

# USU Newsletter

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**Front Cover Photo By**  
MCSN Raul Zamora

## USU's Nurse Anesthesia Program Ranks Sixth in the Nation

*By Tech. Sgt. André Nicholson  
NCOIC, Office of External Affairs*

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Graduate School of Nursing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesia (CRNA) program received a national ranking of sixth out of 106 Nurse Anesthesia Programs according to the recently published 2007 U.S. News and World Report.

"This is quite an accomplishment for the nurse anesthesia program that admitted its first students in 1994," said Air Force Lt Col Adrienne Hartgerink, CRNA program director. "This is the first time the program has been ranked. This is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of the USU faculty and the outstanding performance of the students from all services."

The U.S. News and World Report bases its nurse specialty rankings on ratings by educators and deans at peer schools.

"This impressive ranking is directly attributable to the university's reputation and all the exceptional faculty involved with educating our future Air Force, Army, Navy, and Public Health Services' CRNAs," said Hartgerink. "Our nurse anesthesia program didactic faculty, Army LTC (Promotable) Bruce Schoneboom, Navy CDR John Maye, Air Force Lt Col Kevin Bohan, and retired Army COL Patricia Cordts, do a superb job in preparing the next generation of nurse anesthesia providers, as well as the outstanding clinical faculty at all our phase II sites and of course our outstanding students."

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists are vital to the Federal Health System's mission of delivering quality healthcare to eligible beneficiaries in the federal sector. Upon graduation, our nurse anesthetists provide safe, competent care, adhering to the highest practice standards. Anesthesia is practiced in a variety of settings, including modern, state of the art medical centers, in the field with Special Operations teams and ground forces, onboard ships, in the air, at overseas



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. André Nicholson*

duty stations, and remote locations that are serviced by the Public Health Service. Independent practice and the ability to perform a wide variety of anesthetic techniques, including regional anesthesia, is expected.

The 30-month program consists of two phases. The Phase I didactic component is 12 months long and is conducted on the campus of USU. A strong scientific program provides the foundations upon which all academic and professional education is based.

Courses provided are necessary for entrance into the clinical arena and include the basic sciences, nursing core courses, basic and advanced principles of anesthesia, basic and clinical pharmacology, and statistics and research methodology. Human Patient Simulation is extensively used to prepare students for clinical practice.

The eighteen-month Phase II clinical component focuses on critical thinking and the application of science and research to clinical anesthesia. Students are assigned to a military medical treatment facility as their primary clinical training site. The clinical phase is designed to progress the graduate student toward the goal of functional autonomy and independence in decision-making appropriate to the student's level of experience.

## National Nurses Week 2007, "Nursing: A Profession and a Passion"

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, celebrated annually May 6-12 throughout the United States. This year, the American Nurses Association (ANA) has selected "Nursing: A Profession and a Passion" as the theme for 2007. The ANA supports and encourages National Nurses Week recognition programs through the state and district nurses associations, other

specialty nursing organizations, educational facilities, and independent health care companies and institutions.

Annually, National Nurses Week begins May 6, marked as RN Recognition Day, and ends May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, founder of nursing as a modern profession. These permanent dates enhance planning and position National Nurses Week as an established recognition event.

Traditionally, National Nurses Week is devoted to highlighting

the diverse ways in which registered nurses, the largest health care profession, are working to improve health care. From bedside nursing in hospitals and long-term care facilities, during war, peacetime or humanitarian military operations; to the halls of research institutions, state legislatures, and Congress, the depth and breadth of the nursing profession is meeting the expanding health care needs of American society.

*Source: ANA*

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# Voices from the Holocaust: USU Observes Yom Hashoah

By MCSN Raul Zamora  
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

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It has been more than 60 years since the Holocaust and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) observed Yom Hashoah with a lecture by Marion Ein Lewin, a Holocaust survivor.

Lewin never spoke about her childhood experience in the Holocaust until now.

"I never felt that I could conjure the words, the sentences and the paragraphs that could truly describe my memories of the Holocaust as a young child," she said.

According to records, Lewin and her brother were the youngest set of twins who survived the Holocaust. Lewin and her brother were born in Amsterdam, Holland in 1938. Her parents had moved there from Germany to escape the rising power of Adolph Hitler, but in 1940 Hitler attacked Holland and the same laws applied in Holland as they did in Germany at that time.

"What would become a horrific nightmare began to unfold," she said. "Homes raided in the middle of the night; commands shouted in a language that no one understood. Families were given 15 minutes to pack a few belongings and boarded on a truck to a fate still unknown, and beyond comprehension."

Lewin was only five years old when her family was captured by the Nazis. "I was both fascinated and terribly scared by the intruders and their uniforms," she said. "Shiny boots, buttons, and helmets. The sound the boots made as they walked to our bedrooms and living space; how can simple walking be so noisy and so menacing?"

Lewin remembers that her parents had a tradition of leaving candy in the children's left shoe that was at the end of their beds. "As I was quickly getting dressed I asked my mother if I could take the candy in my shoe," she said. "The (Shutzstaffle) SS shouted at us to hurry, and as we left our apartment my mother slipped the candies into my coat pocket, a coat that I would wear everyday for the next year and a half. I still remember that coat well; it was blue with a plaid lining."

The Lewin family was taken to Westerbork in the summer of 1943.

"Summers can be hot in Holland," Lewin said. "But for some reason I don't remember sun, I don't remember warmth. I only remember grey and cold. I also remember playing with other children in Westerbork; mostly in the mud and the filth, but nevertheless, we did play. Mostly I remember the valor and courage of my parents, and the living hell that was our life for two years."

Westerbork is located in the rural northeastern Netherlands. This camp was used to gather the Jewish people (Jews) and transport them to other concentration camps, including Auschwitz-Birkenau, Sobibor, Bergen-Belsen, and Theresienstadt. People were shipped almost every Tuesday. When the Lewin family arrived, there were between 10,000 to 12,000 people.

