



Special points of
interest:

- Website is up and running! Visit at <http://www.usuhs.mil/geo/gsa>
- Any questions/suggestions about the website, email Briana Johnson (bjohnson@usuhs.mil) or Rob Clark (rclark@usuhs.mil)

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GSC President's Report

By Patrick High

Dear Students,

Allow me to introduce myself. I am a 3rd year Doctor of Public Health (Dr. P.H.) student in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics (PMB). I am President of the Graduate Student Council (GSC) and represent all graduate students on the Graduate Education Committee (GEC). I will discuss each of these committees below.

The GSC works to improve USU graduate student life by addressing student concerns as well as working to build a sense of community amongst the students. The GSC held its annual Graduate Student Picnic on September 17th and we had our first Happy Hour at the NNMC Bowling Alley on September 29th. The Happy Hour will continue to be held at the NNMC Bowling Alley on the last Friday of every month from 4pm to 6pm through April 2007. This is meant to be an opportunity for the graduate students to relax, have a drink, bowl and get to know other members of the graduate community. To improve on the success of these events, the GSC strongly urges each of you to add our events to your calendar and make an effort to attend. Other upcoming events include a Holiday Party at NNMC and a Bake Sale the week after Thanksgiving. The goal of the Bake Sale is to raise money for the GSC to continue to host social events for the graduate students and sponsor other activities as necessary. Additionally, the GSC has begun publishing a quarterly newsletter of which this is the first issue.

The GSC also works to address student concerns such as health insurance and taxes. The GSC has been meeting monthly with Dr. Metcalf, Associate Dean of Graduate Education, to determine what the university is doing to meet the health insurance needs and tax concerns of its civilian graduate students. Additionally, as President of the GSC, I have been addressing these concerns with the GEC at monthly meetings.

The GEC is a standing committee composed of faculty and the GSC President and is responsible for periodic review of policies and procedures governing Graduate Education. The GEC also advises the Associate Dean of Graduate Education and recommends action regarding Graduate Education to the Dean of the School of Medicine. Specifically, the GEC is to "[r]eview, and recommend to the Associate Dean, GEO, changes in USUHS programs and resources that would benefit student life, including health insurance..." and "adequacy of level of graduate student stipends" (Instruction 1320). Because health insurance and taxes have continuously been expressed as concerns by the students, and are specifically mentioned in the GEC Instructions, I am working to obtain a resolution of these concerns. For far too long these issues have distressed students and I will work with the GEC to ensure that taxes and health insurance issues are not easily dismissed. Please know that I am working diligently on these two concerns and will continue to do so during my tenure as your GSC President.

If you have any comments or concerns regarding any student issues you feel the GSC should address please contact your GSC representative or myself at phigh@usuhs.mil. All correspondences will be kept confidential and no names will be released without your prior consent.

Sincerely,

Patrick M High, Graduate Student Council President



Patrick M. High,
GSC President
2006-2007

Lymphomaniacs: The Other USUHS Softball Team

By **Jeremy Hershfield, Ph.D**

Since the early 1980s, USUHS graduate students, alumni, and faculty, as well as family and friends, have competed on Montgomery County fields in the NIH Summer Softball League as the Lymphomaniacs. The slow-pitch softball season usually begins by the end of April and concludes in August. Games are held once a week, Monday through Thursday, at 6:15PM on county fields such as Arcola, Arylawn, Randolph Hills, and Newport Mills. The co-ed team consists of either 6 men and 4 women or 5 men and 5 women on the field at all times. Everybody who shows up to play is included in the batting lineup, which alternates men and women.

There are no substitution rules, so players can freely enter, exit, and re-enter games. The goal of the NIH league is for everybody to have fun, so playing time is divided as evenly as possible for those in attendance. Games last 7 innings, unless one team is ahead by 12 or more runs after 5 innings. While women may bat from their natural side, guys are required to bat using their opposite-hand. This rule, which makes the game safer for the soft-toss pitcher and more challenging for men, distinguishes the NIH league from the NNMC league, which consists of mostly uniformed-personnel.



“Everybody who shows up to play is included in the batting lineup, which alternates men and women.”

2006 Lymphomaniacs

The 2006 Lymphomaniacs played a highly exciting season and finished with a 6-5 record. Following the regular season, each team participates in a double elimination tournament. As the #5 (of 12) seed in the tournament, the Lymphos won their first playoff game before losing twice to end the season. The winner of the tournament was the Co-Wrecks.



