



Uniformed Services University  
of the Health Sciences

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**Keep an eye out  
for children!**

# USU Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9

WWW.USUHS.MIL

AUG. 21, 2006



Photo by Tom Balfour

## Flagged for discussion

Flag officers (left to right), Maj. Gen. Kenneth L. Farmer Jr., MC, Army, commanding general, North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and Walter Reed Army Medical Center; Rear Adm. Adam M. Robinson, MC, Navy, commander, National Naval Medical Center; Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Travis, MC, Air Force, commander, 79th Medical Wing; and Charles L. Rice, M.D., president, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, were all in attendance Aug. 14 at the university to participate in a video taping session on BRAC/Integration efforts in the National Capital Area.

## USU Welcomes New Students

Each year, the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) expands by more than one-hundred and sixty new medical students.

With the wealth of medical schools throughout the United States, USU appreciates its new students' choice of enrollment.

Staff Writer MCSA Jeff Hopkins, Navy, interviewed a few of the new students to get an idea of who they are, where they're from and why they chose USU. The following questions and answers are excerpts from those interviews:



**Second Lt.  
Meaghan Keville  
Air Force**

**Q: Where are you from?**

**A: Camden, New York**

**Q: What anxieties did you have about coming to USU?**

**A: Coming to the city: I'm not a city person, I come from upstate New**

*York, sort of in the middle of nowhere.*

**Q: Why did you choose USU for your medical school?**

**A: I chose USU for medical school because there is nothing like it. I love being a part of the Air Force, it is an honor to me to be able to serve my country in the best way that I can.**

**Q: What do you expect to get from USU?**

**A: I hope to be a flight doctor, and to get a better experience than most doctors get from medical school.**

**Q: Previous education?**

**A: Bachelor of Science in chemistry, and a minor in biology.**

**Q: What are your hobbies?**

**A: I'm an adrenaline junkie, I like running, sky-diving, swimming, and I like to cook.**



**Ensign Jeremy Baran  
Navy**

**Q: Where are you from?**

**A: Stubenville, Ohio**

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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.



## Commanding Visit

Col. (Dr.) Donald Thompson, Air Force, MC, USU Class of 1986, poses for a photo with Dr. William Winkenwerder, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. Dr. Winkenwerder recently visited Afghanistan where Dr. Thompson is currently serving as the Command Surgeon, Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan and Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

*Courtesy Photo*

## USU Alumnus Receives ACLAM Award

Army Maj. (Dr.) Kenneth O. Jacobsen was presented the 2005 Foster Award by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) during their annual forum in St. Petersburg, Fla., in June.

Dr. Jacobsen, who earned his Master of Public Health degree from USU in 2003, received the Foster Award for academic excellence, for scoring the highest on the written and practical portions of the ACLAM certifying examination the preceding year. Dr. Jacobsen is the chief of the non-human primate

section, Department of Veterinary Medicine, at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Fort Detrick, Md.

The American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine is an organization of board certified veterinary medical specialists who are experts in the humane, proper and safe care and use of laboratory animals.



Dr.  
Kenneth Jacobsen

## Time at USU Counts Toward Retirement

As an increasing number of USU alums qualify for pensions, a common question has become: Do my years at USU count toward my retirement salary? According to a 2002 memo from the assistant secretary of defense for Military Personnel Policy, John A. Van Alstyne, any years of service as a USU medical student are valid in computing retired pay. Although only USU alums

who attended the School of Medicine are eligible, it is vital that people become aware of this benefit as retirement pay is determined in large part by the number of years a person has served.

The current equation for retirement pay goes as follows: a person's years of service multiplied by 0.025 and then that number multiplied by the person's current salary. So, if a person attends

USU as a medical student for 4.5 years, serves an additional 20.5 years, and is currently receiving a salary of \$6,948 then that person would receive 62.5% of their current salary or \$4,424 per month during retirement. The reason they receive 62.5% is because that is the fraction that results from multiplying that person's years of service, 20.5 (regular service) + 4.5 (time at USU), by 0.025.

# When seeing really is believing

By MCSA Raul Zamora  
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) is a welcoming environment even before one enters the campus, thanks in part to the university's Audio Visual department (A/V).

"A/V is about supporting education in the university by helping to clarify and present information to the intended audience through graphic design, photography and video," said NCO in-charge of A/V HM1 Jason Wright, Navy. "Our secondary roles are documenting promotions, awards and retirements. These are important and enjoyable aspects of our duty."

The A/V department's displays are seen everywhere from the entrance banners which read "Welcome Students" to the photo montage in Building A. Audio Visual creates videos to recruit prospective students and takes photos for documentation of different events, such as student portraits, award ceremonies and Operations Bushmaster and Kerkesner, just to name a few.

