaign is working, she added.

"I recently spoke with one of my National Guard colleagues about potential methods to measure and track fitness remotely," said Army Maj. (Dr.) David Waite, a student enrolled in the USU Master of Public Health program and a former Air Force reservist. "This lecture tied in perfectly with that discussion and gave me ideas for a more comprehensive approach that would include more social media."

However, he added, the campaign needs more support to be truly successful.

"The two things that stood out were the low command interest and a lack of funding," said Waite. "It isn't until the unit is headed out the door [to go to the field] that the command takes interest in its medical readiness. While she didn't explicitly mention those items in the lecture, they came up as limitations of the program in the question-and-answer session at the end."

The GYHC could also benefit from an outcome metric, according to a USU department chair.

"At the end of her talk, she had some facts and figures on the number of social media hits, number of followers, and that's a process metric," said retired Army Col. Robert Defraites, an associate professor of

*continued on pg. 3*

**On the cover**

Department of Defense Sexual Assault Forensic Experts (SAFE) Observe USU students interacting with actors playing victims of a sexual assault during the new forensic simulation at the Val G. Hemming Simulation Center. This is the first time the DoD is training military medical providers to collect forensic evidence to submit directly to court systems. See story, Page 4 (photo by Eric Ritter)

# Haffner Recognized for Lifetime Achievement

by Sharon Holland, deputy vice president for external affairs/ managing editor

The Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO) bestowed its highest honor, the APGO Lifetime Achievement Award, to William H.J. Haffner, M.D., professor and former Chair of USU's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, during the Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology and APGO annual meeting awards ceremony March 6 in San Antonio, Texas.

The APGO Board of Directors presents the Lifetime Achievement Award annually. The award honors past APGO leaders who have made noteworthy contributions within the specialty of obstetrics and gynecology and who have consistently worked to further the goals of the APGO and academic medicine. This award provides funding for a specific APGO program or initiative selected by the recipient from a list provided by the APGO Development Committee. Haffner has requested the funds for 2015 be designated for the APGO Academic Scholars and Leaders Program.

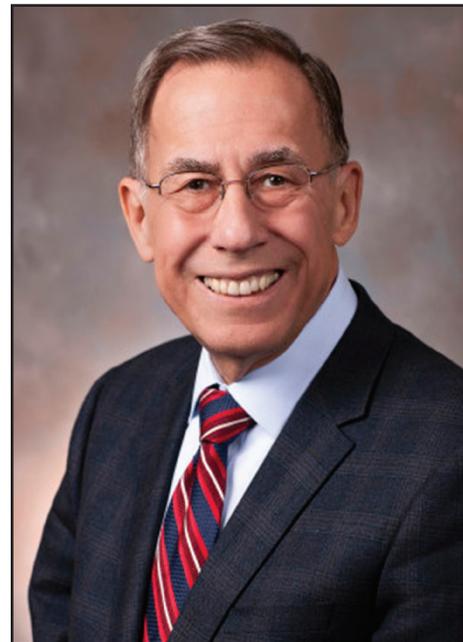
Haffner's contributions to medical education are varied and extensive. He has contributed significantly to the education of a generation of military physicians at the graduate and undergraduate level. Throughout his career, and to this day, he has worked diligently to ensure providers working with Native American women have quality, culturally-appropriate educational opportunities. He has been a member of APGO since 1981 and has held leadership positions including Secre-

tary-Treasurer (2003-2006) and President (2006-2007) and has served as a member of the APGO Finance and Audit Committee (2008-2010). Haffner also served as a mentor for the APGO Academic Scholars and Leaders Program in 1999, 2005-2006, 2008-2010 and 2011-2013.

He received his undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University and his medical degree from the George Washington School of Medicine where he graduated with distinction and was elected into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. He completed an internship in surgery at George Washington University Hospital and his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

Following residency, he was commissioned in the Public Health Service and began his long career at Gallup Indian Medical Center, an Indian health service facility in rural New Mexico. After serving at Gallup for 10 years, including in roles as Chief of the Department and Navajo Area Senior Consultant for OB-GYN, he moved to the Washington, D.C., area. Before retiring from the Public Health Service in 2001 after 30 years in service, he held, essentially, every leadership position in women's health at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, including program director and department chair.

