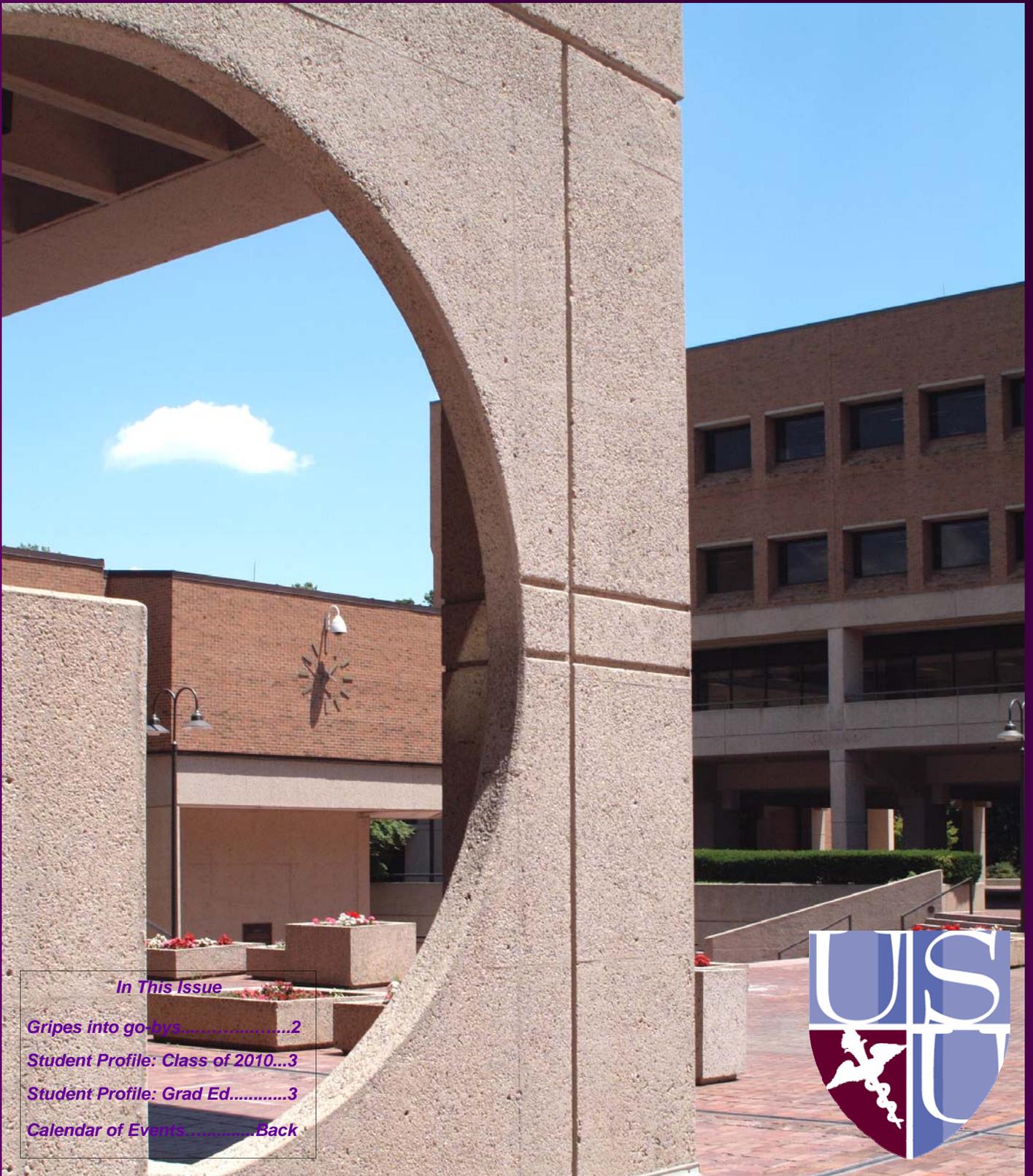


USU Newsletter

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In This Issue

Gripes into go-bys.....2

Student Profile: Class of 2010...3

Student Profile: Grad Ed.....3

Calendar of Events.....Back





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BRAC/Integration Moving Forward

