

USU Newsletter

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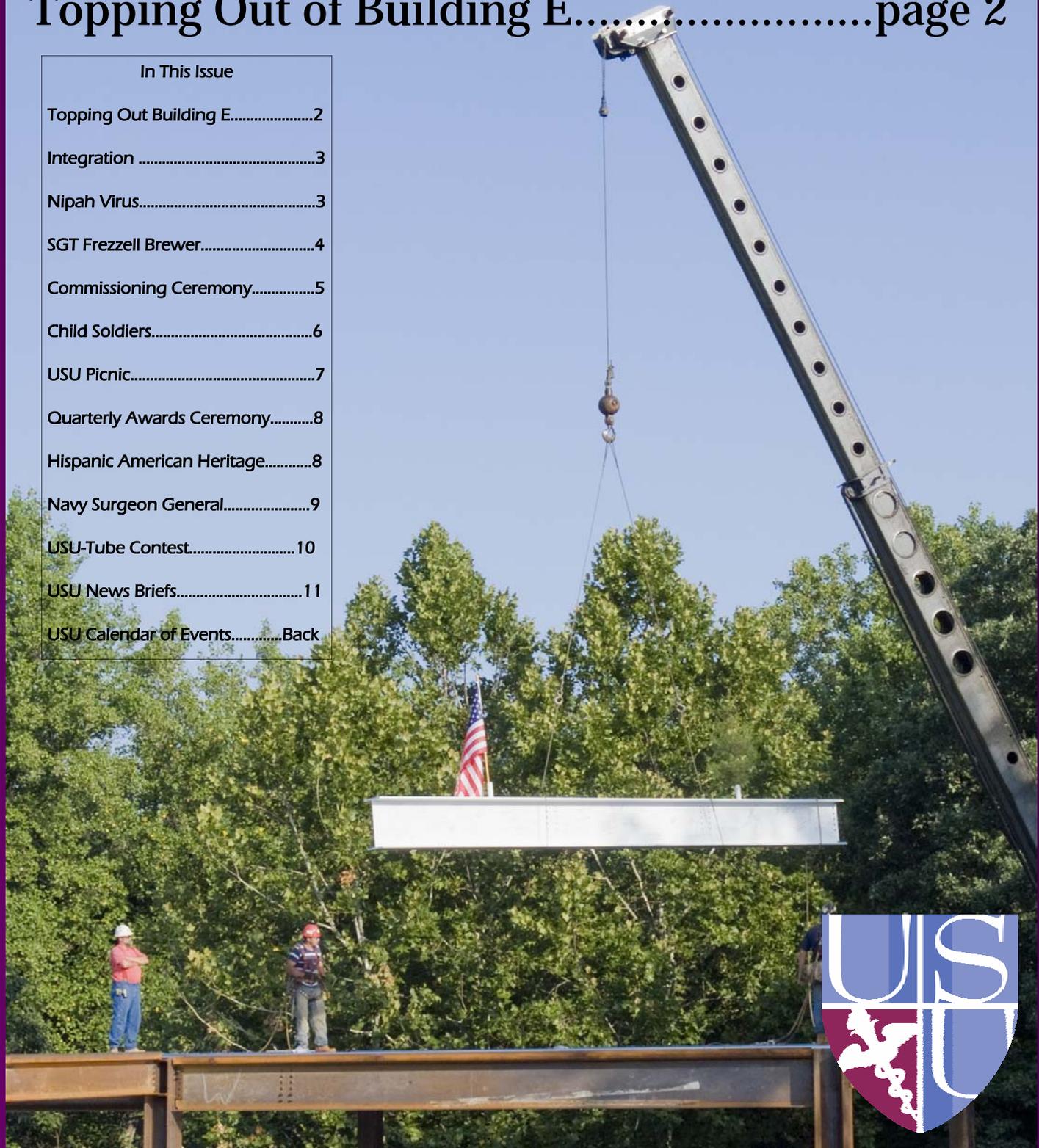
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Tom Balfour

USU Celebrates Topping Out of New Facility

*By MCSN Raul Zamora
Assistant Editor Office of External Affairs*

Faculty, staff, students and guests got a chance to witness history in the making during the Building E "Topping Out" Ceremony, Aug. 27. For almost a year the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) has worked through the sounds of jack hammers, drills and metal sheets banging against steel beams that form the skeleton of Building E.

"Since October 23 of last year, our construction project has made visible progress," said Charles L. Rice, M.D., university president. "During ten months of construction, we have progressed from excavating 800 dump trucks of soil to pouring more than one million pounds of concrete for the ground floor slabs."

The construction company chosen to build USU's Building E is the John C. Grimberg Company.

"Upon the selection to construct Building E, the John C. Grimberg Company took a most significant step to ensure the success of this project," said Mary Dix, special assistant to the USU president. "Mr. Rob Minx, John C. Grimberg Company, superintendent, has proven to be the essential source of knowledge that makes the rest of us look good. With 33 years of construction experience, Mr. Minx is a man who knows exactly what needs to be done then ensures that it is completed appropriately."

Prior to the ceremony USU personnel were given the opportunity to sign the final beam, which would be placed at the highest point of the structure. During the ceremony, the final beam, which also held a miniature pine tree and an American flag, was hoisted to the top of the structure, completing the building's basic frame.

The beam and the tree are part of one of the construction industry's oldest customs, the topping out of a completed project. The origin of the "Topping Out" ceremony can be traced to the development of human shelter.

Europe was once covered with vast forests; those who inhabited the forest were dependent on trees for their survival. The full, low-hanging boughs provided shelter, the nuts and fruits furnished food, and the fallen dead wood supplied kindling for fires. Because of this great dependence on the forest, people began to revere trees.

