

# USU Graduate Student Winter Newsletter

*USUHS Graduate Student Newsletter 2006-2007*

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY PATRICK M. HIGH



*Patrick M. High  
GSC President 2006-2007*

### SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST

Visit our website at  
[http://  
www.usuhs.mil/geo/  
gsa](http://www.usuhs.mil/geo/gsa) for the latest GSC  
updates!

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With this New Year upon us, I would like to share with you the most recent actions of the Graduate Student Council (GSC). The GSC initiated a monthly bowling happy hour to build community among USU graduate students. Many of these happy hours have been a hit, so please remember that we will continue to hold our monthly bowling happy hours from 4 to 6pm at the National Naval Bowling Center. These happy hours will continue on the last Friday of each month, through April, unless a conflict arises. The GSC also held a bake sale in November and raised \$150 for the Graduate Education Fund that helps finance graduate student activities. I would like to thank everyone who contributed time, money and/or baked goods for the bake sale. Your help is greatly appreciated. The GSC may hold another bake sale during the Spring Quarter so please stay tuned for more information. Finally, the GSC hosted a Holiday Bowling Party at NNMC Bowling Center. This has become an annual event and we look forward to increased participation. Thank you to all who participated in this year's festivities.

In other news, and of vast importance, **Dr. Metcalf, our Associate Dean of Graduate Education, was able to secure health insurance for civilian graduate students!** Along with the implementation of a health insurance program for graduate students, which will commence in the fall of 2007, a major tax inconvenience that students have faced will also be resolved. Taxes will be withheld from the stipend of all student contractors, thereby lessening the burden of having to pay estimated taxes, or getting hit with a large tax bill at the end of the year. This is great news for everyone and I would personally like to thank Dr. Metcalf for her hard work in securing this program for USU graduate students. In addition to the help this program will give current students, the contractor program will also be an attractive incentive for future students who may decide to join the student body here at USU.

In mentioning future students, I would like to remind the SOM Graduate Students that Open House is fast approaching (27 February). Because of this, the GSC is in need of students from each

willing department/program to host prospective students. If you would like to be a host, please e-mail your student representative or myself. As before, the departments/programs will be having dinner together the Sunday night before Open House (26 February). More information will be distributed via e-mail as the date approaches.

In closing, I would like to take a moment to wish everyone a Happy New Year. May your class work and/or research work be fruitful. May this year not only meet, but exceed, your expectations not only here at the university but in your daily life.

Good Luck,

Patrick M. High, MPH  
GSC President  
[phigh@usuhs.mil](mailto:phigh@usuhs.mil)

## MPS AND PMB WELCOME NEW FACULTY

The graduate students of the Medical and Clinical Psychology Program and students of the Preventive Medicine and Biometrics Program, along with the rest of the USU graduate student body, would like to extend a warm welcome to their new faculty! We welcome you with open and eager minds and would like to wish you the best of luck for a successful career here at USU!

### Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology

Marian Tanofsky-Kraff, Ph.D

Marjan Holloway, Ph.D

### Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics

Col Michael Ainscough

Col Steven Barnes

LtCol Darrell Criswell

CDR Russell Lawry

LCDR Greg Cook

MAJ Timothy (AJ) Kluchinsky, Jr

Col Mary Lopez

LCDR Michael Corriere

Dr. David Tribble

Dr. Rachel Wiezba

Col Scott Wagner

CDR Ellen Anderson

MAJ Kimberly Moran

Dr. Katherine Andersen

## THE SPOTLIGHT IS ON YOU!!

The following USU graduate students have had a successful quarter in the public eye! Congratulations to you all!

### Publications

#### **Joseph Novak, Dept. of Pathology**

As part of a joint project between the Marine Mammal Center, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP), Joe has published a paper in the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* entitled, "Infection with a novel herpesvirus in northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*)."  
(Goldstein et al., Vol 42, No. 4, October 2006)

### Guest Speaker Invitations

#### **John Trentini, Neuroscience (MD/PhD) Program**

John Trentini had previously published a paper in 2005 on the antinociceptive effects of acupressure in rats. For this paper, he had created a novel model for experimenting with acupressure in rats. He has been invited to speak on this topic at the Assessment and Treatment of Pain and Distress conference, which is being held in Boston, Mass in February. The title of his talk is, "Traditional Healing Techniques in the Modern Laboratory: The Analgesic Effect of Acupressure and Acupuncture in Animal Models."

