

USU Newsletter

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USU in the New Year



**USU Newsletter
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Letter from the USU President

As we enter into the New Year I want to welcome each of you back to the University. I trust that you had a memorable holiday season with your loved ones. As I mentioned in the last edition of the 2006 USU Newsletter I'd again like to thank all USU faculty, staff and students for their commitment and hard work over the past year. I look forward to the new challenges and opportunities that I know 2007 is going to bring.

There are some issues facing us that I want to address with the USU community.

Continuing Resolution

Until the Defense Health Program Appropriations Bill is passed and signed by President George Bush, the University will continue to operate under the Continuing Resolution Act (CRA). The current legislation funding the University is in effect until Feb. 15, 2007 and up to 50% funding has been distributed. We remain hopeful that Congress will enact a fiscal year 2007 appropriations legislature but there is a possibility of a year-long continuing resolution being in effect. Departments can check the CUFSS system to find out exact amounts available. Please be advised that while we are operating under the CRA, only essential travel and operations are authorized.

All Hands Town Hall Meeting

Our next Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Jan. 23 at 3 p.m. in Sanford Auditorium. As I mentioned before it is my intention to continue with regular town hall meetings to discuss topics that are vital to USU during this BRAC/Integration process, along with other areas of University wide interest. I have asked Lt. Col. Tim Rapp to join me to update us all on major changes coming within information systems management. At our last meeting many of you raised important and challenging questions and I ask that you do the same at our next town hall. I believe this forum is one way to provide better clarity about the process and keep everyone involved in the decisions and actions underway. Another town hall meeting will be held March 7 and I encourage you to visit the USU Integration Web site for updates anytime at:

www.usuhs.mil/usuhs/brac/SABI.htm.

Annual Report

Distribution of the University's 2006 Annual Report is almost complete and we are requesting your feedback on the publication, especially as we begin planning for next year's report. The report provides a general description of the University's schools, departments and programs, as well as profiles on students, faculty and alumni. I'm pleased with the publication and I hope you will take an opportunity to read it and provide any ideas or suggestions to the Office of External Affairs at: vpe@usuhs.mil. If you have not received your copy of the report you can request one from the Office of External Affairs or view it online at <http://www.usuhs.mil/vpe/annualreport.html>.

The report will be an annual publication so your input for future issues is important to shaping this coming year's report.

Construction

It is impossible to walk around the University and not notice the construction all around us. I thank you all for your patience and understanding during this time. It is a positive sign of the University's growth and progress. However, I do ask that you continue to be vigilant when walking outside in the courtyard and be sure to walk only in designated areas. Safety is of the utmost importance.

Again, I want to welcome you all back and I look forward to us accomplishing great things here at the University in 2007.

Dr. Charles L. Rice, President, USU



*Dr. Charles L. Rice
USU President*

USU License plates

There are many different ways to show your school spirit: painted faces at sports events, t-shirts and sweaters, stickers, ornaments, and coins. Now it may be possible to have Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) car license plates. The images on the right are not the final design, but they represent what the license plates might look like. We are currently seeking to determine if there would be sufficient interest in having

a USU organizational license plate. If you would like to register your interest, take the survey no later than Feb. 1, 2007 at:

<http://www.usuhs.mil/vpe/orgplates.html>



Integration~ As I see it

By Dr. Vernon Schinski
Special Assistant to the USU President for BRAC Integration

Command and Control decisions lead to changes in the organization of Integration efforts in the National Capitol Area. With the postponement of decisions concerning the organization of a Unified Medical System for the Department of Defense (DOD), the opportunities for a true Joint Command at Bethesda were delayed.

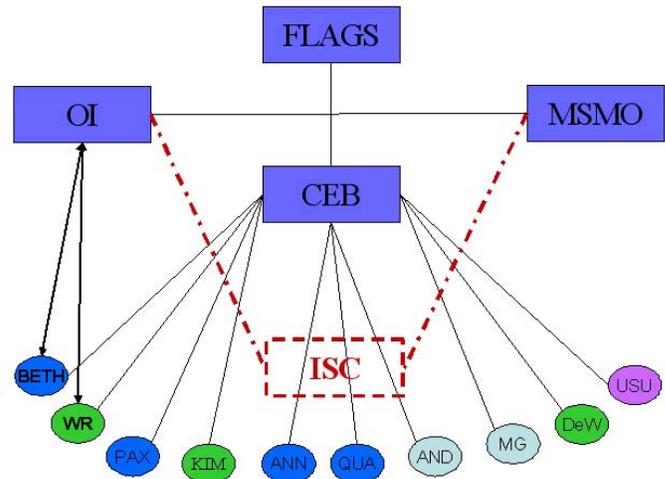
Utilizing the available models, where each DOD facility is under one of the services, the surgeons general agreed that the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) would remain under Navy leadership with an admiral in command. This decision has led to new ways of planning at all levels of the integration process.

