



Uniformed Services University
of the Health Sciences

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Spring is in the air

USU Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 WWW.USUHS.MIL APRIL 24, 2006

AMMA president speaks to USU members

*By JO3 Kory Kepner
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs*

Randall W. Maxey, M.D., Ph.D., president of the Alliance of Minority Medical Associations (AMMA) and former president of the National Medical Association spoke to members of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences April 12 about the significant health disparities that exist between Americans of African descent and the general population.

"The goal is to bring awareness to all people that health disparities are bad for our country," Dr. Maxey said. "It is a national problem, not an ethnic problem."

Dr. Maxey believes disparities in health is the nation's most serious health care problem. The problem of racial and ethnic disparities has been well documented, leading the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services to make eliminating health disparities by 2010 a national goal.

"Minority Americans' health experience is not the same as that of the majority population in the U. S. health care system," said Gloria C. Ramsey, J.D., RN, director of Community Outreach and Information Dissemination core at the Center of Health Disparities Research and Education. "Even when issues of insurance status and income are the same, racial and ethnic minorities have less access to health care and lower-quality health care than non-minorities. This is particularly problematic given that racial and ethnic minorities make up one-third of the U. S. population, and that proportion is expected to increase to half by 2050."

There needs to be continued enriching medical discovery, Dr. Maxey said. In a study of Medicare patients, striking deficiencies were found in their understanding of critical areas of health care: 48 percent did not understand written instructions to "take medicine every six hours," 68 percent could not interpret a blood sugar level, 27 percent did not understand "take medicine on an empty stomach," 27 percent could not identify their next appointment, and 100 percent could not understand a statement of Medicaid rights written at a 10th grade reading level.

An Institute of Medicine study confirmed



Photo by Tech. Sgt. James Steele

Pictured left to right, Charles L. Rice, M.D., USU president ; Randall W. Maxey, M.D., Ph.D., AMMA president ; Gloria C Ramsey, J.D., RN, director Community Outreach and Information Dissemination core at the Center of Health Disparities Research and Education; Lt. Cmdr. Paschal Dawson, USN, Chaplain ; and Richard Tanenbaum, Ph.D., principal investigator and director, Administrative Core at the center.

that discrimination, bias, and stereotyping leads to racial and ethnic health disparities and inequities in health care.

"Our racial categories predate scientific theories of genetics and modern genetic studies and do not capture the distribution of genetic characteristics across populations well; groups with similar physical characteristics can be very different genetically," he said. "The fact that we know what race we belong to tells us more about our society than our biological makeup."

"There are strategies to improve ethnic disparities outcomes in an era of limited resources," Dr. Maxey said. "We need to enhance communication and education, we need to improve cultural competence, sensitivity, improve readability of patient educational materials on Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and CKD risk factor materials, we need to improve strategies for targeting high-risk patients. We need to not dismiss but move beyond racial/ethnic classes because of the large heterogeneity in the population. We need to engage in more detailed geographic and living area analyses to be able to identify communities that need more intense education."



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USU Newsletter Editorial Staff

Carol R. Scheman
Vice President Office of External Affairs and Managing Editor

Tech. Sgt. André Nicholson
Editor

Journalist 3rd Class Kory Kepner
Staff Writer

Mass Communications Seaman Apprentice Raul Zamora
Staff Writer

Sharon Willis
Director Alumni Affairs and Contributing Writer

Marla Wright
Webmaster

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President announces reorganization plan

Dear USU Community,

It has been more than nine months since I arrived at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). Throughout that time I have worked to familiarize myself with the university's mission, organization and functions. I have also led strategic management planning efforts for the university and, through that process, have determined that reorganization is necessary to serve the immediate and long-term needs of USU.

Two of the current vice presidents who have served the university admirably for many years will become special assistants to me. It is clear that there are two issues of critical importance to the university's future and I have asked these senior leaders to spearhead our efforts in these areas.