Your 2006
Lymphomaniacs

The coach for the 2007 season will be Nicole Flint (nflint@usuhs.mil). No matter what your baseball/softball experience, all graduate students are encouraged to join the Lymphomaniacs! Friends and family (18 years and older) are encouraged to play as well. Gloves and non-metal cleats are required; the team provides bats, bases, and balls. It is an extremely fun

2006 Lymphomaniacs Roster

Name	Affiliation	Position(s)	Years
Brett Cole	Spouse	2B/OF	1
Jess Cole	EID	C/LF/3B	1
Tammy Crowder	NES Alumnus	1B	>5
Rob Cybulski	EID	OF/2B	1
Chris Erdmann	Friend	OF	1
Nicole Flint	NES	3B/LF	2
Jeremy Hershfield	MCB Alumnus	OF/2B	3
Jeremy Henriques	NES	SS	2
Kenny Lin	EID	OF	1
Sean Manion	NES Alumnus	P/SS	>5
Megan Masterson	NES	1B	1
Peter Okagaki	USUHS Staff	OF	2
John Pesce	MCB Alumnus	SS	>5
Tara Romanczyk	NES	3B	>5
John Rosenberger	USUHS Staff	OF	>20
Ashley Stone	Friend	LF/3B	1
Rachel Vonck	EID	C/3B/LF	1
Doug Warner	EID	P	5

experience and a chance to make new friends, enjoy the outdoors, hone your competitive spirit, and take a break from lab and class work! If you have any questions about the team and/or the league, please contact Nicole or previous coaches: jherhshfield@usuhs.mil, smanion@usuhs.mil, or jrosenberger@usuhs.mil.

The Cup of Champions By Jeremy Henriques



Congratulations to the winners of the "Picnic of Champions Cup", NES/ MCB! The Cup is proudly displayed the NES/MCB

The Cup common room for the entire world to see. In light of the fact that some programs had a better showing than others and the games may not have been the most optimal for everyone, the GSC has decided to make the Cup competi-

tion an open event throughout the year! What this means is that any program can, at any time, challenge the holders of the Cup to a match in any sport. This challenge should proceed through the GSC representatives and must be accepted by the champions in order to be valid. The champions are obligated to answer the challenge unless circumstances prohibit them from doing so (i.e., too few members for the game proposed, like volleyball for a one person program). The logistics of the event will be worked out between the program representatives or the designated

persons for that event. It is not yet clear as to how the score will be tallied up for the annual Picnic of Champions, but throughout the year, as programs win the challenges, they then obtain the right to hold and display the Cup until they lose their next challenge.

So let the games begin and I hope someone out there has the nerve to take on the NES /MCB sporting juggernaut.

"Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration."

-Thomas Alva

Meet the New Students!



Ellen Mueller, EID



Lydia Kuykendal, EID



Stephanie Ford-Molvik



Zakiya James, EID

Ellen Mueller is from St. Paul, MN. She recently received her B.S in Biology from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. Ellen minored in chemistry.

Lydia Kuykendal, B.S. Biomedical Engineering, North Carolina State University, MPH Epidemiology, Tulane University. She has a twin sister, loves rainbows, kittens, and the sound of children laughing.

Stephanie Ford-Molvik earned undergraduate degrees in Biology and Environmental Science from the College of William and Mary in 2003, as well as an MPH from Eastern Virginia Medical School in 2005. Stephanie would like to work in biodefense when she grows up.



David Cho, MCB



Rachael Nhan, MCB

EID

David Cho came to USUHS in order to reach his full potential.

Rachael Nhan comes to USUHS to expand her horizons.



Travis Lundell, NES



Konstantina Vanevski, NES



Amanda Hirschy, NES



John Trentini, NES

Travis Lundell is interested in finding new approaches for treating demyelinating diseases such as leukodystrophies and Multiple Sclerosis.

Konstantina Vanevski is a native of the Republic of Macedonia and brings into the NES program more than 10 years of Clinical/Postdoctoral expertise in the areas of Developmental and Neuro-Endocrinology, coupled with solid experience in Neuroimmunology. Precipitating factor in her decision to further pursue her academic career in Neurosciences as opposed to her lifelong aspiration toward the field of Pharmacology was the sudden loss of her beloved father, Gen. (ret.) Metodija N. Vanevski to a stroke.

Gwen Horvorka is from Kanasa, but she believes in Evolution and looks forward to investigating anything relating to how biology effects behavior.



Parwana Ashari, NES



Rachael Ribeiro, NES



Gwen Horvorka, NES

They Made It.....Will We?

Students Who Have Successfully Defended a Thesis Since August 2006



Robert Anthony, Molecular and Cellular Biology Program

Thesis Title: "Characterization and Function of Inflammation to the Gastrointestinal Nematode Parasite Infection: New Insights into Protective Peripheral Th2 Responses" Advisor: William Gause, Ph.D

Greg Cook, Department of Preventative Medicine and Biometrics

Thesis Title: "Improving Ion Mobility Spectrometry Detection Methods for Trace Forensics and Military Field Applications" Advisor: CDR Gary Hook

LCDR David Florin, USN, Department of Preventative Medicine and Biometrics

Thesis Title: Morphometric and Molecular Analyses of the Sand Fly Species *Lutzomyia shannoni* (Dyar 1929) (Diptera: Psychodidae: Phlebotiminae) Collected from Seven Different Geographical Areas in the United States" Advisor: Philip Lawyer, Ph.D

Jeremy Hershfield, Molecular and Cellular Biology Program

Thesis Title: "The Molecular Basis of Canavan Disease: Aspartoacylase Enzyme Characteristics" Advisor: Aryan Namboodiri, Ph.D

Katherine Lee, Emerging Infectious Disease Program

Thesis Title: "The Host Immune Response to *Streptococcus pneumoniae*: Bridging Innate and Adaptive Immunity" Advisor: Clifford Snapper, M.D

Sean Manion, Neuroscience Program

Thesis Title: " $\alpha 1$ Adrenoceptors, Amygdala and Anxiety: Investigations Utilizing a Rodent Model of Traumatic Stress" Advisor: He Li, Ph.D.