### Poster Presentations

3 posters from the Medical and Clinical Psychology Program

*The International Psycho-oncology Society (IPOS) 8th World Congress in Venice Italy*

"Depressive Symptoms and Cognitive Limitations in Brain Tumor Survivors" **Liseth C. Calvio, Michael Feuerstein, Jennifer A. Hansen, Leigh G. Johnson, Jonne G. Ronquillo**

"Work productivity in brain tumor survivors: An emerging occupational health challenge" **Michael Feuerstein, Jennifer A. Hansen, Liseth C. Calvio, Leigh G. Johnson, Jonne G. Ronquillo**

*APA 2006 in NOLA*

"Factors Affecting Cognitive Limitations in Brain Tumor Survivors" **Liseth C. Calvio, Michael Feuerstein, Jennifer A. Hansen, Leigh G. Johnson, Jonne G. Ronquillo**

*Have you published, been asked to speak at a conference or presented posters and would like to be recognized? Please let us know! Contact your program representatives today!*

*“Only the curious will learn and only the resolute will overcome the obstacles to learning. The quest quotient has always excited me more than the intelligence quotient.”*  
~Edmund S. Wilson



*“Nature's laws govern which things can be done, and which can't. The trouble is, when we set out to do something, we don't always know which of these categories it's in.”*  
~Donald Simanek

## **EMMA L. BOCKMAN MEMORIAL AWARD 2007 GRADUATE STUDENT COMPETITION CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

Deadline: 23 March 2007

The Emma L. Bockman Memorial Fund was established in honor of the late Dr. Emma L. Bockman, an Associate Professor of Physiology at the Uniformed Services University from 1978 to 1985. Dr. Bockman's exceptional abilities as an educator and researcher were recognized both within the University and in the scientific community. Her dedication to teaching was felt by all that were fortunate enough to experience her Socratic methods. In her memory, the Emma L. Bockman Memorial Fund established an annual award that keeps her academic ideals and search for knowledge alive.

An award of \$750 will be given to a USUHS graduate student who best represents the ideals that were held by Dr. Bockman. The recipient of the award is selected competitively based upon the applicant's abstract of research proposed, completed, or in progress and academic performance and community service.

The Emma L. Bockman Award is intended to support scholarly endeavors that enhance the recipient's scientific career and may be used for such purposes that include purchase of supplies for a collaborative research project, payment of tuition for a special course to enhance the individual's scholarly capability, provide travel to a relevant scientific meeting or conference, or purchase equipment, books, or computer programs to support a scholarly effort.

To apply, a student should submit an abstract of 750 words or less briefly outlining a research project completed or in progress. The abstract must conform to the following format: Objective(s), Methods, Results, and Discussion. Alternatively, the abstract could describe an interesting research problem or proposal for scholarly activity to be performed, with a review of the relevant literature. The application must contain a statement of how the awardee will use the \$750 to enhance his or her academic career. The applicant must also supply USUHS transcripts, a curriculum vitae and a confidential letter from one faculty sponsor outlining faculty support and guidance and the student's scholarly ability, integrity, and contributions to the University. All application materials must be received by Dr. Tim O'Neill, Department of Pediatrics, Room C1069B, no later than 23 March 2007.

For further information contact Dr. Tim O'Neill.  
e-mail: [joneill@usuhs.mil](mailto:joneill@usuhs.mil)  
Telephone: 301-295-3354

Contributed by:  
Lisa Schwartz, Ph.D  
J. Timothy O'Neill, Ph.D



## CREATIVE FUNDING BY JULIE A. WU

Money. Everyone wants it and there never seems to be enough to go around, especially when you are a graduate student. Working on your Ph.D in the sciences is an often appreciated but underpaid job. USUHS is great in that it pays you for the first few years of school, but what happens after that? For many students, the answer to that question is, "my PI will pick up my stipend." For the fortunate ones their

PIs will fund their degree ambitions. What happens if your dream thesis project comes from a lab where there is no funding? What if you want to create your own project? What if you just want the experience of applying for your own grant—and all the headaches and potential prestige that come with it? All of your funding dreams can come true if you just know where to look.



*“Working on your Ph.D. in the sciences is an often appreciated but underpaid job.”*

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

For many students hunting for outside funding, the first stop is the NIH grants website. If you are a first or even second-year student, however, I would not start my search there. Did you know that the National Science Foundation (NSF) awards fellowships to new graduate students each year? The award is part of the NSF’s Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) and is geared toward students at the beginning

of their research training careers. An annual stipend of about \$30K over a three- to five-year period, including a one-time \$1000 travel award, is given to the winners in six different areas of research. The competition is fierce; your application will be in the running with those from college seniors as well as current graduate students from across the US. Keep in mind the NSF is really interested in your potential as a

future scientist, so you do not have to submit a CV that is 50 pages long or have years and years of experience to apply for this fellowship. Applications are due in late fall each year, so it might behoove you to think about applying soon if you are a first-year student.

