



Uniformed Services University  
of the Health Sciences

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Don't forget Fathers Day is  
June 18

# USU Newsletter

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## Two day Integration Off-site Conference held at USU

Representatives from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) and all of the National Capital Area military treatment facilities, including administrators and health care providers, met at the university recently for an integration planning conference.

More than 250 military and civilian employees, including USU President Charles L. Rice, M.D., Maj. Gen. Kenneth Farmer, commanding general, North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Rear Adm. Adam Robinson, commander, National Naval Medical Center, and Brig. Gen. Thomas Travis, commander, 79th Medical Wing, participated in the two-day event May 30 - 31 to plan for the next steps in creating a world class health system centered on the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center located on the Bethesda campus.

Teams of facilitators led small group discussions where participants identified hopes, fears, strengths, weaknesses and challenges related to integration. These areas were then presented to the overall audience for information exchange and feedback, and to provide



Photo by Sharon Willis

**Left to Right – Maj. Gen. Kenneth Farmer, M.D., Charles L. Rice, M.D., Brig. Gen. Thomas Travis, M.D., and Rear Adm. Adam Robinson, M.D., attended the Integration Off-site Conference.**

recommendations for improvement to the integration leadership. The groups then engaged in exercises to advance planning efforts.

"The energy that was generated by participants will sustain the required momentum to carry us through the phased integration process," said Cmdr. Charlie Shaw, MC, USN, deputy director of the Office of Integration.



Photo by Tom Balfour

## USU holds 27th Commencement

*Excerpt from the commencement address by USU President Charles L. Rice, M.D.*

"It is USU's duty to not only educate physicians, nurses and scientists and to produce uniformed officers and leaders, but also to help forge outstanding human beings - men and women of integrity, compassion, humility and loyalty to the values that make our country great."



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# INTEGRATION— As I See It

## What about the BRAC process?

### Part Two

By Vern Schinski, Ph.D.  
Special Assistant to the USU President for  
BRAC Integration

The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process is certainly one of the driving forces behind integration. In the BRAC process, which is based in law (Title X U. S. Code), the secretary of defense makes recommendations to the president based on military basing requirements. These recommendations are reviewed by an independent BRAC commission. Based on these recommendations the president sends his approved legislative package to Congress. Following approval by Congress the president's recommendations become binding.

The Department of Defense has used BRAC to begin the transformation of military medicine. DOD wants military health care to become more "joint," to consolidate where patients reside, and to be more state-of-the-art. The major 2005 BRAC recommendation would establish the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center here in Bethesda, Md. It also will create a brand-new 165-bed community hospital at Fort Belvoir, Va. Army, Navy and Air Force medical personnel will staff both facilities. William Winkenwerder, M.D., assistant secretary of defense for Health Affairs, said he wants the Bethesda facility "to rival Johns Hopkins or the Mayo Clinics," as an academic health center.

Since BRAC was approved by Congress in September, specialty groups have attempted to review and consolidate staffing and space data from the BRAC surveys into consolidated facility requirements. Capt. David Wade, M.D., Multi-Service Market Office, under Maj. Gen. Kenneth Farmer and the Flag Oversight Group, USN, has led an effort to develop a business plan based on these requirements.

In mid March the business plan was presented to the Senior Military Medical Advisory Council (SMMAC) by General Farmer. Follow-



ing the initial submission a surprisingly similar independent business plan was discovered in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management. The combined business plan has since been reviewed by the services, DOD Health Affairs, and the Medical Joint Cross Service Group.

*The Department of Defense has used BRAC to begin the transformation of military medicine. DOD wants military health care to become more joint, to consolidate where patients reside, and to be more state-of-the-art.*

The current plan carefully identifies a number of variances with the initial estimates and proposes a budget of \$1.510 billion for the BRAC projects involving Walter Reed Army Medical Center, National Naval Medical Center, and Fort Belvoir. It has maintained the scope of the two hospital projects at 1.750 million square feet of new and renovated space. Currently, specialty groups are reviewing square foot allocations. The initial planning requirements will be sent to an architect once the final business plan is approved.

