

USU Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 20

WWW.USUHS.MIL

DECEMBER 3, 2007

Fall Comes to USU



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Production:

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the USU Office of External Affairs unless otherwise indicated. The Newsletter staff may include or exclude articles based upon news value, impact on the university and space availability.

Submissions:

The USU Newsletter will be published bi-weekly on Mondays and deadline for submission is Friday at 4 p.m. Submissions can be sent to usnewsleter@usuhs.mil or call 301-295-3925.

Cover Photo By:
HM2 Michael Oliver

USU Celebrates Native American Heritage Month

*By MC3 Jeff Hopkins
Assistant Editor, VPE*

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) celebrated Native American Heritage Month, Nov. 20.

Dr. Everett R. Rhoades, a retired U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) rear admiral and a member of the Kiowa tribe of Oklahoma, gave a speech entitled, "Honoring Warriors: Past and Present."

In his opening remarks, Rhoades commented that Native Americans come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. He said that although he did not appear at the ceremony in the uniform of his tribe, he felt privileged to have worn the uniform of the United States for 20 years, starting as an Air Force second lieutenant, and finishing as a rear admiral in the USPHS.

Rhoades said that to Native Americans, everything happens for a reason and nothing is the result of chance, not excluding the calendar events which fall in the month of November.

"For Native Americans, things are not random," Rhoades said. "There are no coincidences in the Native American world, and it's that interconnectedness that comes to mind in thinking about Native American Heritage month, because of the other events which occur in November: Indian summer; Veterans Day; and then of course, Thanksgiving."

Rhoades went on to speak about the role of Native Americans in the United States military.

"I remember seeing a picture of my grandmothers house, and in it, there was a banner in the window with two stars," Rhoades said. "I asked my mother what it represented, and she told me it meant my grandmother had two sons serving in the military during World War I. The Native Ameri-

cans who served in the war were made citizens of the United States, something that didn't happen for the rest of the Native Americans until 1924."

Rhoades also spoke specifically of the service of Native American women, noting that approximately 800 Native American women served during World War II. He also spoke of SPC

Lori Piestewa, a Hopi woman from Tuba City, Ariz., killed in Iraq in 2003. She was the first Native American woman to be killed on foreign soil. Piestewa Peak, Ariz. is named in her honor.

"Lori Piestewa was a mother of two who could have gotten out of going to Iraq," Rhoades said. "She said, 'No, I have a mission to complete, I'm going to go.' She was driving in a convoy which got lost and went into a hotbed of the enemy. She was driving the last vehicle. A soldier came up to her and asked her if she'd like him to take over driving, and she again replied 'No, my assignment is to drive this truck.' It was hit by an explosive, and she was killed."

Rhoades added that Piestewa's convoy was the same one in which Jessica Lynch had been traveling.

Rhoades served as Assistant Surgeon General in 1982 as the first Native American director of the Indian Health Service. He recently completed a term on the Kiowa Tribal Business Committee, and is currently Professor Emeritus of Medicine at the University of Oklahoma Intertribal Health Board.



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

**Everett Rhoades, MD
F.A.C.P., Rear Admiral, Ret.**

Junior and Senior Employee of the Quarter

*By MC3 Jeff Hopkins
Assistant Editor, VPE*

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



**Christina Johnson,
Senior Employee of
the Quarter**

The winner of this quarter's SEQ award is Christina Johnson, a contract specialist for the Contracting Directorate department. Johnson's duties include training new employees and maintaining the legal sufficiency of hundreds of individual contracts. As a team leader, Johnson reviews and signs competitive

orders up to \$100,000.

"This year has been particularly challenging, as she assumed significant additional responsibility," said Anthony Revenis, the director of contracting. "The last several weeks of the fiscal year required more work than usual, because the other



**Daniel Jackson,
Junior Employee of
the Quarter**

See **EMPLOYEE**, page 5

USU Associate Dean Earns AAP Education Award

By MC3 Jeff Hopkins
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) associate dean for Simulation Education recently received the American Academy of Pediatrics' AAP Education Award.

CAPT Joseph Lopreiato, MC, USN, received the award at the National Conference and Exhibition of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Oct. 27, 2007.

The American Academy of Pediatrics annually presents the AAP Education Award to a member of the Academy whose educational contributions have had a broad and positive impact on the health and well-being of children and adolescents. The selection subcommittee considers potential nominees from a broad perspective of educational contributions, ranging from bedside instruction to formation of a child health educational



CAPT Joseph Lopreiato, MC, USN, Associate Dean for Simulation Education

policy.