Early humans began constructing their shelter with wood. Before cutting a tree, they would formally address the forest reminding it of the consideration they had always shown toward the trees, and ask the forest spirits to grant the use of a tree for the construction of their home.

When a house was complete, the topmost leafy branch of the tree used would be set atop the roof so that the tree spirit would not be rendered homeless. The gesture was supposed to convince the tree spirit of the builder's sincere appreciation.

As time passed, the early practice of tree worship gradually changed. The individual tree spirits merged into a single forest god who could pass freely from tree to tree. Trees were no longer placed atop the home to appease spirits, but rather to elicit the blessings of the forest god. The tree branches on top of the home ensured fertility of the land and the home.

The custom of placing a tree on a completed structure came with immigrants to the United States and became an integral part of American culture in barn-raising and housewarmings.

Today, the custom is continued most frequently on completed structures such as bridges and skyscrapers. Ironworkers have carried on the topping out tradition and consider it to be their own. While others join the celebration of topping out, it is the ironworkers and their skills that make them first to reach the pinnacle of a structure, and it is around this group of workers that topping out revolves.

"Amid all of the on-going construction efforts, I am most pleased to note and compliment the Grimberg Company in maintaining a status of no reported injuries or accidents to date. A commendable achievement," Dr. Rice said.

"I want to recognize the support of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) at both, Bethesda and Washington Navy Yard, and our facilities, contracting and multimedia design staff for their consummate professionalism," said Ms. Dix. "When the Grimberg leadership informed me of their choice for superintendent on the Building E construction project they told me that they were assigning the best, and thank goodness they did so."



Photo by Tom Balfour

(Left to right) retired CAPT Larry Laughlin, Navy, dean, USU's School of Medicine; Dr. Charles L. Rice, USU president; retired BG William Bester, Army, acting dean, USU's Graduate School of Nursing, sign the final beam which marks the highest point of USU's up and coming Building E.

Integration~ as I see it

By Dr. Vernon Schinski

Special Assistant to the USU President for BRAC Integration

The notion that the new entity in Bethesda would become a "World Class Academic Health Center" was discussed by the senior leaders of the Pentagon from the moment that the BRAC decision to consolidate the Walter Reed and Bethesda medical centers was announced. One leader proposed that it should be patterned after Johns Hopkins or Mayo medical centers. Certainly MG Kenneth Farmer, RADM Adam Robinson, Maj. Gen. Thomas Travis, and Dr. Charles L. Rice, the four National Capitol Area (NCA) flag officers, envisioned a major military medical referral, teaching and research center that would be greater than the sum of its parts. The vision that they proposed, which has been revaluated on several occasions, is based on an academic health center.

Recently, as the top leadership of the Department of Defense (DOD) and the uniformed services met to make decisions about the nature of the JTF Commander, Deputy Secretary of Defense England clearly stated that the new command in the National Capitol Area was to be an Academic Health Center with world class patient care, world class education, and world class research.

But what is an Academic Health Center? As we have worked to make it a reality it has become clear that the term means different things to different individuals. I have been asked to write this article to assist us in envisioning a common goal. It is difficult to plan on how to get there if we don't agree on where we are going. Let's first start by looking at the three words that make up the term:

Center: A place where things come together, or something in the middle of a larger enterprise, a collection of expertise.

Health: Often used in place of "medical" to connote a broader meaning to include: clinical care, education, research, training, health promotion, disease and injury prevention, and health pol-

icy development.

Academic: Associated with academia. Institutional accreditation and degree granting authorities beyond individual program certifications. Implies a scholarly approach to its complex missions, maintaining an atmosphere of hypothesis testing that leads to problem solving and continuous improvement.

While these thoughts help us to focus on the meaning of "Academic Health Center," they are still very open to individual interpretation. So let's be more scholarly, as the term implies, and turn to the literature.

In a recent Cambridge University Press publication, *The Academic Health Center - Leadership and Performance*, David Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.P., writes a chapter entitled, *Academic health centers: current status, future challenges*. In it he states, "Academic health centers consist of medical schools and their closely affiliated or owned clinical facilities and professional schools. There are roughly 125 such complexes in the United States. Parent institutions wholly own some of these institutions (e.g., University of Pennsylvania Health System; Johns Hopkins University Health System; University of California San Diego; University of Virginia). Other AHCs consist of close affiliations between medical and other health professional schools and independent nonprofit and for-profit clinical entities (e.g., Harvard Medical School and its clinical affiliates; Washington University and the BJC Health System; Columbia and Cornell Medical Schools and the New York-Presbyterian Health System)."

He goes on to point out that:

1. AHCs perform nearly 30 percent of all the health care research and development in the United States and more than 50 percent of research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
2. AHCs train the great majority of the nation's allopathic medical students and nearly half its residents and interns.
3. AHCs provide large amounts of specialized, costly services (such as burn, transplant, and trauma care).
4. AHCs play major roles as safety net institutions caring for poor and uninsured patients in their communities.

AHCs are uniquely suited to con-

See **INTEGRATION**, page 4

Scientists demonstrate Transmission of deadly Nipah Virus

A collaborative team of scientists from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) and the Australian Animal Health Laboratory have demonstrated an important biological feature of the deadly Nipah virus that can infect and kill both animals and humans.

In the cover article of the Sept. 15 edition of the *Online Journal of Infectious Diseases*, published ahead of print on Aug. 14, Dr. Christopher Broder, professor of Microbiology and Immunology at USU, along with his Australian colleagues, reported the first experimental evidence that Nipah virus can be vertically transmitted in cats, a naturally infected animal host which also consistently exhibits characteristic disease pathology caused by Nipah virus. An accompanying editorial commentary further high-

lighting the importance of their findings is published in the same issue.