"The most dreaded was the weekly transport," she said. "Who would be on the list to leave on those evil trains that would arrive like clockwork? Empty on Monday, the compartment's filled to capacity and again like clockwork left on Tues-

day to destinations vaguely known but filled with terror."

The trains were 30-31 foot-long cattle cars. The people inside had no water, food, basic sanitation, or ventilation.

The Nazis appointed Jewish leaders to compile a deportation list. Each week a list of 200 to 600 names had to be handed to the SS. The names of the people were called out on Monday evening.

"Those who were spared experienced a brief period of relief, but the list of deportations went on, and in the end, no one was spared from their journey on those evil trains," Lewin said.

In 1944 the Nazis announced that every Jew was condemned to death. Only healthy young Jews were spared for slave labor. Children and elder people were usually the first to be sent to gas chambers and other killing centers.

In late 1943 to early 1944 the trains leaving Westerbork were going to a new destination: Bergen-Belsen, which is located just north of Hanover, Germany. This place was not a killing center, and did not have gas chambers.

On Feb. 14, 1944 the Lewin family was called to depart the next morning to Bergen-Belsen. Ninety-eight trains left Westerbork between 1943 and 1945, but only five went to Bergen-Belsen.

"If we had left Westerbork for any other destination, I would not be standing in front of you today," Lewin said. "My brother and I would have been sent to our deaths within 24 hours of our arrival."

From morning to late at night men and women were forced to do hard labor outside. At least once a day, everyone had to appear for attendance, during which people had to stand still for three to four hours in the cold. People were selected at random for punishment and even harder slave labor.

"What else can I remember?" Lewin asked. "My brother and I made up our own secret language, we called it 'hoo-la-floo.' When we came to America, we discovered that we had come up with something closely resembling Pig-Latin."

Lewin's father was blonde with blue eyes. "The Nazis often wondered how someone with Arian looks could be a despicable Jew," she said.

In April 1945 the commander of Bergen-Belsen decided to empty the sub-camp where the Lewin family was held. There would be three trains that would depart to unknown destinations. "My father had a premonition that the trains would take us to the gas chamber," Lewin said. "My family, along with 2,500 others, was on the third train."

That train is known in Holocaust history as "The Lost Train" or "The Lost Transport," this is because the train would only travel east, but never in a straight line as it searched for rails that were still operable. The trip took 14 days.

During the trip, the allied forces took control of the train and asked the people inside to scramble into the forest and hide. "My brother and I ate the bark and leaves from the trees and found them quite delicious," Lewin said.

Five-hundred people died during the trip; others died afterwards from disease and eating too fast.

The Lewin family arrived in New York Jan. 1, 1947. "As the Queen Elizabeth approached the harbor, I saw the statue of liberty," she said. "I've been in love with that symbol of welcome and freedom ever since."

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## 2006 Junior and Senior Employees of the Year announced

By MCSN Jeff Hopkins  
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

The time has come to recognize the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Junior and Senior Employees of the year for 2006.

USU's Junior Employee of the Year is Brianne Kurtz, an Office Automation Assistant for the School of Medicine's (SOM) Office of Clinical Affairs (ADA). Kurtz has worked at USU for four years, and said she was very happy about being selected as the Junior Employee of the Year.

"I was so excited, I changed my MySpace name to Employee of the Year," she said.

Kurtz was nominated for not only performing her duties in a superb manner, but also for collaborating very effectively with the office's GS-11 Program Manager, whom she covered for in her absence.

Through the course of last year, Kurtz: created a database which incorporates job titles, pay levels and salary for all SOM faculty and staff, as well as similar databases for the assistant dean for special projects and the faculty senate; provided assistance

to the national search for the chair of USU's Military and Emergency Medicine (MEM) department, distributing all MEM chair applications to the search committee members, and performed the same task for the associate dean for the Graduate Education (GEO) Search Committee; and assumed the duties of providing staff support to an oversight committee appointed by Dr. Larry Laughlin, SOM dean, to review the Indo-USU program. In this capacity, she worked closely with the committee chair in researching, selecting, and assembling documents for the review committee, and is responsible for copying and distributing these documents in a timely fashion, as well as finding appropriate venues for the committee to meet.

USU's Senior Employee of the Year is Elizabeth L. Wampler, a Health Physicist with the Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety Division (EHSA) at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI,) who worked there for 17 years, until she died recently.

A memorial service will be held for her May 3 in the AFRRI conference room from 10-11 a.m.

Wampler's dedication and innovation in her position earned her nomination, and she's received recognition for many of her accomplishments throughout 2006.

During this time, Wampler received accolades from several Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspectors for the Radiation-Safety Training Program she developed and implemented at AFRRI for its innovative and comprehensive approach to educate employees on NRC License compliance issues.

She completed all monthly laboratory surveys as required by procedural and regulatory guidance and maintained accurate official documentation; solicited the Radionuclide and X-ray Safety Subcommittee (RXSS) of the Radiation Safety Committee (RSC) membership to participate in radiation audits and physical hands-on inventories; and during a turbulent time of civilian and military personnel turnover, she stepped up to assume responsibility for mentoring two newly assigned radiation safety officers and spent extra time familiarizing them with the operational and regulatory aspects of the Institute's radiation safety program.

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## USU says farewell to Netter exhibit

By MCSN Jeff Hopkins  
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

The Frank H. Netter exhibit which has been on display for more than a month at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) will be taken down this week.

Dr. Frank H. Netter was a U.S. Army officer during World War II, and was in charge of graphic training aids; he designed sketches for first-aid, X-ray, and survival manuals, and the army was able to use his pictures to educate soldiers in a wide variety of combat and peacetime endeavors. Netter is lauded for the incredible detail and accuracy of his artwork, and has been featured in many journals and publications. The Netter Exhibit showcased portions of the CIBA collection, which are pieces from the volume of work Netter did for the CIBA Pharmaceutical Corporation.