## Former SOM Dean remembered

Former Dean/Dean Emerita, Nancy E. Gary, M.D., died May 31 following a long and courageous battle with chronic pulmonary disease.

Dr. Nancy Gary first visited the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) during the mid-eighties as a member of an LCME Accreditation Team. She was very impressed with the faculty, students and programs. Several years later, following her time as professor of medicine at Rutgers, dean at Albany and a Robert Wood Johnson Senior Health Policy Fellow, she responded to the USU search for a new dean, and was selected by President James

Zimble. Dr. Gary was thrilled to once again be at USU, and served for three years, giving emphasis to academic organization, scholarship and research. After USU, Dr. Gary served as president and CEO-ECFMG, and founded the FAIMER Institute. She was a Master of the American College of Physicians.

Funeral arrangements have been completed, and will take place at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, 711 N Street, NW (corner of 8th and N – METRO: Mt. Vernon Place – Walk north on 9th street to 9th and N and turn left to the church), today at 10 a.m. Visitation at the church will begin at 9 a.m., followed immediately by the funeral mass, which will be conducted by Dr. Gary's brother, Rev. Fr. Paul Gary, Rev. Msgr. James Watkins and Rev. Fr. Milton Jordan.



Dr. Nancy E. Gary

# USU celebrates Asian Pacific Heritage Month

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

In 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two important milestones in Asian/Pacific American history: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) and contributions of Chinese workers to the building of the transcontinental railroad, completed May 10, 1869. In 1992, Congress expanded the 10-day observance to a month-long celebration.

Members of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) honored that month of celebration May 24.

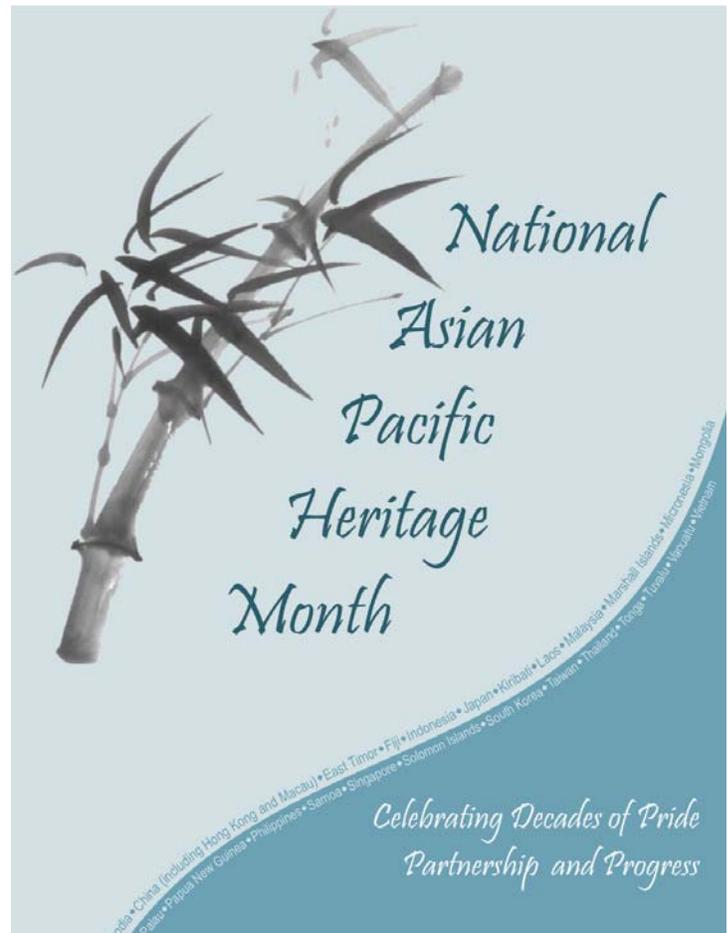
Franklin Odo, Ph.D., director of the Asian Pacific American Program, Smithsonian Institute, helped celebrate the month as the guest speaker. This year's theme was "Celebrating Decades of Pride Partnership and Progress."

