



Uniformed Services University
of the Health Sciences

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USU Newsletter

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USU Prepares for Ground-breaking on Long Awaited Facility

*By Tech. Sgt. André Nicholson
NCOIC, Office of External Affairs*



This is an illustration of the upcoming Building E. The building is expected to be completed in 2009

On Oct. 23, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) will celebrate the groundbreaking of the first new building on campus since the school was built in 1978.

A contract for Building E, which has been in the works for more than eight years, was awarded Aug. 31, allowing construction on the new facility to begin shortly. Before that construction begins, however, the university will celebrate its latest addition with the ceremony at approximately 11 a.m., which is open to the entire university.

Mary Dix, Special Assistant to the USU President said, this is a project that has been a long time coming and several people have made this dream possible.

"Military construction projects are not easy to come by," Mrs. Dix said. "But this project demonstrates the belief that so many people have in this university, from Congress to Health Affairs to the surgeons general to BUMED (Navy Bureau of Medicine) to several other departments within DOD. "Sometimes you may go onto the campus of a university and

you see lots of construction being done and huge moving equipment and people think the place is in an uproar," Mrs. Dix explained. "But the reality is when you see all that construction, it shows that the university is expanding and that construction is a sign of growth."

Since 1978 there has been no additional construction to support USU activities, despite a growth in the number of degree-granting programs, according to Mrs. Dix. However, USU's newest facility will accommodate the growth in the number of degree-granting programs conducted by the university and other responsibilities assigned to the university by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. Some of those responsibilities include the Graduate School of Nursing, Graduate Medical Education programs, and Continuing Health Education.

The new building will have three levels which will provide extra classrooms and office

See **Bldg. E**, Page 5

"Be a Star in Someone's Life!"

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for 2006 is underway (October 1 to December 15.) This year's campaign theme is "Be a Star in Someone's Life! Support CFC."

As a member of the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area (CFCNCA), the USU CFC plays

an important role in the largest and most successful employee workplace giving campaign in the world. Donations from last year helped people who live around the corner, across the nation, and throughout the world.

The formal USU CFC Kickoff Ceremony will be held October 19 at 1pm in the breezeway area between buildings A and B. There will be free food

and prizes.

The CFC needs "key workers." People who would like to submit names or volunteer should contact Lt. Col. Timothy J. Rapp (trapp@usuhs.mil), Anne Huffman (ahuffman@usuhs.mil), or Capt. Kevin Doherty, AFRR (kdoherty@usuhs.mil).



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Hail to the Chief: New Chief of Staff

MCSA Jeff Hopkins
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) new Chief of Staff has led quite a career. With over 40 years of combined active and reserve uniformed services duty in the Air Force, the Public Health Service and the Navy, he has accomplished much and provided help to the nation and its government, and hopes to bring that positive experience to USU.

Mr. Steve Henske says his job as the new USU Chief of Staff is to aid Dr. Rice in working with the faculty, staff and students of the university.

"The job of the Chief of Staff is to facilitate the resolution of administrative matters and allow Dr. Rice more opportunity to work with the faculty and focus on pursuing future strategies for the University's future," Mr. Henske said. "My job is to assist Dr. Rice manage the demands of his job."

Mr. Henske said he would like to see more positive national and international recognition of USU.

"When people ask me, 'Where do you work,' and I say, 'Uniformed Services University,' I don't quite get the same reaction as my sister, who works at Princeton, gets. I'd love to see the day when I get the reaction, 'USU, oh yes, that's the premier Federal academic health education university in Washington, D.C.'"

In the past, Mr. Henske has worked in numerous military medical command positions, as well as the Pentagon in Washington D.C.

Immediately prior to his arrival at USU, Mr. Henske worked at the Pentagon as the Health Policy Advisor in the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Stability Operations, arranging for the provision of humanitarian assistance in dis-

asters. He has also worked as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Navy Medicine, as Commanding Officer of an Air Force Medical Squadron of 310 personnel, and as the Officer-in-Charge of a 50-bed Air Force Air Transportable Hospital.