He is currently professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine and the chair of



*William H.J. Haffner, M.D., professor and former Chair of USU's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (Courtesy photo).*

the Departmental Committee on Academic Appointments, Promotions and Tenure. He is also editor-in-chief of Military Medicine, the international journal of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, is a consultant for obstetrics and gynecology for the Indian Health Service, United States Public Health Service, in Rockville, Md., and is an attending staff physician in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Walter Reed National Military Center in Bethesda, Md.

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## Continued from "GYHC" on pg. 7

Tropical Public Health and acting chair of the Department of Preventative Medicine and Biometrics. "So, it shows people are interested. What it doesn't tell you is whether they got any healthier."

An outcome metric could add value to the campaign and, perhaps, garner needed interest and funding for the program, he said.

The campaign recognized the need for an outcome measure along with funding and Army interest, said Stirk, but the complexities of medical readiness classifications in the ANG makes it difficult to nail

down the outcomes.

One possible solution suggests narrowing the focus to oral health. Doing so might enable the GYHC to produce the missing outcome-metric.

"Dental readiness is easier to track than medical readiness, since there are only four dental readiness classifications," said Defraites. "It would benefit the campaign and the Army to actually know what proportion of a unit's forces is Dental Class four - in other words, not dental ready--before the campaign kicks off. Then, if the percentage goes down during the course of the GYHC, a comparison could be made with a unit that didn't have participation in

the campaign."

Ultimately, it's about soldier's health. The GYHC is only as effective as the outcomes it currently measures.

"The results of the comparison might just be what the GYHC needs in order to grab the Army's attention and the needed funding to measure the campaign's effect on medical readiness as well," said Defraites. "If you can help the ANG soldiers help themselves become more medically ready by promoting fitness through the GYHC and show that it's making them healthier, the commanders have to say that's a great investment."

# USU Launches First-Ever DoD Sexual Assault Crime Collection Simulation

by Eric D. Ritter, writer/editor

Uniformed Services University has launched a new simulation initiative at the Val G. Hemming Simulation Center to help combat the crime of sexual assault.

The Department of Defense has been active in teaching sexual assault prevention and victim advocacy for years. However, when it comes to documenting and responding to a sexual assault crime, DoD members often rely on using civil authorities as the lead in the crime-collection process. That's changing with the new sexual assault simulation exercise. The Sim Center is teaching USU medical students how to collect and document evidence from an assault using specific "rape kits" that contain the items they need for the process.

"This is ground breaking," said Air Force Lt. Col. Wendy Lee, a family nurse practitioner and assistant professor in USU's Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School

of Nursing. "The training the students are receiving here is so cutting edge, other organizations like John Hopkins [University] are interested in it, because there's nothing else like it."

To help paint the important scope of the simulation, Dr. Ann Wolbert Burgess, a Boston College professor who serves as a consultant for the initiative, was on hand to witness the simulation exercise. Burgess is world-renown and regarded as a pioneer in the field of treatment for victim trauma and abuse.

"This is a major issue I'm glad the military is addressing," Burgess said. "I know four-star generals who are going through sexual assault trauma training, so you know it's an important issue the military is interested in addressing."

Lee added, "These students may be the best at diagnosing high cholesterol or prepping a patient for surgery, but the training they're receiving here today is a

whole different scope from what they're used to going through. Having them ready for this situation is incredibly important."

The training begins with an initial classroom situation where the students are given a "rape kit" box. They go through the box to familiarize themselves with each item, its role and importance in each scenario. They are also given some instruction on the proper initial approach they need to take when first meeting the "patients"--actors who are specially trained for the role and add even more realism for the students. Once that portion is finished, students are escorted to the simulation area which is an accurate replica of a

clinical examination room. Before entering the room, the students thoroughly study the patient's chart to get an understanding of the patient's background. When they enter, they appropriately greet the victim—without shaking hands as to not disturb potential evidence. While in the exam room, the students will simulate using items from the rape kit such as swabs, fluid collection devices, tamper-proof collection bags and such to accurately collect forensic data.