Earlier work by this same group of investigators developed a vaccine based on a component of the virus known as the G glycoprotein which demonstrated complete protection from infection by Nipah virus in the cat model. These results were reported in the December 2006, No.27 issue of the *Journal of Virology*.

Nipah virus and its closely related cousin Hendra virus (henipaviruses) are recently emerged viral pathogens and both agents are restricted to the highest level of containment; biosafety level (BSL)-4 and considered to be potential biological terror agents. Hendra virus emerged in Queensland, Australia, in 1994, killing one human and 14 horses and it was responsible for at least four other sporadic outbreaks involving horses and humans between 1994 and 2006. Nipah virus emerged in 1998-1999 in Malaysia, resulting in the death of more than 100 people and the culling of more

than one million pigs. Since then, several Nipah virus outbreaks have been reported between 2001 and 2007 taking greater than 80 lives in Bangladesh and India and these more recent outbreaks have involved person-to-person transmission and have demonstrated a higher incidence of acute respiratory distress syndrome and higher case-fatality rates between 60%-75%.

The current study, supported by the Middle Atlantic Regional Centers of Excellence and the National Institutes of Health, has important implications for the mechanisms of Nipah virus spread among animal populations and humans. The results affirm observations with Hendra virus in horses, guinea pigs, and bats that demonstrate that henipaviruses can replicate to high titers in both adult and fetal tissues, indicating that both horizontal and vertical routes of transmission can play a role in spillover events. They also suggest a possible role for cats in Hendra and Nipah virus outbreaks that has yet to be fully investigated.

duct clinical research that enables the innovation of clinical care.

The Association of Academic Health Centers states that, "An academic health center consists of an allopathic or osteopathic medical school, one or more other health profession schools or programs (such as allied health, dentistry, graduate studies, nursing, pharmacy, public health, veterinary medicine), and one or more owned or affiliated teaching hospitals, health systems or other organized health care services.

In an Institute of Medicine report entitled *Academic Health Centers: Leading Change in the 21st Century*, we find a number of quotes that help us understand the various roles of academic Health Centers (AHCs).

In regard to patient care we find:

In general, current approaches to care are reactive, involving treating patients when they present with symptoms through a series of sporadic interventions that are predominantly physician directed. To address the changing needs of people and exploit technological advances, 21st century health care will need to be more proactive, interactive with patients, and evidence based. In regard to education we find:

The AHC role in education in the 21st century will require more than direct training of health professionals. AHCs will be expected to demonstrate leadership in the design and development of educational approaches for health professionals throughout the continuum of education. Doing so will require much more than curricular reform, requiring consideration of how the clinical settings in which students are trained reinforces the attributes desired of health professionals in the 21st century.

In regard to research we find:

In the coming decades, continued scientific discoveries and advances will require that AHCs continue their work in basic science research and discovery, as well as developing and refining the evidence base for health care by:

Encouraging studies that embrace the continuum from animals to humans to experimental models.

Increasing the emphasis on clinical research in order to trans-

late new discoveries into clinical practice and evaluate current clinical practices, thereby answering questions about what does and does not work in health care.

Increasing emphasis on health services research in order to improve understanding of the effectiveness and costs of care, especially the impact of new discoveries on the costs of care and treatment patterns.

Increasing emphasis on prevention and population research in order to improve understanding of how to identify and reduce health risks, as well as the linkages between personal and population health.

So what have we learned?

Medicine still stands on three legs: clinical care, education, and research and the Academic Health Center is where these three areas of emphasis come together, and are joined with a wide variety of health-related enterprises.

While Academic Health Centers may have different forms to meet the needs of their population, they are organized to create a system that incorporates a variety of health related entities which collectively utilize and magnify each other's strengths.

The scholarly approach of the University needs to play a central role in pulling the pieces together and insuring an atmosphere of hypothesis testing for improvement.

As a center of expertise, the Academic Health Center automatically becomes the referral center.

Not only do the educational and research roles keep the clinical care at the cutting edge of medicine, the Academic Health Center is the place where modeling is done for the future of health care, health promotion, and health policy.

If we add to this what we understand as our special roles and expertise related to warrior care, and military medical readiness, I believe we can begin to come to a common understanding of where we want to go in the development of a world class Academic Health Center, and why we want to go there. Not only will the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center become the focal point for the consolidated health care delivery system in the National Capitol area, but it will become the model for military health care in the future.

Staff Profile: SGT Frezzell Brewer

*By MCSN Raul Zamora
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs*



**SGT Frezzell Brewer,
USA, Multimedia
Production Specialist**

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) staff members come from all walks of life, from medical technicians to media specialists. SGT Frezzell Brewer, USA, 25V20, Multimedia Production Specialist, works in the Multimedia Design Center.

Brewer was born and raised in Woodside, New York.

"I come from an education oriented family, who believed that we had to have education to be successful," he said.

His mother, was born in North Carolina and his father was born in Georgia but raised in New York. They were both nurs-

ing technicians.

Even though his parents were not military, his family was already familiar with military life.

Brewer's great grandfather served in World War II, as a sailor and had two uncles who were also in the military, one being a soldier and the other a Marine.

Brewer's first choice was to become a Marine, unfortunately it did not work out. One day an Army recruiter saw me going towards the Marine recruiter and asked me why didn't I join the Army, since I could pick my job, and here I am today."