Sponsoring the exhibit was USU's Surgical Interest Group (SIG). The SIG's president, Army 2LT Ryan Roberts, and Air Force 2d Lt. Joshua Gustafson worked hard to help bring the Netter exhibit to USU.

"Ryan Roberts designed the programs, flyers, banners, and backdrops for the exhibit," Gustafson said. "SIG helped advertise the event as well as provide logistical support. In addition to sponsoring the event, Francine Netter Roberson, the daughter of Dr. Frank Netter was invited to participate in the unveiling of the exhibit. She spoke about the life of her father and how he combined his love of art with his study of medicine. She also spoke about the role that her father played in furthering military medicine during WWII."

Gustafson explained that originally, an interest was expressed in purchasing some of the Netter artwork, but the originals were

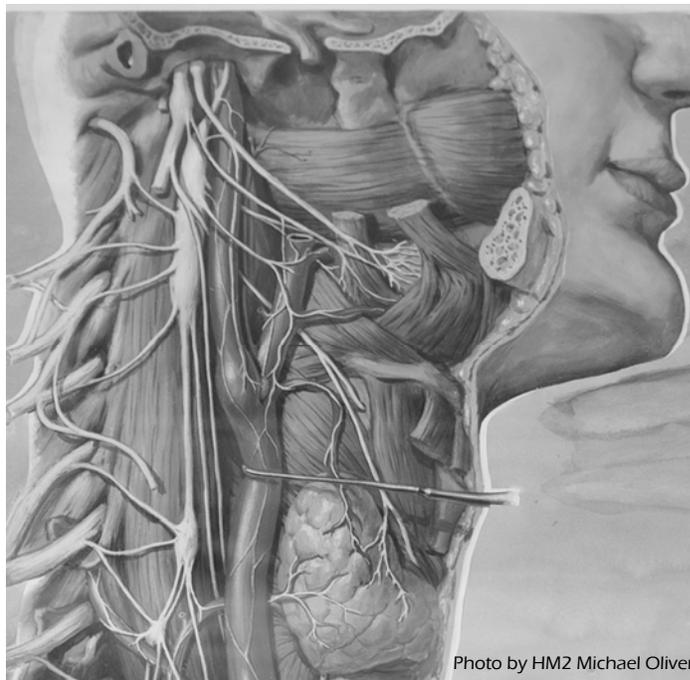


Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

not for sale. However, it was possible to display them for a period of time.

"Nearly every medical student is familiar with his depictions of the anatomy, pathology, and physiology of the human body," Gustafson said. "He is one of the most famous medical artists, so when the idea of a month-long exhibit was offered, it was considered a great honor to show the originals."

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: I want to take leave on the way to my TDY point (or from my TDY point before returning to USU) and purchase my own ticket. How can I do this?**

*A: You may, with your supervisor's approval, take leave to or from your TDY point so long as you pay the expenses not associated with your TDY travel. You may not, however, purchase your ticket without going through Carlson, the current contracted travel agency.*

**Q: My spouse is accompanying me on my TDY and we want to fly together. I'd like to buy our tickets without having to use Carlson. How can I do this?**

*A: Unfortunately you can't do this. All DOD employees on official travel must*

*make their travel arrangements through Carlson. You may wish to negotiate directly with the airline using your official ticket.*

**Q: The Carlson contracted carrier is too expensive. I can buy a much cheaper ticket on Expedia. Is this allowable?**

*A: The short answer is no because travelers are required to use Carlson; this required use is the incentive necessary to obtain airline participation in the city pair program "city-pair" fares, which represent "best overall value" and not necessarily the cheapest fare.*

*ASD can approve exceptions, but have done that very rarely. For more info, please visit City Pair Program at*

[www.gsa.gov/citypairs](http://www.gsa.gov/citypairs).

**Q: I am flying to Australia and have to change planes in Los Angeles. As it's a 5 hour flight to LA and another 15 to Australia, I'd like to be booked with an overnight stay in LA on each end of the trip. Can I do this?**

*A: Yes. Any traveler is authorized a rest period if the flight is more than 14 hours.*

**Q: When am I eligible to fly business class overseas?**

*A: In general, flying business class is forbidden except under certain circumstances. For example, a medical disability certificate may qualify as an exception but only with the concurrence of the USU President.*

## Staff Profile: SFC Donald Peña

*By MCSN Jeff Hopkins  
Staff Writer, VPE*

If you happen to run across Sergeant First Class Donald Peña in the halls of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) and listen to him talk for five minutes or more, chances are you'll hear the word "Texas," and most certainly "hooah" (probably about ten times, actually) Peña is very proud to be both a Texan and a Soldier, and that pride is reflected in the leadership he brings to the USU Brigade.

Formerly the Academics Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) for the USU Brigade's Army platoon, Peña took over the position of the brigade's Senior Enlisted Advisor (SEA,) which was vacated when the previous SEA, Master Chief Kevin Smith left for Afghanistan. The position carries the duty of advising the brigade commander on enlisted matters.

Peña was born at Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and grew up in San Antonio. His family has a long military history; Peña's father was an infantryman, and both his grandfather and great-grandfather were soldiers.

"I joined because all males in my family join the Army," Peña said.

Peña joined the Army with the Military Occupational Specialty of 68W, "Combat Medic" on August 27, 1987, and has been stationed many places.

"I've been stationed a lot of places, but of all of them, Fort Hood was my favorite, because it's in Texas," Peña said. "It's also the most deployable post in the army, so if you're going to deploy, that's the best place to be. I love deployments with a passion. I enjoy them because that's when you really get to do your job, you're moving troops on the battlefield, it's when your training and your experience really pay off, I guess. This is the first place that I've been that I've not been in a field unit."

Peña arrived at USU in November 2006, and in his short time here, has already made an impact on the servicemembers of the brigade.