Dr. Odo, who was also a professor of ethnic studies at the University of Hawaii, addressed some important issues facing the Asian community.

He said two major issues facing the Asian community is race and something that is a hot button topic for everyone right now, immigration.

When people talk about issues of race, they don't immediately think of the Asian population as a group of people who are discriminated against, Dr. Odo explained. But it is still one of the struggles for the Asian community.

Although the community has its struggles to overcome, he is optimistic about their future and proud of the contributions made by the Asian community.





# Largest class of GSN master students receive welcome

*Contributed by Patricia Hinton-Walker, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, Professor and Former Dean Graduate School of Nursing*

*"In addition to the excellence in education that is provided at USU, these students will have the opportunity to work and learn together in this joint environment.."*

*Patricia Hinton Walker, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN*

On May 31, the largest class of master's students began their orientation to the Graduate School of Nursing (GSN) and to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). The entire GSN faculty, administrative staff, program directors and members of the dean's office are pleased and prepared to provide excellence in educational opportunity to these students. The Signature Curriculum in the GSN is designed to provide military relevant education in all of the master's options, with a focus on three areas for master's level practice, research and scholarship: operational readiness in a changing environment; clinical decision-making in the federal health system; and population health and outcomes. The curriculum is also designed to provide education that is recognized and meets the national standards of each of the clinical specialties offered by the GSN.

Students in the entering class have selected one of the three options available in the GSN in the master's program in order to become advanced practice nurses in the following areas of concentration. Of the 58 students who will actually begin their coursework June 4: 17 students plan to become family nurse practitioners after 24 months; 29 students plan to become certified registered nurse anesthetist after 30 months; and 7 students plan to become perioperative clinical nurse specialists.

The class of 2008, arriving this year is quite diverse and represents all of the uniformed services, which USU the nation's federal university is designed to serve. Of the 17 students in the family nurse practitioner program, the Army is sending 6

students, the Air Force is sending 7, and the Navy is sending 4. Of the 29 students entering the nurse anesthetist option, the Army is sending 4, the Air Force is sending 14, the Navy is sending 9 and the Public Health Service is sending 2. Seven students have

been sent by their respective services to become perioperative clinical nurse specialists. Of those, 2 students were sent by the Army, 1 by the Air Force, and 4 from the Navy. Of course, in addition to the excellence in education that is provided at USU, these students will have the opportunity to work and learn together in this joint environment. Their experiences here in the GSN under the watchful and supportive eye of the brigade, will reinforce and foster jointness, which is becoming essential in today's DOD environment.

To the entering students - on behalf of all of us in the GSN, we welcome you! Your GSN program directors: Dr. Diane Seibert (family nurse practitioner program option); Col. Linda Wanzer (perioperative clinical nurse specialist program option); and Lt. Col. (select) Adrienne Hartgerink (registered nurse anesthetist option) have worked hard to develop sound curricula appropriate to the area of specialty and are here to ensure a quality personal and professional experience in the GSN. During this week, you will have the opportunity to get acquainted with many individuals from GSN and USU administration; from the School of Medicine, from the USU Brigade and from the excellent support staff who support the entire university.



## Dean Hinton Walker returns to scholarly pursuits

Dr. Patricia Hinton Walker recently announced her resignation as dean of the Graduate School of Nursing, effective June 1.

"After much thought and consideration of the time commitment needed to address family health issues," said Dr. Hinton Walker, "this seems to be the right time to return

to my first love: teaching and mentoring students in their research and scholarship."

"Dr Hinton Walker has been a tireless advocate of the nursing profession and the advancement of military nursing and nursing research," said USU President Charles L. Rice, M.D., in accepting her resig-

nation. "On behalf of USU, I am grateful for her commitment and her efforts."

Dr. Hinton Walker retains her appointment as professor in the GSN and is expected to engage full-time in scholarly activities.