LTC Joseph O'Sullivan, Neuroscience Program

Thesis Title: "The Effect of Diazoxide Upon Heat Shock Protein and Physiological Response to Hemorrhagic Shock and Cerebral" Advisor: Joseph McCabe, Ph.D

Jeremy Rossman, Emerging Infectious Diseases Program

Thesis Title: "Spatial-Temporal Mapping of the T Cell Receptor $\text{Nf-}\kappa\text{B}$ Signaling Pathway" Advisor: Brian Schaefer, Ph.D

Adam Vana, Neuroscience Program

Thesis Title: "The Oligodendrocyte Progenitor Response to Demyelination" Advisor: Regina Armstrong, Ph.D

"In science, the credit goes to the man who convinces the world, not to the man to whom the idea first occurred."

- Sir William Osler
(1849-1919)

Sean Manion, Ph.D



Congratulations to you all!

Graduate Students and Health Insurance

By Patrick High

The GSC has been working for approximately six months to inform and educate Dr. Metcalf, the Associate Dean of Graduate Education, of the health insurance concerns of the civilian graduate students. This process has involved inviting Dr. Metcalf to monthly GSC meetings and listening to what she has been doing to solve this issue for the students. Unfortunately, it turns out that the process of trying to obtain health insurance for civilian graduate students at a federal institution is too large a burden for any one person to solve. The matter has therefore been taken to the GEC for further analysis and review.

Since the GEC was first made aware of this issue, a member of the committee has inquired at other graduate institutions in order to get an idea as to how health insurance at other universities is handled. The conclusion from this ad hoc investigation is that students at other universities primarily obtain medical treatment through a university student health facility, which is covered by the student health insurance contracted through said university. However, some universities do offer additional insurance to cover major medical costs. These universities generally supplement the NIH-standardized graduate student stipend to offset the costs of purchasing this health insurance.

If you have had problems obtaining health insurance either because of its cost or a pre-existing condition, please contact your graduate student representative. The GSC will document these problems and bring them to the attention of the GEC. Additionally, if you have had problems with your health insurance company not providing the benefits they are supposed to provide, please send that information through your representative to the GSC as well. This data collection will help the GSC provide concrete examples of the troubles students are having with purchasing their own health insurance and will help facilitate the discussion with the GEC in moving this issue further along to a satisfactory resolution.



“A man must have a certain amount of intellectual ignorance to get anywhere.”

-Charles Franklin Kettering (1876-1958)



Upcoming GSC Sponsored Events

- ◆ Sunday, October 15, 2006: Vol 1, Issue 1 of GSC Newsletter
- ◆ Friday, October 27th, 4-6pm: Graduate Student Happy Hour at NNMC Bowling Alley
- ◆ Friday, November 17th, 4-6pm: Graduate Student Happy Hour at NNMC
- ◆ Wednesday-Thursday November 29-30th: 11-1pm: Bake Sale!
- ◆ Thursday, December 7th, 6-8pm: Graduate Student Holiday Party at NNMC



Congratulations!

Sari Diana Schwartz, a Ph.D Candidate in the Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology, became Sari Diana Holmes on April 9th 2006 when she married long time boyfriend Andrew Devoy Holmes. The two celebrated their marriage with a beautiful ceremony at Swan Manor in Monroe, NC. Congratulations Sari!

1LT Kendra Fletcher, a 2nd year Masters of Public Health student, was promoted to Captain on September 24th 2006. Congratulations Kendra!

Robyn Osborn, a 4th year dual-track Ph.D Candidate in the Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology, became engaged to her boyfriend of four and a half years, Mike Freed, on August 24th. The couple met while graduate students at American University. The wedding is planned for May 20th 2007 in the Bahamas. Congratulations Robyn!

Patrick High, a Dr.PH Candidate, has been awarded an R36 Dissertation Grant in the amount of \$17,892 to be used toward completing his dissertation on, "HIV/AIDS Risk Assessment Practices Among Primary Care Physicians: A National Survey" by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Congratulations Patrick!

Have any news? Please let us know and we'll be sure to spread the word!!





USUHS Graduate Student Council
Newsletter 2006-2007

Editor-in-Chief :
Bethanie L. Morrison

Fall 2006 Articles by:
Jeremy Hershfield, Ph.D
Jeremy Henriques
Patrick M. High

Interested in contributing to your graduate student newsletter? We're very interested in hearing from you! Please email Bethanie Morrison at 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)