Gripes into Go-Bys

*By Dr. Vernon Schinski
Special Assistant to the USU President
on BRAC/Integration*

It seems to be part of our culture to gripe about the system. Maybe we've seen too many war movies, or maybe our system is so complex that there is always room for improvement. However, it seems that if you sit down with colleagues for a cup of coffee, or lunch, or arrive early for a meeting, someone will soon be expressing frustration with how the system did not work.

I believe that Integration is our chance to do something about the system – to leave it better than we found it. Early in our process MAJ GEN Kenneth Farmer expressed the thought that Integration was “the right thing to do, if we do it right.” This vision was translated into our vision and our approach. Not only did we have a vision of creating a model academic health center for military medicine, we were given an approach which challenged us to select the best of the Army, Navy, and Air Force systems. We were encouraged to add our best ideas, and create our most inventive methods such that the whole would be clearly better than the sum of the parts.

I believe that little has changed. Everyone always knew that resources and regulations would provide outer limits to our creativity. RADM Adam Robinson gave the advice to “proceed until apprehended.”

Groups of individuals with similar responsibilities at multiple levels of our healthcare delivery systems came together in committees, subcommittees, and working groups to look at the future. The universal first reactions seemed to be that there was no way we could make this happen. However, after sharing our differences we began to discover similarities. Soon common goals and means were identified as areas for sharing and integration and the process continued to grow. Teams representing the two medical centers, the other bedded facilities, and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences began document-

ing common standards, common methods, and joint planning for the future. Within months the commanders of the remaining medical treatment facilities in the National Capital Area (NCA) were engaged the planning process.

While Congress, the Department of Defense, and Surgeons General struggled to determine the size and shape of a Unified Medical Command, our teams continued to develop new models from the best of the services and the creative ideas of our people and the broader healthcare community.

A construction budget for the north and south campuses was assembled, defended, and approved. A host of specialty teams built space requirements based on BRAC data and new concepts of operation that was sent to the architects Feb. 1, 2007.

Integration subcommittees developed goals and objectives for 2006, which were approved by the Flag Officer oversight group, and to a great extent accomplished as planned. Professional and administrative groups of all kinds identified, and documented for approval, many common standards, methods, and operational goals.

The Air Force committed to contributing healthcare manpower to the NCA. Position descriptions and selection criteria for medical center leadership were written and approved. Currently, search committees are recommending the best qualified individuals to command and flag groups for approval. While at this writing only one selection has been finalized and announced, many are underway, and all major positions are scheduled for selection by summer 2007.

Now, more specific goals are being developed for completion in 2007. We are finding ways to make the hard choices that will create a model for military medicine.

Because BRAC has the weight of law, we will have jointly staffed hospitals in Bethesda and Fort Belvoir. Because you and your colleagues have been involved, it will be better than the sum of its parts and will begin to serve as a test-bed for all of military medicine.

THE VISION

We envision and are committed to one integrated health system which leverages the assets of all DoD health care treatment facilities in the National Capital Area (NCA). The tri-service Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Bethesda will be a worldwide military referral center and together with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) will represent the core of this integrated health system. All tri-service facilities in the NCA and USU will serve as a premier academic medical system focused on delivering the highest quality care, distinguished health professional education, and exemplary clinical and translational research.

USU Student Profile: 2nd Lt. Rick Burgon, SOM Class of 2010

By MCSN Raul Zamora
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) has students from all over the United States. Every student has an interesting story about where they are from and where they are going.

Air Force 2nd Lt. Rick Burgon is a 27-year-old Class of 2010 medical student.