The past eighteen months have seen an organizational development approach to integration planning. This has largely been a bottoms-up approach, where teams of individuals with similar functions met to determine the best way to combine their functions. Now, with the decision that the Navy would be the executive agent, a number of top-down guidelines begin to fall in place. This in turn allows for a streamlining of the decision making process.

Another factor in the changes is while early efforts began with the integration of the University and the Walter Reed and Bethesda Medical Centers, it has become clear that integration will affect healthcare delivery in the entire National Capitol Area (NCA). The Flags have realized that this calls for a greater role for the commanders of the ten medical facilities in the NCA. Therefore the Commander's Executive Board (CEB), which is made up of the nine treatment facility commanders and USU, has received new oversight responsibilities. The Integration Advisory Council has been disbanded.

The Multi-Service Management Office (MSMO), which has supported NCA business practices, and which developed the complex business plans for the new WRNMMC, has been given increased Integration coordination responsibilities. The chart below depicts these relationships.

NCA ORGANIZATION



Capt David Wade, of MSMO will chair the Integration Steering Committee. Col Thomas Fitzpatrick, of the Office of Integration, will facilitate the Medical Center Consolidations. Capt Michael Malanoski, of NNMCC, and Col. Thomas Deal, of WRAMC, will co-chair the Commander's Executive Board. The University retains its seats on the CEB and ISC, and the full range of representation on Integration Sub-Committees and Working Groups.

Dos and Don'ts with the Government Travel Card

The Government Travel Card (GTC) is a valuable and straight forward way to manage official travel expenses. Under the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998 and Department of Defense regulations, anyone traveling on official funded TDY orders and has a GTC is required to use it for all authorized expenses. As a minimum this means it must be used for transportation, lodging, and rental cars.

There are certain responsibilities that cardholders have when issued a GTC. To help, here are some Do's and Don'ts:

DO –

- ~Use your GTC to pay for official travel expenses
- ~Obtain your cash advances through an ATM no earlier than 7 days prior to your TDY
- ~Submit your travel settlement voucher



- within 5 days of returning from your TDY. If on long term TDY, submit a partial voucher every 30 days until you return
- ~Pay your bills on time
- ~Use the Split Disbursement option on the

Travel Voucher, DD 1351-2, if you have an outstanding balance that is not past due when you file your claim

~Be aware that misuse and/or delinquency can result in disciplinary actions

DONT –

- ~Use your GTC for personal use
- ~Allow your card balances to ever go delinquent
- ~Wait for receipt of your bill to file your claim
- ~Forget that you are responsible for the charges on your card. If it is ever lost or stolen, immediately contact the bank and you will not be liable for any fraudulent charges.
- ~Claim the cost of an airline ticket purchased with your GTC unless you used it. If you are reimbursed for a ticket and subsequently receive an airline credit/refund due to a change in itinerary, the refund must be repaid to the University. Questions regarding the GTC program should be sent to Jim Wolff at: jwolff@usuhs.mil, or call 295-3353.

New Member of The Order of Military Medical Merit

By MCSN Raul Zamora
Staff Writer, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Acting Brigade Commander, Lt. Col. John Maurer, was awarded membership to the Order of Military Medical Merit, Dec. 16, 2006.

The Order of Military Medical Merit is a unique and private organization founded by the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Health Services Command in April, 1982 to recognize and promote excellence, fellowship and Army pride among the Army Medical Department (AMEDD).

"It's always an honor to be recognized," said Colonel Maurer.

He earned the award for his medical military services from 1974 to present. During that time he held several positions in the 44th General hospital in Madison, Wisconsin, the 5501st Army Hospital, the 114th Combat Support Hospital and the 88th Army Reserve Command, all located at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

Colonel Maurer's last assignment was commander of the 7212th Medical Sup-

port Unit from Rochester, Minnesota. While there, he arranged for Temporary Duty Assignment medical unit to perform Medical Readiness Training Exercises (MEDRETE) in Central America. At that time, these missions were assigned to Active Component Units only. The 7212th conducted six MEDRETEs prior to Colonel Maurer's retirement in July 2001.

