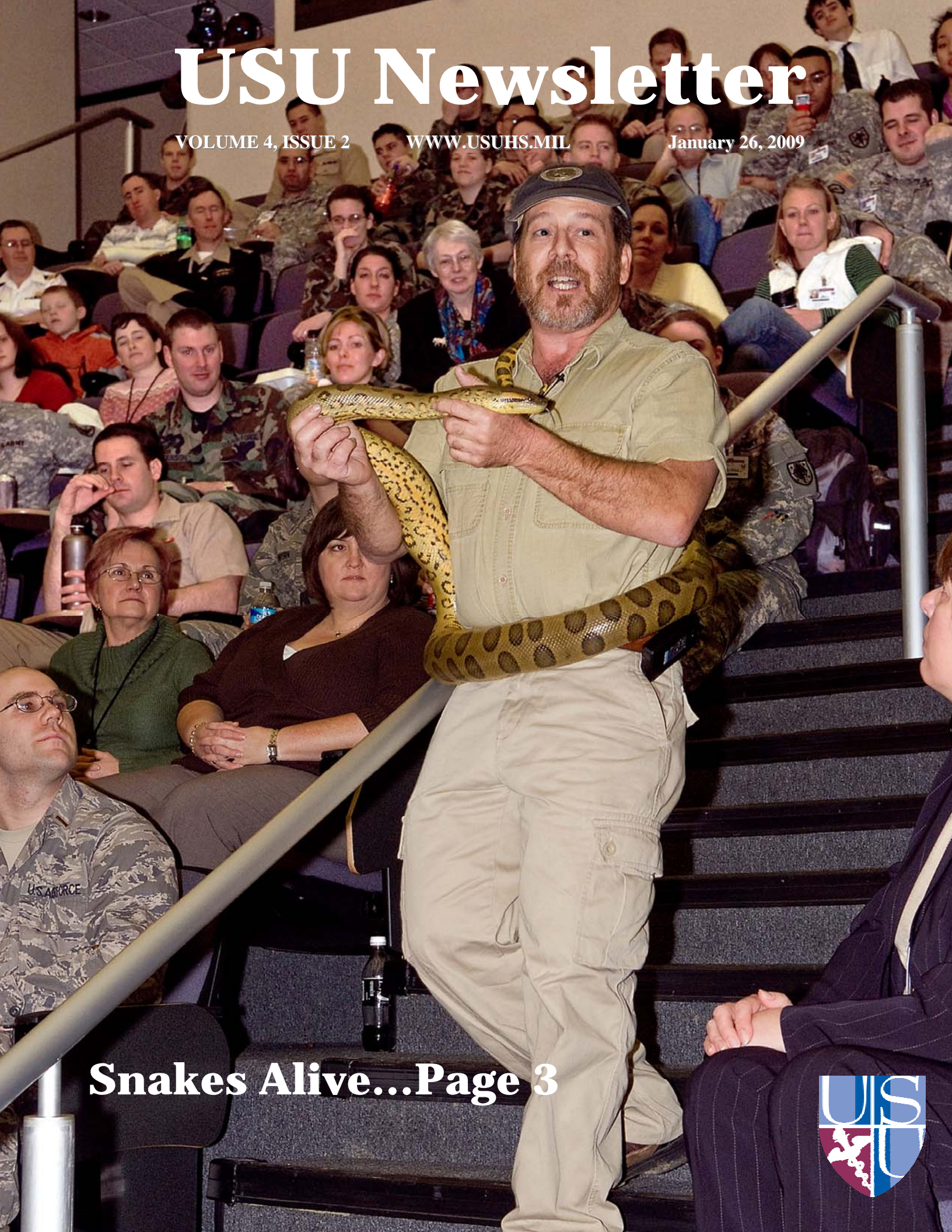


# USU Newsletter

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# USU Names Board of Regents Room after Former Chairman

By Christine Creenan  
VPE Staff Writer

His name graces a California high school, a Maryland post office and now the Board of Regents room at the Uniformed Services University (USU) will also bear the namesake of its former chairman, Everett Alvarez Jr.

The one-time Navy combat pilot has experienced triumphs and travails unknown to most, and has become a tale of inspiration for those who understand the makings of a true American hero. He was the first aviator shot down over Vietnam and one of the longest held prisoners of war in military history.

A symbol of bravery, Alvarez continued to serve his country even after his release from Hanoi's Hoa Lo prison. Upon retiring from the Navy in 1983, Alvarez assumed leadership posts with the Peace Corps and Department of Veteran Affairs before accepting an appointment to the USU Board of Regents. Alvarez has served the nation's School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing for more than 20 years, providing much support and guidance

throughout his incumbency.

