



October 6, 2008
Volume 3, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

<i>New Students</i>	2
<i>Brain Awareness Week</i>	4
<i>Thesis and Dissertation Defenses</i>	5
<i>Faculty and Student Accomplishments</i>	6
<i>Announcements</i>	7
<i>Publications</i>	7
<i>Event Pictures</i>	8
<i>Calendar</i>	9
<i>GSC Information</i>	10

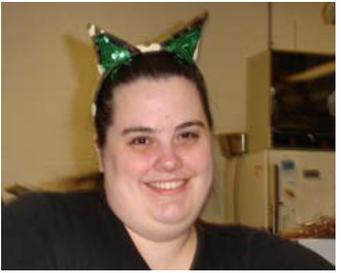
GSC President's Report

Hello. Let me introduce myself. My name is Kathy Jones, and I am a graduate student in the Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) programs. I am part of Dr. Scotty Merrell's lab, working on *Helicobacter pylori*. I also have the privilege of being the President of the Graduate Student Council (GSC), your representative on the Graduate Education Committee (GEC), and a member of the Combined Student Council (CSC). I was lucky enough to play this role last year as well.

The Graduate Student Council job is to serve as an advocate for USU graduate students and to try to create/maintain a sense of community among the various programs

and departments. To this end, the GSC has many things planned for this year, such as a picnic at the end of September/early October. We are also planning on a Bake Sale this fall/winter to raise money for the GSC that will allow us to sponsor future activities for you. The GSC is also planning a Holiday Party, which is traditionally held in the bowling alley.

It is my honor to introduce you to this year's GSC. You have a terrific group of departmental/program representatives this year (see below to find your departmental/program rep). If you have any concerns, comments, or questions, you feel that I or the GSC should address, please



*Kathy Jones, GSC President
2008-2009*

feel free to contact your representative or myself. I can be found on the fourth floor of B building (B4137) or through email at kajones@usuhs.mil. Your correspondences will be kept confidential should you wish.

Special points of interest:

- Welcome New Students to USU!
- Check out pictures from the Open House, Orientation Picnic, and Brain Awareness Week
- See what interesting things our faculty and students have been up to

New Student Picnic is a Success!

The new school year has gotten off to a great start with Orientation and the New Student Welcome Picnic. We had a great turnout of students faculty, and staff from the different programs. The Graduate Student Council expresses their gratitude to the students who brought food and drinks, and those who helped us set up and

clean up. Furthermore, the GSC is grateful for the continuing support of the Graduate Education Office to make our activities

Please turn to Page 3 for some more great pictures from the Orientation Picnic, and February's Open House!



Welcome New Students to USU!

