USU’s Parking Garage:
Not Just a Walk in the Parking Lot
Not quite a walk in the parking lot

By MCSN Jeff Hopkins
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

Parked at work has continually vexed students, faculty, staff and visitors at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) for the past few months.

Arriving early to work has its privileges, as early arrivals typically have their choice of spots in a mostly empty bay, but as the morning continues, the garage fills to more than capacity, with vehicles parking anywhere there is available space, sometimes blocking other vehicles in. What is causing this and other parking problems, and how are they being dealt with?

Petty Officer Second Class Julio Jauregui, a security specialist with USU’s security department attributes most of the parking issues to the current construction efforts occurring at USU.

“We have three construction projects going on: one in the garage; the addition of the new building; and the re-bricking of the entire university. These are creating the parking issues we currently have,” said Jauregui, adding that some parking areas have been closed off, including the carpool area, which has been cut in half, causing more people to have to park on the lower levels.

With the cut down in available spaces, people with special parking needs are facing parking issues as well. A recent concern submitted through the President’s Open Door Program stated that there is a lack of ample handicapped spaces in USU’s garage truck and van parking area; that normal-sized handicap-permissible vehicles are permitted to park in the oversized handicapped vehicle slots, when normalized handicapped parking spaces are available in the levels below. The submitter suggested that two additional handicapped parking spaces be designated in the truck and van parking area, for handicapped personnel with oversized vehicles only.

In response to the concern, it was stated that parking issues are a significant challenge to the university, and although there are no restrictions as to which handicapped spaces individuals or employees who have special parking needs use, the parking lot is still routinely patrolled, and any vehicles found to be illegally parked, including cars parked in oversized parking spaces, will be ticketed.

Jauregui said although the security department is not being lenient or condoning the illegal parking occurring in the garage, they understand the strain the current parking situation is putting on students and personnel, and are attempting to curb violations.

“We know there are a lot of parking issues with the projects going on,” Jauregui said. “What we recommend is that people don’t park in the motorcycle area, don’t double or triple-park, don’t block the lanes, and don’t park under ramps, or places where they’re going to cause traffic accidents.”

He said typically when a car is found illegally parked, the decal number is taken down and run through the security database, and the owner is courteously asked by telephone or e-mail to move their vehicle.

“If you don’t find a spot, there’s I-Lot,” he added. I-Lot is the overflow parking for the university’s garage, located adjacent to the Child Development Center, and is open to USU registered vehicles.

Not all parking issues can be attributed to the current construction efforts, said Arta Mahboubi, the university’s assistant vice president for administration.

“Please note that there are only 50 spaces at any given time reduced; no more, no less,” she said. Mahboubi said that the construction in the garage is a restorative effort, aiming to fix the deterioration that has occurred to the parking structure during the last 25 years. The current phase is the first of three, and is scheduled for completion in May.

The following phase, dealing with the restoration of the ramps will begin in June, when the students aren’t here, and the parking crunch is somewhat less.

With the clock ticking and no parking spots in sight, frustrations can run high, creating what Jauregui calls ‘borderline road-rage,’ a condition made worse when a driver is waiting patiently for a spot, and another driver zips in and takes it.

“There have been people that have come in saying people get nasty with them because they took their spot,” Jauregui said. “We’re just asking people to bear with us and be patient until construction is done and parking spots are reopened.”
Student Profile: CAPT Roberta Lavin, Graduate School of Nursing

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

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences’ (USU) Graduate School of Nursing’s (GSN) mission is to prepare nurses at the graduate level to support the needs and interests of the military and the federal health care system. CAPT Roberta Lavin, who is a Ph.D. in Nursing Science candidate in the GSN, is one of those nursing students being prepared to support and meet those needs.

Lavin is an 18-year U.S. Public Health Service veteran from Knoxville, Tenn., and has been enrolled in the five-year Ph.D. program for three years in both a full and part-time status.

Before attending USU she was the Chief of Staff for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response in the District of Columbia. Lavin earned her undergraduate degree in psychology with a minor in religious studies and a master’s degree in nursing from the University of Tennessee in 1991.

Lavin’s goal is to complete the program requirements in the next year and a half. Upon completion she will most likely work in a senior management position that deals with policy development.

“The program here (at USU) is much more intense compared to what I hear from my colleagues enrolled in other graduate nursing programs,” Lavin said. “It is also more focused on our target group, the people we will be serving, who are all recipients of federal health care.”

Lavin said she is glad to see the positive progress nurses are making today and that they are steadily moving forward.