The hails and farewells of senior leadership are always bitter-sweet, but this is especially true in the case of Everett Alvarez Jr., who shall always be regarded as a friend to the Uniformed Services University.

His impact continues to extend even beyond USU corridors. Alvarez was recently named a "great public servant" by the Council for Excellence in Government. The former chairman is among 25 honorees, being recognized for significant contributions

to achieving excellence in government over the past 25 years. In receiving this honor, Alvarez stands among a venerable cast of "greats" including: Al Gore, Sandra Day O'Conner, Colin Powell, Anthony Fauci and Donna Shalala.



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

**Incoming Board of Regents Chairman Ronald Blanck, M.D., and President Charles Rice, M.D., share the honor of unveiling the new sign adorning the Board of Regents room. The tribute commemorates the former chairman's years of service to the university and the nation.**

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**Cover photo:**  
Tom Balfour

## Professors Represent USU at International Conference

By Christine Creenan  
VPE Staff Writer

Few secrets are kept from James Smirniotopoulos, M.D., professor of radiology, neurology and biomedical informatics, chair, radiology and radiological sciences. Through use of medical imaging technologies, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) instructor understands the body inside and out. And the radiologist is sharing what he knows with thousands of his peers.

The physician and his colleagues recently attended the annual meeting for the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA). The trip to Chicago satisfied a two-fold mission; the physicians represented USU by sharing their medical expertise with colleagues from around the world while also benefitting from academic sessions hosted by other leaders in the fields of biomedicine.

USU faculty spoke on topics ranging from brain imaging and critical diagnoses, forensic radiology and the virtual autopsy, to spinal cord tumors and intracranial hemorrhages.

Contributions to assemblies such as RSNA helps balance the academic medicine paradigm, described by Smirniotopoulos as a three-legged stool, comprising education, research and service.

"Attending national meetings provides an opportunity to present the results of research and to provide and receive education," Smirniotopoulos said. "All of these activities are essential to maintaining our skills and foster the highest quality academic faculty for USU."

The RSNA meeting is commonly received as the world's premiere radiology assembly and participation in the annual event highlights the international stature of USU faculty.



# Alumna Receives Purple Heart

By Christine Creenan  
VPE Staff Writer

Sidestepping puddles of mud and making her way to 'scalpel lane'—the row where doctors live in Mosul, Iraq—LTC (P) Anne Naclerio was returning from Christmas Mass with her newly arrived colleague MAJ John Pryor, when she met a friend on the path home. They spoke about the weather—a recent downpour turned the soil into muck.

Seconds after Pryor left her side, a loud boom sounded nearby.

"Everything was in slow motion like a movie," she remembered. "The first sound was like a banging. I thought perhaps



Courtesy Photo

Typically uniformed physicians heal the wounded but LTC (P) Anne Naclerio was among the injured when shrapnel from an enemy rocket attack sliced through her chin while on assignment in Mosul, Iraq.

someone dropped a large container. In the next milliseconds, things happened almost too fast to think. There was a whistle overhead, and a crash, which seemed almost silent to my ears."

The clamor was the result of a single mortar round slamming into the cement walkway, injuring the Uniformed Services University alumna.

"My eyes glanced towards the noise," Naclerio said. "I felt something hit me in the face and spin me around. I saw smoke, felt blood dripping down my chin, then heard yelling for me to get in the bunker."

Shrapnel from the explosion sliced through Naclerio's chin, entered just below the lip and lodged against the root of her lower front teeth. Though hurt, concern for the other wounded service members grew.

"I was asking if anyone needed help, if anyone else was injured," she recalled.

Triage began almost immediately; Naclerio was quickly escorted to the base hospital. Through the drawn curtain of bed five, she could hear the commotion in the trauma bay. Somewhere in the midst of the clamor, Naclerio learned one of the new surgeons had been seriously injured.

In the emergency room, the voices reaching fevered pitches and sounds of medical supplies hard at work soon gave way to silence. John Pryor could not be saved.

"We were all grief stricken," Naclerio lamented. They would miss their colleague and friend whose call to service led him to request front-line duty in Iraq.



Courtesy Photo

LTC (P) Anne Naclerio (third from left) received a Purple Heart for injuries sustained during battle. Following the ceremony, she was joined in the EMT by USU alumni CPT(P) Elizabeth Duque ('03), LTC Mike Friedman ('92) and BG Joe Carvalho ('83).

Naclerio's wounds have since healed and she was recently awarded a Purple Heart commendation for injuries sustained during battle. Naclerio is honored and humbled; still she finds the greatest solace in the roles she takes on as a uniformed physician.

