

USU Newsletter

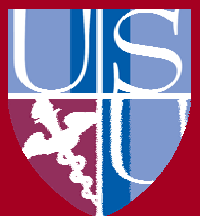
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March is Women's History Month



People of USU Give Generously to Those in Need

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By Christine Creenan
VPE Staff Writer

There has been much frenzy over the past couple of months and the university's business-as-usual ambience has given way to raucous celebrations on campus grounds—all in the name of charity.

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) swept through USU—barbeques and chili cook-offs setting the tone—reminding everyone, giving is fun! Legions of university employees responded by donating more than \$180,000 to those in need, shattering the goal by nearly \$15,000.

For its participation, USU received the much coveted Summit Award, given to agencies achieving a three percent increase in

donations over the previous year's results.

While the success of the campaign rests on a unified community's shoulders, it is important to acknowledge the men and women who labored so diligently on behalf of the CFC.

"You proved to be real stars in people's lives," CPT Sean Tyler told campaign stewards during an awards ceremony commemorating key workers. "Your enthusiasm and commitment made everything possible."

More than 70 volunteers helped organize and facilitate the events, becoming the cornerstones of the lucrative campaign.

While some donated time, and others money, visual information specialist Harold Blackwell used imagination to fashion several posters designed to attract contributors. In one poster, a top hat and wand are positioned next to a slogan reading, *It Doesn't Take a Magician to Make*



Photo by Tom Balfour

Harold Blackwell, TSgt Lakisha Davis, CPT Sean Tyler and LT Darren Brown represented USU at the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area Finale and Award Assembly.

the Magic Happen. For his creations, Blackwell won first and second place in the Department of Defense Communication and Marketing Contest and first place in the CFC National Capital Area (CFCNCA) Best Poster in the medium category. The CFC honored Blackwell during an awards ceremony hosted at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, D.C. The university was also recognized for having the most innovative campaign technique during the CFCNCA awards ceremony.

CFC is the world's largest and most successful workplace charity campaign. In 2008, federal employees in the National Capital Area pledged nearly \$62.6 million, the largest amount ever contributed in the region.



Photo by Tom Balfour

On behalf of the university, Brigade Commander COL John Wempe and President Charles Rice accepted the Summit Award, given to agencies achieving a three percent increase in donations.

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Courtesy of the United
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Save the Date

A showcase of research excellence begins May 11 during Research Week 2009. This year's theme, "Celebrating Excellence in Research," reflects the complementary roles that nursing, public health, behavioral science, basic science and medicine play in health promotion. The three-day event will include poster presentations, invited speakers and panels demonstrating USU's special role in civilian, public health and military research across the health sciences. For more information, visit <http://usuresearchday.hjf.org>.



USU Faculty Expands Leadership Role on Capitol Hill

By Christine Creenan
VPE Staff Writer

From the halls of learning to the chambers of legislation, a former acting chairman of the USU Department of Medicine and presently a professor of medicine, was recently nominated by President Barack Obama for appointment to the grade of rear admiral and assignment as attending physician in the Office of Attending Physician, U.S. Congress (OAP).

RADM Brian Monahan is responsible for the welfare of the legislative and judicial branches of government; the emergency care of thousands of staff, security personnel and dignitaries; and environmental, public health, and occupational health programs of the Capitol Hill region. He is instrumental in security planning and works hand-in-hand with the House and Senate Sergeant at Arms, U.S. Capitol Police, and other Congressional Officials to ensure medical support during contingency operations.

Dr. Monahan is well suited to take the reigns as lead physician on Capitol Hill. The experienced oncology and hematology doctor and researcher was a staff physician for the OAP in the early 1990s and maintained a supporting role with the office during countless national special security events, State of the Union Addresses and Joint Sessions of Congress, and essential continuity of

government initiatives. He returned permanently in the spring of 2008 as the assistant attending physician.

"It is a great honor and privilege to expand my leadership role and continue serving my country. The physician officers before me have set a precedence of excellence and I look forward to continuing this tradition by providing sound medical advice and working to promote wellness," Monahan said.

