



Uniformed Services University

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News Release

AIR FORCE OFFICERS EARN MEDICAL, GRADUATE, NURSING DEGREES AT UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY

BETHESDA, Md. – Sixty-nine U.S. Air Force officers were among 238 students recognized during the 24th Commencement of the Uniformed Services University's F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing May 17.

There were 50 medical and 13 graduate students from the School of Medicine, as well as six students in the GSN's nurse anesthesia program who were recognized at graduation, but will complete their master's degree requirements this fall.

The USU graduation took place on the school's athletic field under a large tent that seated about 3,000 graduates, faculty, family and friends. The venue was chosen this year as a tribute to the numerous USU alumni who during the last several months cared for the wounded in deployable hospital tents in the Middle East during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

U.S. Public Health Service Vice Adm. Richard H. Carmona, the U.S. Surgeon General, was the Commencement 2003 guest speaker. Carmona was also one of three honorary degree recipients, receiving the degree of Doctor of Military Medicine and Surgery, *Honoris Causa*. John A. Mannick, M.D., also received the degree of Doctor of Military Medicine and Surgery, *Honoris*

Caus, and U.S. Army Maj. Alfred V. Rascon received the degree of Doctor of Medical Jurisprudence, *Honoris Causa*.

USU was established by Congress under the Department of Defense in 1972 and has the nation's only fully accredited federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. With its motto "Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way," the university has a worldwide reputation as a center of excellence for military medical education and research.

F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine

Fifty Air Force officers were among 152 medical students graduating from the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine.

The Honorable Everett Alvarez, Jr., chairman of USU Board of Regents, and retired Navy Capt. Larry Laughlin, dean of the school of medicine, conferred the medical degrees. Laughlin also administered the Hippocratic Oath to the graduates.

Lt. Gen. George P. Taylor, Jr., Surgeon General of the Air Force, reaffirmed the Oath of Office to the Air Force students, who were promoted to captain upon graduation and commissioned as medical corps officers.

The year-round, four-year school of medicine's curriculum is nearly 700 hours – or about 20 weeks – longer than those found at other U.S. medical schools. The extra hours focus on epidemiology, health promotion, disease prevention, tropical medicine, leadership and field exercises, medical effects of weapons of mass destruction, and other subjects that relate to the unique requirements of career-oriented military physicians.

Below are the Air Force doctor of medicine graduates for the Class of 2003, who will perform their internships at the locations listed:

Capt. Michael Aluker, 60th Medical Group, Travis AFB, Calif.

Capt. Joanne Balintona, 60th MDG, Travis AFB, Calif.

-- **Admissions Committee Certificate of Appreciation**

* **Capt. John Nathan Berry**, San Antonio Uniformed Services Health

Education Consortium, Texas

-- **Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges**

Capt. Kenneth Spencer Bode, SAUSHEC, Texas

Capt. Pryor S. Brenner, 81st Medical Group, Keesler AFB, Miss.

Capt. Lisa Michelle Bresloff, 89th Medical Group, Andrews AFB, Md.

Capt. Dale Clifton Capener, SAUSHEC, Texas

Capt. Sandra Leigh Castle, 646th Medical Group, Eglin AFB, Fla.

Capt. Laura P. Cebe, SAUSHEC, Texas

* **Capt. Victor C. Chang**, 89th MDG, Andrews AFB, Md.

-- **Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians, Outstanding Student of the Year Award**

Capt. Nikki K. Conlin, SAUSHEC, Texas

Capt. Bryan Christopher Curtis, 74th Medical Group, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

* **Capt. Amy Elizabeth Gammill**, 60th MDG, Travis AFB, Calif.

-- **Board of Regents Award for the Outstanding Medical Officer Candidate** -- this is the highest honor given to a graduating medical student who exemplifies scholarship, leadership and service.

-- **Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces Award** – this award is presented each year to the medical student who achieved the highest level of academic performance over all four years. This year's two recipients hold perfect Grade Point Averages of 4.0 and are the class valedictorians.

-- **Glasgow Memorial Award**

-- **Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges**

Capt. David Kent Gordon, II, 89th MDG, Andrews AFB, Md.

Capt. Arthur J. Greenwood, 74th MDG, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

* **Capt. Katherine Michelle Haddock**, SAUSHEC, Texas

* **Capt. Shana L. Hansen**, SAUSHEC, Texas

-- **Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces Award** – this award is presented each year to the medical student who achieved the highest level of academic performance over all four years. This year's two recipients hold perfect Grade Point Averages of 4.0 and are the class valedictorians;

-- **Outstanding Student in Pediatrics Award**

-- **Glasgow Memorial Award**

-- **Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges**

-- **Admissions Committee Certificate of Appreciation**

Capt. Tracy Elizabeth Hardwick, 89th MDG, Andrews AFB, Md.

Capt. Kenisha Renee Hill, 89th MDG, Andrews AFB, Md.