Brewer's original plan was to become a medic and follow in his parents foot steps, "I wanted to go medical, go to school and become a physical therapist. But at the time the medical field was closed. I was ready to go home and wait for it to open up, But then they told me about video and I chose that direction."

Brewer has been in the Army for 13 years. "Growing up in New York, it was getting pretty bad, and I needed a way out," he said. "I could have left and just gotten any other job, but the military really appealed to me. I wanted to join right out of high school, but I went to college for a

year." Brewer was left with a decision, go to school or go to the military? "How often can you find a job that pays for your education, and pays you to be trained for your job?"

Brewer's assignments include March Air Force Base, Riverside, Calif.; Armed Forces Television Network, Moreno Valley, Calif.; Korea for combat documentation; Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver Spring Valley, Md; Korea a second time; and USU.

"My favorite command so far is USU," he said. "That's because there isn't many places that are tri-service. Here I met friends and co-workers who actually know what I do in the military, and once they learn what I do, they realize that you are an asset to the command."

"As of now I am planning on making it a career. But if things don't work out, I plan on staying around the area and pursue a video job," he said. "But my goal is to stay in the Army."

Brewer has been married for 12 years "I met my wife in New York right before I joined the military, and we have two awesome boys, Justin (10) and Jordan (6). We currently live in Middle River, Md."

From Hospital Corpsman to Lieutenant Junior Grade

By MCSN Raul Zamora
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) has many opportunities for self-improvement. Students become doctors, staff and faculty have the opportunity to become mentors.

In a recent ceremony, one of USU's former staff members, Jason Wright, was commissioned to the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade.

In his enlisted capacity, Wright was a photographer for USU's Multimedia Design Center. He earned his commission through the Health Services Collegiate Program

Commander Gina Trotter, the USU Brigade's Executive Officer, led the commissioning ceremony.

"I understand how he feels because I started as an enlisted member," she said. "It's a tearing feeling because we 'fall in love' with the enlisted community we almost feel like we are leaving them behind. As an enlisted-to-commissioned officer, you never forget where your roots came from."

HMI later became Chief Petty Officer and continued his education, and now at his 14-year point, he received his commission.

"Now he can stay in the military for 40 years," said Trotter jokingly. "Everyone grows up. It's like when you start school, at first you are scared to go to school. Later you become more comfortable and begin to learn. Then you begin middle school or junior

high and you become aware that you must do the best you can in your grades. Eventually high school comes around and you do your best to graduate and move on to bigger and better things. From there college becomes the next hurdle and the next step to your new life."

"This is the biggest day in my time in the Navy," said Wright. "It's never too early or too late to become something great in your career. I had the Navy SEALs in mind at first but I also had many more goals in mind as well. It's always Okay to challenge your goals."

"There is no way I could have gotten to the place I am today without the help of Chief Wiley and several other people from all of the different services. Because of this opportunity, USU was the best duty station for me," said Wright.



(Left to Right) CDR Gina Trotter, USU Brigade's Executive Officer; LTJG Jason Wright; Dr. Charles L. Rice, USU President. Wright receives the USU Commendable Service Award after his commissioning ceremony.

Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins

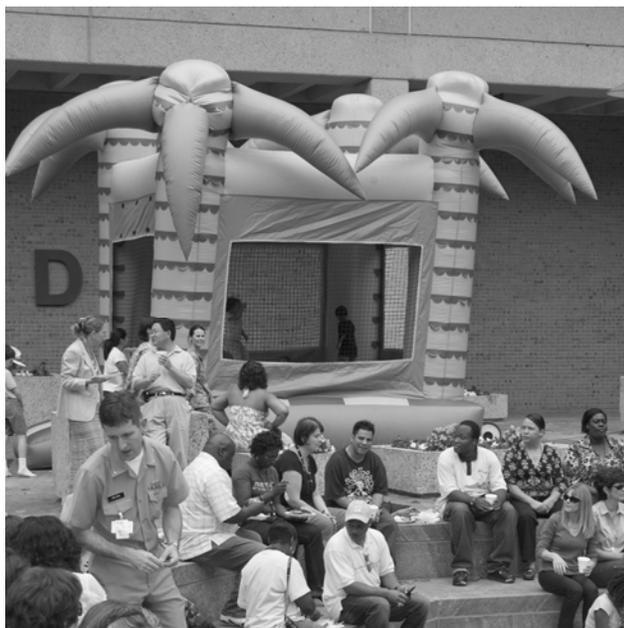


Photo by TSgt. James Steele



Photo by MCSN Raul Zamora

USU Picnic a Big Success with Kids and Adults

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) annual picnic provided USU staff, faculty, students, and their families with an afternoon of food and fun in the USU courtyard, Aug. 29. Among the activities featured were a talent competition, and a bounce-house for the children. The picnic also featured a dunk tank, which put the brigade leadership on the hot seat: CPT Timothy Gerlach, brigade headquarters company commander; CPT Nicholas Horton, Army company commander; LCDR Michael Kemper, Navy company commander; and CDR Gina Trotter, brigade executive officer, all took turns in the booth, providing picnic participants with a chance to "dunk the boss." Also among the attractions were karaoke, cotton candy, and snow cones.

CDHAM Faculty Research Featured on Oprah Show

Research reported in a recent issue of the *Annals of Emergency Medicine* by two current faculty members of the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine (CDHAM) of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) was featured in the Aug. 29 episode of the Oprah Winfrey Show.

The show's focus was on New Orleans two years after Hurricane Katrina hit the region.