*See DEAN, page 5*

# Center for Health Disparities Research and Education's Open House

Established as a center for research and education on health disparities in the heart of the business district of Silver Spring, Md., this academic unit of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) offers a home away from home to the entire USU community.

The Center for Health Disparities Research and Education opened its doors to welcome more than thirty guests who responded to the invitation of the Community Outreach and Information Dissemination Core, lead by Dr. Gloria Ramsey, USU associate professor of nursing and the core's director, April 25.

Information volunteered by the 17 USU guests before and after their visit to the center showed that as a group, their capacity to explain the nature of racial and ethnic health disparities had increased by 80.3 percent by the end of their visit.

An additional sixteen guests represented Community Based Organizations, Federal Government Agencies and the American Heart

Association. Among these guests were, Derrick C. Tabor, Ph.D., program director, Center of Excellence in Partnerships for Community Outreach, Research on Health Disparities and Training (Project EXPORT), Office of the Director, National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD); David Nash, National Library of Medicine, Education and Outreach Liaison; Norm Qualtrough, deputy vice president, Resource Management, USU; and Corette Jones, American Heart Association/National Capital Area Council.

The USU Center for Health Disparities is funded by a grant from the NCMHD, under Project EXPORT of the National Institutes of Health, awarded to the Departments of Medical and Clinical Psychology and Family Medicine of the USU School of Medicine in 2003.

The Silver Spring facility opened for operations in January 2005. In addition to the Administrative Core and the Community Outreach and Information Dissemination Core, the USU Center for Health Disparities consists of the three additional cross-functional units, The Research Core, Education Core and Training Core which have been operating from within the USU main campus since 2003. The Administrative and Community Outreach and Information Dissemination Cores of the center at Silver Spring are at the heart of a civilian community rich in ethnic and racial diversity.

At this location, the USU Center for Health Disparities provides the physical facility and resources to USU faculty, students and researchers with interest in the health and medical problems related to race or ethnicity as risk factors.

## DEAN, continued from page 4

Dr. Hinton Walker arrived at USU in 2001. At that time, GSN faculty and staff faced significant challenges specifically those of strengthening and obtaining accreditation for the nurse anesthesia program, addressing the need for more doctorally-prepared faculty to address the broader GSN accreditation issues, and the expectation to expand the school rapidly beyond the family nurse practitioner and nurse anesthesia program options to include a perioperative clinical nurse specialist program and a Ph.D. in Nursing Science program, a dream of Dean Emerita Dr. Faye Abdellah.

The Graduate School of Nursing has grown significantly under Dr. Hinton Walker's leadership. However, according to her, "any accomplishment that has been achieved during my tenure here as dean can be attributed to the commitment, talent, perseverance against many challenges, and commitment to excellence of great faculty and staff in the GSN."

Among the key accomplishments of the GSN team during the past four years was the enhanced quality and increased quantity of students in the family nurse practitioner and nurse anesthesia master's degree programs. The last two classes to take the certified registered nurse anesthetist certification examination – respectively seven out of 10 and nine out of 12 – achieved a maximum possible score on their certification examination.

In addition, the GSN team developed and started a new, nationally recognized pe-

rioperative clinical nurse specialist master's option. As a result of these three successful degree programs, enrollment expanded from 28 in 2002 to 58 students in 2006, with the largest class (58) in GSN history arriving this month.

Initiated in a compressed timeframe an innovative and solid Ph.D. in Nursing Science program with a total of 24 doctoral students progressing in both full-time and part-time cohorts towards dissertation.

Recruited qualified doctoral faculty to address accreditation issues and enhance the teaching and research at both master's and doctoral levels.

Increased the rigor and relevance of research and scholarship by students and faculty of the GSN; this is evidenced by an increasing number of research grants submitted for external funding by GSN students and faculty;

Gained support from university administration for appropriate budgetary support to increase the number of GSN faculty/staff to meet national standards.

She also recruited qualified doctoral faculty to address accreditation issues and enhance the teaching and research at both the master's and doctoral level.