Like Dr. Monahan, many of his predecessors are affiliated with USU, including RADM (Ret.) William Narva, former USU vice president, and RADM John Eisold, former adjunct professor of medicine at USU.



RADM Brian Monahan

African American History Month Celebration



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

In February, people across the United States celebrated the contributions of African Americans during African American History Month. At USU, the 28-day commemoration culminated in a presentation hosted by guest speaker, Mr. George Hardy. Through his discussion, a glimpse into America's Jim Crow society was revealed. "Just like other places in the South, Wilson, N.C. was a segregated town," Hardy said of his hometown. But according to the USU courier, underscoring the inequalities that existed in the early 1960s were feelings of optimism. The organization of a local chapter of the NAACP, for example, promised citizens of Wilson hope for a brighter future. Hardy shared many stories, revealing much about life on a tobacco farm during times of social unrest. Through it all, Mr. Hardy remained spirited. He said he is thankful for a loving family, great friends and even the lived experiences—good and bad—which shaped him into the person he is today. President Charles Rice thanked Hardy with a university memento.

Dr. Smith is at the Head of the Class

By Christine Creenan
VPE Staff Writer

Flashes of light fill the otherwise dark room. Photos of kamikaze pilots, a town in ruins, and badly wounded soldiers flood the large screen. The images, fading one into the next, grab their attention but the real excitement lies in his storytelling.

Senior Vice President Dale Smith, Ph.D., paints a vivid picture for the aspiring physicians of USU. His voice—perfectly suited for narration—carries to the highest corners of the auditorium, reeling in students with tales of wartime casualty.

A group of ambitious Sailors are faced with enormous challenges aboard a World War II submarine, Dr. Smith tells the first-year students. Crewmembers, aboard several ships, have fallen ill and with no physicians on hand, the “corpsmen, having seen surgery, studied anatomy and having experience and confidence decided that while on patrol, they would complete the appendectomies to save the lives of these crewmen.”

Wartime iconography continues to flash in the background. Images of the ship’s hull and makeshift operating tables bring to life the war fighter’s story.

“They didn’t have the right equipment,” the historian continues. “They bent spoons into retractors and ether was dropped onto tea strainers. It was very clear in the confined space of the submarine, the fumes in the environment nearly took out the operators as well as the patients.”

In the crux of Smith’s history lesson, it’s easy to forget the classroom and all of its trappings. His students are transported to another time and place and on this journey they have come to understand the dire need for a properly trained cadre of medical personnel.

Even the shock of fluorescent lighting, signifying the lesson’s completion, can not jar their contemplation. The students have experienced a breathtaking piece of history, and have gained a conscience certain to make them better soldiers and physicians. And this is Dr. Smith’s gift—the delivery of seemingly effortless discourse, as if he’s sharing script from a really good book.

But making the job look easy is actually very hard work, concedes the historian, even for someone who began when Nixon was president.

“Each generation grows up and learns differently,” Smith said. “You must work at restructuring the material you are teaching, not just to keep pace with the scholarship but to keep pace with the way students learn.”

Nowadays, Dr. Smith spends less time teaching and more time as an administrator. The demands of a senior vice president stretch far and wide. Still, perhaps the greatest impact he makes comes from behind the classroom podium. And Dr. Smith will tell you, there is no place he’d rather be.



Senior Vice President Dale Smith

Military Health System Hosts “Share Your Care” Video Contest

The Military Health System (MHS) is running “Share Your Care,” a video contest to showcase the people, programs and facilities supporting the health of our service members and families. The contest runs Feb. 27 through March 30, 2009.

The contest, open to all service members, their families and MHS personnel, is the first of its kind for MHS, using the social media Web site, YouTube, to manage and collect submissions. Winners will receive a coveted coin from the assistant secretary of defense, Dr. S. Ward Casscells, and have their videos featured on www.health.mil.

“We don’t often hear about the men and women who get up every day and tirelessly care for our wounded, ill and in-

jured,” said Dr. Casscells. “This video contest affords the opportunity to service members, families and personnel to share their stories of where the MHS’s commitment to care is most embodied.”