The last MEDRETE was in Bluefields, Nicaragua. This increment of 80 personnel broke several records to include treating over 5,000 people and 1,500 animals over a 10 day period. Colonel Maurer and his family coordinated an effort to collect over 3,500 pairs of shoes to distribute to the children they treated.

Colonel Maurer was recently called out of retirement to serve as USU's Executive Officer and Acting Brigade Commander.

"It's a tremendous honor to once again serve in the military," he said. This assignment is a great opportunity and I'm thrilled to be part it."

The award includes the name of its recipients placed in a roster of distinguished AMEDD members and supporters, a certificate and a medallion that signifies to all they meet that they are members of the Order. The members proudly display their medallions at formal AMEDD social functions.

Membership in the order is limited to AMEDD officers, noncommissioned officers, civilians, retirees and Special Operations



Courtesy photo

Acting Brigade Commander of USU Lt. Col. Maurer received membership to the Order of Military Medical Merit which is a unique and private organization. Dec. 16, 2006.

Medical Sergeants who have made significant contributions to the entire AMEDD over a sustained period of time.

The Surgeon General of the Army, Lt. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley, M.D., said the men and women of the U.S. Army Medical Command and the Office of the Surgeon General are the best at what they do, and what each and every one of them stands for is critical to the nation and its stability during this time of war.

New Education and Technology Office Partners with Faculty

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

Technology is something that is constantly changing and improving either to make things easier, quicker, more entertaining, or to enhance the learning process. So it was only a matter of time that an institute of higher learning such as the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) established its own Education and Technology Innovation Support Office (ETI).

The new office will incorporate technology resources into academics by partnering with faculty members to enhance the learning process. Some of the services that ETI will provide are: curricular strategic planning; distributed learning course design, development and modification; and evaluation and assessment of course activities and assignments.

The ETI staff is dedicated to working closely with the USU faculty to ensure they understand that the office provides both

education and technology support, according to Dina Kurzweil, MA, MS, ETI deputy director.

"What can we do to enhance your course," asked Ms. Kurzweil? "The art of the possibilities is unlimited and everyone involved with ETI brings a certain expertise to the table, which is why we call it a partnership."

Education and technology expands on the online learning experience and there are several benefits to having ETI, Ms. Kurzweil explained. It will provide: access any time, any place; consistent content; active learning; and multiple learning preferences such as listening or reading.

There are many advantages to using technology in medical education as well, explained Karen Marcellas, Ph.D., ETI Support Office.

○Technology enables students to interact with the material, which increases long-term retention.

○It allows content to be presented in multiple ways so students who have different

learning styles or preferences can access the material in a way that works for them.

○It can provide students with the opportunity to test their knowledge or theories in a controlled, low risk environment.

○It can give students early exposure to technology they will be using throughout their careers.

ETI's mission is to partner with USU faculty to incorporate innovative technologies and instructional techniques into courses in ways that advance course learning objectives. The instructional design and educational technology specialists at ETI help faculty identify appropriate and effective ways to engage learners in courses and enable learners to take an active role in learning.

The ETI Support Office is up and running and faculty members can call 295-1757 to utilize its services or contact Dina Kurzweil at dkurzweil@usuhs.mil or Karen Marcellas at kmarcellas@usuhs.mil.

USU microbiologist ranked in top 100 most-cited scientists

By MCSN Jeff Hopkins
Staff Writer Office of External Affairs

A microbiologist at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) was recently recognized as one of the top 100 most-cited scientists in the past 10 years in the field of microbiology by In-Cites.com.

Christopher C. Broder, Ph.D., professor and director of the Emerging Infectious Diseases Graduate Program at USU, ranked 11 among a list of 2,172 scientists on www.in-cites.com. In-cites ranks scientists by the amount of times their work has been cited in papers, journals and articles by their peers in a 10-year period.

In-cites.com is a Website which features commentary and analyses by researchers about their work, and was created to accompany the citation statistics featured in Essential Science Indicators, from Thomson Scientific. Essential Science Indicators is a compilation of statistics on research authors, journals, institutions and

countries over a 10-year period.