"There is an unbreakable bond that is shared with my fellow soldiers, those who served by my side, and those whose names I don't even know," she said. "All of our countries young sons and daughters who risk their lives daily are my brothers and sisters.

Naclerio continues to practice medicine in Mosul, Iraq.



Photo by Tom Balfour

## Snakes Alive

Sanford auditorium was packed—besides the barren front two rows. After all, venomous reptiles are best observed from a distance. Instead the snakes took center stage during the medical zoology seminar hosted by the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics. Some small, others large, all fascinating creatures and important case studies for the aspiring physicians and advanced practice nurses filling the large auditorium. Curator Bruce Shwedick (left) explained there are more than 3,000 different species of snakes found around the world, each with unique characteristics. "Be familiar with the snakes in your area of operation," he warned the uniformed officers explaining, treatment varies because the effects of snake bites differ so greatly. He continued to regale captive audiences with important information about the world's most dangerous species. For example, the Cobra (seen left) will rear up and display its flattened neck to form a hood when disturbed and often times hisses loudly, adding a further warning.

# Montgomery County Adventures

By Jan Clark

Director of Government and Community Affairs

Being the fortunate soul that I am, I applied for and was accepted into the Leadership Montgomery Core Program of Montgomery County.

The program offers a diverse group of community leaders a multifaceted education of Montgomery County, enabling participants to build awareness and relationships, while encouraging their involvement in the community. In other words, while I learn about the community and its people, projects and what makes it tick, I get to share with other participants and all those I meet along the way, the USU story.

We began the program with a two-day retreat to Pennsylvania. There, members learned about each other's cultural backgrounds, different histories, educational levels and career paths. We found we shared a common desire to lead well while reaching out to the community where we live and work. To be honest, I had expected it to be a bit too touchy/feeling – but that wasn't the case. It was two days of learning and realizing how much more I had to learn.

Each month we travel to various locations throughout the county, discovering what can be accomplished through desire,



Colella Photography

Courtesy of Colella Photography

**Christmas Eve found Santa delivering hugs as well as gifts to children in Montgomery County.**

**“Each month we travel to various locations throughout the county, discovering what can be accomplished through desire.”**

—Director of Government and Community Affairs Jan Clark

drive and dedication. One such day, following a history presentation of Montgomery County, we traveled to the Button Farm Living History Center. The farm, located on 60 acres inside Seneca Creek State Park, is the only living history center of life on a slave plantation within Maryland.

It includes a museum garden and slave cemetery and the Underground Railroad Immersion Experience – a reenactment of the slave to freedom journey. While currently under renovation, the farm opened to the public in September. For history buffs, or just someone who wants to experience a piece of the past, this is the place to visit. Perhaps forever the optimist, or one to see the glass half-full, I found the story, the reminder of the underground railroad inspiring. The fact men and

women, black and white, worked together to free other human beings – whew – the courage, challenges and the successes continue to astound me. You can get more detailed information by visiting the web site at [www.menare.org/buttonfarm.html](http://www.menare.org/buttonfarm.html).

Next, we visited the Red Wiggler Community Farm. The educational non-profit community endeavor provides jobs for developmentally disabled adults, quality farm-grown products and farming education to local youth. The 12-acre spread also provides a food supply for the community and local food banks – enough

vegetables and herbs for 93 families for six months of each year. You can read more about the farm at [www.redwiggler.org](http://www.redwiggler.org).

Another stop was at the Long Branch Community Center, Silver Spring. The center provides recreational activities for local

community youth. But, it does more. It also provides group support meetings and senior citizen activities as well as after school programs, summer camps and programs for individuals with disabilities. Listening to the women who run the programs speak of those they serve makes one want to go out and do more! You can check out the website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rectmpl.asp?url=/content/REC/recipix/Long\\_cen.asp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rectmpl.asp?url=/content/REC/recipix/Long_cen.asp).

My adventures with Leadership Montgomery continued into the holiday season. While my family is far away in Kansas, and I spent my Christmas and the New Year alone, the organization came to the rescue.

As a core member of the program, I chose the Montgomery Housing Partnership/Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad Toy Drive to be my annual community project.

In its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the drive provides toys to children at the Amherst and Pembridge apartment complexes in Wheaton. While sponsors were concerned that this year's economic downturn would prevent donations from reaching the levels of years past, the Christmas spirit prevailed. Donations flowed into the numerous county drop-off sites continually through Dec. 24.