Emerging Infectious Diseases



Sandra Bixler



Kim Bliven



Jeremy Gilbreath



Anita Marinelli



Christopher Mor



Jennifer Nguyen



My Nguyen



Lisa Russo



Timothy Straight



Melissa Taylor



Michael



Camila Almeida



Michael Budinich



Trevor Logan



Eric Prager

Neuroscience

Medical & Clinical Psychology



Michal Moskowitz



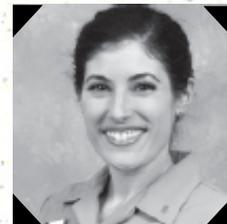
Amanda Berg



Nadine Bekkouche



Brianna George



Nicole Panos



Greg Rivers



Aimee Ruscio



Brianna Todd

Molecular & Cell Biology



Alyssa Flora



Stephanie Fonesca



Derek Holman



Omar Larco



Genevieve Sullivan



Jacqueline Surls

Preventive Medicine & Biometrics



Valerie Boswell



Mark Brown



Shawn Clausen



Jennifer Curry



Clifton Dabbs



Michael Drulis



Jamie Fargus



Hope Fariior



Shawn Garcia



Alyce Girardi



Tifani Grizzell



Aatif Hayat



Ewell Hollis



Jeremiah Johnson



Jane Klingenberger



Jeffrey LaRochelle



Roxanne Landesman



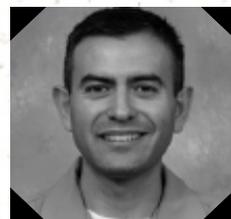
Renee Mallory



Joseph Martin



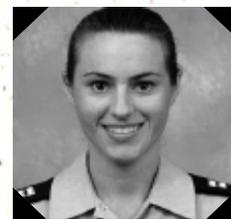
Marcus Moss



Ricardo Murga



Sherri Olageshin



Erin Richards



Caesar Sarmiento



Giselle Soto



Jeremiah Stubbs



Brigilda Teneza



April Verlo



Claudine Ward



Kenneth Yew

NES Graduate Students Teach Local School Children About the Brain

This year's Brain Awareness Week (BAW) was March 10-16, and activities were held at the National Museum of Health and Medicine at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Throughout the week, neuroscientists from USUHS, Georgetown University, George Washington University, the NIH, and other local health organizations, demonstrated to area elementary and junior-high students why they are fascinated in researching and teaching neuro-

science. The Society for Neuroscience and The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives have united to organize the annual BAW to advocate brain and neuroscience research. Neuroscience education events are held around the world during BAW to increase and advance public awareness about the progress and promise of brain research, and to inspire the next generation of neuroscientists.

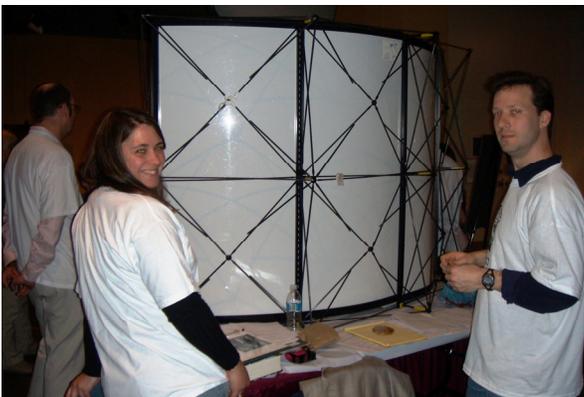
On March 10, 2008, USUHS graduate students participated

in BAW, along with USUHS faculty and post-doctoral fellows, all members associated with the Potomac Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience. They presented an interactive display educating the students about the brain's processing of the five senses and discussed the comparative anatomy in brain areas used for sensation between humans and other

Right: Rachel Ribeiro and Norah Harwood take the stage as Amy Starosciak observes.



Above: Sean Manion, Ph.D. explaining to students about the five senses.



Above: Amy Starosciak and Dr. Sean Manion take a break behind the setup.

Right: The NES group that participated in Brain Awareness Week. Top Row: Norah Harwood, Dr. Luke Johnson, Joseph Abbab, Amy Starosciak. Bottom Row: Rachel Ribeiro, Dr. Sean Manion, Felicia Qashu.



USU Research Week 2008

This year, Research Week was held May 12-14 and encompassed a great deal of important and interesting research being conducted by faculty and students at USU.

According to the Research Week website, the purpose of Research Week is to: "promote research by faculty, staff and students at USU and

its affiliate institutions; to provide opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration; and to facilitate communication among USU graduate students and faculty." This program of events was originally designed to reflect the symbiotic roles that nursing, public health, science, and medicine play in

health promotion and advocacy. All presentations helped demonstrate USU's role advancing military and civilian medicine. Graduate student winners included Robert Cybulski (EID) for best oral presentation, Julie Wu (MCB, '08) for best poster, Lara Kingeter (EID) won the Emma Bockman Award.

"They serve to inform the local scientific community, collaborative institutions, and other federal agencies about significant research projects conducted across the health sciences at USU."

Successful Thesis and Dissertation Defenses

Masters Theses

LT Lisseth Calvio, USN (Advisor: Michael Feuerstein, Ph.D., MPS)
 “Patient Reported Cognitive Limitations in Brain Tumor Survivors”

LTJG Angeliq DeMocada, USN (Advisor: Willem Kop, Ph.D., MPS)
 “Association of Optimism with Emotional and Cardiovascular Reactivity in Coronary Patients, and Healthy Controls”

Briana Johnson (Advisor: Gabriela Dveksler, Ph.D.; PATH)
 “Pregnancy Specific Glycoprotein 23 binds to CD151 and Induces the Secretion of IL-10 and TGF- β 1 in Murine Macrophages”