Dr. Hinton Walker increased the rigor and reverence of research and scholarship by students and faculty in the GSN. This is evidenced by and increasing number of research grants submitted for external funding by GSN students and faculty.

The celebrations and academic events that

took place in May highlighted how the progress that the GSN has made under Dr. Hinton Walker's leadership as dean. "Research Week this year finally began to become a university-wide celebration thanks to Dr. Bruce Schoneboom's hard work last year and Dr. Christine Kasper and Dr. Dorraine Watts this year," said Dr. Hinton Walker. "The GSN was clearly much more integrated into this distinguished university and growing in its national recognition. We still have a way to go, but the progress these past two years was significant," she said.

As a result of the growing demand of the master's and Ph.D. programs, one of Dr. Hinton Walker's last actions was to clarify the vision, set the parameters, and task selected faculty to develop an intensive/online option for the Ph.D. program.

In addition to the full-time and part-time in-residence options, this new approach will extend the availability of this valuable program and will enhance and build nursing science relevant to military and federal health care as well as alleviate the growing faculty shortage of Ph.D. throughout the nation.

According to Dr. Hinton Walker, next year will be set aside by the GSN's doctoral faculty to fully develop this innovative option with surveys of interested doctoral students to determine the best times for the intensive option to be scheduled.

Dr. Hinton Walker expressed appreciation to members of the faculty in both the GSN and SOM who have provided support and cooperation in an important time of growth and maturity for the GSN.





USU Alumni in  
the News

# 79th Medical Wing stands up

By LaDonna Bowen  
79th Medical Wing Public Affairs

It was standing room only in Hangar 3 on Andrews Air Force Base May 12 during a ceremony, which deactivated two medical groups and activated the Air Force's second medical wing.

Maj. Gen. Robert L. Smolen, Air Force District of Washington (AFDW) commander, presided over the historical event, where he both received and relinquished command of the 11th and the 89th Medical Groups and activated the 79th Medical Wing, assigning command to Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Travis as the new wing's commander. General Travis is a 1986 graduate from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine.

"Under this new wing, all Air Force medical assets in the National Capital Region will come together under a single commander," said General Smolen.

This wing will be unlike anything in recent memory and reflects the expanding need of today's military into this new age of the Global War on Terror, he said.

Community leaders, personnel from both commands and some of the Air Force's most senior medical leaders, attended the ceremony, which featured the U.S. Air Force Band and the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard.

"You don't stand up a new wing every day, so that makes this a special day for the Air Force," said General Travis during his remarks.

Upon assuming command of the 79th MDW General Travis activated and designated command of the 579th Medical Group at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., to Col. Brenda J. McEleney. He then activated the 79th Medical Group, which will be at Malcolm Grow Medical Center on Andrews; its new commander has yet to be identified.

As part of AFDW and the Air Force National Capital Region (NCR) Headquarters command, standing up the 79th MDW helps to align all Air Force medical assets in this region under a single commander to better serve the Air Force mission and the nation



Photo courtesy of Andrews Air Force Base

**Brig. Gen. John I. Pray, Jr., 89th Air Wing commander (left), Andrews AFB, and Brig. Gen. Thomas Travis, 79th Medical Wing commander pose for a photo after General Travis relinquished command of the 89th Medical Group.**

when responding to contingencies, said General Travis.

"This [wing] positions us to better plan and respond as a force," said General Travis. "That makes this wing, doing this mission, more than just a consolidation of assets under one commander."

Aside from its war fighting mission, the 79th MDW will more closely resemble the hierarchy of other regional military services.

"In the near future, under the most recent Base Realignment and Closure law, the military health system in this region will be more joint, and this new medical wing provides the Air Force with a similar command and control structure as the Army and the Navy, which better postures the Air Force for the important work ahead to build medical readiness and training capabilities in this region," said General Travis.

The 79th MDW serves nearly 400,000 beneficiaries in the NCR and has more than 1,500 Airmen and civilian personnel assigned. As commander of the 79th MDW, General Travis also serves as the AFDW command surgeon.

