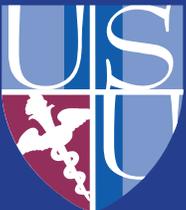


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Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way

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USU alumnus, Faison, nominated for Surgeon General of the Navy

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced last month that the President has nominated Rear Adm. C. Forrest Faison III to be appointed vice admiral and for assignment as chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and surgeon general of the Navy.

Faison received his Bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University and his medical degree from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Class of 1984. He completed post-graduate training in general pediatrics at the Naval Medical Center San Diego

and fellowship training in neurodevelopmental pediatrics at the University of Washington.

Faison is board certified in pediatrics and is an associate clinical professor of pediatrics at USU. He has several publications on neurodevelopmental outcomes of premature infants as well as other publications and book chapters on the future of Wounded Warrior care and the use of telemedicine and health informatics in healthcare. He is a senior member of the American College of Physician Executives.

Kortepeter to retire from military

After 27 years of military service, the School of Medicine's (SOM) associate dean for Research Col. (Dr.) Mark Kortepeter has decided to retire from the Army.

"One of the best parts of my job is welcoming outstanding new faculty members to the Uniformed Services University (USU). One of the worst parts is losing a high-performing faculty member who retires," said Arthur L. Kellermann, MD, MPH, professor and dean, F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine. "Dr. Kortepeter is one of the Army's top infectious disease and preventive medicine officers."

Kortepeter had deployments to Bosnia in 1997, where he served as chief of Preventive Medicine for the US Forces, and Kuwait on a Special Biodefense Team in 2003.

Since 1998, much of his work has been focused in the field of biodefense. He held a series of significant leadership roles at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID), including chief of Medicine during the 9/11 period, deputy chief of Virology, where he conducted research on Ebola virus, and as deputy commander, where he ran the day-to-day

operations of the largest biodefense lab in the world with more than 800 personnel and a \$125 million annual budget. He has also served key roles as an adviser to various science panels at the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), and World Health Organization (WHO). For the past four years, he has been the Army Surgeon General's Consultant for Biodefense. He also served as the US biodefense subject matter expert and co-chair of the NATO Biomedical Advisory Panel.

Since arriving at USU in 2009, he has held important research leadership roles, including director of the Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program, a \$20M program with more than 50 active protocols at more than 10 military medical facilities, and most recently as the SOM Associate Dean for Research, where he has helped facilitate research within the SOM.

He plans to remain connected to USU as an instructor on topics such as tropical medicine, biodefense, viral hemorrhagic fevers, and basic medicine.

**On the cover**

Forty-seven brigade staff and one civilian faculty member received recognition during the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Brigade Awards Ceremony in the Sanford Auditorium, Nov. 24. See story, page 5. (photo by MC3 Laura Bailey)

Sculley announces retirement

By Eric D. Ritter

Major General (retired) Patrick Sculley, Uniformed Services University (USU) Senior Vice President for University Programs (Southern Region), has announced his plans to retire after graduation in May 2016.

According to USU President Dr. Charles Rice, Sculley has been an important part of the USU community for the past seven years and has been a proactive figure who will be greatly missed.

“Dr. Sculley has been a valuable ambassador, mentor, trouble-shooter, recruiter and educator for the University, as well as a trusted advisor to me,” Rice said. “As we begin the process soon to look for our next Senior Vice President, I sincerely hope we are able to find a successor who can build upon his vast accomplishments.”

Among his many accomplishments here, Sculley worked with the leadership of the San Antonio military medical facilities to establish USU’s Southern region branch campus to support the University’s students and faculty. However, he did not confine himself to San Antonio in his representation of the University.

After a number of USU assets relocated to San Antonio that required additional space, he negotiated with the leadership of Fort Sam Houston to secure a building to house the branch campus and oversaw its remodeling. His keen facilitation skills resulted in a highly favorable contract with the International Hotel Group that is benefiting USU students and faculty.

Sculley also helped develop the Postgraduate Dental College (PDC) with the Air Force dental

school -- serving as its founding Executive Dean -- and expanded it to include the Army and Navy dental schools, increasing the total number of sites to seven and 19 programs throughout the U.S. He worked tirelessly as an advocate for the PDC, adding more than 200 members to the PDC faculty. He was responsible for developing the PDC Committee on Appointments, Promotion and Tenure and incorporated dental faculty on USU committees. He worked with the Brooke Army Medical Center and Lackland Air Force Medical Center Institutional Review Boards and the USU Office of Research to coordinate PDC research projects, and worked with the Learning Resource Center to provide access to PDC students and faculty.

Sculley also worked with Medical Enlisted Training Campus (METC) leadership to explore a USU-METC academic affiliation to expand the USU mission to include enlisted education and training, and represented USU on the METC Board of Governors and Senior Coordinating Council. He has worked closely with senior DOD officials on the importance of the USU-METC academic affiliation in support of the White House initiative to remove barriers to service member licensing in the areas of emergency medical services and other allied health fields.