"It's my personal experience that he's not just there to fulfill a role, he actually truly cares about the individual, and whatever he can do to help you," said Sergeant Jamie-Lea Divan, a Multimedia

Design Specialist for USU's Multimedia Design Center (MMDC.) "For example, when I was going through the promotion board, he was the first person to come seek me out to see if I needed any help with uniform or questions, or just to gain further knowledge."

Peña is known throughout the USU brigade not only for his professional experience as a senior NCO, but also for his sense of humor, pride, and spirit.

"SFC Peña brings a lot of life to Friday formations," said Sgt. Frezell Brewer, a Multimedia Design Specialist in USU's MMDC. "He brings everybody's spirits up. Everybody's just ready to leave, but he brings the mood of the formation to where everyone's just happy to be there, and there's been a lot more participation recently as well."

"He likes to start his morning with Chief Heath singing the Army song, 'The Army goes rolling along;' they stand at attention and sing the whole thing," said Sergeant Divan.

Though a Soldier through and through, Peña makes sure to equally represent each of the brigade's services.

"There may be a lot of speculation about him being Army and showing favoritism towards the Army, but he's taken a lot of training to learn all the other services regulations, to include uniforms, to make sure that he can help everybody," Sergeant Divan said.

"He's not the type of person to just listen to what someone says, he goes out and researches all the information," Sgt. Brewer said. "If the Air Force says something's done a certain way, or Navy says it, or even if the Army says it, he'll research it, and get back with the person about it. To me, that's going above and beyond being a leader."

"SFC Peña seems very proud to be a Soldier, but he doesn't let that affect his judgment," said Seaman Raul Zamora, a staff writer for USU's Office of External Affairs. "He strikes me as a very capable and fair leader."



**SFC Donald Peña  
Brigade Senior Enlisted  
Advisor**



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

## Building E Update

Grimberg Construction began the excavation process Oct. 30, 2006 (800 dump truck loads); the pre-caisson excavation requirements were completed before Dec. 31, 2006. By Feb. 27, 2007 all 34 caissons were completed; and, the foundation work for the base of the building was well underway. At this time, 75 percent of the footings and parking garage walls have been completed; the pouring of concrete garage floor slabs began on April 26, 2007. Coordination with Marshall Craft for the development of comprehensive lists and pricing for all outfitting requirements is well underway; initial interview sessions were held April 10-11, 2007; the projected date for completion of the contract with Marshall Craft is June 8, 2007. As always, the patience and support of the USU community has been extraordinary; we will have much to celebrate at the conclusion of the construction, which is currently scheduled for March 31, 2008.

# Food and Water-Borne Parasites on the Move

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

More than 15 years ago the first Food-Borne Parasitic Zoonoses seminar was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Now, nearly two decades later John Cross, Ph.D., professor of Tropical Public Health in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), along with Dr. K.D. Murrell, adjunct faculty, assisted in organizing the fifth seminar held this past winter in Bangkok, Thailand.

The purpose of the seminar is to review the current status of food-borne parasitic zoonoses in various countries such as Southeast Asia, Europe and North and South America," Dr. Cross explained. "It's also an opportunity to look at the potential of new technology in the field as well as planning research and strategies."

Zoonoses is a disease of animals, which can be transmitted to humans by various means. Eating partly cooked meat, fish or vegetables is a major factor in the process leading to infectious diseases of this class.

Dr. Cross spoke about the "Globe-Trotting" of a parasite of rats during his presentation. "The parasite and disease are on the move and gaining widespread international distribution," he said. "In recent years, the parasitosis has been reported from many of the Caribbean Islands and has moved into the United States with a report of

one human infection. Infections have now been reported in rats, wild, domestic and zoo animals in the United States and there is a great concern that it will spread in animal populations and eventually become a significant public health problem in the country."

Other researchers who presented findings in several areas of food-borne illness included Jeevan Sherchand, professor at Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal, and a ten-year colleague of Dr. Cross, who spoke about *Cyclospora Cayetanensis*, which is a parasite that causes recurrent gastroenteritis among children living under poor sanitary conditions and adults from industrialized countries who lived or traveled in endemic developing countries.

There was an epidemic of Cyclosporiasis in the late 1990s in the United States, and Dr. Cross has been working closely with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on the disease. The FDA is busy with another food-borne outbreak caused by melamine, which is suspected to be the cause of illness in pets and some humans. FDA labs all over the country are gearing up to look for the contaminant in imported foods.

Former USU students, V. Belizario, Tram Nguyen Thuy, and Pote Aimpun, who are all graduates from the Graduate Education Program, also presented during the seminar.

"It was a pleasure to see former students doing such remarkable work with food and water-borne pathogens," Dr. Cross said. "Their presentations were outstanding, and to hear and see how they incorporated what they learned here at the university was great."

# Medical, Nursing Students learn from past battlefield lessons

America's bloodiest one day battle continues to provide military physicians and nurses with wartime healthcare basics more than 140 years after it was fought.

Medical and nursing students from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) participated in a six-mile road march April 26 through the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Md.

Originally meant to serve as a means for the students to break in their new combat boots, the field exercise moved from Rock Creek Park near the campus to Antietam and now serves as a means of teaching the students, from a historical perspective, the basic tenets of battlefield healthcare. The former Army Surgeon of the Potomac Maj. Gen. Jonathan Letterman, recognized that care on the front lines, medical logistics and evacuation assets under the direction of a physician were key to delivering battlefield care.

Students marched in small groups, stopping at stations along the route to hear local Civil War re-enactors discuss conditions and battlefield strategies and to hear USU faculty members highlight the medical aspects of the battle.

The Battle of Antietam, which took place Sept. 17, 1862, is considered the bloodiest single-day battle in American history, claiming more than 23,000 men killed or wounded.



Photo by MCSN Jeff Hopkins

Students from the Graduate School of Nursing platoon listen as a civil war re-enactor talks about the food included in a soldier's rations, which were distributed every three days. A soldier's rations included salted pork, tea, coffee, and a dried combination of flower and water, called "hardtack."