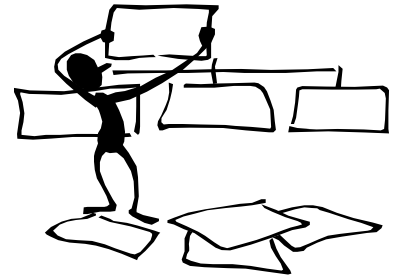
The university is embarking upon its first major building effort in more than 25 years. The success of this project is of enormous importance to the Graduate School of Nursing and to the university. I have asked Mrs. Mary Dix to serve as special assistant to me and manage this important project. Mrs. Dix will insure that Building E is completed on time, on budget, and within specifications. This vital new addition to our campus will provide a permanent home to the Graduate School of Nursing's administrative offices and add much needed classroom space.

The future of the university will be shaped by efforts to implement the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) and the integration of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, National Naval Medical Center, and USU. Vernon Schinski, Ph.D., will serve as the Special Assistant for Integration and will lead the university's efforts to become the academic health center for the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center called for under BRAC.

In addition to these new positions, I am realigning organizational responsibilities and have divided the administrative functions that report to me into four offices, including two new positions: Senior Vice President and Vice President for Finance and Administration.

The senior vice president position will consolidate academic support activities, many of which are now in the School of Medicine but span the university as well as others that reported to the Vice President for Teaching and Research Support. The functions within this Office include: Diversity and Recruitment, Continuing Health Education, the Registrar's office, Accreditation, the Learning Resource Center, Multidisciplinary Labs, Planning, International Relations, and University Affiliations. I am immediately activating a national search for possible candidates for the Senior Vice President position, but in the interim I have asked Dr. Dale Smith, chair, Military History Department, to act in this capacity.

The Vice President for Finance and Administration, with the aid of three assistant vice presidents, will oversee the university's financial, health and safety, and support services functions. I have asked Mr. Stephen Rice to fill this position. Mr. Walt Tinling will be Acting Vice President in Mr. Rice's absence.



This Office will include three Assistant Vice Presidents (AVP):

AVP for Resource Management to include: UIS, Finance, Contracting, Grants Management, Resource Management Information;

AVP for Health and Safety to include: Security and EHOS; and

AVP for Support Services to include: CHR, Facilities, Logistics, Administrative Support.

The Office of the Vice President of External Affairs will include functions of Communications, Board of Regents support, Alumni Affairs, Congressional Relations, and Audio Visual Support.

The Office of the Vice President of Research will include functions of IRBs, LAM, Pre-Award Management, congressionally sponsored programs, and the Biomedical Instrumentation Center.

I am also formalizing the role of the Executive Secretary to the Board of Regents.

I am very grateful for the invaluable support I have received from Dr. Barry Wolcott, who has also served the university in many capacities for many years. Dr. Wolcott will be working on special assignments on behalf of the university in his new role with the Henry M. Jackson Foundation.

Finally, I am creating the position of Chief of Staff and will begin the search for this position immediately. In the interim, Mr. Tinling will serve as acting Chief of Staff.

The Deans of the School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing as well as the Directors of AFRRRI and the U.S. Military Cancer Institute will continue to report directly to me.

I hope to have this reorganization effective May 1. I look forward to working with all of you to help USU advance its mission and our vision for the future.

Charles L. Rice, M.D.
President, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

Writing 101: To capitalize or not to capitalize is the question

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
NCOIC, Office of External Affairs

Styles of writing are as varied as the people who write, so it's not surprising that consistency in writing depends on what a person is writing about and, probably more importantly, who is actually doing the writing.

No matter the subject, writing comes down to the basic elements of grammar, which were instilled in many people at a young age. Although people might not think about them often, they've heard of them before....nouns, verbs, pronouns, adverbs, adjectives and the list could go on. From here you could go into the structure of sentences or how to form paragraphs. But this article is not about the basics of writing as much as it is to explain some rules of writing and why Department of Defense (DOD) journalists write the way they do.

Journalist training stems from the Defense Information School (DINFOS), Fort Meade, Md., which is a joint service school, and provides training to all Department of Defense public affairs journalists, photographers and other print related career fields.

It is during these months of training that DOD journalists are taught to write in a unified style, but for a varied audience. One way to do that is by following the rules of the Associate Press Stylebook. This publication, along with others, provides the guidance for journalists from things such as how to write military ranks and courtesy titles, to what should and shouldn't be capitalized.