**Look Who's Talking...What will you give your father on Father's Day?**



"Wheat pennies or old coins- and a phone call."

*2nd Lt.  
Benjamin Heaton  
SOM Student*



"Tickets to the Symphony, he would enjoy a night out with good music."

*Ensign  
Keren Arkin  
SOM Student*



"Continue to have a good military career so he can look down on me proudly."

*YNSA Johnny Ford  
MILPO*

**University Spotlight**

**Promotions:**

Congratulations to the following USU alumni who were recently selected for promotion to Captain, Medical Corps, U.S. Navy: **Bonnema, Craig** - class of 1993 - anesthesiology; **Huhn, Daniel** - class of 1988 - emergency medicine; **Leonard, David** - class of 1988 - otolaryngology; **Pasternak, Joseph** - class of 1988 - ophthalmology; **Zeller, Kristen** - class of 1989 - ophthalmology.

There were only 34 selectees for promotion to Captain, Medical Corps, U.S. Navy.

**Hails and Farewells:**

Welcome to **Lt. Col. William Boyce**, USU Brigade legal officer; **Staff Sgt. Michele DeSouza**, AFRRRI; **Staff Sgt. Michael Junio**, LAM.

Farewell to **HM3 Christine Losinger** who will separate from the U.S. Navy in June.

**Recognition:**



**Junior and Senior Employees of the Quarter**

These awards are based on their commitment to excellence of service.

**Ms. Brianne Kurtz**, Office of Clinical Affairs, School of Medicine, office automation assistant .



**Elizabeth L. Wampler**, Safety and Health Department, AFRRRI, Health Physics Division.

**Letter to the editor**

Summer means fun in the sun! But be safe.

You don't have feathers to protect your skin so be sure and use the appropriate SPF suntan lotion, don't let a heat-related illness ruin your day.

Always drink plenty of water, I wouldn't recommend my pond water, It's safe for me but not for you, and take frequent breaks when working or playing in the hot weather.

When taking the little ones out for a dip always remember to keep your eyes on them, I personally never let my little ones

out of my sight. Remember to swim in supervised areas only and obey all rules and posted signs. Never ever mix alcohol and swimming. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance, coordination, affects your swimming and diving skills, and reduces your body's ability to stay warm. Be sure to pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts and stop swimming at the first indication of bad weather.

Lastly, remember that when you and your loved ones head out to one of the local parks be sure to stay safe. One of the best ways to stay safe this summer is to wear a helmet and other safety gear when biking, rollerblading and skateboarding, and when riding scooters, all-terrain vehicles, and horses. Studies on bicycle helmets

have shown they can reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85 percent.

These are just a few summer time safety tips. Remember what mama goose Gracie always says - common sense is key when it comes to summertime safety!

Sincerely, Gracie the Grey Goose





# USU Calendar of Events



<b>June</b>	<b>5</b> Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology Seminar Series: 11:30 - 1 p.m. Lec. Rm C "Visualizing and Profiling Second Messenger Dynamics and Kinase Activities in Living Cells" presented by Jin Zhang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology and Molecular Sciences, and Dept. of Neuroscience, The John Hopkins University School of Medicine	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Dept. Representative Meeting 11 a.m. Lec. Rm B  Toastmasters Meeting at USU Noon - 1 p.m. Rm A2015	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Toastmasters Meeting at AFRRRI Noon - 1 p.m. AFRRRI Small Conference Room	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Dept. of Medicine Research Seminar To be announced Presented by Dr. Krishnamurthy Govindaraj 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Rm A2053
<b>18</b> Father's Day	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Toastmasters Meeting Room A2052 Noon - 1 p.m.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Dept. of Medicine Research Seminar To be announced Presented by Dr. Matthew Pollack 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Room A2053	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Grand Rounds "Survey Research Methods" 1 - 2:30 p.m. Rm A2054	<b>28</b> Toastmasters Meeting AFFRI Small Conference Room Noon - 1 p.m.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	