Kristen Hamilton (Advisor: Neil Grunberg, Ph.D.; MPS)
 “Effects of Nicotine Withdrawal in Adult Male and Female Rats”

John Karaian (Advisor: Elliott Kagan, M.D; MCB)
 “Use of Isolated Mitochondria and Pulmonary Artery Endothelial Cell Systems in Studies of Oxygen Utilization and the Effects of Hemoglobin-based Oxygen Carriers”

Mazen Makarem (Advisor: Brian Schaefer, Ph.D.; MCB)
 “Role of Regulatory Immune Responses in the Pathogenesis of Schistosomiasis”

MAJ Michael Perry, USA (Advisor: Neil Grunberg, Ph.D.; MPS)
 “Adolescent Rats Differ by Genetic Strain in Response to Nicotine Withdrawal”

2nd Lt Crescent Seibert, USAF (Advisor: Tracy Sbrocco, Ph.D.; MPS)
 “Demographic, Psychological, and Weight-Related Correlates of Weight Control Behaviors Among Active Duty Military Personnel”

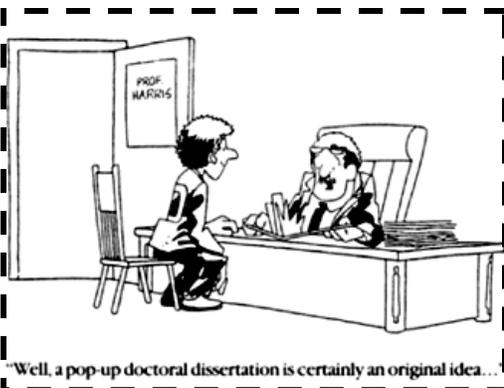
Doctor of Public Health Dissertations

Patrick High (Advisor: Deborah Girasek, Ph.D.)
 “HIV Risk Assessment Practices of Primary Care Physicians: A National Study”

Doctor of Philosophy Dissertations

Gouri Chattopadhyay (Advisor: Clifford Snapper, M.D.; PATH)
 “The Regulation of Polysaccharide Specific Humoral Immune Response Against Intact Streptococcus Pneumoniae”

CPT Robert Cybulski, Jr., MS, USA (Advisor: Alison O'Brien, Ph.D.; EID)
 “Functional and Immunological Analyses of Superoxide Dismutases and Other Spore-Associated Proteins of *Bacillus anthracis*”



Heather Rogers (Advisor: David Krantz, Ph.D.; MPS)
 “Social Support, Acute Coronary Syndromes, and Heart Failure: The Role of Inflammatory Processes”

CDR Rita Simmons (Advisor: CDR Rene Hernandez; Mil. Emerg. Med.)
 “The Efficacy of Intranasal Scopolamine and Oral Dextroamphetamine as Motion Sickness Countermeasures in Operational Environments”

Quick Stats

USU Degrees Conferred:

Doctor of Philosophy - 311
 Doctor of Public Health - 21
 Master of Science - 105
 Master of Public Health - 570
 Master of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene - 38
 Master of Military Medical History - 4
 Master of Science in Public Health - 28
 Master of Comparative Medicine - 3

“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 (1872-1970)
 English philosopher

Ryan Jochim (Advisor: Jesus Valenzuela, Ph.D.; EID)
 “A Functional Transcriptomic Approach to Understanding the Sand Fly Vector Relationships to the Host and Leshmania Parasites”

Cheol Lee (Advisor: Denes Agoston, M.D., Ph.D.; NES)
 “The Influence of Intrinsic and Extrinsic Factors on Neurogenesis”

Thomas McFate (Advisor: Ajay Verma, M.D., Ph.D.; NES)
 “The Causes and Consequences of Altered Glucose Metabolism in Cancer”

Maj Christie Oates, USAF (Advisor: Neil Grunberg, Ph.D.; MPS)
 “Effects of Repeated Acute Stress in Obese and Non-obese Rats”

MAJ Ricardo Reyes, MS, USA (Advisor: Alex Romanyukha, Ph.D.; PMB)
 “Study of EPR/ESR Dosimetry in Fingernails as a Method for Assessing Dose of Victims of Radiological Accidents/Incidents”