He has been an active participant in a host of USU committees, including the President’s Cabinet, University Council, Institutional Student Organizational Assessment Task Force, Strategic Framework Task Force, and Names and Honors. He played a key role in the Middle States Commission on



Major General (retired) Patrick Sculley, USU Senior Vice President for University Programs (Southern Region). (Photo by Tom Balfour)

Higher Education decennial review and self-study as chair of the governance portion and he contributed his input and expertise to all sections of the self-study. Sculley not only escorted the MSCHE visitors to additional sites, but prepared them in advance of the visit and participated in multiple interviews and discussions with the MSCHE team.

He has served as faculty for the MedXellence course and the Master of Health Administration and Policy degree program, and chaired the AFRRI Director and USU General Counsel search committees.

“I am personally very grateful for his outstanding contributions and commitment to this university, and wish him the best as he prepares to transition into full-time life on the Sculley Ranch. I am confident that he will remain an active participant in university activities,” Rice concluded.

PMHNP students find many benefits from Bushmaster in behavioral studies

By Capt. Lutisha Jackson

In 2003, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued its report *Informing the Future: Critical Issues in Health*. The report stated, “A person’s behavior and social circumstances have a remarkably strong effect on his or her health. Taken together, behavioral patterns and social circumstances are estimated to account for more than half of the premature deaths in the United States each year. Yet medical schools often do not cover these topics, or do so only superficially. IOM is conducting a study to identify ways to make the behavioral and social sciences an integral part of medical education.”

As a way to address the issue, students from the Uniformed Services University’s Graduate School of Nursing (GSN) and School of Medicine (SOM) looked to the annual field training exercise, Operation Bushmaster, as a means to incorporate it into the curriculum.

Every October, students from SOM and GSN participate in the four-week field practicum in the rolling, wooded fields and hills of Ft. Indiantown Gap, Pa. The first two weeks of didactic training provide the groundwork for unit cohesion, with a follow-on week of independent study incorporated for mastery of many of the concepts. During the final week, students ‘deploy’ to a training facility to conduct simulated medical missions and are exposed to many of the same stressors

experienced during combat deployments (i.e., lack of sleep, high operational tempo, fatigue, and austere living conditions). Additionally, Operation Bushmaster provides an atmosphere where inter-professional collaboration transpires and learning the unique perspectives of each discipline is highly encouraged.

During this field exercise, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) students and Clinical Psychology students played the roles of patients with mental health illnesses such as psychosis, mania, depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders. While simulating roles of Battalion Surgeon (senior medical officer) and Combat Stress Control, the gradu-

ating medical students and Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP) students assessed and treated mental health ‘patients’ presenting with acute and chronic symptoms.

“This year, PMHNP students joined with Clinical Psychology students to form the Brigade Combat Stress Control (CSC) team. In this shared role, students evaluated the behavioral health needs of the medical platoons participating in Operation Bushmaster. The Unit Behavioral Health Needs Assessment Survey (UBHNAS) is a comprehensive survey developed to assess the overall behavioral health status and needs of a military unit. However, those of us in mental health developed a shortened version of this

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Students from the USU SOM and GSN practice the skills they've learned in a military field environment during this year's Operation Bushmaster. The realistic training provides experiences that help their medical education. (Photo by Tom Balfour)

48 awards issued at USU Brigade Ceremony

Article by MC3 Laura Bailey

Forty-seven brigade staff and one civilian faculty member received recognition during the Uniformed Services University (USU) Brigade Awards Ceremony in the Sanford Auditorium, Nov. 24, 2015.

“This morning we recognized some of our outstanding uniformed personnel and civilians who support our organization and contribute to the success of our education mission,” said Army Master Sgt. Celecia K. Kalili, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the Department of Military Emergency and Medicine (MEM) at USU.

Presenters included Charles L. Rice, M.D., the president of USU, Arthur L. Kellerman, M.D., M.P.H., the dean of the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine (SOM), Air Force Col. Kevin Glasz, the brigade commander, and Army Col. (Dr.) Francis O'Connor, the MEM department chair.

The Joint Service Achievement Medal was presented to: Navy Hospital Corpsman (HM) First Class Victoria L. Klimczak Army Staff Sgt. Miguel Rodriguez Air Force Tech. Sgt. Samuel Hall.