## Army Nurse Serves CHE with Distinction

Silver Spring, Md. Mann, in civilian life, is employed at the prestigious Mayo Clinic, located in Rochester, Minn., as a research nurse study coordinator and has managed continuing education credit packages over her professional career. She brought her much needed expertise to the CHE office as an education manager.

During her ADT, Mann helped prepare the directorate for the American Nursing Credentialing Center re-accreditation self study via educational activity file review. She researched and coordinated applications for continuing education credits and also reviewed educational outcomes and summarized the findings into evaluation reports.

CAPT Jaime Luke, CHE Senior Executive Director, summed it up best, "Major Mann's efforts directly supported the activity managers' efforts to complete critical assignments for the re-accreditation and provided management with significant flexibility in assigning tasks," CAPT Luke said. "She arrived and easily transitioned into the work environment, saw what was needed and proceeded to work in an exemplary manner."

At the conclusion of her ADT, Mann was recognized by the Brigade for her outstanding work. During the ceremony, LTC John Maurer, USU Brigade Commander, presented a Certificate of Commendation in front of the staff.

Army Reservist MAJ Diane Mann, AN, recently completed one month of Active Duty Training (ADT) in the Continuing Health Education for Health Professionals (CHE) office in

"She is the type of officer who leaves the command in a much better position from when she arrived, totally due to her excellent leadership and professionalism," Maurer said. (Article courtesy of CHE)



Photo courtesy of CHE

LTC John Maurer, USU Brigade Commander, presents MAJ Diane Mann (center) with a Letter of Commendation. Mann served in the CHE department, headed by the Senior Executive Director, CAPT Jaime Luke.

## Promotions to Captain

Congratulations to the following USU alumni who were just selected for promotion to Captain, Medical Corps, U.S. Navy:

Anderson, Arne - class of 1989 (pediatrics)  
Craig, William D. - class of 1990 (radiology)  
Evans, Larry - class of 1989 (dermatology)  
Hammer, Paul - class of 1988 (psychiatry)  
Harari, Amir - class of 1990 (endocrinology)  
Helmets, Scott - class of 1990 (orthopaedics)  
Inouye, Lisa - MPH class of 1996 (medicine)  
Kane, John - class of 1990 (specialty unknown)  
Kane, Paul - class of 1992 (anesthesia)  
Malakooti, Mark - MTM&H class of 1996 (preventive medicine)  
Manos, Gail - class of 1990 (psychiatry)  
McGuigan, Elizabeth - class of 1990 (radiology)  
Pagekopf, Eric - class of 1995 (specialty unknown)  
Schafer, Ted - class of 1993 (gastroenterology)  
Valaik, Dan - class of 1993 (orthopaedics)  
Via, Darin - class of 1991 (anesthesiology)  
Wilde, Wade - class of 1989 (pediatrics)  
Zawacki, Kevin - class of 1990 (cardiology)

There were 70 selections made overall. There were two selections for O-6 made below the zone and both were USU graduates: Ted Schafer and Darin Via.

In addition, congratulations to USU Department of Medicine faculty member, CDR Dodd Denton, who was also selected for promotion to Captain, Medical Corps, USN.

## New Chiefs of Service

Congratulations to the following individuals who were recently named as Chiefs of Service under the integrated Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation Department at WRAMC and NNMC. These individuals join COL William Doukas, MC, USA (USU '88), who was recently named Chair of the integrated Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation Department, and CDR Patricia McKay, MC, USN (USU '93), who was named as Program Director for the Orthopaedics Residency Program.

CAPT(sel) Daniel Valaik, MC, USN (USU '93)

**Chief, Orthopaedic Surgery Service**

LTC Paul Pasquina, MC, USA (USU '91)

**Chief, Physical Medicine Service**

COL Barbara Springer

**Chief, Physical Therapy Service**

LTC Stephanie Daugherty

**Chief, Occupational Therapy Service**

Mr. Charles Scoville

**Chief, Amputee Services**

Mr. Joe Miller

**Chief, Orthotics & Prosthetics**

## Army Selections for Medical Commands

USU alumni selected for Army Medical Commands:

LTC Peter J. Benson, Class of '93

COL Stephen C Phillips, MPH, '03

COL Michael A Deaton, Class of '93

COL Rhonda L. S. Cornum, Class of '86

## Student Profile: Graduate Education Joseph Abbah

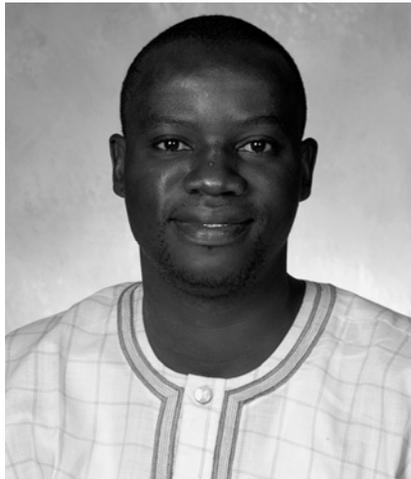
*By Tech. Sgt. André Nicholson  
NCOIC, Office of External Affairs*

Graduate students at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) are diverse as the disciplines they're studying, and Joseph Abbah is one of those students.

Abbah is from Benue State, Nigeria, and is a second year doctoral degree candidate enrolled in the Neuroscience program.

The Neuroscience program is an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program for students with strong training in the biological, behavioral, and/or physical sciences. Research includes development, regeneration, and plasticity in the nervous system, molecular neurobiology, and adaptive responses of the nervous system to stress, injury, and a changing environment.

"My area of research interest includes the factors underlining plasticity during development as well as in adults," Abbah said. "Plasticity is crucial for learning and memory. Currently I'm specifically looking at the factors involved in cell migration and differentiation from the region of



**Joseph Abbah**  
**Graduate Education Student**

birth to the cerebral cortex during development."