USU CDHAM faculty, Dr. Lynn Lawry, associate director and director of Research, and Dr. Michael P. Anastario, research associate, studied the health of residents living in FEMA trailer parks in Louisiana and Mississippi to determine whether gaps in aid and health care services existed for this population. Their findings, referenced in the Oprah show and published in the March issue of *AEM*, determined that more than 85,000 people still remain displaced and living in FEMA trailers, and while food, water and

shelter were generally adequate in these trailer parks, health services and mental health needs largely remain unaddressed. They also found that suicide and intimate partner violence rates were much higher than expected, with suicide rates 79 percent higher than the national average and depression seven times greater.

The Oprah episodes on Hurricane Katrina, and reference to the study are available for viewing at http://www2.oprah.com/world/global/slide/20070829/global_284_109.jhtml.

USU's Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine was established to be the focal point for medical aspects of disaster relief and humanitarian assistance worldwide. The uniquely positioned academic center is actively developing relationships between governmental agencies, non-governmental agencies, and private volunteer organizations as a means of improving relief efforts. CDHAM uses training, technology, and best management practices to improve military medicine capabilities and readiness for humanitarian missions, especially in partnership with the inter-Agency process, the international medical community, and the host nation medical infrastructure and beneficiary populations.

USU Psychiatrist Offers Insight to Child Soldiers

Robert J. Ursano, M.D., professor and chair, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Department of Psychiatry, and one of the nation's leading experts on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), is co-author of an editorial titled "Children of War and Opportunities for Peace." The article appears in the Aug. 1, 2007 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (*JAMA*).

The editorial addresses global armed conflicts and children recruited or kidnapped to serve as soldiers in those conflicts. Vulnerable children are recruited into militias due to their emotional and physical immaturity. Many become refugees after being displaced and separated from family members. Once recruited, these children carry out various roles within the militias such as cooks,

spies, human shields, and war fighters.

One study of 169 former child soldiers reported a high prevalence of PTSD at nearly 35%. Children who experienced more PTSD symptoms were less likely to be willing to reconcile and had a tendency to harbor more feelings of revenge toward those who harmed them.

Another study examined different types of trauma exposure and its association with violent and nonviolent means to achieve peace. Those with symptoms of PTSD were more likely to see violence as a means to achieve peace.

Dr. Ursano was invited by *JAMA* to write the editorial because of the groundbreaking work he and his team have done at the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress (CSTS) which he directs. Dr. Ursano co-wrote the article with Jon A. Shaw, M.D., University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, former chair of psychiatry at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Dr. Shaw is a child psychiatrist and worked with child soldiers in Mozambique during a humanitarian deployment while serving in the Army.

Malaria Researcher Wins Berry Award

Donald R. Roberts, Ph.D., emeritus professor of tropical medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) has been named winner of the annual Frank Brown Berry Prize in federal health care for his persistent efforts and field studies on the controlled use of chemicals to prevent malaria.

The Berry Prize is co-sponsored by U.S. MEDICINE, and Delta Dental Federal Services, which is the administrator of the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program. An award of \$10,000 accompanies the prize.

Dr. Roberts, a retired lieutenant colonel

from the Army medical service corps, has spent a career researching malaria prevention, and despite the social implications of the issue, he came to understand through field studies how the controversial chemical DDT repels mosquitoes that carry the malaria parasite. During his time at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) in Washington, D.C., from 1980 to 1984, and USU from 1984 to 2007, he worked to develop laboratory assays that significantly changed the way malaria is studied and how new chemicals are screened. And in his retirement, which began this summer, Dr. Roberts will continue in his advocacy work with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Gates Foundation and Africa Fighting Malaria in the hopes of continuing to change the public perception of DDT, a chemical that he says can help save millions of lives.

The Berry Prize, which is voted on by an independent panel of leading health care experts, was created in 1997 by the monthly publication, *U.S. MEDICINE* of Washington, D.C., to confer recognition on medical practitioners and researchers who work in the U.S. federal health care sector reaping little personal financial gain, but who rise above and beyond the call of duty to make outstanding medical research advancements and/or achievements in clinical care. The prize was named after Dr. Frank Brown Berry, the top medical officer of the Department of Defense for several years in the 1950s who exemplified this segment of individuals as a dedicated thoracic surgeon, compassionate physicians' advocate, founder of many surgical societies and by serving in two world wars and completing two residencies at a time when pursuing even one was not the norm.

Boilerplate Statements for descriptions of USU in publications

The following paragraphs are boilerplate statements that can be used in publications to describe the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in a uniform manner:

1. USU educates health care professionals dedicated to career service in the Department of Defense (DoD) and the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). The university provides military and public health-relevant education, research, service, and consultation to the nation and the world, pursuing excellence and innovation during times of peace and war. Many of its graduates are supporting operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, offering their leadership and expertise. Approximately one-fourth of all active-duty military medical officers are USU graduates.

2. The university grants the degrees of M.D., Ph.D., Dr.P.H., M.P.H., M.S., and M.S.N. USU is a traditional academic health center with a unique focus on health promotion and disease prevention. It also has a specialized mission of educating health care

practitioners to deal with peace and wartime casualties, national disasters, emerging infectious diseases, and other public health emergencies. Applicants to the School of Medicine include civilians and uniformed military although upon matriculation civilians become uniformed military officers. Applicants to the Graduate School of Nursing include uniformed military and civilian federal employees (Ph.D. program only).

3. USU is a partner in planning and establishing the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), a 21st century academic health institution. This new institution will provide quality health care, education, and research across all the services; closely collaborate with the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Public Health Service writ large; and set a new standard for inter-governmental collaboration. USU will be the academic core of this new entity with WRNMMC as a premier teaching hospital and clinical care center serving the nation and our uniformed beneficiaries.