The following personnel earned Letters of Commendation signed by President Rice for their outstanding service during Medical Field Practicums 101 and 202:

HM1 Marsha Anderson
HM1 Matthew Huddleston
HM1 Gregory Cannon
HM1 Jason Cook
HM1 Andrew McLaughlin
HM1 Jamal Powell
HM1 Efrain Salazar

Tech. Sgt. Jorge Hastings
HM2 Maria Cordero
HN1 Christopher O'Neill
HM2 Opeyemi Fadiyimu
HM2 John Janus
HM2 Peter Lam
HM2 Thong Nguyen
HM2 Stephan Petroske
Master-At-Arms (MA) 2 Nathaniel Cable
Information Systems Technician (IT) 2 James Gilbert
HM3 Steven McPherson
Mass Communications Specialist (MC) 3 Laura Bailey

The following personnel were presented with the USU President's Coin for their significant dedication to mission accomplishment in their roles during MFP 101 and 202:

Master Sgt. Danny Vitek
Staff Sgt. Dameian Clarke
Sgt. First Class Dereke Planter
Staff Sgt. Henry Gonzalez
Sgt. First Class Joseph Mickles
Sgt. Laura Kephart
Staff Sgt. Tahna Banse
Spc. Grant Farrell
Staff Sgt. Cassie Barnett
HM2 Scarlet Castro
Staff Sgt. Patricia Burch
Tech Sgt. Paul Gorham
Staff Sgt. Marcus Ayala

Certificates of Achievement went to:

Sgt. Thomas Bulick
Tech Sgt. April Copeland
Sgt. Jeffrey Dillon
Tech Sgt. Paul Mason
Sgt. Rodolfo Escusa
Tech Sgt. Kelly Redman
Sgt. Michael Jimenez
Tech Sgt. Jose Tesky
Sgt. Ian Spears

Staff Sgt. Leonard Tesoro
Tech Sgt. Kenneth Buchanan
Jamie Bradshaw (civ)

Johnnie Brown, the training specialist for the department of MEM at USU, also was presented with the Dean's Coin for excellence in his dedication to student education.

“Understand just how valuable you are and please understand how much you mean to all of us here,” said Kellerman. “When I go to that annual meeting with other medical schools I know that nobody else in that auditorium has what I've got. I've got you and you are extraordinary. So, it's fitting that we have this awards ceremony before Thanksgiving because this year and every year, one of the things I'm most thankful for is that you are part of this team, you're part of this mission, you're part of what makes this place great.”

Reflections from, Page 4

tool for use during the training exercise. Our modified UBHNAS assessed the status of each platoon in five critical domains: leadership, leadership cohesion, morale, communication, and training. Following the assessment, students provided direct feedback to the Platoon Leader on methods for improvement and in areas for sustainment within each team. Additionally, the Brigade Combat Stress Control team offered brief psychological interventions (such as humor, relaxation exercises (i.e., deep breathing), and discussions of resiliency) to platoon members.

USU, AFRRI going tobacco-free

by MC3 Laura Bailey

“As the nation’s Federal health sciences university, USU strongly supports tobacco control efforts and is committed to promoting the health of university personnel, external contractors and visitors,” said Charles L. Rice, MD, president of USU. “Tobacco use is one of the leading causes of death and illness and we have an obligation to everyone to address this critical public health issue. To that end, the University will be transitioning

to a tobacco-free campus over the next 11 months.”

Currently, the university allows three designated tobacco use areas on the main USU campus and one designated tobacco use area on the AFRRI campus. To move towards a tobacco-free campus, the following steps will take place:

1. USU will eliminate one of the three current tobacco use areas on the USU main campus by Dec. 31, 2015, leaving two designated tobacco use areas.

2. USU will eliminate another designated tobacco use area by March 31, 2016, leaving one designated tobacco use area on the main USU campus and one at AFRRI.

3. USU will continue to have designated areas where approved, tobacco use research are conducted. A newly-designated tobacco use area on the north side of Stone Lake Road will be introduced at a future date to be announced. Designated tobacco use areas for USU personnel in buildings 28, 53, 59 and 79 are adjacent to the USO Building and behind the Navy Gateway Inn.

“In line with federal and Naval Support Activity Bethesda guidelines, this policy covers all areas of the campus including buildings, entrances, parking garages, etc., and will be prohibited within 25 feet of

doorways at the tobacco use areas designated above,” said Rice. “The policy will apply to all personnel working in support of USU as well as any organization with a formal affiliation with USU and visitors.”

The university’s Federal employees union has been consulted and is supportive of this initiative, he added.

This policy includes cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, e-cigarettes, and any other tobacco or smoking products.

“I realize that this change may be difficult for people who use tobacco products, and we are announcing the policy now in order to give everyone sufficient time to prepare for this change,” said Rice. “We will actively support all university personnel in this regard. Information for civilian employees is available through the USU Employee Assistance Program to assist current tobacco users with smoking cessation off site. For details, visit: <http://bit.ly/1MkykeN>. Resources for our military personnel are available at: www.ucanquit2.org, and HJF personnel can go to: www.quitnow.net.

Stopping tobacco use is one of the most important things a person can do to improve their health. I look forward to your support in the roll-out of this very important health initiative.”