Abbah explained that plasticity refers to structural and biochemical changes in the properties of individual neuronal cells (a type of cell in the brain responsible for its function) or brain regions that may occur as a developmental event or in response

to certain brain activities. These changes alter the membrane of neuronal cells and play an important role during brain development.

Before entering the Graduate Education program Abbah majored in pharmacy and received his undergraduate degree from Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria, in 1998.

He heard about USU at a National Mental Health Conference he attended in South Africa, where a presenter spoke about some of the programs at the university that struck Abbah's interest.

Once he completes the program, his plans are to apply the knowledge and expertise gained here to address specific issues related to mental health. Abbah is currently a research student in the lab of Dr. Sharon Juliano, professor in the Department of Anatomy Physiology and Genetics.

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.

# USU Students Provide Medical Care for Avon Walk for Breast Cancer

By Sharon Willis  
Deputy Vice President, Office of External Affairs

Sixteen medical students from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) will provide on-scene medical treatment for thousands of participants in this year's Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in Washington, D.C.

The first- and second-year medical students, all uniformed officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force or Public Health Service, are members of USU's Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG). The FMIG, which is one of the largest student-run organizations on campus, has more than 200 members and provides students with opportunities to enhance medical education, military career development and community service.

Michael Spatz, M.D., specialty division leader for the Washington, D.C., Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, recruited the students for the job. Dr. Spatz is a 1983 graduate of USU who also specialized in family medicine. His wife, Doris, is a five-year survivor of breast cancer. Following her final year of treatment, the Spatz's got involved in the walk. Dr. Spatz volunteered his expertise with the medical team and eventually became specialty leader.

According to Spatz, the students will primarily treat participants for blisters, but previous years have brought cases of dehydration, sprains, muscle strains, asthma, anaphylaxis, seizures and fractures. USU students are educated to recognize and treat these injuries and ailments, and Spatz also spent time reviewing with them the basics of blister care and musculoskeletal maladies commonly seen during the walk. Students also received hands-on training for basic athletic taping skills from HM3 Burgos, who is assigned to the National Naval Medical Center's Department of Orthopaedic Surgery.

The Avon Walk begins May 5, with an opening ceremony at the Kennedy Center, after which walkers have the choice of walking 13.1 or 26.2 miles – a half or full marathon – throughout the Greater Metro Area. Participants, including walkers and volunteer

crew members, will spend the night at the "wellness village," which features two-person sleeping tents, hot showers, prepared meals, entertainment, volunteer massage services and comprehensive support services. On May 6, walkers will complete another 13.1 miles, concluding with a celebratory closing ceremony back at the Kennedy Center.

Spatz said medical care is available every four miles along the route, with larger rest stops that offer ibuprofen and care for blisters scattered throughout. In addition, there are other locations that offer physician care: at Sibley Hospital and at Sligo Middle School in Silver Spring May 5, and at Tubman Elementary School on 13th Street, N.W., in Washington, D.C., May 6. USU students will be at each location providing assistance.

USU FMIG members who are volunteering this year include: Terrence Bayly, Charisma Bautista, Rebecca Burns, David Carlson, Jino Caro, Elizabeth Franklin, Michele Gage, Anneliese Germain, Dallas Hansen, Cody Jackson, Brooke Sciuto, Thomas Skinner, Heather Stephenson, Tiffany Stratton, Ted Utz, and John Walsh.



Photo by Dr. Fred Brennan, Dept. of Family Medicine

**Cody Jackson and Anneliese Germain, both second-year medical students and members of the Family Medicine Interest Group will be providing support for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. Both students assisted last year.**

## USU Center for Health Disparities hosts Academic Scholars and Public-Private Organizations dinner, "Ending Health Disparities Affecting Your Patients"

By MCSN Jeff Hopkins  
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

In conjunction with National Minority Health Month, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Center for Health Disparities Research and Education (CHDRE), together with Pfizer, held an Academic Scholars and Public-Private Organizations Dinner April 18, at the CHDRE Office in Silver Spring, MD.

The theme of the night's events was "Ending Health Disparities Affecting Your Patients."

Medical students from USU were invited

to attend the meeting, during which dinner was served, and several speeches on topics about improving minority healthcare ranging from an overview of health disparities to smoking cessation were given.

"The health of the community is our responsibility," said Dr. Gloria Ramsey, USU associate professor of Nursing and director, Community Outreach and Information Dissemination Core.

The CHDRE Community Outreach and Information Dissemination Core (COIDC) has been actively involved with uniting academic scholars, physicians, and community outreach organizations to address healthcare disparities.

Pfizer, a research-based pharmaceutical company dedicated to improving lives through education and individual and community empowerment, collaborated with the COIDC to educate local physicians caring for racially and ethnically diverse populations about healthcare disparities.

"Minority physicians are more likely to treat minority patients and practice in underserved communities," Ramsey said. "While racial and ethnic minorities make up 25 percent of the U.S. population, only six percent of practicing physicians come from these groups. For these reasons, we invited our medical students to meet those caring for America's most vulnerable."

## Memorial Service

A Memorial Service of fellowship for Air Force 2d Lt Catherine Baxter, School of Medicine, Class of 2007, will be held at USU May 10 at 10:30 a.m. in Sanford Auditorium.

Many of her classmates will soon graduate from USU, but have been away for senior year clerkships during Catherine's final months of life. So, this is an opportunity for her peers and many friends in the faculty and staff to remember her love for life, her commitment to the vocations of medicine and military service, and her many contributions to everyone she knew.