As a civilian, Mr. Henske has been the Director of Student Health Services at Georgetown University, a Joint Commission Accreditation Surveyor and faculty member, Senior Partner in a healthcare consulting firm and previously worked for USU as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine.

Mr. Henske was born and raised on Long Island, New York, and educated at St. Louis University. He is married to Dr. Melissa Stick, and has two children: a son, Stephen J., Jr., an Air Force Air National Guard Major; and a daughter, Amy Difilippo.

Mr. Henske's past civilian awards include being selected as an Outstanding Young Man of America, chosen as an Outstanding Faculty Advisor at Georgetown University, and he received the Outstanding Citizen's Award from the City of New York, Staten Island Borough President. During his military career, he has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and Commendation Medals from the Air Force, Navy and Public Health Service.

Mr. Henske said what he hopes to get out of his employment at USU is an opportunity to contribute his skills to working with others in making the University an even greater national treasure and secondly, to have fun.

"It's one of those situations where you want to contribute to those who are going to follow you in the future, and the better we do our job here, the better they'll be able to do their job out there," he said.

USU Public Health Service Graduate Promoted to Flag Officer

USU Class of 1984 alumna, Dr. Sandra Kweder, Deputy Director, FDA, Office of New Drugs, was promoted to Rear Admiral (lower half), U.S. Public Health Service, effective October 1, 2006. Rear Adm. Kweder is the first U.S. Public Health Service Doctor of Medicine graduate of USU to be promoted to flag rank.

Rear Adm. Kweder joins fellow USPHS alumni

(MPH graduates) Phillip Smith and Kermit Smith in that achievement, and is the seventh M.D. graduate of USU to reach flag rank behind: RADM (ret.) E. Connie Mariano, USN ('81), BG (ret.) C. William Fox, MC, USA ('81), BGen William Germann, USAF, MC ('82), BGen Tom Travis, USAF, MC ('86), BG Donald Bradshaw, MC, USA ('81), and BGen Byron Hepburn, USAF, MC ('87).

Today in History: October 16, 1962

The Cuban missile crisis began as President Kennedy was informed that reconnaissance photographs had revealed the presence of missile bases in Cuba.



Once a leader always a leader

By Tech. Sgt. André Nicholson
NCOIC, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) recently welcomed its newest acting dean to the Graduate School of Nursing (GSN).

Retired Army Brig. Gen. William T. Bester, RN, MSN, CNAA, BC, has been at USU for a little more than two months and brings a wealth of civilian and military experience to the nursing school.

General Bester, as he has come to be known around the university, is a native of Duluth, Minn., married with two children, and comes to USU from the University of Texas, where he served as a professor of clinical nursing for the past two years. The retired general has held many illustrious positions throughout his career, such as being named the director of nursing for a health care team organized to assist the victims of the tsunami in Indonesia in 2005.

During his distinguished 32-year military career, General Bester was selected to be the 21st Chief of the Army Nurse Corps and also served as the Assistant Surgeon General Force Projection and Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Health Policy and Services.

When asked to look back on his wide ranging career, the general reflected on how the different positions afforded him

the opportunity to work with some great people and how rewarding it has been both personally and professionally.

Coming to USU, General Bester brings that same attitude.

"I was attracted to the position because I felt the work being done here was extremely important to the federal nursing service," the general said. "Being placed in this leadership position within the university and the Graduate School of Nursing also gives me the opportunity to participate in the development and matriculation of the many quality students we have graduated from the GSN."

Upon his arrival to the university, General Bester said he made it a point to meet with all the key stakeholders to include members of the senior leadership team; the nursing service chiefs; all the student groups; and faculty and staff members, so he could get their perspective on how things are being done and how they would like to see them change, if at all.

From there the general said a team within the GSN worked on prioritizing those issues and deciding which ones were most important. It is those issues, among other things, the general is now focused on.

"Some of the things we looked at were the way we teach our students, how the staff and faculty can support one another



better, and the ability of faculty members to conduct research to broaden their professional development," General Bester said.

Looking ahead, the acting dean said he can see the GSN as a critical element to the senior leadership in the federal nursing service to include the Army, Navy, Air Force, Public Health Service, Veteran Affairs and the American Red Cross.