Burgon, who was born in Tacoma, Washington into a family of five, grew up in Brigham City, Utah. During high school he had his first experience with the military at the National Guard Freedom Academy. The academy is a week-long leadership course attended by two students from every high school in Utah. The students take part in a multitude of activities including running obstacle courses; firing M-16s and M-6s; driving through an obstacle course with a HUMMV; rappelling; riding in a Blackhawk helicopter and riding in a tank-type-transport. The students also met state leaders, and talked to inmates of the state prison.

After his senior year, Burgon served a two-year volunteer mission in the Philippines for his church. When finished with his mission, he went to pre-med classes at Rick's College, in Utah, where he first heard about USU.

"I knew a professor at Rick's College who was a former instructor at USU and he spoke very highly about it," he said. "The way that USU was explained to me, in a nutshell, was that it was a military school. I was able to choose my branch of service, I would become commissioned and the government would pay for my school. All I would owe was time. I figured I could be in debt for 20 years or go in for seven with a possibility of retirement. That sounded appealing to me."

Burgon graduated from Brigham Young University with a bachelors degree in neuroscience and a minor in chemistry. Burgon's wife, Heather, helped him obtain his masters degree in neuroscience. The two schools he considered attending next were the University of Utah and USU.

Burgon met his wife during the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, and married later that year. While he was trying to obtain his Masters, Heather worked as a registered nurse. She is now a full-time mom. They adopted a baby girl named Savannah who is four and a half-month-old and just learned to sit up, he said like a proud father.

Having a grandfather who was in the Air Force and a brother who is active-duty Air Force, it was only natural for Burgon to go blue. His brother was in the First Assignment Instructor Pilot Program and is now a pilot instructor at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

Burgon likes water skiing, snow skiing, reading, playing the piano, playing Frisbee with his wife, watching movies at home and spending time with his family.



**2nd Lt. Rick Burgon
SOM, Class of 2010**

Student Profile: Gabriel DeFang Graduate Education

By TSgt. André Nicholson
NCOIC, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) is a melting pot of students from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds.

One of those students is Gabriel DeFang, who hails from Cameroon, Africa. DeFang is a doctoral degree candidate enrolled in the Emerging Infectious Disease program. The program has been created for students who are primarily interested in the pathogenesis, host response, and epidemiology of infectious diseases.

This is DeFang's last year in the five-year program and his goal is to complete the program requirements this summer, as he is currently working on his thesis titled: "Toward Viral Vaccine Development – A Modified

Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis Virus Replicon as a Strategy for Optimizing Immunogenicity."

DeFang is also a research student in the lab of CAPT Gerald Quinnan, M.D., U.S. Public Health Service, professor and chair department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics.

"The program has been a lot of work as I expected, but it has been so rewarding," he said. "I don't think my thesis would be what it is today without the interaction with the faculty and other students like we have here at the University. The collaboration I've had with Dr. Quinnan and Dr. (Christopher) Broder (professor and director Emerging Infectious Diseases Program) has been so valuable to me."

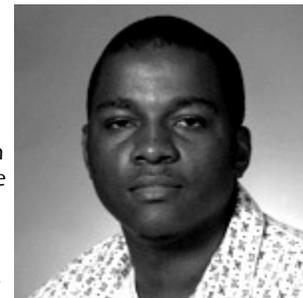
Before coming to USU DeFang earned his bachelors degree in microbiology from the University of Buea, Cameroon, Africa in 1996. He had not received his United States citizenship at the time but he was able to enlist in the U.S. Navy. He served eight years as a hospital corpsman and was assigned to the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) as a laboratory technician for three years. It was during his time at NNMC that DeFang heard

about the Emerging Infectious Disease program at USU and has been enrolled since 2003.

Dr. Eleanor S. Metcalf, associate dean, Graduate Education, believes graduate students comprise important and integral components of the academic mission and scholarly environment of USU.

"USU graduates serve the nation in public service, create new knowledge, train the next generation of scientists, and/or contribute to the advancement of health and science in both public and private positions," Dr. Metcalf said.