Presentation Assembly

Photo by TSgt. James Steels

Students from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) gathered in the university's amphitheater for the annual Presentation Ceremony. The medical students took the Hippocratic Oath, which was administered by Larry Laughlin, M.D., Ph.D., dean of the USU F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine (SOM).

USU Holds Brigade Quarterly Awards Ceremony

By MCSN Raul Zamora
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) held its Brigade Quarterly Awards Ceremony in the Sanford Auditorium, Sept. 7.

Three Defense Meritorious Service Medals were awarded to TSgt. Edmund Punzalan, USAF, user support specialist, LRC; SSgt. Dexter Webb, USA, MPO; LTC Jon Woods, MEM;

One Joint Service Commendation Medal was presented to LTC Daniel Hamilton, USA, radiation safety officer, EHS.

One Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal was awarded to HM1 Muhammad Hassan, USN, brigade adjutant, CMD.

Two Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medals were awarded to HM2 Oluseyi Fatami, USN, AFRR; and HM2 Ruben Valenzuela, USN, MEM. Valenzuela was also awarded a Letter of Commendation.

Six Joint Service Achievement Medals were presented to LTC Patrick O'Malley, USA, professor, MED; TSgt. Dewayne Moore, USAF; HM1 Julian Stewart, USN, MEM; TSgt. Tuyen Tran, USAF, program manager, MTN; SGT Lenearo Ashford, USA, LOG; and SGT Pauline Sedano, USA, MEM.

Each quarter, one member of the USU Color Guard is recognized as standing out among their peers. The Color Guard member of the 2nd Quarter is SPC Walter Cruz, veterinary technician,

LAM.

Headquarters company personnel compete quarterly for the honor of being the Service Member of the Quarter (SMOQ.) These individuals are selected for recognition because of their performance, contributions and military professionalism. SSgt Rachel Broussard, USAF, MTN; SGT Jeff McQuade, USA, NCOIC, Veterinary Division, LAM; and FC2 Adam Race, IT specialist, UIS, were the nominees for this quarters SMOQ.

In the end Broussard was selected as this quarter's SMOQ. She received a Certificate of Appreciation, the Brigade Commander's Coin, a 72 hour Liberty Pass, a reserved parking space, and a \$50 gift card to an outlet of her choosing. In addition she will compete for the Service Member of the Year for 2007.



**SPC Walter Cruz,
LAM
Color Guard of the
Quarter**



**SSgt Rachel Broussard,
MTN
Service Member of the
Quarter**

USU celebrates diversity through Hispanic American Heritage Month

By MC3 Jeff Hopkins
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) is an institution that recognizes and celebrates the diversity of its staff, faculty, and students

Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month. In celebration of the culture Hispanic Americans have brought to the nation, USU held a ceremony Sept. 11 in the cafeteria entitled "Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive Impact on American Society."

Coinciding with the sixth anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks, the ceremony began on a somber note. Each table held a single, lit candle, and after a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of the attack, one person at each table blew the candle out.

The ceremony's keynote speaker, CAPT Roberto Quiñones Jr., MSC, USN, is a second generation Mexican American, born in

El Paso, Texas. In 1969, Quiñones enlisted in the Navy as a hospital corpsman. Interestingly enough, during boot camp, he received a letter from his father, containing Quiñones' draft notice from the Army. He was commissioned as an ensign in the medical service corps in December 1979. Currently, he is the commander of the Navy Medicine Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education Command.

Quiñones' speech centered on the topic of diversity, and covered bias and stereotypes as well. Educated in a school system in which most of his classmates were Mexican American, Quiñones developed a passion for diversity.

"The very core of American democracy is a country founded on the promise of opportunity for all," he said.

Quiñones illustrated the ill-effects of bias and stereotyping through several anecdotes throughout his speech. One such account was of a patient he was asked to deal with while serving as an Independent-Duty Corpsman at Naval Hospital, Long Beach, Calif.

"The ER doctor asked me to speak to a veteran that was sitting in the waiting room," he said. "He was drug-seeking, and the doctor just wanted me to go out there and talk to him. Out in the waiting room, there was this little old gentleman, pretty

smelly, you could tell he'd been on the street awhile. He said he was in a lot of pain, that he'd lost his medication and couldn't get into the VA to be seen, and he was wondering if he could get some pain medication. He had a very distinct odor about him that I couldn't put my finger on."

"I went back to the doctor and told him I didn't think I needed to treat him, but that there was something about him I couldn't identify. The doc said to let him sit out there, and after a while he'd get tired and just go away."

Later, as Quiñones and the doctor were preparing for a shift-switch, Quiñones noticed that the patient was still in the waiting room, waiting to be seen, and he brought this to the doctor's attention. The doctor exasperatedly agreed to see the patient.

"Both of us walked in together, and the doctor said, very sarcastically, 'What do you want?' The man replied that he was having trouble with his prosthesis, and that it was giving him a lot of trouble," Quiñones said. "He lifted up his pants leg, and you wouldn't believe the cellulitis and the sores he had. The VA had ill-fitted his prosthesis, and it was infected and weeping, and I finally identified what the smell was."

The two cleaned the man up, and took him down to the hospital's orthopedics

see, **HISPANIC** page 11

Navy Surgeon General Retires

By MC2 (AW) Nikki Carter
Journal staff writer

VADM Donald Arthur recently retired from the Navy during a ceremony at the National Navy Medical Center.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Mullen said Arthur's contributions and achievements to his service made him stand out as a key player in Navy Medicine. It was an honor to celebrate an "amazing career," he said.