"The patients used are amazing in the situation," Lee said. "They've been given hours of training to show a variety of emotion. The training was so thorough that the actors playing the patients had real emotional breakdowns that were full of tears. That really helps in a simulation event like this."

During the process of the simulated doctor/patient interview, headphone wearing faculty watch and listen to analyze and critique the students from behind obscured glass.

Michelle Ortiz, a registered nurse from Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, is a DoD Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner and was one of the observers.

"This is phenomenal training," she said. "These are felony-level crimes these students are being introduced to, and getting that experience they're getting here at the simulation center is a huge benefit to the student, the courts and ultimately the victim."

Once the students finished their interviews, the actors playing the victims provided their feedback. Then the students were separated into groups to be given an after-action debrief from Ortiz and other observers.

"The debrief is one of the most important learning factors for these students," Ortiz said. "They learn most of their strengths and weakness during this period."

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Eric Pauli, GSN assistant professor, was another observer and feels proud of the program USU has put together.

"USU will now have the best prepared people to handle this in the DoD," he said. "I can't say enough about how well this simulation will affect how we will address a sexual assault situation if it happens."



An actress portraying a victim of sexual assault is interviewed by a medical student as part of a new simulation that trains future physicians how to react to victims and document evidence at the Val G. Hemming Simulation Center. (Photo by Eric Ritter)

# Brown Bag luncheon discussion tackles Discrimination

by Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class Laura Bailey, writer and photographer

*The names of those who participated in the Brown Bag discussion are withheld in this article to encourage open discussion during future events.*

More than 25 Uniformed Services University staff, students and faculty--civilian and military--attended the Brown Bag discussion March 20, sponsored by the USU office of Equal Employment Opportunity and the School of Medicine Diversity Committee. The discussion offered an opportunity for personnel to talk about recent racial and ethnic issues happening across the U.S. reported in the news and social media.

Discussion centered around the opening question: "Does the messenger against racism make a difference?" Participants watched a YouTube video that presented the perspective of an African-American woman based on her personal experience with discrimination, which then jump-started the lunchtime conversation.

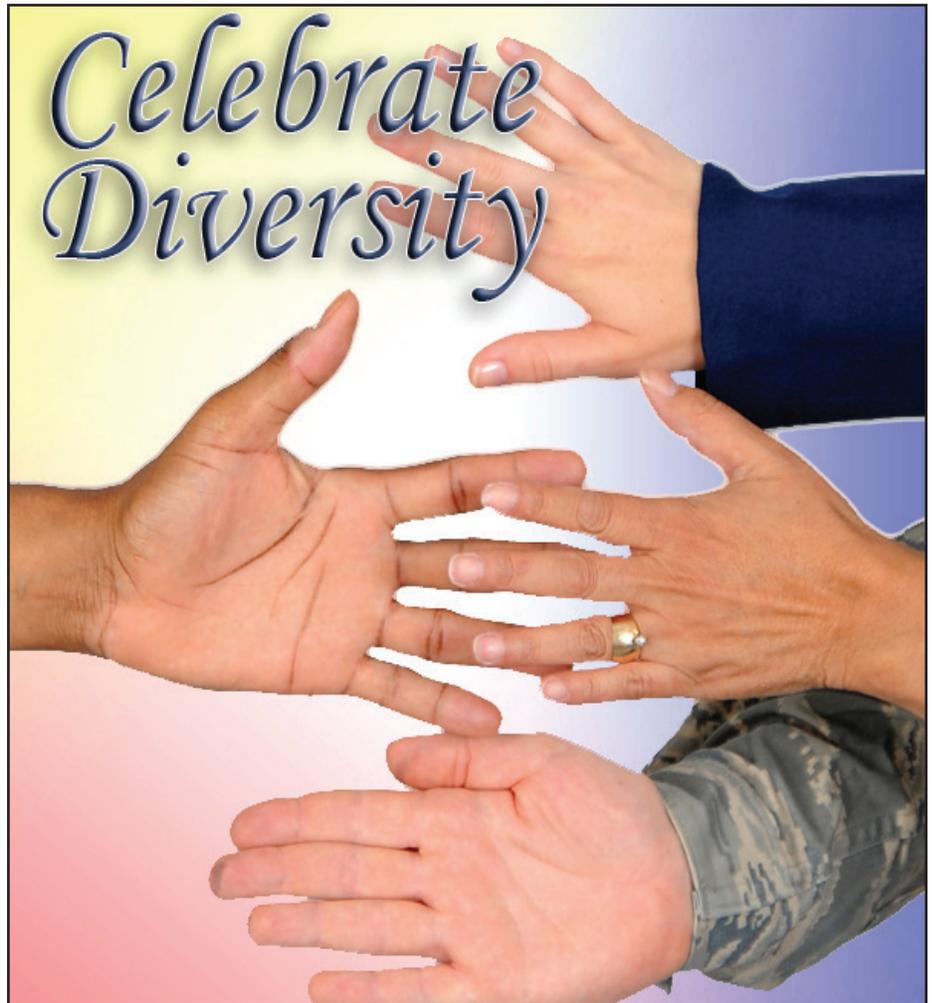
Army Col. (Dr.) Jeffrey Hutchinson, associate dean for Clinical Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer for the School of Medicine, asked those in attendance to describe their feelings when they first viewed the video. Responses ranged from feelings of sadness to a feeling of "what else is new?"