A perfect example of this is writing the military ranks. Each military service has a certain style of writing their ranks, i.e...the Navy abbreviates captain as *CAPT*, and the Air Force abbreviates it as *Capt*. Although a Navy captain is an O-6 and an Air Force captain is an O-3, DINFOS trains its writers to write them all the same. So it will appear as *Capt. John Doe*. In a joint service environment like that of the Uniformed Services University journalists write things of this nature in a "uniform" manner.

Capitalization is something that is over used by most people and should be done sparingly. Most people are taught to always capitalize a person's job title, but DOD writers are taught to only capitalize the title if it's written before the name of a person, not after, i.e... Chief Operating Officer Jane Doe versus Jane Doe, chief operating officer.

Also, capitalization of names that are not the proper or official name are not capitalized. An example of this is when writing an

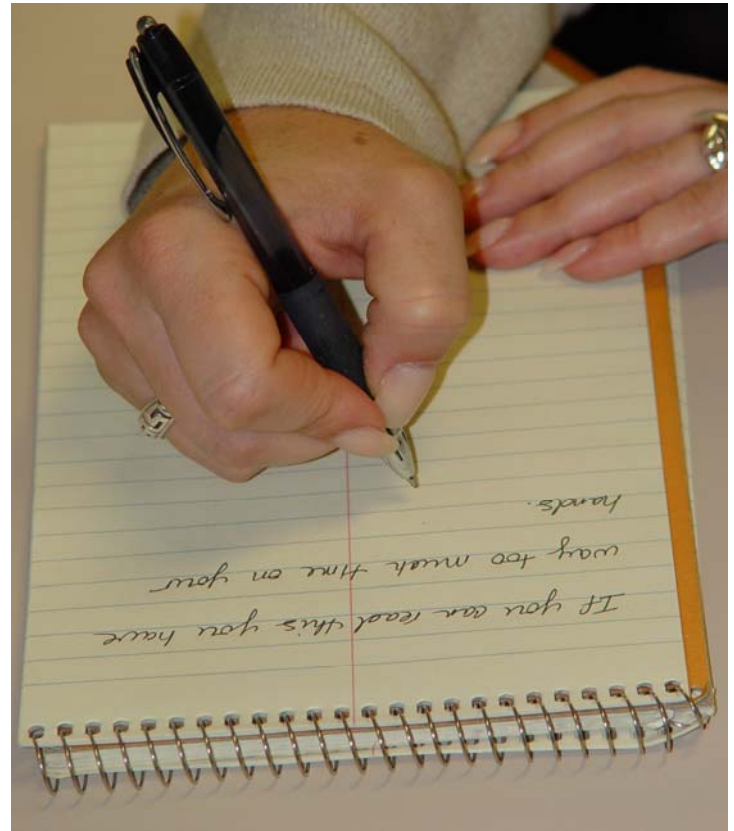


Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson

article about USU, one might say *the university* or *a university*. Many people would write it as *the University* versus *a university* since USU is the only one in existence as opposed to a university which could refer to any school. DOD guidance is to write it as *the university* no matter which way it is used because it isn't the official name of the university. The exception to this rule and several others is if a local style guide of writing has been established.

There are several rules of writing and going into them would be a laundry list of dos and don'ts that many people don't understand or probably even care to know, but the purpose of this article is to simply shed some light on the method behind the writing madness.

Branding initiative questions, answers

The Branding Committee is grateful for the feedback we have received to date on the new logo and implementation of the USU branding initiative. We have received a number of questions and will shortly post "Qs and As" on the website:

<http://www.usuhs.mil/webmaster/template/imagetemplates.html>.

Many of the questions we received were about business cards. The survey of use is available at:

<http://www.usuhs.mil/webmaster/buscardinput.html>.

As soon as we have more solid data about demand, we will provide details on ordering new cards and/or how to have them printed in-house.

The implementation of the new logo is intended to be incremental. We are not expecting wholesale replacement of university publications, business cards, or marketing material, but stand ready to work closely with people as they transition to using the new logo.

We welcome continued feedback, questions and comments. Responses will be posted in our questions and answers as they are received.





News Briefs

Research Day

The annual USU Research Week is May 16 -18. The theme for this year's event is "Global Public Health: The Changing Role of Military Medicine." All USU faculty, staff and students are invited to register and submit abstracts on the Research Day website: <http://www.usuresearchday.hjf.org/>.