"If you would have known Don, you would have known he would have shined anywhere he was," Mullen said. "Don is sort of a renaissance man. He has more degrees than a thermometer."

"I truly don't feel bad about leaving, I truly thank God for the opportunity to have been here in the first place," Arthur said. "I have been able to fly — I have been able to dive. I have been given every opportunity to do anything. I have been truly honored to serve this Navy."

Mullen compared Arthur's medical career to the equivalence of the X-Games, referring to the Surgeon General's affinity for motorcycles. Arthur was a dual qualified flight surgeon, undersea warfare officer and Navy-Marine Corps Parachutist and Jumpstart, Mullen said.

"Don is a passionate leader who cares and, when you drill down to it, that is what this is about — leadership, caring and passion," Mullen said. "Don's love for medicine is what drives his commitment to organizational efficiency, taking care of our warriors and medically supporting naval operations."

VADM Adam Robinson, Jr., who replaced Arthur as the Navy's newest Surgeon General, said it's difficult to see Arthur go after "many years of distinguished service to our country and such a rich and varied career."

Mullen said Surgeon General Arthur focused on naval medical leadership and held leaders accountable for making "smarter enterprise decisions while we are at war."

"I'm shocked to find myself in the position of having to follow in the shoes of such a great leader," Robinson said. "I'd like to thank you for your many years of military service, your inspirational leadership and your heartfelt commitment to our country

and those who defend her. Thank you for all you have done to lead Navy Medicine this far. You have made significant contributions at a very difficult time in our nation's history and throughout a set of circumstances that are unprecedented in U.S. military history."

"I suppose it all can be summarized by saying well done," Mullen said. "Thank you for your dedicated service, I have no doubt that we will continue to hear from you when you ride, not towards the sunset but to a new sunrise."

Arthur said he was thankful for the experiences and service to his country. He said he was privileged to serve with the U.S. Marine Corps in direct combat operations. Men and women of Navy Medicine can be very proud of what they do, he said.

"The best things about Navy Medicine is we never ask our patients how sick they can afford to be, all of our patients get the right care every single time and the best care," Arthur said. "All of our patients are patriots. What better place to practice medicine?"

Robinson said Navy Medicine plays an active role during the "unpredictable and protracted" Global War on Terrorism.

"The ultimate measure of service is not where you stand on moments of comfort and convenience, but in times of challenge and controversy," Arthur said



By MC2 (AW) Nikki Carter

Former Navy Surgeon General VADM Donald Arthur salutes the sideboys as he exits his retirement ceremony. Chief of Naval Operations ADM Mike Mullen and new Navy Surgeon General VADM Adam Robinson, Jr., credited Arthur's wife Bear for being the foundation for Arthur's illustrious career.

Another View of USU

By MCSN Raul Zamora



USU-TUBE

Become a STAR

The university is launching a "USU-Tube" Video Contest to find the most meaningful, creative, descriptive, humorous, and/or innovative entries to showcase and increase knowledge about the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences to the general public, and especially potential USU applicants, as well as other audiences and constituents.

All USU students, staff, faculty, alumni, residents and fellows may submit entries. Video submissions must be no longer than 3 minutes, and may be based on one of the following themes:

- A. Welcome to USU**
- B. Why I chose to come to USU**
- C. USU's unique aspects**

Entries may be serious or humorous and should speak to the entire university. Please be creative, but....the video must be on the level of a G or PG rating, so no profanity, nudity, etc. Although we encourage you to showcase the physical campus, you will not be able to film in sensitive areas (i.e. LAM, ATL, etc.). In addition, please make sure to consult with/seek permission from instructors or supervisors in advance if you plan on filming during class or in your departments.

You may use your own video recorder, or you may check one out from the Multimedia Design Division, Room G070, if you don't have one. A camera will be loaned on a first come, first served basis and should be returned promptly so that others who need it may use it before the entry deadline.

Important: If you are planning to enter, you must send an email to the USU-Tube Video Contest Coordinators, SGT Jamie-Lea Divan or SGT Frezzell Brewer, Multimedia Design Division, at **avcmail@usuhs.mil** BEFORE you begin videotaping.

If you are featuring individuals in your video, please ensure you have a signed release form for each person highlighted. These forms are available in the Multimedia Design Division in Room G070, or on the web at

<http://www.usuhs.mil/usuhs/videospecials.html>

(click on "signed release form" in blue).

Deadline for entries is Oct. 15. Entries must be submitted on disk to SGT Divan or SGT Brewer in Room G070. A panel of judges from the university will review all submissions and select the winners. Winning entries will be used for USU recruitment purposes, on the USU Website, and in a variety of informational and public relations materials.



If you have any questions, please contact SGT Divan or SGT Brewer at avcmail@usuhs.mil or 295-9395/295-3386.

USU News Briefs

The American Cancer Society Retirement

The American Cancer Society recently announced the retirement of Chief Medical Officer Harmon J. Eyre, M.D. and named Otis W. Brawley, M.D., as his successor. The chief medical officer is the society's most senior clinical staff position. Dr. Brawley, a practicing oncologist, most recently served as professor of Hematology and Oncology and Epidemiology at Emory University, as medical director of the Georgia Cancer Center for Excellence at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, and as deputy director for cancer control at Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University. Previously, Dr. Brawley served in a variety of capacities at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), with his most recent NCI position as that of director of the Office of Special Populations Research.

New Department Chairs

Col. Christopher Zahn, MC, USAF, will serve as interim chair, Department of Ob/Gyn until a formal academic search for a permanent chair has been completed. Dr. Zahn is a distinguished graduate of USU, the current GME program director and a long standing leader-scholar in the SOM.