"It's not a lecture," said Hutchinson. "It is a discussion, and while it is partially a complaining session, it is ultimately a chance to express things going on in current events."

References to the unrest over the August police killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown in Missouri came up in conversation, but it also included mention of "micro-aggressions" going unnoticed or overlooked.

Micro-aggression was defined by one participant as when the discrimination in question is so subtle that it's not easily identified as racism. As a result, micro-aggressions can be more difficult to address.

Some discussion participants admitted that when it comes to being a messenger against racism, it's not that easy. Attendees cited reasons why they might be less inclined to be a messenger against racism,



including not wanting to be the "angry black woman," lack of confidence and uncertainty about what is or isn't a racist act.

One person said they had just come to accept being treated differently as a way of life while another said she didn't think people should be afraid to speak up.

Another participant added that it is important not to rely on others to be the messenger, while others expressed that it is everyone's responsibility to be the messenger.

"I'm glad there is a messenger regardless of who it is," said a participant.

Instilling confidence in each other to do what is right, speaking up to give power against discrimination and faculty validating when racism has happened to a student were three highlights of the discussion, according to Hutchinson.

The university, while not immune to

discrimination, is taking steps to address discrimination on its own doorstep, including efforts to recruit a diverse student body, as well as faculty and staff.

Future Brown Bag discussions are in the works along with the establishment of various social identity Student Interest Groups at USU, said Hutchinson.

Hutchinson wasn't sure what to expect for the Brown Bag discussion turnout, but was pleasantly surprised at the overwhelming response by the USU community.

"I am very pleased that there were so many who came," said Hutchinson. "I'm also pleased that the people who couldn't be here talked to me. The response was very encouraging. The answer to the question if the messenger matters is that we should treat each other as we want to be treated."

# USU's "Pistol" Pauli wins boxing debut

by Eric D. Ritter, writer/editor

Most boxers are eyeing retirement from the sport when they reach their late 30s. However, for Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing assistant professor Navy Lt. Cmdr. Eric "Pistol" Pauli, he's just getting started.

"My brother was a professional fighter, and I have friends with several boxing championships," said Pauli. "I admired the courage it took to get in the ring."

Pauli said his desire to give boxing a try started when he was complaining to his brother about how difficult school was while he was working on his Master's degree at the University of Washington.

"I knew I wanted to be a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, and I was grateful to the Navy for sending me back to school," he explained, "but, I was finding the sleepless nights and the rigorous work to be very exhausting."

His brother brought in a friend to make an inspirational phone call to help keep him focused on school.