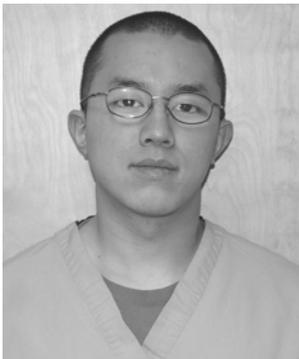
Dr. Lopreiato has a long history of involvement in educational initiatives, including teaching, development of pediatric health curricula, participation in educational outreach projects, administration, and publication of research articles. He has had a productive career as a Naval Officer and pediatrician as well as a member of the Uniformed Services Section of the AAP. His contributions have made a significant impact in the delivery of education across the broad spectrum of pediatrics.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 60,000 pediatricians committed

to the attainment of optimal physical, mental and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, and is home to several long-term research programs to enhance the delivery of health care to children.

Staff profile: HM3 Won Chang

By MCSN Raul Zamora
Assistant Editor, Office of External Affairs



HM3 Won Chang, USN, Surgical Technologist, ATL

The students from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) have many different backgrounds. One future USU student comes from the Anatomical Teaching Lab.

HM3 Won

Chang is looking forward to his future as a USU student. He is scheduled to separate from the Navy next March.

"Hopefully I can find something decent to do while I'm out," he said. "My ultimate goal is to return to USU as a student. I am done with my bachelor's degree, now I still need to take a few science classes to meet the requirements to become a USU student. I would like to attend USU because not only would I get paid to go to school, but I have worked with Navy doctors my

whole enlisted career. Although USU is my top choice, I have thought about attending the University of Baltimore, but only because it's closer to where I live. I really don't like to move, but it's all part of being in the military."

Chang was born in Seoul, Korea. He lived in Seoul until he was 16 years old at which time his parents moved to the United States.

"Life in Seoul isn't that much different than the states," he said. "Kids still run around, driving their parents crazy, playing, and doing less in school, but more on the playground. It's a typical kid's life."

Chang has one brother who is currently attending Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Ga., earning his degree in Aerospace Engineering. His mother is a hair stylist and his father is an auto mechanic.

Chang has been with the Navy for six years.

"I received a package about the Navy while I was a freshman at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.," he said. "There were some interesting programs, so I decided to take advantage of them."

"USU is the only place I've been assigned to besides the National Naval Medical Center," Chang said. "Everyone says that USU is unique and it's true. There aren't that many commands where you get to work with the other services. I have more of an opportunity to proceed with other things like school, a second job or whatever someone

may need. When I first got here there were only two people that were E-3 or below, JOSN Kory Kepner, previous assistant editor of the USU Newsletter and myself. I have never seen a command where there are more E-5 and above than junior military enlisted."

"At USU we get to go out to the field once a year," Chang said. "When Navy personnel are on a ship, they don't have a chance like that. I think it's a different experience and a different form of camaraderie."

Chang said although becoming a student at USU is one of his goals, his primary goal is to be a good husband and father.

"I'm a family man," he said. "My wife supports me in anything I do, and I want my daughter to know that she has a good father taking care of her all of the time. I want to learn as much as I can so I can take care of them."

"I'm just glad that I made a good choice for a second command," he said. "Because of that, it helped me make up my decision about my future. I also feel like I have more of an edge because I have been here and I know what goes on around here."

Chang feels confident that he will get a good education if he comes to USU.

"I have spoken to some of the professors that have been to other medical schools and they all say the same thing," he said. "USU has the best equipment, faculty, staff and faculty of any other school."

Healing the Wounds of War

Researchers at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) have identified a novel phytochemical agent that enhances and improves the process of wound healing in both normal and immune compromised people.

This article was published in *Journal Planta Medica*. Dr. Radha Maheshwari, professor of Pathology at USU, along with Anuj Sharma, graduate student and other colleagues, reported a novel compound Picroliv obtained from the roots of a plant *Picrorhiza kurrooa* enhances the rate of wound healing by principally enhancing the restoration of the blood supply to the damaged tissue.

Previous work from Dr. Maheshwari's laboratory has shown that Picroliv also protects from the injuries induced by hypoxia

and reoxygenation and upregulates the expression of vascular endothelial growth factor in human umbilical vein endothelial cells and of insulin-like growth factor in rats during hypoxia. These findings suggest that Picroliv could be developed as a therapeutic angiogenic agent for the restoration of the blood supply in diseases involving inadequate blood supply such as limb ischemia, ischemic myocardium and wound healing.