CAPT Brian Monahan MC USN has been appointed interim chair, Department of Medicine until an academic chair search has been completed and the permanent chair assumes her/his duties. Dr. Monahan is a senior internist with vast experience in the practice of hematology and oncology. He is a long-standing member of our DOM, a prior GME program director, a dynamic clinical educator and an academic scholar in his own right.

Safety Tips for the new Fiscal Year

As we approach a new fiscal year I would like to remind everyone of some basic safety tips. Please do not place any items in front of fire extinguishers or electrical service panels as it violates the Base Fire Plan and several OSHA regulations. Also, storing things within 18 inches of the ceiling mounted fire suppression sprinkler heads is not allowed. If your storage location is in a room that does not have sprinkler heads the minimum height to maintain between the ceiling and stored materials is 36 inches. Also a little reminder about storage space. Large purchases of consumable supplies simply to spend end of year money is not desired or recommended. If there is no place to store them, excess supplies add to laboratory or office clutter. Please make purchases wisely with safety in mind. If we observe these safety tips we will have a safer place to learn and work.

Navy-Wide Advancement Exams

The Navy will be conducting its semi-annual advancement ex-

ams in the USU Dining Facility on Sep. 20 from 6:45 to 11 a.m. The cafeteria will be open for business, but please maintain low tones while en route to and from the cafeteria.

Navy Uniform Shift

All Naval personnel within the Naval District Washington area will shift to winter uniforms Oct. 1. For E-7 and above, the uniform will be service dress blues or khakis; for E-6 and below, the uniform will be service dress blues or winter blues. BDUs will be worn with sleeves down.

PFT/PFA/APFT Notice

The Army APFT, Navy PRT, and Air Force APFT will be conducted at 7 a.m. and noon on the following dates: Oct. 3, 5, 10, 12, 15, and 17 for all faculty, staff, and students (excluding SOM). Navy personnel must complete the Health Risk Assessment questionnaire and Physical Health Assessment annually; Navy weigh-ins must be conducted between 10 days and 24 hours prior to the Navy PRT. For more info, contact SFC Abram, USA (MEM) at (301) 319-8207.

Command Access Card PIN Reset

USU Security now has a CAC Card PIN Reset system, which allows for PIN reset only. All other problems are handled at the NNMC Personnel Support Detachment.

2008-2010 USU Catalog

The 2008-2010 USU Catalog (PDF version) is now available online at the following link: <http://www.usuhs.mil/admissions.html>. Printed copies are available in Admissions as well.

2007 USU Phone Directory

The 2007 USU Phone Directory is available for pick up on from 0830-1330 in the USU Mail Room. For more info, contact Ms. Yvonne Upshur at (301) 295-3035.

Books for Fun

The Enlisted Social Committee is hosting a new book sale "Books for Fun" during normal business hours from Sept. 18 through 19 in the Bldg B Lobby. All are encouraged to show their support.

USNI Conference

The United States Naval Institute (USNI) is hosting a conference on military and Veteran's health care Sept. 18 at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. The conference is entitled "How Can We Provide the Healthcare Our Military and Veterans Need and Deserve?" and is jointly sponsored by the USNI and the Military Officers Association of America. For details and registration info, go to <http://www.usni.org/conferences/details.asp?id=5>.

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department to be set up with a new prosthesis. Later, Quiñones caught up with the doctor.

"I sat down next to him with a cup of coffee, and he said, 'Don't even say it. I will never do that again. I stereotyped the guy as a bum and a drug abuser, and failed to take care of him.'"

Quiñones went on to cite other examples of diversity, including not only race, but age groups and genders.

"During World War II, the Navy was having a lot of problems with its buildings and mechanics, and their answer to the problem was to recruit a bunch of construction workers and mechanics,

and the Seabees were formed," Quiñones said. "The joke around the Navy then was 'be very nice to a Seabee; he could be your father,' as Seabees were typically around 39 to 40 years old. But they were very well versed in the ways of the world, and brought years of experience to their work. Also very beneficial to the United States were the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II."

Quiñones said that without cultural diversity, the nation could not possibly be where it is today.

"When an organization lacks diversity it misses out on all the unique tools different cultures have to offer," Quiñones said.



USU Calendar of Events



<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">September</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>LRC Training Classes: PubMed Basics Register online at: http://training.lrc.usuhs.mil/lib/training_reg.php. Please call Nancy Morell at 319-4039 or Linda Spitzer at 295-3357 if you have questions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Noon-1p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5p.m.-6p.m. LRC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>LRC Training Classes: EndNote Basics Register online at: http://training.lrc.usuhs.mil/lib/training_reg.php. Please call Nancy Morell at 319-4039 or Linda Spitzer at 295-3357 if you have questions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Noon-1p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5p.m.-6p.m. LRC</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Navy-Wide Advancement Exam 6:45a.m.-11a.m. USU Cafeteria</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">30</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">October</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p>Administrative Officers/ Departmental Representatives Meeting. Contact Dawn Dubois Patti at 301-295-3104 for more information</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30a.m. Lecture Room C</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>LRC Training Classes: Introduction to PowerPoint. Register online at: http://training.lrc.usuhs.mil/lib/training_reg.php. Please call Nancy Morell at 319-4039 or Linda Spitzer at 295-3357 if you have questions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Noon-1p.m. LRC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>LRC Training Classes: Introduc- tion to PowerPoint. Register online at: http://training.lrc.usuhs.mil/lib/training_reg.php. Please call Nancy Morell at 319-4039 or Linda Spitzer at 295-3357 if you have questions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4p.m.-5p.m. LRC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p>