"We will continue to improve on our existing programs while continuing to support the vision of the university and the federal nursing service chiefs," General Bester said. "I'm confident that the people here are focused on all the right things. I feel privileged to be a part of this team and I look forward to the months and years to come here at the university."



USU alumnus gets to know local inhabitants

USU class of 1996 alumnus, Lt. Col. Dan Shoor, takes time out from his duties as a member of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) to monkey around with a few of the local inhabitants. Shoor, an Air Force physician, is commanding an Army unit assigned to the task force.



2006 HJF Fellowship Award Winners

The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine (HJF) is pleased to announce the selection of three outstanding Ph.D. graduate students to receive the 2006-2007 HJF Fellowships.

Established in 1998, the awards program is comprised of two Henry M. Jackson Fellowships and one Val G. Hemming Fellowship, which provide stipend and travel support for senior students.



Mr. Thomas McFate is a sixth-year student in the Neuroscience graduate program, working in the laboratory of Dr. Ajay Verma. His thesis project explores whether altered pathways used by tumor cells to generate energy influence malignant progression. Mr. McFate is focusing on whether inactivation of an enzyme involved in glucose metabolism promotes oxygen-independent glucose metabolism (aerobic glycolysis), which is a hallmark of cancer cell growth and provides cancer cells a selective growth advantage. He also is exploring whether oncogenic signaling pathways promote this form of energy utilization through modification of this enzyme. Mr. McFate's

work could lead to the development of inhibitors that prevent or reduce aerobic glycolysis, with hope of minimizing tumor growth. Mr. McFate received the **Val G. Hemming Fellowship**.



Ms. Ali Berlin-Weinstein is a sixth-year student in the Medical Psychology graduate program, working in the laboratory of Dr. Willem Kop. Her thesis project focuses on the relationship between mood and physical activity. She has demonstrated a relationship between exercise deprivation and the development of depressive mood symptoms. This area of research is relevant to the clinical management of individuals with immobilizing injuries and individuals placed in situations with prolonged immobility. Ms. Berlin-Weinstein's future work will examine the effects of physical and mental challenges on patients with major depressive disorder, with the goal of ascertaining the biological and behavioral underpinnings of depressed mood in reaction to challenge. Ms. Berlin-Weinstein received one of the **Henry M. Jackson Fellowships in the Medical Sciences**.

Ms. Shiipi Paul is a fourth-year student in the Molecular & Cell Biology graduate program, working in the laboratory of Dr. Teresa Dunn. Her thesis project involves characterizing the membrane-associated enzymes of the elongase complex involved in fatty acid elongation. Fatty acids are essential components of cell membranes and are critical for many cellular processes, and errors in fatty acid synthesis have been associated with many human diseases. Ms. Paul used genetic and biochemical approaches to show that several Arabidopsis 3-Keto Synthases can substitute for the structurally unrelated elongase proteins. The study was reported in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* earlier this year. She also completed mapping the membrane-spanning domains of two proteins of the elongase complex. Ms. Paul will spend her fourth year further probing protein-protein interactions within the enzyme complex to better understand its function. She was selected for one of the **Henry M. Jackson Fellowships in the Medical Sciences** but was unable to accept the Award because she also received a Fellowship from the American Heart Association.



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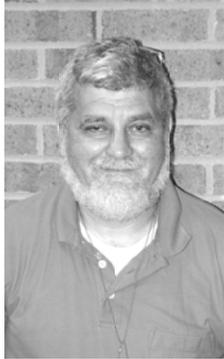
Navy Captain Receives Legion of Merit



Left to right: Dr. Rice, Capt. Whitmeyer, her mother, Adm. Woofter

Captain Antoinette A. Whitmeyer, Medical Service Corps, USN, received the Legion of Merit for outstanding performance as Deputy Director, Medical Resources, Plans and Policy Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, DC, from October 2003 to August 2006. She demonstrated leadership, subject matter expertise and organizational skills. She directed and oversaw the mobilization of more than 3,500 active and reserve medical personnel in support of the Global War on Terror and global humanitarian missions. As Navy's representative to the Medical Readiness Review, she led efforts to determine Navy Medicine's future operational readiness and manpower requirements. Her direction, judgment and devotion reflect upon her and uphold the highest traditions of the United States Navy.