The department is always busy with photo shoots, video voice-overs, documenting and designing.

"All of the jobs are hard in their own way. The wall display in Building A wasn't difficult at all, but it was time-consuming," said Wayne Crawford, A/V director.

"Every job is fun. It's not everyday that you get to use this kind of equipment," said Multi-Media Specialist Sgt. Frezzell Brewer, Army. "We have great NCOs and civilian employees, but the most difficult job would have to be graduation. We start from the ground up. Production has to have no flaws, it all has to be perfect."

The A/V department staff includes 11 civilians at USU, six at



Photo by MCSA Raul Zamora

**Petty Officer 1st Class Jason Wright, Audio Visual photographer, takes a portrait of an MS-1 student as part of her inprocessing.**

the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI), and a total of four military personnel. In order for the A/V department to serve the university in the most efficient manner possible, they ask that work orders be scheduled five working-days in advance; and walk-ins are welcome, but try to keep them limited to emergency situations.

"A/V does a lot of the jobs seen on campus. We add color to the university that makes it look professional and the best possible," Sergeant Brewer said.

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## 'Café de' USU- Food for thought

By MCSA Raul Zamora  
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

The time is 11 a.m. and lunch is approaching. But while students, staff and faculty members of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) think about lunch, the USU Café has it ready to be served.

USU Café's Executive Chef Rabi Ravindran, who has been at USU since 1988, opens the kitchen at 4:30 a.m. to prepare for that day's meals. Breakfast and lunch are prepared by him and his staff throughout the day on stainless steel tables. "We always have to be prepared, we have students, doctors, staff members and other

important people that eat with us everyday," Chef Rabi said.

"The café is 16 years old and we have a high quality of customer service," Food and Beverage Manager Selcuk "Sammy" Polat said. "We receive letters of compliments from admirals, surgeons general and our every day guests. We are all very happy to provide a service USU."

The USU Café not only serves breakfast and lunch, but they also cater many of the university's events. "We take care of birthdays, employee of the month celebrations, meetings, and anything that requires catering," Sammy said.

Chef Rabi and Sammy agree that the

USU graduation has to be the biggest and most difficult job that they face every year. "During graduation we feed two to three thousand people," Chef Rabi said.

"The hardest part about working in the café is not having a set schedule," Sammy said. "There is always something coming onto our calendar. To keep quality service, we have to stay flexible."

Chef Rabi said that the most requested food in the café is international food such as gyros, burritos, stir-fry and chicken fajitas.

The USU Café staff makes sure the university receives good, healthy food and that everyone has a positive experience when dining there.



# USU Calendar of Events



<b>August</b>	21	22	23	24	25	26
	<p>USU Dept. of Pediatrics Presentation "Insertional Mutagenesis Identifies Genes That Promote The Immortalization of Bone Marrow Progenitor Cells" 10:45 a.m. Rm A2052</p> <p>Beginning today, LRC will be opening at 6 a.m. Monday through Friday</p>		<p>USU Toastmasters meeting at AFRRRI Small conference room Noon - 1 p.m.</p>			<p>LRC Training Introduction to PowerPoint 11 a.m. - Noon</p>
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
			<p>LRC Faculty Open House 9 a.m. - Noon</p> <p>Meet the LRC Staff Preview the new USU Electronic Resource interface Learn how to access full text articles in PubMed Light refreshments will be served</p>		<b>September</b>	
3	4	5	6	7		8
	<b>LABOR DAY</b>					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				<p>LRC Training Introduction to PowerPoint 1 - 2 p.m.</p>		



# Patient safety is an investment, not a cost

By MC2 Kory Kepner  
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

“It’s a collaborative effort. It (patient safety) has to be in the classroom to ensure that patient safety is woven into the curriculum.”

Howard S. Steed,  
Ph.D., CERPS  
deputy director.

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) has a center designed to educate and train faculty and students in order to develop a military health care culture of safety, and assists USU in meeting the accreditation requirements related to safety.

The Center for Education and Research in Patient Safety (CERPS) incorporates and disseminates the best practices available into the individual patient care environments within the DOD military health system.

“It’s a collaborative effort. It (patient safety) has to be in the classroom to ensure that patient safety is woven into the curriculum,” Howard S. Steed, Ph.D., CERPS deputy director said.

CERPS is located in Building 28 on the National Naval Medical Center campus and is administratively positioned within USU’s Continuing Education for Health Professionals Directorate.

CERPS is one of the three major components of the DOD Patient Safety Program and was established to provide the Military Health System (MHS) community with the educational materials, tools, training and resources necessary to improve the safety and quality of health care delivery within the MHS.

Dr. Steed said their line of direction comes directly from DOD and that they support USU in terms of patient safety.