"It was Evander Holyfield—former heavyweight [boxing] champion of the world," exclaimed Pauli. "He encouraged

me to dig deep and 'knock out the school work.' I thought that was way cool my brother coordinated that phone call."

The phone call also inspired him to take on the challenge of becoming a boxer in the ring, because it would encourage him to work toward getting in the best shape of this life.

After a rigorous training routine, Pauli was ready to enter the ring. His first boxing match was February 20, and it was scheduled for three rounds. After delivering dozens of combinations, jabs and haymakers, he was awarded the win by decision.

Although he is grateful for the win and enjoyed the challenge, he did admit that he feels it's better that he turns his focus back to the school ring instead of the boxing ring to obtain his Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree from Old Dominion Uni-



Navy Lt. Cmdr. Eric "Pistol" Pauli (right) poses with his opponent, Tom "Gun" MacDougall. Pauli went on to win the boxing match by decision and improve to a record of 1-0. (Courtesy Photo)

versity.

"It was a lot of fun," he said. "I enjoyed the experience. I'm proud I got the win, and I'm proud I did it all at the age I am."

Click [here](#) to see the fight.

## USU Conducting Manpower Study

by Christopher Austin, Writer

Uniformed Services University is currently undergoing a manpower study to document the manpower requirements necessary to execute the five mission domains contained in our Strategic Framework document. The study being conducted involves all of the university's responsibility centers, including the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing, the Postgraduate Dental School and the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute. This initiative is consistent with the January 2015 GAO report recommending all Federal organizations systematically determine manpower requirements based on a workload analysis.

"My expectation is that through this manpower study, we will have an externally validated set of manning requirements for our university, to include the numerous centers of the university," said retired Army Col. Bob Thompson, the Chief of Staff and lead for the conduct of the study at the uni-

versity. "Also, the study may lead to changes in our manpower and organizational alignment, as well as process improvements that are designed to optimize the our manpower in accomplishing our mission."

The manpower study is being conducted through the combined effort of the university, consultants with in-depth strategic knowledge of the Services manpower documentation system, and the U.S. Army Manpower Analysis Agency (USAMAA). The need for this study became clear as the university entered a period of overall shrinking government resources and mission growth without the documented manpower to execute the expanded mission portfolio.

According to Thompson, the Services are struggling to support USU's undocumented military manning needs as they confront a reduction in the size of their military and DoD is imposing civilian full-time equivalent employee controls on USU that do not fully account for the university's recent mission growth.

"The last time a manpower study was

conducted for this university was in 1990-91," said Thompson. "Since then, the university has undergone significant growth in the size and complexity of its mission.

The study involves numerous phases, but the two phases most directly involving the USU community are the current data call phase and the on-site phase, tentatively scheduled for April/May, that will include interviews of selected USU personnel. To achieve an accurate manpower assessment, it is critically important for USU faculty and staff to provide factual, complete, and timely information. Additionally, it is important to note that this study is focused solely on spaces not faces, said Thompson.

"The most important aspect of the University is our people," said Thompson. "The study will position our University to not only meet our current mission, but to fulfill our vision of being widely recognized as the pre-eminent national educational institution for the creation of career uniformed services leaders in the health sciences who are prepared to serve the nation."

# USU Alumna named to Advisory Committee

by Sharon Holland, deputy vice president for external affairs/ managing editor

Former White House Physician and a 1981 graduate of the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), Eleanor “Connie” Mariano, M.D., has been named as one of 14 members of the newly-formed Department of Veterans Affairs “MyVA” Advisory Committee (MVAC).

VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald established the MVAC to help reorient the Department to better meet the needs of veterans. The MVAC is made up of skilled experts from the private, non-profit and government sectors – many of them veterans – to advise the Secretary, with a focus on improving customer service, veteran outcomes and setting the course for long-term reform and excellence. Members of the Committee have extensive experience in customer service, large-scale organizational change and advocacy for Veterans.

Mariano, the founder of the Center for Executive Medicine, was the first female director of the White House Medical Unit

and the first female uniformed doctor to become a White House Physician to the President, serving under Presidents George H.W. Bush, William J. Clinton and George W. Bush. After retiring from the Navy as a Rear Admiral, she joined Mayo Clinic’s Executive Health Program before founding the Center for Executive Medicine.