The Website also features a rankings list which groups scientists by their fields and ranks them in accordance with how many times their work has been cited in other scientist's publications. Dr. Broder is currently 11 out of 2,172 scientists in the microbiology field, with 4,653 citations in 26 papers.

Dr. Broder received his Bachelor of Science in marine biology and his Masters of Science in molecular biology from Florida Institute of Technology. He entered the graduate program in the department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology of the University of Florida where he obtained his Ph.D. He joined USU's Department of Microbiology and Immunology in 1996 as an Assistant Professor.



Christopher C. Broder, Ph.D., professor and director of the Emerging Infectious Diseases Graduate Program.



Tech. Sgt. James Steele

USU's 18th Annual Collegium Awards

USU's 18th Annual Collegium Awards was held Dec. 14 to recognize the academic accomplishments of students in courses and clerkships for each of the first three years of medical school. Pictured here, 2nd Lt. Greg Brown, Army, shakes hands with Larry Laughlin, M.D., dean of USU's School of Medicine, as other awards recipients look on.

Update on Building E

By Mary Dix
Special Assistant to the USU President

The Grimberg Construction Company began the excavation of Building E on October 30, 2006 (approximately 9,000 cubic yards of soil had to be excavated, or roughly 800 dump truck loads). The projected completion date of Dec. 31, 2006 was met and the USU Jones Bridge Road Gate was re-opened on Jan. 4, 2007. Stone Lake Road, from the lay-out point, remains permanently restricted to emergency/construction traffic.

Re-enforcement steel for the caissons was delivered during the week of January 1, 2007; and, work on the foundation is ex-

pected to be underway during February of 2007. At this time, USU is working on a Statement of Work (SOW) for the coordination of the outfitting requirements for Building E. When the construction company completes its work (estimated around March of 2008), the University must ensure that occupancy occurs in an efficient and timely manner, meeting operational/functional requirements as envisioned by the future occupants of the building and USU leadership. The re-validation of the functional requirements was initiated during December 2006; the SOW required for the selection process of a firm to handle the recently re-validated outfitting requirements is currently in final draft and is expected to be completed this month.

As indicated previously, the Grimberg Construction Company is making a good faith effort and coordinating with the

University so that the impact of construction on students, staff and faculty will be kept to a minimum. The USU divisions and activities responsible for coordinating the teaching and testing schedules are closely monitoring construction activities in order to minimize disruptions; safety and parking notices are continuously provided to avoid injury and loss of time; and coordination with NNMC and Navy Facilities Washington is focusing on adhering to all schedules, budget, and planning requirements. Weather and other events beyond human control are always in play and because of both monetary and time constraints, construction must move forward. The patience and support of the USU community is urgently requested between now and the Spring of 2008. USU leadership will ensure open communication as the work progresses.



Photo by MCSN Raul Zamora

Whose Office Is This?

The new year apparently brought in a new cleaning crew. After months of shifting through piles of paper and books, it's actually possible to see the desk of Sharon Willis, deputy vice president of External affairs.

USU In the News

New President Elect of ASM: Dr. Alison O'Brien, an internationally recognized microbiologist and chair of USU's Department of Microbiology and Immunology was recently elected as president elect of the American Society for Microbiology. Dr. O'Brien will serve a one-year term as president elect from July 2007 – July 2008.

2007 AMA Foundation Excellence in Medicine Awards: USU did very well in the 2007 American Medical Association Foundation Excellence in Medicine Awards. The recipients are:

1. 2nd Lt. Gary Legault, USA, class of 2009—Medical Student Leadership Award.
2. Maj. Brent Gibson, MC, USA, graduate of USU's Occupational and Environmental Medicine residency program—Young Physician Leadership Award.
3. Maj. David Huang, USAF, MC, class of 2001, a psychiatrist at David Grant Medical Center, Travis AFB, CA—Young Physician Leadership Award.
4. Maj. Chetan Kharod, USAF, MC, class of 1996, assistant professor, Dept. of Military and Emergency Medicine—Young Physician Leadership Award.