USU and AFRRI will be transitioning to a tobacco-free campus over the next 11 months. (Photo by Eric D. Ritter)

Mobile app, interactive web-based tool launched to educate service members on unsafe dietary supplements

by Sharon Holland

A new mobile application and interactive web-based tool have been launched to help military troops identify unsafe dietary supplements that may jeopardize their health or career.

The mobile app, “Operation Supplement Safety (OPSS) High-Risk Supplement List,” which is available for free on the Apple App and Google Play stores, helps users identify supplements that might be unsafe, illegal or banned, and pose a

risk to their health, performance or career.

The educational module, “Get the Scoop on Supplements: Realize, Recognize, and Reduce Your Risk” is an interactive tool designed

See *Supplements*, Page 7

SOM students volunteer skills to assist local inner city communities, gain new medical perspectives

By Monica Yepes-Rios, MD, FACP, Department of Medicine

A select group of School of Medicine (SOM) Class of 2017 students volunteered to participate in a community outreach educational program spearheaded by Drs. Monica Yepes-Rios and Louis Pangaro recently as a way to place students with clinical preceptors early in their clinical training.

The students were specifically placed in Community Health Centers (CHC) in the Washington Metropolitan Area to establish links with the community and expose students to the care of primarily under privileged communities. It's a very realistic possibility that the students' military assignments will entail treating some of those communities domestically and overseas. The experience helped prepare them for the different aspects of care in diverse cultures.

Starting with three students, the program grew to 10 students from the Class of 2018 with 33 more anticipated students from the Class of 2019. Student interest is growing exponentially, as students express a desire to serve their surrounding community, and to gain clinical exposure and mentorship early in their medical school career.

So far, the students have en-

gaged two large CHCs in the area, Mary's Center and with La Clinica del Pueblo. From January through December of their pre-clerkship curriculum, the students volunteer twice a month with a selected provider. They also volunteer once a month with one of the CHC's ancillary services such as nutrition, education, preventive medicine as well as others to gain an understanding of the multiple, inter-disciplinary efforts it takes to support a patient's well-being--particularly for patients with limited resources and English language abilities. The students so far have also been able to practice their conversation skills in other languages in the process of interacting with their diverse patients.

In addition, the students took the initiative to mentor a group of high school students at the D.C.-area Mary's Center Teen Center. The Teen Center is a safe place for area teenagers to go after school to complete their homework, get tutoring, and periodically attend lectures on different topics of interest. The USU students spoke to the teens and staff members about careers in medicine and health care in the military, military scholarships and opportunities--particularly for kids

who may consider all of these to be out of their reach financially or logistically.

As part of their volunteer rotation, participating students are regularly asked to record their experiences as a way to reflect on them personally and professionally. Students consistently say that the real clinical experience reinforces and gives context to the clinical skills they learn at school. It also allows them to understand the multi-disciplinary efforts necessary to care for a patient, while learning valuable understanding on professionalism, communication and culturally competent clinical skills from their preceptors.

Students also actively recruit incoming class members to continue and expand on their volunteer experiences. USAF Capt. Jessica Saeger (Class of 2017) led her class, and the growing student interest has given rise to the founding of a Community Health Student Interest Group, under the leadership of founding president Isaac McCool and vice president, Catherine Inoue (Class of 2018). The goal is to grow the community volunteer participation and clinical learning experiences, and eventually offer such an opportunity to all students.

Supplements, from Page 6 to provide science-based information on how Service members can minimize the potential adverse effects of taking some dietary supplements. It has three main segments: "Realize," "Recognize," and "Reduce the Risks," and takes approximately

30 minutes to complete. A module designed for health professionals will be released by the end of 2015.

Both tools were developed by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Consortium for Health and Military Performance (CHAMP), a Depart-

ment of Defense Center of Excellence, in partnership with the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, and are part of the "Operation Supplement Safety" (OPSS) campaign. The Army Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness program also provided support for the new products.

Final Frame



Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Stephen Jones (left) presented a number of excellence awards on behalf of the Army Surgeon General at the Graduate Medical Education consultants meeting, Nov. 18, 2015. Those receiving the awards included (from left to right) Col. (Dr.) Clinton K. Murray, USU class of 1996 and faculty in the Department of Medicine, who received the Surgeon General's Award for Military Academic Excellence (the Lewis Aspey Mologne Award). The U.S. Army Surgeon General's Physician Recognition Award is presented to a captain, major and lieutenant colonel each year who demonstrate outstanding medical leadership. This year, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Patrick Hickey, assistant professor of Preventive Medicine and Biostatistics and USU class of 1999, Maj. (Dr.) Daniel Stinner, faculty in USU's Department of Surgery, and Capt. (Dr.) John G. Knight, USU class of 2010, each received the award in their respective ranks. (Courtesy photo)