Successful Thesis and Dissertation Defenses (cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

Cristina Stoica-Nazarov (Advisor: Teodor Brumeanu, M.D.; MCB)

"Mechanisms for Development and Function of Foxp3+ Regulatory T Cells"

Sam Vasilevsky (Advisor: Clifford Snapper, M.D.; MCB)

"The Importance of TLR2 and Macrophages in Modulating a Humoral Response after Encountering *Streptococcus pneumoniae*"

Julie Wu (Advisor: Gabriela Dveksler, Ph.D.; MCB)

"Induction of Pro-Angiogenic Factors by Pregnancy-Specific Glycoproteins and Studies on Receptor Usage"



Accomplishments, Achievements, Awards and Honors

Cinda Helke Travel Award Recipients

Shannon Branlund (MPS), Beth Carpenter (EID), Reyda Gonzalez-Nieves (MCB), Kristen Hamilton (MPS), Andrew Hickey (EID), and Krystle Mohawk (EID)

Grant and Fellowship Recipients

Cherise Harrington and Sari Holmes (both MPS) received Henry M. Jackson Foundation fellowships

Beth Carpenter (EID) received the Val G. Hemming Fellowship

Dr. Marian Tanovsky-Kraff (MPS) received an RO1 from NIDDK, NIH to prevent excessive weight gain in adolescent girls who are at risk for adult obesity

Dr. Lauren Shomaker (postdoctoral fellow, MPS) received a NRSA from NICHD, NIH to study eating behaviors in adolescents; she won a travel fellowship award from the NIMH/Academy of Eating Disorders



Other Achievements, Awards and Honors

Dr. Neil Grunberg (MPS, NES) received the 2008 Cinda Helke Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Advocacy and the USU 2008 Outstanding Biomedical Graduate Educator Award for his continuing support of the USU graduate students, and his exemplary contributions to enhancing student welfare and education; he was elected as USU Faculty Senate President.

Dr. Marian Tanovsky-Kraff (MPS) was inducted as a fellow to the Academy of Eating Disorders (AED)

Dr. Diane Borst (NES) was elected as chairman of the program committee for the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Section of ARVO (Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology), to review submitted abstracts and travel grants as well as organize scientific sessions for the annual meeting.

Dr. Marjan Holloway (MPS) has been awarded the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD) Young Investigator Award.

Dr. Michael Feuerstein received approval in July 2008 from the National Library of Medicine to include the Journal of Cancer Survivorship: Research and Practice on PubMed/Medline

Dr. Sharon Juliano (MCB, NES) took over the role of director of Neuroscience from Dr. Regina Armstrong (MCB, NES), who is now the acting director for the Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine, which aims at gaining a better understanding of brain trauma specific to military medicine (e.g., traumatic brain injury) to enhance diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Mick Drulis (PMB) became certified as a Registered Environmental health Specialist.

Invited Talks and Lectures

John Trentini (NES) was invited to give a series of lectures at St. Lawrence University (Canton, NY) on various subjects, including: the ethical challenges faced by military physicians; the physiological challenges flying high performance aircraft; and the effects of prenatal carbon monoxide on neocortical development.

Kristen Hamilton (MPS) orally presented her research findings on the effects of stress on nicotine sensitization in impulsive rats at the annual College on Problems of Drug Dependence.



Recent Publications

Tanofsky-Kraff, M., Yanovski, S. Z., Schvey, N. A., Olsen, C. H., Gustafson, J. & Yanovski, J. A. (In press). A prospective study of loss of control (LOC) eating for body weight gain in children at high-risk for adult obesity. *International Journal of Eating Disorders*.

Tanofsky-Kraff, M., Marcus, M. D., Yanovski, S. Z., & Yanovski, J. A. (2008). Loss of control eating disorder in children age 12y and younger: Proposed research criteria. *Eating Behaviors, 9*, 360-365.

Goldschmidt, A.S., **Tanofsky-Kraff, M.**, Goossens, L., Eddy, K. T., Ringham, R., Yanovski, S.Z., Braet, C., Marcus, M.D., Wilfley, D. E., & Yanovski, J.A. (2008). Subtyping children and adolescents with loss of control eating by negative affect and dietary restraint. *Behaviour Research and Therapy, 46*, 777-787.