Christmas Eve brought Santa to the scene. Arriving with the toy-filled Wheaton fire truck, he joined the volunteers; myself included, and converged on the apartment complexes, delivering toys to boys and girls who waited anxiously for his arrival.

The bright eyes of the children, the obvious joy and wonder found on their faces as Santa approached, touched my heart. So alone, me, no way. That special spirit that comes with the holiday season surrounded me. I had a wonderful Christmas.

Leadership Montgomery Core Program participants have also been provided the opportunity to ride-along with both local Fire & Rescue and Police Departments. What an experience both provided! And – we visited the Correctional Facility, Clarksburg and the Public Service Training Academy in Rockville. I'll be telling you about those experiences next time. So, stay tuned . . .



**USU**

**A Traditional Academic University with a Unique Focus**



# Faculty Profile: Senior Enlisted Member Clinton Garrett Sr.

By Christine Greenan  
VPE Staff Writer

Don't judge a book by its cover, say the wise old men. Desks, however, are fair game. And when analyzing the contents of Master Chief Clinton Garrett Sr.'s office, much is revealed about the university's senior enlisted member.

Walls abounding with military insignia, the Sailor is proud to serve his country. Photos scattered throughout, Garrett is a family man. Folders stacked one on top of the other—he is busy.

Office trappings alone do little for acquaintance though. To really know him is to understand the experiences shaping the service man into the leader he is today.

His story reaches back to an earlier time; an impressionable young man, Garrett was still figuring out his way in Detroit, Michigan. The grandparents who raised him and his brother encouraged the precocious children to always pursue their dreams, what ever they may be. Except young Garrett didn't know what he wanted to do in life but one option was to follow in the footsteps of Jacques Cousteau.

The French explorer came to represent the adventure Garrett sought in life. His fiery spirit coupled with early exposure to the military lifestyle through Junior Reserves Officer Training Corps, encouraged Garrett to enlist in the United States Navy. So he traded his graduation cap for a dixie cup and off the Sailor went, pursuing fair winds and following seas around the world.

The tides have taken him near and far.

From Indonesia to the Persian Gulf, South-west Asia and all across the United States, the Sailor has lived the adventures he yearned for as a child.

Garrett's most recent assignment to the Uniformed Services University represents another chapter of his military career. His charge is great, Garrett advises the Brigade Commander on all enlisted matters concerning the morale, welfare, discipline and professional development of the enlisted personnel assigned to the University. "Everyday is something new and exciting," he said about the pivotal role he plays at the military's only School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing.

He is not a one-man office; Garrett quickly admits his responsibilities are shouldered by many individuals. Calling the effort "collaborative" and "collective," the Master Chief humbly shares accolades with the service senior enlisted advisors and those he serves within the brigade.

To only discuss his life in uniform would not be telling the whole story though. A devoted husband and father, Garrett married his best friend and high school sweetheart. Together, they are raising two boys, whom balance the family unit. And when Garrett talks about his children, pride emanates from his voice. Both are smart with a unique set of talents. The eldest wants to be a lawyer and the youngest is a star athlete.

Support goes both ways though. Garrett says their encouragement has been integral throughout his military career. Whether on deployments or while earning a bachelor's degree in health care manage-



Master Chief Clinton Garrett Sr.

ment—Garrett's family is his backbone. And they share in his successes too—including both nominations for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Award and the NAACP Roy Wilkins Renowned Service Award.

The young dreamer has grown into a respected leader and doting family man. And as he continues to share his story, it becomes abundantly clear—Clinton Garrett is happy with the choices he's made in life.



## Call for Applications

### **The Henry Wu Award for Excellence in Basic Research and The James Leonard Award for Excellence in Clinical Research**

**The Wu and Leonard Awards for Excellence in Research will recognize faculty members and AFRRRI scientists who have made the most significant published scientific contribution to either basic biomedical or translational/clinical research respectively, over the past three years.**

**Any Uniformed Services University faculty member, staff or student may submit nominations for the awards.**

**The nominee must be either a member of the full time faculty or an AFRRRI scientist at the university.**

**Due Date: January 31, 2009**

**Applications should be submitted to the Office of Research, attention Dr. Susan Rasmussen.**

## USU, AFRRRI Scientists Collaborate on Award-Winning Research Poster

By TSgt. André Nicholson  
NCOIC, VPE

It does not take a scientist for most people to understand that foreign objects embedded in the human body can and most likely will be harmful. But three scientists from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) and the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRRI) created an award-winning research poster that explains how metal can do just that.