“We say to the director of training early on that you should be in a culture of patient safety.” Dr. Steed said. “From the doctors, nurses, corps-

men and on down the line, patient safety involves everyone.”

Patient safety, as defined by the Institute of Medicine, as the “freedom from accidental injuries during the course of medical care.

“Patient safety avoids, prevents, or corrects adverse outcomes which may occur during the delivery of healthcare.”

“The focus of military healthcare is the patient and patient safety is their main goal,” Diana M. Laun, Ph.D., RN, MPA, MS, senior research and policy specialist said.

“We teach patient safety managers to look at the process, how it failed, why it failed, and how to improve it,” Dr. Laun said.

CERPS offers various educational opportunities to learn about patient safety and the tools that support patient safety efforts. The best program for the person to access is dependent upon the person’s role in the MHS and the level of commitment that MTF has for patient safety.

The goal of CERPS is to increase the number of basic patient safety courses available on-line, to accommodate the needs of a larger audience. CERPS’s online program currently offers MEDMARX training. These programs will provide the information necessary for acquiring basic patient safety skills.



Lt. Col. (Dr.)  
Thomas E. Ceremuga

## USU Neuroscience Ph.D. Program Graduate Receives National Award

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas E. Ceremuga, CRNA, Ph.D., Army, a 2003 USU graduate of the Graduate Program in Neuroscience, was the recipient of the Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, U.S.

Army Nurse of the Year 2006 Award.

Dr. Ceremuga received the award June 30 at Constitution Hall, District of Columbia, during the 115th Continental Congress of the Na-

tional Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Dr. Ceremuga is program director of the U.S. Army Graduate Program in anesthesia nursing, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

# Look Who's Talking...What is your biggest fear about coming to medical school?



*"Having time to 'have a life' outside of school."*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. David Oliver**  
Army  
MS-1



*"Taking care of all of the requirements for graduation."*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Victor Yu**  
Army  
MS-1



*"This is my first PCS and just trying to get everything in order."*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Stewart Brigham**  
Air Force  
MS-1

## APG professor retires after 10 years at USU

After more than 10 years at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), Dr. Ruth Bulger, professor, Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics, retired. Dr. Bulger was

not only a professor at the university, but at one time served as the vice president for the Office of Research.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the USU faculty and students for almost eleven years at USU and five plus years at the Henry Jackson Foundation. What has been so rewarding about the time is that whether I was working in REA with the faculty helping them obtain and maintain their grants or with the students in the classroom or at other times, I have had such a positive experience trying to be helpful to them as they worked for their goals."

"The last 50 years have been the most exciting time to be involved with cell biology, since it has encompassed the explosion of knowledge about the cell and how it works, which in turn has led to exciting developments in the ability to understand disease and to help or heal those who have been suffering."

"Of all the places I have had the privilege to work, USU has been the most enjoyable since the faculty and students have consistently been caring and helpful to each other. USU is a very special place."



**Dr. Harvey Pollard and Dr. Ruth Bulger**

### PROFILES. Continued from page 1

**A:** *I'm not anxious about school, but moving to the area, finding an apartment, all the normal anxiety with Permanent Change of Stations.*

**Q:** **What do you expect to get from USU?**

**A:** *To get a good education, one tailored to the military medical environment, and to make some good friends.*

**Q:** **What are your hobbies?**

**A:** *I like motorcycles, Harleys in particular. I like to work out some, and reading. Recently I've enjoyed seeing sights in DC.*



**Second Lt. Rebecca Ortolano**  
Army

**Q:** **Where are you from?**

**A:** *Albany, New York*

**Q:** **What anxieties did you have about coming to USU?**

**A:** *This is my first real military experience, along with the general anxiety of going to med school.*

**Q:** **Why did you choose USU for your medical school?**

**A:** *I wanted to practice military medicine; I think the reason for joining the military and entering the medical field are the same, to protect people.*

## From the Office of General Counsel

USU may accept reimbursement from a non-Federal source with respect to attendance of the employee at a meeting or similar function which the employee has been authorized to attend in an **official** capacity on behalf of USU.

To do so, USU personnel must fill out an *Ethics Travel Form* and submit it to the USU Designated Agency Ethics Official in the General Counsel's office one week prior to the scheduled travel. **Note:** Orders funded by a non-Federal source will not be processed without the signed ethics form.

USU personnel may **not** personally accept reimbursement for

travel expenses. The employee may accept a check made out to USU and turn it over to the USU Finance Office as soon as practicable.

USU personnel may accept payment in kind as long as advanced approval is given.

USU personnel shall **not** solicit payment from a Non-Federal source. However, after receipt of an invitation from a non-Federal source to attend a meeting or similar function, USU or the employee may inform the non-Federal source that the agency may accept payment.

See <http://www.usuhs.mil/ogc/faq.html> for additional Government Ethics Information.