# Look Who's Talking... *What do you want to be when you're older?*



"I'd like to be a Navy pilot, because my brother did it, and I love to fly."  
**Jake Larson**  
 Age 13, Grade 7  
 Oakdale Middle School  
 Son of David Larson  
 MIC



"I want to be a dermatologist, because I hear they make a lot of money."  
**Catherine Willis**  
 Age 12, Grade 7  
 Walkersville Middle School  
 Daughter of Sharon Willis, VPE



"I'd like to be a video game tester, because I'd love to rate and test video games."  
**James Queen**  
 Age 13, Grade 8  
 Sligo Middle School  
 Son of Glen Queen  
 FAC



"I plan to be a veterinarian, because I love animals and want to take care of them. I am and always will be an active member of the ASPCA."  
**Kara Hibler**  
 Age 9, Grade 3  
 Concordia Lutheran School  
 Daughter of Carrie Hibler, VPE



"I want to be a teacher, because I am smart and want to help other children be smart too."  
**Katie Hibler**  
 Age 7, Grade 2  
 Concordia Lutheran School  
 Daughter of Carrie Hibler, VPE



"I'd like to be a doctor, because I think it's interesting."  
**Zack Coppit**  
 Age 9, Grade 2  
 Centerville Elementary School  
 Son of Dr. George Coppit

## Letters from kids who came to USU for 'Take Your Child to Work Day'

The daughters of Carrie Hibler, a Commencement Coordinator for the Office of External Affairs wrote short letters about their experience for the USU Newsletter.

### Kara Hibler

April 27, 2007 my sister Katie and I came to work with my Mom. It was Take Your Child to Work day. At first the phones didn't work and the lights were not working but now they are. My mom was working on the graduation for the medical doctors. I think her job is fun, but her job in MDL was really fun and the computers worked better. We met Jeff Swope, Andre Nicholson and Kristin and Bianca. Then we met a lot of other people. We also went to visit Megan Fitzgerald and Dennis Stutz. We had lunch in the cafeteria, because I like their pizza.

I would rather be here than at school because at school I have to do the work. I like the university because there are a lot of soldiers here and they are studying to become doctors to help the people that are fighting the war. But they should check IDs better at the gate because they look at them for a much longer time on Air Force Bases.

### Katie Hibler

At my mom's job the phones don't work or the lights. My mom and a man, Jeff, are working. Me, I'm just writing this story for André. I'm glad I don't have to go to school today because it is boring. My mom's job doesn't get boring because there are Army, Navy and Air Force people here.

I think because it is a big place, they are making E building, and maybe an F, G, H, I, and K, because a few people don't have jobs, that is why they are building more. My job is to go to school and be kind to people, maybe other people will do the same job as me. The end.

### Important Information and Numbers for USU

#### Military Personnel Office-

Navy: YNSN Johnny Ford— 295-3423  
 YN1 Randolph Forrest— 295-3423

Army: SSG Darrian Ward— 295-9653  
 SSG Dexter Webb— 295-9650

Air Force: SSGT. Alison Meador— 295-9631  
 SSGT. Fabio Batista-Sanchez—295-0418

Human Resources: 295-3412

Finance Office: 295-3496

Security Office: 295-3033  
 295-3038

#### USU Shuttle times and stops:

Shuttle to Silver Spring-

#### Departs USU

6:30 a.m.  
 7:30 a.m.  
 8:30 a.m.  
 9:30 a.m.  
 10:30 a.m.  
 12:00 a.m.  
 1:00 p.m.  
 2:00 p.m.  
 3:00 p.m.  
 4:00 p.m.

Shuttle to Metro from USU and NNMC:

#### Departs USU

6:30a.m.-8:15a.m.

#### Departs Silver Spring

7:00 a.m.  
 8:00 a.m.  
 9:00 a.m.  
 10:00 a.m.  
 11:00 a.m.  
 12:30 a.m.  
 1:30 p.m.  
 2:30 p.m.  
 3:30 p.m.  
 4:30 p.m.

#### Departs NNMC

Runs continuously

3:33 p.m.

4:05 p.m.

4:33 p.m.

#### Shuttle stops:

**Gold Line:**  
 Medical Center station  
 Hospital, Bldg 10  
 Child Development Ctr, Bldg 26, I-Lot  
 Satellite Pharmacy, Bldg 141, E-Lot

**Blue Line**  
 Medical Center station  
 Hospital, Bldg 10  
 AFRR/USU  
 Child Development Ctr, Bldg 26, I-Lot  
 Fisher Houses, Bldgs 24 &25  
 Navy Lodge, Bldg 52

3:43 p.m.

4:15 p.m.

4:43 p.m.

# USU News Briefs

**Commencement** : The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) announces the 28th Annual Commencement Exercise for the class of 2007 will be held May 19 at 11 a.m. The exercise 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](mailto:chibler@usuhs.mil) or in room B1009 External Affairs Annex no later than today.

**2007 USU Research Week**: The mission of Research Week is: -to promote research by faculty, staff and students at USU and its affiliate institutions; -to provide opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration; and to facilitate communication among USU graduate students and faculty.

"Celebrating Excellence in Research" reflects the complementary roles that nursing, public health, behavioral science, basic science, and medicine play in health promotion. The poster presentations, invited speakers, and panels demonstrate USU's special role in civilian, public health, and military research initiatives across the health sciences.

This annual three-day event formally encompasses three events: the Graduate School of Nursing (GSN) Research Colloquium, which brings together GSN faculty and students to pre-

sent and discuss nursing-specific research findings; the Graduate Student Colloquium, which highlights the research interests and accomplishments of graduate students in the School of Medicine; and Faculty Senate Research Day, which draws the entire USU community to share research achievements, foster collaborations, and stimulate intellectual exchange. Together, they serve to inform the local scientific community, collaborative institutions, and other federal agencies about significant research projects conducted across the health sciences at USU and its affiliates.

**Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**: To honor and commemorate the distinguished service of Asian Pacific Americans, May is recognized as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This year's theme is "Pursuing Excellence Through Leadership, Diversity and Unity." DoD observances of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month include a DoD forum May 29, as well as a luncheon and military awards ceremony May 31, during the National Leadership Training Conference of the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) in Arlington, VA. The FAPAC conference offers opportunities for professional and personal development through plenary sessions, workshops, exhibits, and special events such as a job fair and congressional seminar. Information about the conference and an online registration form are available at <http://www.fapac.org>.