Tanofsky-Kraff, M., Ranzenhofer, L. M., Yanovski, S. Z., Schvey, N. A., Faith, M., Gustafson, J. & Yanovski, J. A. (2008). Psychometric properties of a new questionnaire to assess eating in the absence of hunger in children and adolescents. *Appetite, 51*, 148-155.

Goldschmidt, A.S., **Tanofsky-Kraff, M.**, Goossens, L., Eddy, K. T., Ringham, R., Yanovski, S.Z., Braet, C., Marcus, M.D., Wilfley, D. E., & Yanovski, J.A. (2008). Subtyping children and adolescents with loss of control eating by negative affect and dietary restraint. *Behaviour Research and Therapy, 46*, 777-787.

Tanofsky-Kraff, M., Ranzenhofer, L. M., Yanovski, S. Z., Schvey, N. A., Faith, M., Gustafson, J. & Yanovski, J. A. (2008). Psychometric properties of a new questionnaire to assess eating in the absence of hunger in children and adolescents. *Appetite, 51*, 148-155.

Grunberg, N.E., Berger, S.S., & Starosciak, A.K. (in press). Tobacco Use: Psychology, Neurobiology, & Clinical Implications. In: Baum, A.S., Revenson, T.A., & Singer, J.E (Eds.) *Handbook of Health Psychology, 2nd Edition*. Psychology Press.

Grunberg, N.E. & Starosciak, A.S. (in press). Nicotine. In: Koob, G.F., Thompson, R.F., & LeMoal, M. (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of Behavioral Neuroscience*. Oxford: Elsevier.

Grunberg, N.E., Berger, S.S., & Hamilton, K.R. (in press). Stress and Drug Use. In: Contrada, R.J. & Baum, A.S. (Eds.) *The Handbook of Stress: Science: Psychology, Biology, and Health*. New York: Springer Publishing Company.

Hamilton, K.R., Berger, S.S., Perry, M.E., & Grunberg, N.E. (under review). Behavioral effects of nicotine withdrawal in adult male and female rats. *Pharmacology, Biochemistry & Behavior*.

Starosciak, A.K., Kalola, R.P., Perkins, K.P., Riley, J.A., & Saidel, W.M. (2008). Fast and singular electromyograms initiate the startle response of *Pantodon buchholzi* (Osteoglossomorpha). *Brain, Behavior and Evolution, 71*(2), 100-114.

Polsomboon, S., Poolprasert, P., Bangs, M.J., **Suwonkerd, W., Grieco, J.P., Achee, N.L.**, Parbaripai, A. and **Chareonviriyaphap, T.** 2008. Effects of physiological conditioning on behavioral avoidance by using a single age group of *Aedes aegypti* exposed to Deltamethrin and DDT. *J Med Entomol* 45(2): 251-259.

Achee, N.L., McLean-Cooper, N., Tolbert, T., Williams, L.T.C. J. & Grieco, J.P. (2008) Space optimization method of laboratory production of *Aedes aegypti*. *J Am Mosq Control Assoc* (accepted)

Mirabello, L., Vineis, J.H., Yanoviak, S.P., Scarpassa, V.M., Povoia, M.M., Padilla, N., **Achee, N.L.** & Conn, J.E. (2008) Microsatellite data suggest significant population structure and differentiation within the malaria vector *Anopheles darlingi* in Central and South America. *J. BMC Ecology*, 8:3.

Gilliland WR, **LaRochelle J**, Hawkins R, Dillon F, Mechaber AJ, Dyrbye L, Papp KK, Durning SJ. (2008) Changes in clinical skills education resulting from the introduction of the USMLE step 2 clinical skills (CS) examination. *Med Teach* 30(3):325-7.

Dorrance KA, Denton GD, Poremba J, **LaRochelle J**, Nasir J, Arygyros G, Durning SJ. (2008) An Internal Medicine interest group research program can improve scholarly productivity of medical students and foster mentoring relationships with internists. *TLM*. 20(2):163-7.

Student and Faculty Announcements

Births

Travis Lundell (NES) welcomed 2nd baby girl Brooklyn Kelly into this world on April 4.