-- **Admissions Committee Certificate of Appreciation**

* **Capt. Brian L. Holt**, SAUSHEC, Texas

Capt. Brian Simpson Johnston, 89th MDG, Andrews AFB, Md.

Capt. Eric Wayne Kaderbek, SAUSHEC, Texas

Capt. Ronald Jamil Khoury, 60th MDG, Travis AFB, Calif.

Capt. Juliane Kim, 60th MDG, Travis AFB, Calif.

* **Capt. George H. Kotti, III**, SAUSHEC, Texas

* **Capt. Jeffrey Scott La Rochelle**, SAUSHEC, Texas

-- **The Society of Air Force Physicians Outstanding Achievement Award**

-- **Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges**

-- **Admissions Committee Certificate of Appreciation**

- **Air Force Association Gen. Malcolm Grow Award**
- * **Capt. Grant E. Lattin, Jr.**, 60th MDG, Travis AFB, Calif.
- * **Capt. Dalila Watford Lewis**, 81st MDG, Keesler AFB, Miss.
- **Lt. Col. Daniel Kayanan AMSUS Military Medicine Award**
- Capt. Henry C. Liu**, SAUSHEC, Texas
- * **Capt. Laura Kathryn Lucas**, SAUSHEC, Texas
- **Glasgow Memorial Achievement Citation**
- **Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges**
- Capt. Michael Anthony Madrid**, 74th MDG, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
- * **Capt. Jason Carlisle Massengill**, 74th MDG, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
- Capt. Melissa Rosaline McGuinn**, SAUSHEC, Texas
- **Admissions Committee Certificate of Appreciation**
- * **Capt. Arash Momeni**, 60th MDG, Travis AFB, Calif.
- * **Capt. Leonard Edward Philo**, 89th MDG, Andrews AFB, Md.
- Capt. Owen William Roberts**, SAUSHEC, Texas
- Capt. Dillon Jason Savard**, 89th MDG, Andrews AFB, Md.
- Capt. Micah Drew Schmidt**, SAUSHEC, Texas
- Capt. Kristin Leigh Silvia**, SAUSHEC, Texas
- **Admissions Committee Certificate of Appreciation**
- Capt. Michelle Tsing Sit**, 81st MDG, Keesler AFB, Miss.
- Capt. Jade Murphy Spurgeon**, 81st MDG, Keesler AFB, Miss.
- Capt. Megan Marie Burgess Steigelman**, SAUSHEC, Texas
- **Admissions Committee Certificate of Appreciation**
- * **Capt. Joseph Jay Stuart**, SAUSHEC, Texas
- **U.S. Air Force Surgeon General's Award**
- **Lt. Col. Daniel Kayanan AMSUS Military Medicine Award**
- **Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges**
- Capt. Sarah Nicole Vick**, 375th Medical Group, Scott AFB, Ill.
- Capt. Alan J. Williamson**, 55th Medical Group, Offutt AFB, Neb.
- **Admissions Committee Certificate of Appreciation**
- Capt. Lauren Jacklyn Wolf**, 74th MDG, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
- Capt. Matthew Jay Wolf**, 74th MDG, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
- **Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award**
- **Lt. Col. Daniel Kayanan AMSUS Military Medicine Award**
- Capt. Ely Allen Wolin**, 81st MDG, Keesler AFB, Miss.
- Capt. Henry A. Woods, Jr.**, 89th MDG, Andrews AFB, Md.
- Capt. Scott Adrian Zakaluzny**, 74th MDG, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
- * **Elected to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society**

School of Medicine's Graduate Program

Thirteen Air Force officers were among 62 graduates in the School of Medicine's Graduate Program in biomedical sciences and public health. They are:

Doctor of philosophy -- **Maj. Mark Bates**

Master of science – **Maj. Nathan Galbreath,
Capt. David Kuch
Capt. Rena Nicholas**

Master of public health – **Capt. Stacey Branch
Capt. Stephanie Buffett
Capt. Mark Duffy
Maj. Jose Fonseca-Rivera
Maj. John Gibbins
Maj. Joann Richardson
Capt. Kari Stone
Maj. Kirk Winger**

Master of public health – health services administration – **Lt. Col. Sven Berg**

Graduate School of Nursing

Since the GSN was created in 1993, 197 officers have received their master of science in nursing degrees from the school.

This year, six AF officers were among 24 GSN students walking across the stage. They are in the GSN's nurse anesthesia program and will complete their master's degree requirements this fall. They are:

- * **Capt. Jamie M. Chen**
- * **Capt. Jeffery Daxe**
-- 2003 Nurse Anesthesia Esprit de Corps Award
- * **Capt. Marc A. Dildy**
- Capt. Laura L. Koontz**
- * **Capt. Martin Ockert**
- * **Capt. Scott Rhodes**

* **Elected to Uniformed Services University Graduate School of Nursing Honor Society**