Dr. Alan Leshner, Chief Executive Officer for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, will be the Plenary Speaker May 18 at 3:30p.m. Visit the website for a detailed list of activities.

BRAC Information Update

USU will be emphasizing the National Capital Area Integration on its BLOG. The web address has changed to <http://cim.usuhs.mil/ncainfo/>.

27th annual USU commencement

The 27th USU Commencement will be held May 20 at the Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall at 11 a.m. The Hall is located in Washington, D.C., at 18th and D Streets, N.W. Doors will open to the graduates and their guests at 9:30 a.m.

Charles L. Rice, M.D., USU President, will preside at his first USU commencement and give the "President's Address."

The USU Graduate School of Nursing, the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine (SOM) Graduate Program, and the SOM M.D. program will present diplomas to 268 graduates.

This year's ceremony has been streamlined and should last approximately two hours.

Letter from the editor

It is with great pleasure that we provide some feedback on the responses received from the inaugural issue of the USU Newsletter that was published April 10. Several people have commented on the publication and offered suggestions and ideas. We encourage your input and look forward to providing the USU community with the best publication possible. We also invite letters to the editor, which can be sent to usunewsletter@usuhs.mil

Here are some of the responses received thus far:

"Great job! It looks really good. And excellent writing, also." - Charles L. Rice, USU president.

"Great job! The newsletter and the new look of the

Web page is superb. Please accept my heartiest BRAVO ZULU!!!" - Retired Navy Vice Adm. James Zimble, M.D., former USU president.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson

Night of family fun

Members from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and National Institutes of Health enjoyed a night of family fun at the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus March 28. The annual fundraiser sold more than \$3,400 in tickets to USU family members. It provided an additional \$1,600 in tickets to the Russell Temple AME Youth at Risk Program sponsored by George Hardy, Administrative Support Division, in addition to other charitable organizations such as Camp Special Love and Camp Fantastic.

Nurses Week

The work of America's 2.9 million registered nurses to save lives and to maintain the health of millions of individuals is the focus of this year's National Nurses Week. The week begins each year on May 6 and ends May 12, which is Florence Nightingale's birthday.

"I think the USU Newsletter looks terrific. I like the new logo, too. Congratulations." - Emmanuel G. Cassimatis, M.D., associate dean for Clinical Affairs and professor of psychiatry.

"This newsletter is really outstanding and very informative! I'm sure it is not an easy task to assemble and disseminate such a wide variety of university related topics on a bi-weekly basis, but it is very well done!" - Chris Jodrie, Administrative Support Division.

"What's next — a radio station? Good job!" - FC2 Elaine Gonzalez.

"Great work on the first issue. I'm certain they will be well received, congratulations." - John Frankenburg, Office of External Affairs.

Look Who's Talking...What is the best piece of advice you ever received?



"Do not do regrets. If it is something I know I am going to regret later, why do it?"

**HM2
Careese Charles**
Environmental
Health and Occupa-
tional Safety



"How do you eat an elephant?"

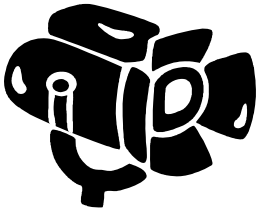
One bite at a time."
2nd Lt. Kattie Hoy
Medical Student



"Be yourself! If God wanted you to be a duplicate, you would have been a twin."

NaShieka Knight
Admissions and
Academic Records

University Spotlight



Honors/Awards:

Drs. Sonia Q. Doi and Yuang-Taung Juang, earned the 2006 John Maher Award for Research Excellence. Details of their award can be found at www.usuhs.mil/med.

Cynthia Inal, was selected as the Senior Employee of the Year.

NaShieka Knight, was selected as the Junior Employee of the Year.

Publications:

Charles Engel, M.D., Robert Gifford, M.D., Robert Ursano, M.D., and John Stuart, M.D., all with the USU Dept. of Psychiatry, have papers published in the United Kingdom Journal "Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B."