The Graduate School of Nursing was established in 1993 and is charged with preparing its graduates to contribute to peacetime health care delivery systems, military health in support of combat operations, and civil disasters and humanitarian missions. GSN students include uniformed officers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and US Public Health Service as well as nurses working in a variety of federal agencies.

Student Profile: Ensign Lesley Paz

School of Medicine

By MCSN Jeff Hopkins
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) plays a vital role in providing the nation with competent, capable military healthcare officers, and nothing is more vital to the university than its students.

Navy Ensign Lesley Ann Paz is a 27-year old first-year student of USU’s School of Medicine (SOM), who said she became interested in medicine at the age of 10, stating it’s one of those things children decide they want to do, like wanting to be a fireman or an astronaut. As a child, her hobbies included Tae Kwon Do, tennis, and art, particularly drawing and painting.

Paz’s heritage is a combination of Korean and Spanish. Her father was a career Army soldier and met her mother in Korea.

Paz said her mother had the full-time job of taking of her and her sister.

Paz earned her degree in exercise science from Georgia State University in Atlanta, and has experience in emergency room health care. Originally, she wanted to be an ear, nose, and throat specialist, but recently changed her mind and wants to specialize in hand surgery.

Along with being a student, Paz is the president of her class, and says it’s a lot of responsibility.

“If anyone has a problem, they take it to you,” she said.

Paz said one of the reasons she chose the Navy as her branch of service is because she would like to be stationed along the coast. When thinking about making the Navy a career, she said she’ll have to decide once she has experienced life on a ship. She would like to be stationed in California, with San Diego as her first choice.

Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist Program Collaborates on Medication Error Reporting System

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences’ (USU) Graduate School of Nursing (GSN) Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist (PCNS) program and US Pharmacopeia collaborate for the first time on a medication error reporting system.

COL Linda Wanzer, M.S.N., R.N., CNOR, U.S. Army Nurse Corps, assistant professor and program director of the Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist Masters program, and Perioperative Nursing Consultant to the Army Surgeon General, provided primary oversight for the PCNS students who worked with US Pharmacopeia on MEDMARX.

MEDMARX, the world’s largest medication error reporting system, harnessed the outstanding clinical expertise and critical thinking skills of the 2005, 2006 and 2007 PCNS students and faculty to participate in analyzing a seven-year data set as it relates to medication errors across the perioperative arena and varied population groups.

The report is the culmination of a three-year research partnership that began as a medication safety project but evolved into a program of study for the PCNS students. The 2005 class launched the study with a project that examined all MEDMARX perioperative medication errors. The 2006 class focused on pediatric medication errors across the perioperative continuum and the 2007 class analyzed medication errors involving geriatric patients.

For information about the MEDMARX Report visit www.usp.org/aboutUSP/media
Junior and Senior Employees of the Quarter

By MCSN Jeff Hopkins
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

Each quarter, civilian employees of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) and the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI) are nominated to compete for Junior and Senior Employee of the Quarter (JEQ/SEQ), an award which recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of university employees.

The winner of the SEQ award for Jul-Aug-Sep of 2006 is Karen Williams, a grants management specialist for the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BIO) department (picture not available). Williams’ duties include preparing and advising on grant proposals for intramural and extramural funding, taking charge of departmental budgets, financial services for all BIO faculty, placing orders for every BIO lab, purchasing experimental reagents, and equipment. Williams also provides expertise and guidance on all aspects of departmental administration issues.

Xin Xiang, Ph.D., an associate professor of molecular biology, nominated Williams, and expressed confidence in her merit of the award. “She’s extremely capable in doing all these things, and is highly devoted to her work,” Xiang said. “I think she is extremely valuable to our department and her great contribution should be recognized at the university.”

Williams said she appreciated her nomination and subsequent selection for the SEQ. “I was grateful for the acknowledgement,” Williams said. “It is an honor to be recognized by USU for the work I do.”

The recipient of the JEQ award for Jul-Aug-Sep 2006 is Sha-Ron Nimmons, an office automation assistant for the Graduate Medical Education, National Capitol Consortium (NCC). Nimmons’ supervisor, Lisa P. Reaves, program administrative specialist, nominated her for assumption of additional duties and responsibilities in Graduate Medical Education. These extra duties included many of the duties normally performed by a program analyst at two grade levels above her assigned position, such as serving as point of contact for financial transactions, and ensuring the timely submission of purchase orders, contract renewals, travel orders and claims.

“We appreciate her effort and believe she deserves recognition for her commitment to excellence, professionalism, and attention to the demanding requirements of the position,” Reaves said. “Ms. Nimmons has proven herself to be a valuable asset in assisting the NCC in a time of need.”