Name: NSF GRFP  
 Website: [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=6201&org=NSF](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=6201&org=NSF)  
 2007 stipends: \$30,000  
 Additional award: \$1,000 one-time travel award  
 Length of funding: 3-5 years  
 Application deadline: November

## RUTH L. KIRSCHSTEIN NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD

Name: NIH NRSA  
 Website: <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/index.cfm>  
 Sponsoring institutes: NIA, NIAA, NIBIB, NIDCD, NIDA, NIMH, NINDS, & ODS  
 2006 stipends: \$20,772  
 Educational Expenses: \$3,100  
 Length of funding: 3-5 yrs.  
 Application deadline: rolling

A second significant funding opportunity is the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) for predoctoral students. If you receive NIH funding as a student it will not only help you (and your PI) monetarily but will also gain you NIH recognition before you have your own

lab. Keep in mind that the NIH standards in terms of the stipend is lower (~\$20K) than what USUHS currently pays (~\$24K). Your stipend can be supplemented by your PI, but you should not necessarily rely on their monetary support. Recipients of the NRSA also receive about \$3000 for education

costs and incidentals (i.e., health insurance and travel money). Applications for the NRSA are accepted throughout the year.

CREATIVE FUNDING CONT. FROM P. 2

**INTRAMURAL FELLOWSHIPS  
USUHS "TO" GRANT**

Each year USUHS awards in-house grants. These are available to matriculated students only. One is a small "TO" grant where the maximum award is \$2500. The TO grant is offered in the fall and students can apply for this grant for two years. This money basi-

cally covers the cost of lab supplies, but it is money that you have the power to use for your particular project. This is not your advisor's money. The application process is fairly simple and everyone who is eligible should apply.

Name: TO Grant  
Application form: USUHS Form 3202  
Award amount: max \$2,500  
Length of funding: 2 yrs.  
Application deadline: October

**HENRY M. JACKSON FOUNDATION AWARDS**

The second intramural fellowship is awarded by the Henry M. Jackson (HMJ) Foundation. HMJ gives out three awards each year, two Henry Jackson Fellowships and one Val G. Hemming Fellowship. The stipend

amount is \$25K for one year with a \$1000 travel award. Any student who has passed their qualifying exams and whose USUHS support has terminated can apply for these fellowships. In the past the most senior students who com-

Name: Henry M. Jackson Foundation Fellowships & Val G. Hemming Fellowship  
2006 award amount: \$25,000  
Additional award: \$1,000 travel award  
Length of funding: 1 yr.  
Application deadline: August  
Prerequisites: advancement to candidacy and termination of USUHS-supported stipend

pete (those in their fourth year or above) receive the awards, but this is not a hard and fast rule. Applications are due in late summer and funding begins at the start of the school year.

**OTHER CREATIVE FUNDING RESOURCES**

Name: AHRQ Grants for Health Services Research Dissertation (R36)  
Website: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/par-06-118.html>  
Sponsoring agency: NIH Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
2006 Stipends: max \$35,000  
Length of funding: no less than 9 months and no more than 17 months  
Application deadline: rolling

Name: National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship  
Website: <http://www.asee.org/ndseg>  
Sponsoring DoD agencies: Army Research Office; Office of Naval Research; Air Force Office of Scientific Research  
Award amount: \$30,500 (year 1); \$31,000 (year 2); \$31,500 (year 3)  
Length of funding: 3 yrs.  
Application deadline: January

Websites to check out:  
FastWeb: <http://www.FastWeb.com>  
Grantsnet (from AAAS): <http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/funding?CFID=164163&CFKTOKEN=26459182>

*In short, there is a plethora of funding opportunities out there. Be creative and look around. Money will always be an issue to a research scientist, but if you do some searching you might just find your little pot of gold.*



THEY MADE IT...WILL WE?  
STUDENTS WHO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED A THESIS  
OCTOBER 2006-JANUARY 2007

MASTER OF SCIENCE

**Carmen Contreras-Sesvold**, Neuroscience Program

Thesis Title: "Reactive Astrocytes: Phenotypic and Functional Characteristics and Astrocytes as Neural Stem Cells"

Advisor: Aviva Symes, Ph.D.

**Lotisha Garvin**, Emerging Infectious Diseases Program

Thesis Title: "Investigation of the Basis for Persistent Porin Serotypes of *Nisseria gonorrhoeae*"

Advisor: Ann Jerse, Ph.D.

**Jaimie Robinson**, Emerging Infectious Diseases Program

**Christie Oates**, Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology

Thesis Title: "Psychological and Metabolic Correlates of Obesity in African-Americans and Caucasians"

Advisor: Martha Faraday, Ph.D.

**Heather Rogers**, Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology

Thesis Title: "Cognitive Function and Emotional Status of Middle-Aged Chinese Hypertensive Patients without Detectable White Matter Brain Lesions or Lacunar Infarctions"

Advisor: David Krantz, Ph.D.