After graduation from the Ph.D. program DeFang said he is interested in seeking a commission with the U.S. Public Health Service.



**Gabriel DeFang
Graduate Education**

USU Town Hall Meeting: Call for discussion topics

The next Town Hall meeting is scheduled for March 7 at 3 p.m. in the USU Cafeteria. Topics for discussion include updates on: BRAC/Integration; GSN funding; expanding the size of USU; post graduate dental school; summary of the USU President's Open Door Program; budget; three major USU searches; IM/IT; and Building E construction. Please provide information on your interest in the above topics as well as suggestions for other topics by completing the Town Hall survey at: <http://www.usuhs.mil/usuhs/townhallsurvey1.html>.



USU Calendar of Events



<p align="center">25</p>	<p align="center">26</p> <p>Department of Pathology Seminar: The Pathogenesis of Cardiomyopathies</p> <p>11:30a.m. - 12:30p.m. Lecture Room A.</p> <p>The Annual Graduate Student Open House Wine and Cheese Party</p> <p>3p.m. Small Dining Room</p>	<p align="center">27</p>	<p align="center">28</p> <p>"Molecular Machinery for the Transport of Neurotransmitter Receptors at Synapses"</p> <p>3:30p.m. Lecture Room A</p> <p>USU Toastmasters Meeting</p> <p>noon - 1p.m. AFRRI Small Conference Room</p>	<p align="center">1</p> <p align="center">March</p>	<p align="center">2</p> <p>Department of Pathology Seminar: The Chaperonopathies</p> <p>noon Room A2053</p>	<p align="center">3</p>
<p align="center">4</p>	<p align="center">5</p>	<p align="center">6</p>	<p align="center">7</p> <p>Town Hall Meeting</p> <p>3p.m. Cafeteria</p> <p>LRC Training Classes EndNote Basics</p> <p>Noon - 1p.m. LRC</p> <p>USU Toastmasters Meeting in Room</p> <p>Noon - 1p.m. Room A2011</p>	<p align="center">8</p> <p>LRC Training Classes PubMed Basics</p> <p>Noon - 1p.m. LRC</p> <p>AFRRI Department of Military Medical Operations presents the "Medical Effects of Ionizing Radiation Course"</p> <p>WRAMC</p>	<p align="center">9</p> <p>AFRRI Department of Military Medical Operations presents the "Medical Effects of Ionizing Radiation Course"</p> <p>WRAMC</p>	<p align="center">10</p>
<p align="center">11</p>	<p align="center">12</p>	<p align="center">13</p>	<p align="center">14</p> <p>USU Center for Health Disparities Research and Education Information Table on Colorectal Cancer</p> <p>11:30a.m. - 1:30p.m. Bldg. B Lobby</p> <p>USU Toastmasters Meeting</p> <p>noon 1p.m. AFRRI Small Conference Room</p>	<p align="center">15</p> <p>LRC Training Classes: PubMed Basics</p> <p>6p.m. - 7p.m. LRC</p> <p>LRC Training Classes: EndNote Basics Basics</p> <p>6p.m. - 7p.m. LRC</p>	<p align="center">16</p>	<p align="center">17</p> <p>Community Disasters: Preparing, Responding, and Treating Child Trauma-Related Disorders. What clinicians need to know</p> <p>7:30a.m - 5p.m. USU Campus-</p>
<p align="center">18</p>	<p align="center">19</p>	<p align="center">20</p> <p>LRC Training Classes: Introduction to EXCEL</p> <p>10a.m. - noon LRC</p>	<p align="center">21</p> <p>USU Toastmasters Meeting</p> <p>noon - 1p.m. Room A2011</p>	<p align="center">22</p> <p>LRC Training Classes: Introduction to EXCEL</p> <p>3p.m. - 5p.m. LRC</p>	<p align="center">23</p>	<p align="center">24</p>