Nimmons said she was elated at having been selected for the JEQ. “It caught me by surprise,” she said. “However, when they announced that I was selected I was very appreciative. At first I was afraid to take over a higher position giving the level that I am. After weighing my options I said to myself that if I wanted to achieve something, I had to go ahead and strive for it. I give the blessing to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Now, that I have him in my corner I have a lot of confidence in myself to move forward to pursue other goals.”

Any civilian employee in a non-supervisory position at the grade level GS-7/WG-7 or below may be nominated for the JEQ, and those in non-supervisory positions, level GS-8/WS-8 and above can be nominated for the SEQ.

In addition, nominees must have been employed at USU or AFRRI for 12 months or more, received an overall performance rating of Highly Successful or higher on their most recent annual performance rating, and must not have been selected for JEQ/SEQ in the two years previous to the current nomination period.

Some benefits of winning the SEQ and JEQ are that each receive a $250 on-the-spot award, and exclusive use of a designated USU parking spot for the quarter.
Anchor’s Aweigh: HMCM Smith Departs USU

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) is all too familiar with military life and its nomadic nature. A military member is here one day and gone the next, but leaves behind a great deal of knowledge that will help his predecessor succeed in the job they left behind.

HMCM Kevin Smith (SW/FMF), Navy, former brigade senior enlisted leader is one of those members who recently departed USU and will be deploying to Afghanistan.

Smith served as the USU Brigade Senior Enlisted Leader for the last three years, and recently received the USU Outstanding Service Award as well as the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for his efforts to the brigade and the university.

SFC Donald Peña, Army, academics NCOIC, Military and Emergency Medicine, will take on the role of the Brigade Senior Enlisted Leader while a search for a permanent replacement is underway.

Smith will be greatly missed, said HM1 Muhammad Hassan (SW/FMF), Navy.

USU Hosts 30th Annual Dining–In

Army LTC John Maurer, brigade commander (center), strikes the gavel during the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences’ 30th Annual Dining-In March 3. The head table pictured above (left to right) was retired CAPT Stephen Henske, Navy, USU’s chief of staff; retired BG William Bester, Army, acting dean, USU’s Graduate School of Nursing; RADM Kenneth Moritsugu, U.S. Public Health Service, acting surgeon general; LTC Maurer, brigade commander; retired CAPT Larry Laughlin, Navy, dean, USU’s School of Medicine; and CAPT William Adams, Navy, AFRL.

The Dining-In is a formal dinner for military members only, unlike the Dining-Out where nonmilitary spouses, friends and civilians may attend. It is an occasion where ceremony, tradition, and good fellowship serve an important purpose.
The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Graduate Programs in the biomedical sciences and public health presented their annual Open House for prospective doctoral students Feb. 26. The applicants were offered a continental breakfast as they listened to a presentation by Dr. Lee Metcalf, associate dean, Graduate Education, in which she welcomed the attendees and gave an overview of USU and the Graduate Programs. The students were given a tour of USU, visited some research laboratories, and reviewed posters developed by current graduate students. A luncheon provided an informal opportunity for the current students and applicants to get better acquainted. The afternoon also consisted of program-specific interviews for the applicants. Above, Army MAJ Michael Perry, a clinical psychology student, spoke with some of the prospective applicants during the Wine and Cheese Party which was attended by the applicants, faculty members, and current graduate students.

The Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI) recently hosted a group of high school students from around the United States. These students, who are members of the Presidential Classroom, were selected for their interest in radiobiology and received a look into the world of AFRRI.

The tour began with a speech by AFRRI’s Scientific Director, Terry Pelmar, who introduced the students to the facility and told them what to expect.

Office of External Affairs Deputy Vice President, Sharon Willis, spoke to the students about the importance of education, and the benefits the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences offers.

The students then visited different displays set up around the auditorium. At one table, HM1 James Ganz presented several household items such as fire alarms, the glow in the dark paint on a watch, dinnerware, bananas, salt and other items, as well as a chunk of fused sand from atomic bomb testing during World War II, that still emits radiation today. The students used a 14c Survey Meter, a device which detects radiation, to see how much radiation each item emitted.

After the students learned a little bit about radiation, they split into different groups to start the facility tour. At each stop the students were given time to ask the researchers questions about the instruments in their labs and were even invited to see them in action.

The tour included the Bio Dosimetry Lab, the Heavy Research Metals Lab, the Radiation Countermeasure Program, the Cobalt-60 Facility, and the Training Research Isotopes General Anatomic (TRIGA) Reactor where the students witnessed a demonstration.