**Sarah T. Shafer**, Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology

Thesis Title: "Behavioral and Biological Effects of Housing Conditions and Stress in Male Rates – Relevance to Heart Disease"

Advisor: Neil Grunberg, Ph.D.

**Mark Sercovich**, Molecular and Cell Biology Program

Thesis Title: "Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 (HIV-1) Viral Protein R (Vpr)-Mediated Cell Cycle Arrest: An Analysis of Current Mechanistic Models"

Advisor: Chou-Zen Giam, Ph.D.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

**Kathleen Daddario-DiCaprio**, Department of Pathology (January 19, 2007)

Thesis Title: "Evaluation of the Protective Efficacy of Recombinant Vesicular Stomatitis Virus Vectors Against Marburg Hemorrhagic fever in Nonhuman Primate Models"

Advisor: Elliott Kagan, Ph.D.

**Ardath Grills**, Emerging Infectious Diseases Program

Thesis Title: "The Complexity of *Plasmodium falciparum* Infections in Children in Western Kenya"

Advisor: Ann Stewart, DVM, Ph.D.

**Erika Lamb**, Emerging Infectious Diseases Program

Thesis Title: "Blood Fluke Exploitation of Innate-Adaptive Immune Interactions to Facilitate Parasite Development"

Advisor: Stephen Davies, Ph.D.

*We know very little,  
and yet it is  
astonishing that we  
know so much, and  
still more  
astonishing that so  
little knowledge can  
give us so much  
power.*

*~Bertrand Russell*



## USU Career Day WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

What do you want to be when you grow up? What might help you along the way? The USU Graduate Education Office would like your help in planning a successful Career Day this year. This is being held to benefit us, the graduate students, so please take a moment to consider the following questions and please *email your answers to Bethanie Morrison at [bmorrison@usuhs.mil](mailto:bmorrison@usuhs.mil) ASAP*. Please help us to make Career Day 2007 a huge success!!!

1. Upon completion of your MS or Ph.D, are you planning on pursuing a traditional academic career? If not, what are your tentative plans?
2. Are you planning on pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship upon receipt of your Ph.D?
3. Would you benefit from listening to speakers discuss alternative careers away from the ivory tower such as patent law or science policy?
4. What would YOU really like to learn about at career day?

### SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 26th:** 4-6pm, GSC Monthly Happy Hour, NNMC Bowling Alley
- January 29th:** Spring Quarter Registration Begins
- February 16th:** Winter Quarter Ends
- February 19th:** President's Day (holiday)
- February 23rd:** 4-6pm, GSC Monthly Happy Hour, NNMC Bowling Alley
- February 25th:** Open House Graduate Student Dinner with Prospective Students, time and place TBA
- February 26th:** OPEN HOUSE, more details TBA
- March 17th:** Spring Recess Begins
- March 30th:** 4-6pm, GSC Monthly Happy Hour, NNMC Bowling Alley



*..people today are so accustomed to pretentious nonsense that they see nothing amiss in reading without understanding, and many of them at length discover that they can without difficulty write in like manner themselves and win applause for it. And so it perpetuates itself.*

~G.A. Wells





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2006-2007*

Editor-in-Chief :  
Bethanie L. Morrison

Winter Contributions Made by:  
Julie A. Wu  
Patrick M. High  
Bethanie L. Morrison  
Lisa Schwartz, Ph.D  
J. Timothy O'Neill, Ph.D

Interested in contributing to your graduate student newsletter? We're very interested in hearing from you! Please email Bethanie Morrison at [bmorrison@usuhs.mil](mailto:bmorrison@usuhs.mil) with any ideas, comments, or questions. Thank you!

*"The graduate programs in biomedical sciences and public health in the USU School of Medicine are committed to excellence in the didactic and research training of masters and doctoral degree students. We believe graduate students comprise important and integral components of the academic mission and scholarly environment of USU." "Our graduates are prepared for productive and rewarding careers in many areas of the biomedical sciences and public health. USU graduates serve the nation in public service, create new knowledge, train the next generation of scientists, and/or contribute to the advancement of health and science in both public and private positions."*

*Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences  
<http://www.usuhs.mil/geo>.*



## 2006-2007 GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

### Meet your 2006-2007 Graduate Student Council!



**Michelle Colacicco, M.S. (Preventive Medicine and Biometrics representative)**  
**Jeremy Henriques (Neuroscience representative)**  
**Patrick High, MPH (GSC President)**  
**Bethanie Morrison (Pathology representative)**



**Robyn Osborn, M.A., M.S. (Medical and Clinical Psychology representative)**  
**Brett Swierczewski (Emerging Infectious Diseases representative)**  
**Julie Wu (Molecular and Cellular Biology representative)**