Hails and Farewells:

Lt. Cmdr. Michael Kemper arrives from AFRR1 this month; **Col. Scott Norton**, arrived from WRAMC; **Sgt. 1st Class William Vernon** arrived from Fort Bragg, N.C.; **MCSA Raul Zamora**, arrived from Fort Meade, Md.; **Staff Sgt. Thomas Echelmeyer** will transfer to Korea in May; **HM1 Thomas Smalls**, transfers to San Diego in May; **Mrs. Jane Bradley** retires in May; **Dr. Barbara Sylvia**, retires in May.

Medical student runs Boston Marathon

By **MCSA Raul Zamora**
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

Running a marathon is a feat in itself, but a first year medical student (MS1) from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) did just that during the 110th Boston Marathon April 17.

Army 2nd Lt. Gary Legault ran the marathon while battling a cold and did it in a time of three hours and 16 seconds.

"It's been a longtime goal of mine to get to Boston... and I'm just happy I finished it," Lieutenant Legault said.

Running is in Lieutenant Legault's genes. His father was a marathon runner and when he was two years old he would say to his father, "Go ahead dad, I'll catch up."

"I've been running ever since elementary school," Lieutenant Legault said. "I would follow my dad while he was training and I just kept with it."

While preparing for the marathon the lieutenant's diet consisted of massive amounts of calories such as carbohydrates.

"The day before the marathon he was looking for a good Italian restaurant so he could load up on carbs," said his wife Margaret Legault, USU contract specialist.

He really didn't train properly for this marathon, he said. He only ran about 20 miles a week, and it made a difference. "Normally you feel it in your legs around the 24th mile (the marathon is 26.2 miles). This time my legs started hurting around the 20th mile." When asked if he would do anything different, he said, "Yeah, actually run a lot more."

As a prior sergeant in the Marines, Lieutenant Legault ran four Marine Corps Marathons, qualified and ran in last year's Nashville "Country Music" Marathon, and now has completed the 110th Boston Marathon. He also plans on running in the New

York Marathon later this year with the New York Achilles Track Club, where he volunteers to provide training, assistance, encouragement and support to runners with disabilities.

Lieutenant Legault is currently president of the USU Catholic Club, company commander for MS1 and is part of the university's running club.

"I'm very proud of my husband," Mrs. Legault said. "This was one of his lifelong goals and I'm so happy that he accomplished it while maintaining his pursuit of his career in military medicine."



**2nd Lt.
Gary Legault,**



It is apparent to all that space at USU is at a premium. In addition to appointing a new "Space Committee" chaired by Dr. Ajay Verma, associate professor, Dept. of Neurology, Charles L. Rice, M.D., USU president has asked staff to explore acquiring additional space, here on campus and/or leased

space off campus to allow offices that work closely together to be co-located to improve both quality of space and ease of communications.

While work is beginning immediately, this is an ongoing project and acquisition of leased space could take as long as 18-24 months.



USU Calendar of Events



April	24	25	26 Dept. of Anesthesiology Seminar Rm A2052 10 a.m.	27 Antietam Road March, Antietam Battlefield Sharpsburg, Md. Departure time from USU is 5:30 a.m. Dept. of Pediatrics Research Conf. "Infectious Diseases" Lec. Rm C 9-10 a.m.	28	29
	30	May	2	3 USU Toastmasters Meeting Noon - 1 p.m. Rm A2052	4	5 LRC extended Friday nights hours open until 10:45 p.m.
1	3		4	5	6	
7	8 LRC Training "PubMed Basics" Noon-1 p.m. LRC Computer Rm	9 LRC Training "EndNote Basics" Noon-1 p.m. LRC Computer Rm	10 Armed Forces District American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Dedication of the Archives Bldg. C, Lec. Rm E 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	11 Dept. of Pediatrics Grand Rounds Lec. Rm D 7:45 a.m.	12 Class of 2006 Graduation Awards Ceremony Sanford Auditorium 1 p.m.	13
14	15	16 Graduate School of Nursing Awards Ceremony Sanford Auditorium 4 p.m. 2006 USU Research Week begins	17 USU Toastmasters Meeting Rm A2052 Noon-1 p.m.	18 Research Day Theme "Global Public Health: The Changing Role of Military Medicine"	19 Board of Regents Meeting Rm D3001 9 a.m.	20 2006 Commencement Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall 11 a.m.