Alumni News

Air Force Surgeon General's competition awards 20 scholarships: The Air Force Surgeon General's Medical Force Development Directorate, in conjunction with the Medical Corps Developmental Team, sponsored an Air Force Medical System-wide competition leading to the award of 20 centrally funded academic scholarships in support of the American College of Physician Executives program. Each scholarship is valued at \$10,000 and is designed to lead to the designation as a Certified Physician Executive. The following USU alumni were competitively selected from a pool of 50 applicants to participate in the inaugural offering of this 12-18 month program:

Col. Sven Berg, USAF, MC—MPH '03
Lt. Col. Eric Stone, USAF, MC—Class of 1991
Col. Thomas Erchinger, USAF, MC—Class of 1998
Lt. Col. Viki Lin, USAF, MC—Class of 1991

Col. Tama Van Decar, USAF, MC—Class of 1989
Maj. Michael Higgins, USAF, MC—Class of 1997
Lt. Col. Michael Murchland, USAF, MC—Class of 1989

USU News Briefs

NNMC Phone Books: There are seven boxes of the 2007 National Naval Medical Center Patient Services Guide and Telephone Directory available outside of the USU Mailroom, (G056). First come, first serve.

Change to Army GWOT Expeditionary Medal: The Army recently added new countries to the areas of eligibility for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. The new areas include Azerbaijan, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Tanzania, and Tunisia. To access this message, go to the following link: https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/TAGD/awards/message_Reference_Index/Subfolder_151-175/171.pdf.

Navy-Wide Advancement Exams: The Navy-Wide Advancement Exams will take place in the USU Dining Facility from 6:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. on the following dates: Chief Petty Officer: Jan. 18; Petty Officer First Class: March 1; Petty Officer Second Class: March 2-8; Petty Officer Third Class: March 3-15. To go to the NAVADMIN announcement for the E4-E6, go to the following link: <http://www.npc.navy.mil/NR/rdonlyres/6A4934BB-BD2A-43B1-B3F3-47BCE6701805/0/NAV06371.txt>. Additionally, to access the NAVADMIN announcement for the E7 exam, go to the following link: <http://www.npc.navy.mil/NR/rdonlyres/19F329B1-5778-4303-85D9-7E25F2474939/0/NAV06223.txt>.

CFC's Goal is Met The CFC's goal of \$172,000 was met. The donation that put USU over the top came in from the School of Medicine MS I students. This year's CFC would not have been possible without the help of the CFC Committee (Anne Huffman, CPT Kevin Doherty, LT Darren Brown, CPT Kassandra Robinson, SSgt Russell Ware, SSgt Melissa Witer, and Sharon Willis.)

Retirement Ceremony: HM1 Amdetsyon, USN (GSN) will have an informal retirement gathering on Jan. 12 at 1p.m. in the Small Dining Room. All are invited to attend to show their support for his 20 years of honorable Naval service.

Hail and Farewell: HM2 Hooker, USN (AFRRI) recently reported from STU NUMI, Groton, CT. Please take time to welcome her to our command and the surrounding area.

Quote:

You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.
-Mahatma Gandhi



Today in History: January 16, 1939

The syndicated newspaper comic strip "Superman" debuted. Originally, Superman was a super villain created by a "mad scientist," in the short story, "Reign of the Superman" in 1933.





USU Calendar of Events



<p>14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">January</p>	<p>15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Holiday Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday</p>	<p>16</p> <p>LRC Training Classes: LRC Electronic Resources (ER) Noon - 1p.m. LRC</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Neuroscience Seminar 3:30p.m Lecture Room A</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Brigade Awards Ceremony 7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. Sanford Auditorium</p> <p>The Department of Pathology presents: A Balancing Act of the Multiple TOR Complexes Noon Room A2053</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>LRC Training Classes: EndNote Basics 6p.m. - 7p.m. LRC</p> <p>MLK Celebration 9—10:30 a.m. USU Cafeteria</p>	<p>23</p> <p>All Hands Town Hall Meeting 3p.m. Sanford Auditorium</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Medical Effects of Ionizing Radiation Course NMCP w/FDPMU/JTF-CS/NNSY, Norfolk, VA</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Medical Effects of Ionizing Radiation Course NMCP w/FDPMU/JTF-CS/NNSY, Norfolk, VA</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2007 Health Care Law Symposium 7:30a.m. - 5p.m. Sanford Auditorium</p> <p style="text-align: center;">February</p>	<p>2</p> <p>2007 Health Care Law Symposium 7:30a.m. - 5p.m. Sanford Auditorium</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Board of Regents Meeting</p> <p>Doctoral Dissertation Defense Seminar 10 am lecture room E</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>LRC Training Classes Noon - 1p.m. LRC</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>