At the end of the tour the students were inducted into the Order of the Nervous Neutron, membership of which is awarded to anyone who witnesses the activation of the TRIGA reactor.

Graduate Education’s Open House Discussion

High School Students tour the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute

By MCSN Raul Zamora
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

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ATTN All Personnel: Lt Col David J. Roll, USAF, CFN, regretfully announces the death of 2Lt Catherine M. Baxter, USAF, USUHS class of 2007. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to the estate of 2Lt Catherine M. Baxter should contact Lt Col David J. Roll, Summary Court Officer, at 240-857-7774.

Commencement The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) announces the 28th Annual Commencement Exercises for the class of 2007 will be held May 19 at 11 a.m. The exercises will be held at the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall. Admission to commencement is by ticket only. To reserve staff and faculty audience tickets contact Carrie Hibler at chibler@usuhs.mil or in room B1009 External Affairs Annex no later than April 30.

Netter Exhibit: The USU Surgery Interest Group is sponsoring the annual Netter Exhibit March 16 - April 27. Thirty paintings and several sketches of Dr. Frank Netter's original artwork will be on display in the foyer of Building B outside Sanford Auditorium. Dr. Netter's artwork has been used by many physicians both in the United States and abroad as a model for learning several aspects of medicine and surgery. The paintings being displayed show various aspects of anatomy, embryology, pathophysiology, illness, diagnosis, surgery, and patient care.

Dr. Netter's daughter, Francine Netter Robinson will talk briefly about her father's work and service in the U.S. Army, March 19 at 1 p.m. in Sanford Auditorium.

The Research Forum: Research Forum is a new informal program presented by the Learning Resource Center on the first Thursday of each month which will showcase a LRC resource. The first resource the LRC introduced in March was Anatomy TV. On April 5 the LRC will spotlight PsycINFO. Bring your coffee and join us on April 5 from 3 to 4 p.m. in the LRC lobby to learn more about PsycINFO and have snacks (while they last).

LRC: The LRC catalog has new features that will make your searching easier. Advanced Keyword Searching is a new feature that allows you to search the author, title, subject, and/or note fields in the catalog at the same time. The new Limits feature allows you to limit your search to material type, language, or location. The material type limit is especially helpful for searching for journals. Use the drop-down box, choose journal, and only journal titles will appear in your search results.

The LRC is currently working on Journal Linking in the catalog. This feature is not ready yet, but soon you will be able to search the catalog for journal titles, then link to the full text of that journal from the catalog.

USU Host UNAIDS Global Task Force Meeting

The Uniformed Services Task Force (USTF) on HIV/AIDS met at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) March 5 - 6, to discuss the expanding need of HIV/AIDS programs around the world. The two day meeting was an opportunity to encourage collaboration among the United Nations, Non-Governmental Organizations, civil society, national governments and civil military institutions. The USTF, formerly called the Working Group on HIV/AIDS for Uniformed Services, is an informal coalition of individuals and organizations working to meet the expanding need of HIV/AIDS programs for uniformed services around the globe. World participants included Thailand, Nigeria, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Brazil, Zimbabwe, United Kingdom, Eritrea, and India, as well as the Center for Disease Control and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Continuing Education for Health Professionals: Advanced Taproot USU Nuclear, Radiation, and High Yield Explosives USU</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Continuing Education for Health Professionals: Basic Patient Safety Managers Course USU USU Toastmasters Meeting noon-1p.m. AFRR Small Conference Room Neuroscience Seminar: Sick Baby, Sick Adult? How Early Neuroimmune Challenge Alters the Adult Nervous System 3:30p.m. Lecture Room A</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>CDHAM Grand Rounds: Collaborative Mobile Research and Data Collection with OpenSurvey.NET noon-1p.m. Lecture Room D</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Annual Spring Scientific Symposium &quot;Community Disasters: Preparing, Responding, and Treating Child Trauma-Related Disorders&quot; 7:30a.m.-5:00p.m.</td>
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<td>Town Hall Meeting 3:00p.m. Cafeteria USU Toastmasters Meeting noon-1p.m. AFRR Small Conference Room</td>
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<td>27th USU Surgical Associates Day and AAST-Military Collaboration USU Introduction to EXCEL 10:00a.m.-noon LRC Nuclear, Radiation, and High Yield Explosives USU</td>
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<td>Faculty Grand Rounds: What RIME’s with COPD: Developing Learning Objectives and Preliminary Lesson Plans 1:00p.m.-2:30p.m. USU Nuclear, Radiation, and High Yield Explosives USU</td>
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