The work is supported by funding from National Institutes of Health and important implications in understanding the underlying process important for wound healing and developing agents that can enhance these processes. Wounds and their treatment remain a major area of research for military combat causality and civilian traumatic injuries and this research identifies a potential therapeutic compound that may be developed for treatment of wounds.

Phantom Pain, a Reflection on the Wounds of War

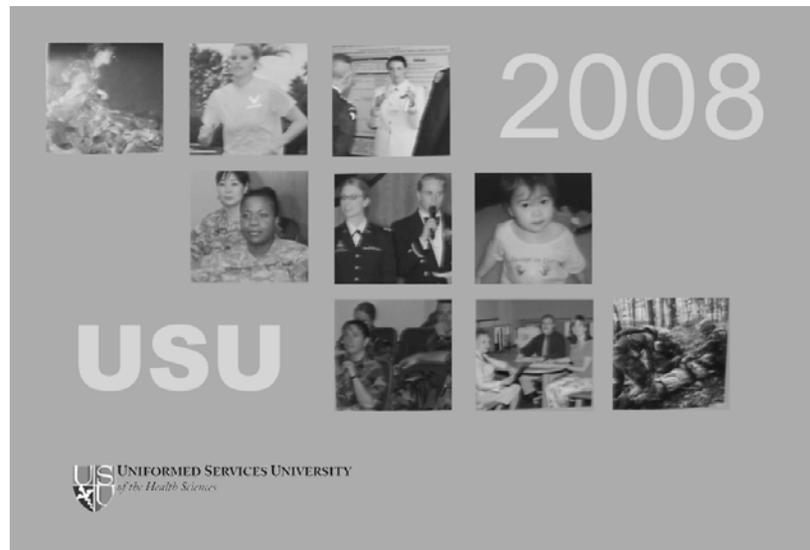
Results of a recent study titled "Mirror Therapy for Phantom Limb Pain" were published in the November 22 edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The study headed by Jack W. Tsao, M.D., D.Phil., assistant professor, Department of Neurology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), suggests that phantom limb pain may be induced by a conflict between visual feedback and one's own perception of the amputated limb.

Phantom limb pain occurs in at least 90% of limb amputees according to the research. Dr. Tsao conducted a sham-controlled trial using mirror and imagery therapy in patients who have had a

foot or leg amputated. Twenty-two patients at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. were assigned to one of three groups: one that viewed a reflective image of themselves in a mirror (mirror group); one that viewed a covered mirror; and one that was trained in mental visualization. Eighteen patients completed the study with six in each group, and after one month of treatment 100% of the members in the mirror group reported less phantom pain, while only 17% reported a pain decrease and 50% reported worsening pain in the covered mirror group, and 67% reported worsening pain in the mental visualization group.

The study found that mirror therapy reduced phantom limb pain in patients who had undergone amputation of the lower limbs. Such pain was not reduced by either covered mirror or mental visualization treatments. These results suggest that mirror therapy may be helpful in alleviating phantom pain in lower limbs.

Don't Forget to pick up a copy of the USU 2008 Calendar* and USU 2007 Report in Room A 1025, and Room B 1009.



* Limited Supplies. One Per Person

USU Researchers Demonstrate Novel Strategy to Inactivate Encephalitis Virus

A collaborative team of scientists from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) have developed a novel strategy to inactivate highly virulent Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (VEEV) that can infect and kill both animals and humans.

In an article published in *Biochem Bio-*

phys Res Commun, Dr. Radha Maheshwari, professor of Pathology at USU, along with graduate student Anuj Sharma, reported the novel approach to inactivate VEEV. VEEV has been identified as an emerging infectious disease and has been developed as a bio-warfare agent and may be a potential biological terror agent.

The current study has important implications for the development of efficient VEEV vaccine. The results show that complete inactivation of VEEV can be achieved using a novel molecule that can penetrate into the virus envelope and target the virus envelope proteins that are vital for initiation of virus infection of the host cell. This inactiva-

tion of the virus is achieved while maintaining the integrity of the virus which is vital towards development of a vaccine against any virus. This study has significant implications as this novel strategy of inactivation may be used for a large number of enveloped viruses of military and civilian importance.

There is no specific therapy for the treatment of VEEV infection or togaviruses as such and there is currently no FDA approved vaccine for VEEV prophylaxis. The current experimental vaccine which is under investigational new drug status, has limited use due to non-responders and residual virulence.

Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area

Campaign OF Dreams

www.cfcnca.org

Enjoy lunch with CFC Dec. 6, 11 am-1 pm, by William III.

(More details to follow)

Ho, ho, ho! Be on the look out for Santa Claus and his helpers around USU on Dec. 6, spreading holiday cheer, during the CFC lunch.

So you think you can cook? Enter a dish, sample, or do both! The first USU cook-off will be fun for all. Dec. 12, 11 am-1 pm, student lounge, more details to follow.

EMPLOYEE, from page 2

team leader was out on maternity leave."

This quarter's JEO winner is Daniel Jackson, an educational technician for the Multi-Disciplinary Labs (MDL). Jackson was nominated for his excellent communication with faculty and students, as well as the level of professionalism which he undertakes responsibilities. In addition to his duties as an educational technician, Jackson also participates and assists with the Anatomical Gift Program run by the Anatomy Teaching Lab, volunteering dozens of overtime hours in September to fill in for a sick department member.

Any civilian employee in a non-supervisory position at the grade level GS-7/WG-7 or below may be nominated for the JEO, and those in non-supervisory positions, level GS-8/WS-8 and above can be nominated for the SEO. In addition, nominees must have been employed at USU or AFRRRI for 12 months or more, received an overall performance rating of highly successful or higher on their most recent annual performance rating, and must not have been selected for JEO/SEO in the two years previous to the current nomination period.

Some benefits of winning the SEO and JEO each receive a \$250 on-the-spot award, and exclusive use of a designated USU parking spot for the quarter.

USU Alumnus Appointed to White House Post

Robert Kadlec, M.D., M.T.M.&H., a School of Medicine alumnus of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) was appointed Nov. 28 to serve as Special Assistant to the President for Homeland Security. The White House announced the appointment of Dr. Kadlec, also naming him as Senior Director for Biological Defense Policy.

Dr. Kadlec previously served as Director for Biodefense and Public Health for PRTM Management Consultants. He received his Doctor of Medicine degree from USU's F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine in 1983, and later returned for his Master of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene degree, which he completed in 1989. Dr. Kadlec earned his bachelor's degree from the United States Air Force Academy, and a master's degree in National Security Studies from Georgetown University. Dr. Kadlec is a retired Air Force Colonel.

Dr. Kadlec served as former Staff Director for the Senate Subcommittee on Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness, and the Director of Biodefense for the National Security Council. He also helped coordinate the President's Biodefense for the 21st Century Policy in 2004. Kadlec served as a Senior Assistant for Counterproliferation in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy. In this capacity, he represented the Secretary of Defense on the U.S. delegation to the Biological Weapons and Toxins Convention in Geneva, Switzerland, and as a United Nations Special Commission biological weapons inspector in Iraq. He has worked on a range of policy issues concerning the nonproliferation and counterproliferation of biological weapons. In addition, he previously served as special advisor for biological warfare issues to the U.S. Air Force Surgeon General and a professor of military strategy and operations at the National War College.



Photo by MCSN Raul Zamora

Festival of Lights: Diwali Celebration

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) celebrated Diwali Nov. 15. Diwali or Deepavali is one of the largest festivals that Hindus celebrate. This celebration is five consecutive days long. It is celebrated by lighting many candles and Diyas which symbolize the victory of good over evil. The celebration consisted of lots of Indian food including Samosa, Vegetable Pulao, Daal, and Mixed Vegetables. Many of USU's faculty and staff showed up for the colorful and exotic foods that lined the wall of the small dining room. The USU community celebrates Diwali every year because of the growing diversity within the university.

USU Faculty in the News

COL Richard Schaefer featured in *AAOS Now*: COL Richard Schaefer, M.D., MPH, Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics, is featured in *AAOS Now*, the monthly newsletter of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. The article focuses on Colonel Schaefer's deployment experience and the care he provided not only to military members but to civilian casualties. To view the article go to:

www.aaos.org/News/Bulletin/nov07/youraaos14.asp

LTC Kimberly Moran featured on ABC 7: LTC Kimberly Moran, M.D., Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics, was featured on Federal News Today an affiliate of ABC 7 for her work with Acinetobacter. To view the story visit:

www.news8.net/news/stories/1107/475588_video.html

USU News Briefs

The USU Report: The new 2007 "USU report" is currently in distribution. Departments have additional copies for your use or for sharing with colleagues at other institutions, please come to room A1025 or Room B1009 and get what you need.