CDR Michelle Kane, John Kalinich, Ph.D., research biochemist and program advisor of Internal Contamination and Metal Toxicity Program at AFRRRI; and Christine Kasper, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, FACS, professor and acting director, Ph.D. programs, Graduate School of Nursing, USU and Department of Veteran Affairs, co-authored a research poster titled, "Weapons Grade Tungsten Alloy as a Potential Cytotoxin". The scientists received the Best Research Award at the annual Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) held in San Antonio, Texas this past November.

The research explained a method being used to determine the effects on muscle that has been induced with metal. Dr. Kalinich explained that the purpose of the study is because "the potential

health issues that may arise from embedded metal fragment injuries are an operational health issue in the military medical community. Embedded fragment injuries can occur not only from the standard-use munitions, but also from improvised explosive devices (better known as IEDs). Also, military munitions are not routinely tested for health effects as embedded fragments and because of the novel metal compounds now being used, this raises serious questions as to the long-term health effects of embedded fragments and the need for patient surveillance or even more aggressive surgical removal of fragments."

The standard procedure to assess the long-term health effects has a two year life span study and can be costly and time consuming, Dr. Kalinich explained. "So the work presented in the poster at the AMSUS meeting described a method to rapidly determine metal-induced health effects on muscle," he said. "This way, an estimation of potential adverse health effects can be made in days rather than years."

As scientists continue to find ways to improve the health of wounded warriors, this collaborated research by USU and AFRRRI is a much needed resource.



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

## Academic Awards

**The Student Awards Committee recognized the academic accomplishments of several outstanding School of Medicine Students in the class of 2009 during the 20th Annual Academic Collegium. Honors spanned several categories, including Distinguished and Outstanding Academic Performance Awards for the Introduction to Structure and Function course (pictured above). School of Medicine Dean Larry Laughlin, M.D., (fourth from left) and Department of Anatomy, Physics and Genetics Associate Professor Stephen Rothwell, M.D., (third from right) congratulated the award recipients.**

# USU Briefs

**Helpdesk Closure:** The UIS helpdesk will be closed for training on Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. During this time, you can leave a voicemail message at 295-9800 or utilize the HEAT Self Service (<http://www.usuhs.mil/uis/forms/trouble.html>), or send an email to [help@usuhs.mil](mailto:help@usuhs.mil). If an emergency should arise, please call 295-9870.

**PFT/PFA/APFT Spring 2009:** The spring 2009 Physical Fitness Test for all services is projected for April 7-9 and 14-16. Plan accordingly. If there are any questions, please contact your service specific fitness coordinators: Air Force contact, (T)Sgt Ernie at 295-3281; Navy contact, FC2 Race at 295-9637; and Army contact, SSG Rogers at 295-3720.

**2009 Field Exercises:** Operations Bushmaster and Kerkesner will be conducted from July 7-24 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. Ad-

vance personnel will deploy on July 7 and main body personnel will deploy on July 12. These exercises are unique to our university and require the support of all university uniformed personnel. Only emergency leave will be granted during this time frame as there are over 145 uniformed personnel (not including evaluators) needed to support this mission.

**Brigade Awards Ceremony:** The next USU Brigade Awards Ceremony will take place on Feb. 13 at 8:30 a.m. in Sanford Auditorium. This ceremony recognizes the Enlisted Service Member of the Year, Color Guard Member of the Year, 2008 fall physical fitness achievements, as well as other military personnel for their contributions to the organization. All department heads, chairs, supervisors, directors, and military personnel are encouraged to attend this important occasion to show their support.

**USU Color Guard:** The USU Color Guard is currently recruiting new members. There are available positions for all three services. If you are interested in this great opportunity please contact HM2 Charles USN (EHS) at [ccharles@usuhs.mil](mailto:ccharles@usuhs.mil).

## Look Who's Talking...The people of USU share their dream vacation spots



**"I'd go to the Tuscany region of Italy because my wife has never been. I was stationed in Italy and I love the country side. It's bellissimo!"**

—Director of Events and Protocol  
John Frankenburg



**"I'm going on mine soon. I'll be in Hawaii at the end of October and I think I'm going to love it."**

—Contract Specialist Kali Shelton



**"The White House so I could hug Michelle."**

—IT Specialist  
Stephen Simpson-McKenzie



**"I'd probably spend my vacation in Europe. I'd go skiing on all of the great slopes, visit old towns and stuff myself with chocolate."**

—Chief of the Graphics Division  
Patrice Bolté



**"My dream vacation is going to the Daytona 500 during speed week. If I could spend a whole week there, that would be good."**

—Bookstore Manager Matt Landman



**"I want to go to Reykjavik, Iceland to bathe in the hot springs. I hear they're good for your skin."**

—Program Assistant Becky Auxier



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Focus





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