**GSN Awards Ceremony**: The 2007 Graduate School of Nursing Awards Ceremony will be held May 14 at 4 p.m. in Sanford Auditorium. This ceremony culminates the years of hard work, determination, and scholastic achievement of the GSN students at USU.

## USU History



Jay Phillip Sanford  
Third USU President  
1981-1990

In 1975, there may have been another who could have taken the reins and done well in developing the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS). But perhaps no other had the unique blend of leadership, perspective, and skills to accomplish so superbly the monumental task.

In the face of overwhelming odds, he took little more than an idea, fashioned it into a vision, and, within the framework of the founding legislation, made the dream a reality. It is an understatement to say that Jay P. Sanford exceeded all expectations in orchestrating that which became a showpiece of military medical excellence. In his fifteen-year tenure at the University, he served as both Dean of the Medical School (1975 to 1990) and as President of the Uni-

versity (1981 to 1990).

Jay Sanford was born to Joseph and Arlyn Carlson Sanford in Madison, Wisconsin, on May 27, 1928. He moved at least four times before he began college in 1945. He relocated with the family when his physician father was reassigned by his employer, the Dupont Company most of the time. Jay, at the age of two, went to New Jersey for two years and then to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for five. It was during this period that his only sibling, his sister Barbara, was born. In 1937, when Jay was 9 years old, the family moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. During this stay of six years, Jay became a boy scout, attaining eagle scout rank by the time he was 14. This boy scout exposure is believed by some to be the reason that he had a decided military orientation which remained with him for the rest of his life. Jay moved in 1943 to Stephenson, Michigan, the place where both his parents had lived and where his future wife Lorrie had been born. Jay attended the last three years of high school there. He did well. He was class president in his junior and senior years, and was very active athletically. He played basketball, ran track, and was quarterback of the football team. He graduated in 1945, valedictorian of his class.

Jay attended the University of Michigan as an undergraduate from 1945 to 1948, where he excelled academically and was a part of a national championship swimming team. He then entered Michigan's Medical School and, in 1952, received the MD degree, cum laude (first honors).

Upon graduation, Sanford served from 1952 until 1954 as house officer and assistant in medicine at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, and as research fellow at Harvard Medical School. In 1954, he entered the US Army and performed on active duty as the Chief of Bacteriology in the Department of Experimental Surgery at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). He left WRAIR in 1956, but he remained in the reserve, and for a period in the U.S. Public Health Service, finishing his uniformed service at the rank of colonel with the U.S. Army's 11th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

From 1956 to 1957, Dr. Sanford occupied a position as Senior Assistant Resident in Medicine at Duke University Hospital before moving to the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas (UTSWMC). At the latter location, he was a member of the faculty of the Department of Medicine, and was Chief of Infectious Diseases. He was also the Chief of the Bacteriology Laboratory at Parkland Memorial Hospital. While wearing these multiple hats, he established a collaborative program with those at Brooke Army Medical Center (Ft Sam Houston, Texas) to train UTSWMC students in the essentials of disaster medicine. In 1975, he was chosen to be the Founding Dean of the USUHS' School of Medicine.

His wife of 46 years was the former Lorraine Burklund. The couple had five children: Jeb, Nancy, Sarah, Philip, and Cathy. He died at the age of 68 in Dallas, Texas, Oct. 23, 1996.



# USU Calendar of Events



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>29</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>30</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-45deg);"><b>May</b></p>	<p>LRC Training Classes: PubMed Basics from <b>Noon-1p.m.</b> LRC</p>	<p>LRC Training Classes: EndNote Basics from <b>Noon-1p.m.</b> LRC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Spine Workshop USU</p> <p>CME. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education by phone at 301-295-0962, or by email</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Spine Workshop USU</p> <p>CME. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education by phone at 301-295-0962, or by email</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>6</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spine Workshop USU</p> <p>CME. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education by phone at 301-295-0962, or by email</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b></p> <p>LRC Training Classes Resources in Psychology <b>Noon-1p.m.</b> LRC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spine Workshop USU</p> <p>CME. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education by phone at 301-295-0962, or by email</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>8</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spine Workshop USU</p> <p>CME. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education by phone at 301-295-0962, or by email</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>9</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spine Workshop USU</p> <p>CME. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education by phone at 301-295-0962, or by email</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10</b></p> <p>LRC Training Classes EndNote- Advanced <b>Noon-1p.m.</b> LRC</p> <p>LRC Training Classes EndNote- Advanced <b>6p.m.-7p.m.</b> LRC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spine Workshop USU</p> <p>CME. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education by phone at 301-295-0962, or by email</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>11</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>12</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>13</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>14</b></p> <p>USU 2007 Research Week, May 14-16: Celebrating Excellence in Research. USU Advanced Patient Safety Managers Course USU</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>15</b></p> <p>Wu Award Lecture <b>9a.m.-10a.m.</b> USU</p> <p>Graduate Student Colloquium- The Bullard Lecture <b>1p.m.-3p.m.</b> Lecture Room E</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>16</b></p> <p>James J. Leonard symposium- Leonard Award Lecture <b>9a.m.-10a.m.</b> Lecture Room E</p> <p>Plenary Speaker, Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease <b>3:30p.m.-4:30p.m.</b> Lecture Room E</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>17</b></p> <p>Advanced Patient Safety Management Course USU</p> <p>Class of 2007 Graduation Awards Ceremony <b>11:30a.m.</b> Sanford Auditorium</p> <p>"Fighting for Life" premiere <b>7 p.m</b> Sanford Auditorium</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>18</b></p> <p>Advanced Patient Safety Management Course USU</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>19</b></p> <p>Commencement: USU announces the 28th Annual Commencement Exercises for the class of 2007 <b>11a.m.</b> National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>20</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>21</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>22</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>23</b></p> <p>USU Toastmasters Meeting <b>Noon-1p.m.</b> Small Conference Room</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>24</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>25</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>26</b></p>