2008 Field Exercises: Operations BUSHMASTER and KERKESNER will be conducted from July 10-25, 2008 at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA. These exercises are unique to the university and require the support of all university uniformed personnel. Only emergency leave will be granted during this time frame as there are more than 135 uniformed personnel (not including evaluators) needed to support this mission.

NNMC Base Access: All persons who enter the NNMC compound are required to remove their identification from their wallet and hand it to the gate entry for review. Each person entering the base should approach the gate with headlamps turned off or dimmed, with distracting devices such as cell phone and radio turned off. Each person should have their ID ready (i.e., out of the wallet) and present it to the gate sentry for review. Additionally, the Base Access Control office has changed their e-mail address to nnmcaccess@med.navy.mil.

Command Climate Survey: The USU Command Climate Survey will be conducted mid-January 2008. For additional details on this requirement, please contact CPT Carrier, USA (AFRRI) at (301) 295-9140.

Christmas and New Year's Holiday Routine: As previously published, the brigade holiday periods are from Dec. 22-25, 2007 and from Dec. 29 - Jan. 1. The brigade will also observe a holiday routine that differs from normal working hours. For those personnel not taking leave, the holiday routine will begin Dec. 21 and end at midnight Jan. 6. During this holiday routine, supervisors are encouraged to allow half days for uniformed personnel, in accor-

dance with their department's mission. Questions may be addressed to the Brigade Executive Officer, CDR Trotter, USN (BDE) at (301) 295-9652.

Holiday Safety Message: As the holiday season approaches, people look forward to those tasty, traditional holiday dishes. People must be careful to use safe food handling practices to prevent food-borne illnesses when preparing and serving food. Be sure to read cooking directions for proper guidelines for preparing uncooked foods. Also, be careful to wash hands and food preparation surfaces often. Do not cross-contaminate foods, as bacteria can spread from one food to another when utensils and surfaces are shared between different foods. Use a meat thermometer to ensure that all poultry is cooked to at least 165° F. When finished, refrigerate foods within two hours. If frying your turkey, exercise care in handling hot cooking oil, use adequate mitts, and keep children away from the fryer. For further questions about food safety, please call the USDA meat and poultry hotline at (800) 535-4555.

Reminder: USUHS policy and the Joint Ethics Regulation require that all employees (military and civilian) receive approval prior to engaging in any outside activity which involves their profession/professional expertise (or government occupation) and/or involves compensation. The process is simple. Pick up USUHS Form 1004 in the General Counsel's office (or print the linked PDF format copy <http://www.usuhs.mil/ogc/form1004.pdf>), fill it out, have your department chair or activity head sign it and return it to the General Counsel's office. The form will be routed to the appropriate Dean, Brigade Commander, or USUHS President. When completed, a copy of the form will be returned to the employee for the employee's records

Standards of Conduct/Government Ethics Reminder: A DoD employee who uses or permits the use of his military grade or who includes or permits the inclusion of his title or position as one of several biographical details given to identify himself in connection with teaching, speaking or writing, and who has not been authorized by appropriate Agency authority to present that material as the Agency's position must make a disclaimer if the subject of the teaching, speaking or writing deals in significant part with DoD/USUHS programs or the employee's area of expertise at USUHS. See <http://www.usuhs.mil/ogc/faq.html> for additional Government Ethics Information.

USU Holiday Gathering: This 2007 USU Holiday Gathering will be held Dec. 14, 2007 from 11:30 -4 pm in the USU Dining Facility. Tickets are \$3 each, and all family members are welcome to attend. Children under 3 get in free as well. Tickets can be purchased from Melissa Martin (RMI) in RM G011, or May Toukolehto (OSA) in the Student Community Center. As before, there are many great prizes that will be given away. Additional prize tickets can be purchased for \$1 to increase your chance of winning. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Dec. 7. For more information, contact mmartin@usuhs.mil.



USU
A Traditional Academic University
with a Unique Focus





USU Calendar of Events



2	3	4	5	6	7 Brigade Holiday Party 10 am—2 pm Bowling Alley	8
9	10	11	12	13 CDHAM Grand Rounds: Operation Iraqi Free- dom: The Humanitar- ian Operations Center Noon - 1pm Lecture Room E	14 USU Holiday Party 11:30 am - 4 pm USU Cafeteria.	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Normal LRC hours resume 6 am LRC	27	28	29