Former USU Board of Regents member Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., FACS, was also selected for the MVAC. Carmona, who served as the nation’s 17th Surgeon General, holds several public and private leadership positions and is currently a Distinguished Professor at the University of Arizona who draws from his experiences as a combat decorated and disabled U.S. Army Special Forces Vietnam Veteran. He has extensive experience in clinical sciences, healthcare management, national preparedness and public health.

“We are extremely pleased to see that one of our alumni has been selected by Secretary McDonald to serve on this import-

ant advisory committee. USU educates our students for national service, and Dr. Mariano personifies that tradition. Her extensive experience as a Navy physician and a leader in both the military and civilian health care communities will be invaluable to the VA and our nation’s veterans, who deserve the best care we can provide,” said Dr. Arthur Kellermann, dean of the Hébert School of Medicine at USU.

To ensure that MVAC achieves the goals of MyVA, MVAC will meet several times throughout the year and engage in periodic reviews. They will also provide oversight and guidance on short-term and long-range planning strategies, setting goals and priorities, and other methods of improving the overall quality of services, operational functions, processes and outputs. MVAC will provide counsel on the funding and support necessary to meet its objectives and will also review its processes and implementation of changes and corrective actions while making suggestions and necessary adjustments.

# USU Students host National EMS Conference Session

by Sharon Holland, deputy vice president for external affairs/ managing editor

Army 2nd Lt. Patrick McCarthy, a first-year medical student in USU’s F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, was giving a class on military tactical combat casualty care and its civilian equivalent, tactical emergency casualty care, to more than 30 college-level Emergency Medical Services providers when a hooded gunman burst into the classroom and began firing – disappearing almost as quickly as he entered.

McCarthy’s USU classmates, Army 2nd Lt. Chelsea Edwards and Navy Ens. Michael Andersen, also instructors for the session, were in the back of the room. Andersen was hit by the gunfire and collapsed. Edwards immediately ran to the door and secured it, clearing the scene. Then both McCarthy and Edwards called out to the others in the room to help Andersen, who was lying motionless on the floor.

Instantly, the EMS students jumped up and took their places at Andersen’s side, taking vital signs, issuing and taking orders, applying tourniquets, inserting a chest tube and compression needles, and doing everything they could to save his life, with McCarthy and Edwards looking on offering suggestions and encouragement.

The scene was repeated five more times throughout the afternoon as part of a simulation training class hosted by USU at the 2015 National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation conference in Baltimore, Feb. 28.

McCarthy, who was actively involved in the EMS program at his undergraduate school, Rice University, submitted the proposal to conduct the class after recalling the 2014 conference, held in Boston, which had a number of sessions centered around the Boston Marathon bombing that drove significant interest in tactical and military medicine.

McCarthy approached Army 2nd Lt. Jason Ausman, then-president of USU’s Emergency Medicine Interest Group and former flight paramedic, with the idea of the lecture and using it as a recruiting tool for USU. Ausman agreed and suggested discussing it with the medical school associate dean for admissions and recruitment, Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Aaron Saguil.

McCarthy and Saguil further developed the idea, which included a lecture, followed by an active shooter scenario, use of simulation and development of hands-

on skills, and submitted the proposal with learning objectives and speaker biography  
*continued on pg. 8*



USU medical student Navy Ens. Michael Anderson explains emergency military field medical skills to EMS students at the 2015 National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation conference in Baltimore (Photo by Sharon Holland).

# USU welcomes new company commander

by Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class Laura Bailey, writer and photographer

There's a new officer on campus. He comes from a long line of military heritage including a grandfather who was in the Army and his parents – both Marines.

Although he was born in Camp Lejeune, N.C., there's only one place he calls home – America. “OOHRAH USA,” is his only response when asked where he's from.

Standing up in his black cadillacs, or combat boots, this Marine looks like he could touch the ceiling without even standing on his toes. His voice has the kind of base that rattles car speakers when the volume is turned up all the way.