Dr. John Wu (MCB, NES) became a proud father of Abava Wu, born August 14 at 9:28 am.

Dr. Tracy Sbrocco (MPS) gave birth to baby Simone at the end of August.

Dr. Heather Rogers (MPS, '08) gave birth to a baby boy.

Dr. Ali Berlin (MPS, '07) gave birth to David Stuart on September 25 at 1:52 pm.

Weddings

Megan Masterson (NES) and CPT Jeremy Hershfield (MCB '05) tied the knot in June 2008.

Also in June 2008, Reyda Gonzalez-Nieves (MCB) and husband Esteban Morales were married in lovely Puerto Rico.

ENS Jessica Forde (MPS) was married this summer.

CPT Kim Speck (MPS) was married this year.



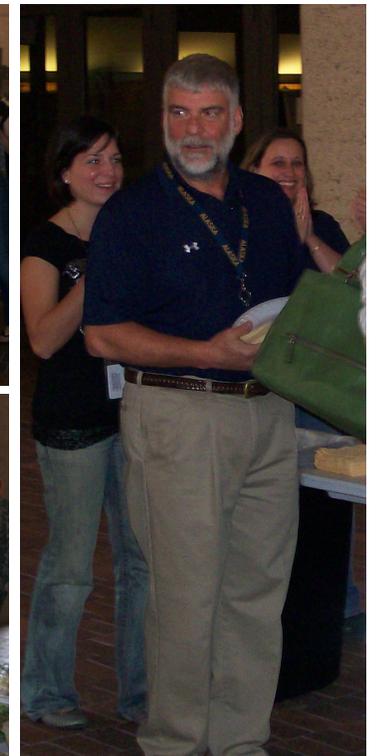
"Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart."
-William Wordsworth

"Every author in some way portrays himself in his works, even if it be against his will."
-Goethe

Prospective Student Open House, February 2008



New Student Orientation and Picnic, August 2008



Schedule of Events

- October 13—Columbus Day Holiday (No classes)
- October 13-October 17—Winter Quarter Registration
- October 28-29—GSC Bake Sale 11am-2pm
- October 31—Halloween

October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 	21 	22	23	24	25
	GSC Bake Sale 11am-2pm					
26	27	28	29	30	31 	

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Winter Quarter Begins	11	12	13	14	15 
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 ADD/DROP	25	26	27 	28	29
30						

Schedule of Events

- Friday November 7—Fall Quarter ends
- Monday November 10—Winter Quarter begins
- Saturday November 19-Wednesday November 19—Society for Neuroscience (SfN) annual conference
- Monday November 24—Last day to add/drop classes
- Monday November 24—Fall quarter grades due
- Thursday November 27-Sunday November 30—Thanksgiving Recess (No classes)

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Graduate Student Newsletter

Interested in contributing to the Graduate Student Newsletter? We look forward to hearing from you! Contact Amy Starosciak by phone, email, or just stop by her lab with any comments, story ideas, contributions, questions, or concerns.

Amy Starosciak
Lab: B3041
Phone: 295-9670
astarosciak@usubs.mil

Contributors to the Fall Newsletter:
Kathy Jones
Felicia Qashu
Open House and Orientation
pictures by Rob Clark

"The graduate program 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 the Health Sciences
Graduate Education Office
<http://www.usubs.mil/graded>

We're on the web!

<http://www.usubs.mil/graded/gsc>



2008-2009 Graduate Student Council



Kathy Jones, President

GSC President

Kathy Jones, Emerging Infectious Diseases
kajones@usubs.mil



Rob Clark, MPS

Council Representatives

Rob Clark, Medical & Clinical Psychology
rclark@usubs.mil

Reyda Gonzalez-Nieves, Molecular & Cell Biology
rgonzaleznieves@usubs.mil

Meredith Morrow, Preventive Medicine & Biometrics
mmorrow@usubs.mil

Stephanie Petzing, Emerging Infectious Diseases
spetzing@usubs.mil

Amy Starosciak, Neuroscience
astarosciak@usubs.mil



Meredith Morrow, PMB



Reyda Gonzalez-Nieves, MCB



Stephanie Petzing, EID



Amy Starosciak, NES