Look Who's Talking... *Who do you admire and why?*



My wife, because she has accomplished so much in such a short time, her Ph.D., her Dr.'s degree, and she loves and stands up for America.

Alex Mathews
VAM



"My daughter, because she's very open and giving. Since I've been in the military, she's been able to adapt well, and has never given me a hard time; she's always got a smile on her face."

Petty Officer 1st Class Sara Lee
LAM



"My dad. He's retired Army, and he always did what he needed to do to take care of us without complaining."

Air Force 2nd Lt. Tua Palmer
SOM

News Briefs

Col. Paul A. Hemmer, USAF, MC, MPH, USAF, Associate Professor of Medicine and director of the third-year internal medicine clerkship at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU,) recently headlined the Educational Innovations and Innovators conference at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He spoke on landmark studies in medical education and served as a discussion panelist. The Educational Innovations and Innovators conference is held to showcase the significant work conducted by college educators in medical education, as well as to give faculty mem-

bers an opportunity to share successful ideas, methods and research.

Admiral VK Singh, Director General of India's Armed Forces Medical Service, recently visited USU to execute the signing of an agreement on medical training and academic cooperation in military medicine between the AFMS and USU.

Air Force Col. Les Folio, MC, SFS, spoke at the International Blast and Ballistic Trauma Congress in South Africa in September. The title of his talk was "Combat Radiology," during which he displayed several computerized tomography scans he got in Iraq the previous year, images from other radiologists that have been deployed,

and some of the efforts in technical capabilities of the university, including Medpix and the new Combat Imaging Database for deploying providers. He earned the South African National Defense Force Surgeon General's Laudability Medallion for his outstanding presentation.

Mr. Glenn Blanchette, The Associate Director for International Programs for the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine, accompanied members of the National Capital Consortium Pediatrics Residency to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to expand the US-Honduran military HIV prevention program.

Bldg. E, Continued from page 1

space for students, faculty and staff. There will also be approximately 35 additional underground parking spaces.

The ground floor will be primarily dedicated to small and large classrooms for the entire university to use. There will be one larger 100-person classroom and smaller rooms with moveable partitions for subdividing each pair of small classrooms.

The first floor is designed mostly for the Graduate School of

Nursing and the second floor will house offices for Continuing Health Education, USU Chaplain, Educational Affairs and a few others. Mrs. Dix said she understands that the construction will be disruptive at times, but asked for everyone to have patience in the interim as construction gets under way. The new facility could take up to two years to be completed, but it will benefit everyone in the long run.



Photo by MCSA Jeff Hopkins

USU Alumna, First Filipino American Rear Admiral speaks at Asian Pacific American Student Meeting

Dr. E. Connie Mariano, M.D., Rear Admiral, USN, (ret.), spoke about her experiences as a Navy doctor at the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association dinner held in the dining hall at USU Oct. 7. Dr. Mariano is a 1981 graduate of USU, the first Filipino American to attain the rank of Rear Admiral, and the first military woman in American history to be appointed White House Physician. Dr. Mariano served nine years at the White House where she was physician for three sitting presidents.



USU Calendar of Events



October	16	17	18	19	20	21
		LRC Training PubMed Basics Noon-1pm	Toastmasters Meeting Noon-1pm A2011	LRC Training End Note Noon-1pm Brown Bag Teaching Seminar Noon-1pm Lecture Room A		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	All services: Physical Fitness Testing 7am & Noon USU Softball Field		All services: Physical Fitness Testing 7am & Noon USU Softball Field		All services: Physical Fitness Testing 7am & Noon USU Softball Field	
29	30	31	November	1	2	3
		All services: Physical Fitness Testing 7am & Noon USU Softball Field			All services: Physical Fitness Testing 7am & Noon USU Softball Field	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
						Veterans Day Holiday