The stoic expression on his face was born and bred in the U.S. Marine Corps where smiles are secured and replaced by grit and brawn.

Meet Marine Corps Capt. Ronald Calloway II, the new headquarters company commander at the Uniformed Services University.

“My job here is to facilitate the students' education,” said Calloway, who will work closely with USU brigade personnel. “Making sure the faculty and staff are able to prepare those new doctors, nurses and researchers in the military field is what we're here to do.”

His background in sociology gives him an edge that will help him in a joint military environment such as USU, he said.

“I initially pursued a degree in biochemistry, but decided that I wanted to enjoy my college experience,” said Calloway, a glint of humor shining through his tough exterior. “I switched to sociology. In hind-

sight, it was a good move for me because it deals with different people from various places and backgrounds and how to interact with them.”

His previous experience as an infantry officer is one thing that has helped him to prepare for his new role at USU. Infantry officers are responsible for the discipline, morale and welfare of their unit's Marines.

“Coming to the Marine Corps in infantry helped me greatly,” said Calloway. “As a rifle platoon commander, you get 42 Marines and a corpsman and they come from diverse backgrounds. So dealing with that and as their leader, being able to have them come together on the same page, same mission – that's basically what I bring to USU. I'm basically just taking what I've learned from infantry and applying it here by making sure the soldiers, Sailors and airmen that leave here are better prepared than when they came in.”

Personal growth is a high priority to him and he finds reading to be a great tool for self-development, he said.

“You don't want to start and finish in the same place,” said Calloway, who reads three books a month on average. “You always want to progress, whether it's in your personal life or career. There's a wealth of knowledge out there.”

One can learn so much just from picking up a book, he said. He highly encourages service members to read often and if they're unsure what to read, to pick a book based on the character traits they wish to cultivate, he added.



Marine Capt. Ronald Calloway II, new company commander (photo by Tom Balfour).

“At my last command, I had a Marine who read his first book from front to back about three months ago,” said Calloway. “He was a lance corporal in his twenties. That kind of blew my mind, mainly because I came from a family that loved to read. As a child, my brothers and I had a full library just piled with books.”

Like the books that he reads, the door to his office is always open, he said.

“I am glad to be here and yes I do have an open door policy,” said Calloway. “I can always make time or find time to see anybody who wishes to come see me. My job here is to help other people. That's what they brought me in for – to help and facilitate.”

## Continued from “EMS” on pg. 7

phies. The pair felt that it would be beneficial to include an instructor with experience inserting chest tubes, so they invited Army Col. (Dr.) Fred Lough, professor of clinical surgery and deputy chair, Department of Surgery in USU's Department of Surgery, to participate. When McCarthy called the NCEMSF president to get clarification on a scheduling issue, the president asked if Lough could also serve as a general session speaker to discuss his experiences in the combat zone. Lough agreed, and his session subsequently drew more than 500 attendees.

The student-led presentation included 20 minutes of lecture and explanation of the medical procedures being present-

ed--tourniquets, needle decompression, IV insertion and chest tube placement, followed by the active shooter event and follow-on training with the Cut Suit and high fidelity Sim Man simulators, operated by Jamie Bradshaw and Eric Wilson from USU's Val G. Hemming Simulation Center. The hands-on training lasted about 15 minutes per session, and was followed by a brief discussion of simulation at USU, screening of a video about Operation Bushmaster, and a Q&A session.

McCarthy, whose EMS program at Rice University recently received the National Association of EMTs 2014 Impact Volunteer EMS Service of the Year Award, said that the experience went well beyond his expectations.

“When we got there and saw that our sessions were completely filled, we were excited. After the first two sessions, people just started showing up outside the door asking if they could come in if someone dropped out, so the conference organizers started a wait list,” said McCarthy. “We taught them to use their leadership, communication, and decision-making skills and to get used to doing those types of procedures. I hope it will shape how they look at events at their schools, municipalities, and even the world. It will save lives.”

The conference attracts more than 1,100 campus EMS providers, advisors, medical directors and administrators per year from more than 100 colleges and universities around the country.

# Gunpowder practicum held on USU campus

by Sharon Holland, deputy vice president for external affairs/ managing editor

Sixteen teams of uniformed medical students went head to head last week to compete in the “Gunpowder Challenge” adventure race on the Uniformed Services University campus.

The challenge was part of a two-day military field practicum to help third-year medical students develop team-based military/medical leadership and communication skills. The winners from the first iteration were Air Force 2nd Lt. Andrew Haus, Navy Ensign James Cooper, Army 2nd Lt. Chelsea Garner, and Army 2nd Lt. Ian Kelly. The winners for the second iteration were Navy Ensign David Lin, Army 2nd Lt. Todd Looney, Air Force 2nd Lt. Kimberly Strickler, and Army 2nd Lt. Grant Justin.

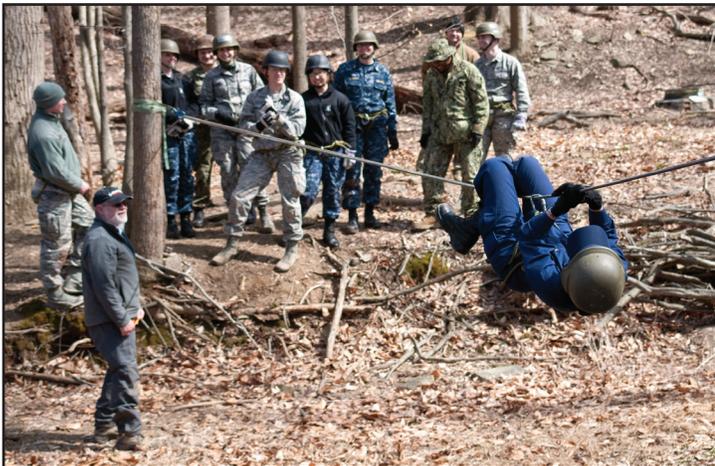
The practicum is part of the curriculum for the school’s Department of Military and Emergency Medicine. Students

practiced small-team leadership, better understanding in group dynamics, reviewed successful communication strategies during crisis situations, and experienced how stress affects performance. Many of the activities were nested in Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) and Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) scenarios.

The Gunpowder Challenge adventure race incorporated 16 skills stations that included mass casualty triaging, identifying a traumatic brain injury, litter obstacle course, two ATLS stations and an ACLS station that involved the use of medical simulation technology, a hunt for the Bushmaster Go-Book (the plan for the entire operation), trauma ultrasound, casualty evacuation, the rope bridge, improvisation, regular triage, breaking bad news to patients, and cut suits.

The course was divided into several zones with an average of four stations per zone. Students completed each station within a specified time limit to earn points. They completed at least two stations in each zone to finish the race, but earned an extra 10 points for each zone in which they complete at least three or more stations. If a station involved a leadership role, each member of the team took a turn in that role. The students had approximately 5 ½ hours to complete the race.

The “Gunpowder Challenge” got its name, because it was originally intended to be held at the training site at Gunpowder Military Reservation in Baltimore. The site was not used in its inaugural year because of heavy snow, and the training was returned to the school’s Bethesda campus, but the name stuck.



Participants had to improvise and overcome several obstacles in the field to accurately get a feel for what it may take to reach patients in any condition. (Photo by Tom Balfour)



Students study the sand table exercise as a rehearsal of concepts to develop plans for the upcoming Bushmaster exercise. (Photo by Tom Balfour)



Students showed their medical and team-building skills at several simulation stations around the campus. (Photo by Tom Balfour)

# Final Frame



*Army Col. (Dr.) Thomas Newton (right), presents Dr. Errol Alden, CEO and Executive Director of the American Academy of Pediatrics and former USU Department of Pediatrics chair (left), with a memento at the First Ever Errol R. Alden National Capital Region Pediatric Symposium, named in his honor. The symposium was sponsored by the Departments of Pediatrics at USU and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Joining Newton and Alden in the photo are: (left) Mrs. Alden and Dr. Ildy Katona, chair of the USU pediatrics department (right). (courtesy photo)*