Videos will be accepted on a range of military health topics, such as outstanding employees and medical providers, rehabilitation experiences or volunteer efforts. Videos should fall into at least one of five categories: Humor, Poignancy, History, Artistic Beauty (highlighting place of work and surrounding area) and/or Song.

“This contest is not about us, but about you. Maybe it’s a story about care received at a warrior transition unit or military treatment facility or maybe it’s a particular indi-

vidual who made the difference such as a doctor, nurse, physical therapist, or receptionist, for example, who never complains and brings a smile to work every day,” said Casscells. “Be bold and creative in your videos and have some fun.”

Members of the YouTube community will vote on their favorite videos, selecting the top five as winners. Full contest rules and instructions are available at <http://www.health.mil/shareyourcare> and on the contest page on YouTube, at www.youtube.com/group/ShareYourCare.

For more information, contact Charlene Reynolds at 703-681-8882. (Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs *News Release*)



USU
A Traditional Academic University with a Unique
Focus



Call for Applications: Emma L. Bockman Memorial Award

By Tim O'Neill, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor, Pediatrics



Emma L. Bockman

The Emma L. Bockman Memorial Fund was established to honor the late Dr. Emma L. Bockman, an associate professor of physiology at USU from 1978 to 1985. Dr. Bockman's exceptional abilities as an educator and researcher were recog-

nized both within the university and in the scientific community. Her dedication to teaching was felt by all who were fortunate enough to experience her Socratic methods. In her memory, the Emma L. Bockman Memorial Fund annually rewards those who keep her academic ideals and search for knowledge alive.

Awards of \$750 will be given to the USU graduate and medical students who best represent the ideals that were held by Dr. Bockman. The recipients are selected competitively based upon their research (completed, in progress or proposed), academic performance, and community service. The Medical Student Award is presented at the graduation award ceremony for fourth year students, and during the fall academic collegiums for other medical students. The Graduate Student Award is presented at the banquet held during USU Research Week.

The Emma L. Bockman Award is intended to support scholarly endeavors that enhance the recipient's scientific career and may be used to purchase supplies for a collaborative research project, payment of tuition for a special course to enhance the individual's scholarly capability, to provide travel to a relevant scientific meeting or conference, or to purchase equipment, books, or computer programs to support the individuals' scholarly effort, among other things.

To apply, a student should submit an abstract of 750 words or less briefly outlin-

ing a research project completed or in progress. The abstract must conform to the following format: objective(s), methods, results, and discussion. Alternatively, the abstract could describe an interesting research problem or proposal for scholarly activity to be performed, with a review of the relevant literature. Examples of the research considered for the award include, but are not limited to: a report of a completed project for more advanced students; a well researched case report; a preliminary report from an ongoing research project for less advanced students; or a well thought out faculty-guided proposal. The application must contain a statement of how the awardee will use the \$750 to enhance his or her academic career. The applicant must also supply USU transcripts, a curriculum vitae and a confidential letter from one faculty sponsor outlining faculty support and guidance and the student's scholarly ability, integrity, as well as contributions to the University. All application materials must be received by Dr. Tim O'Neill, Department of Pediatrics, Room C 1069B, no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 27.



Photo by Ken Frager



Photo by Ken Frager

And the Service Award Goes to...

Faculty Senate President LTC Andrew Bauer, M.D., presented CPT Gerald Denton, M.D., and Cindy Wilson, Ph.D., with the Exceptional Service Award and Outstanding Service Award, respectively, for meritorious service to the university. CPT Denton has served as the president-elect, faculty president and past-president of the USU Faculty Senate. During his three-year tenure, beginning in 2005, Denton worked tirelessly to fairly represent more than 4,000 faculty members by maintaining open channels of communication with the Board of Regents and university administration. He also established a Clinical Educator Award and created a faculty mentoring committee. Dr. Wilson is the chair of the USU Faculty Senate Education Committee and overall coordinator for last year's Education Day. More than 100 faculty members, ten administrative offices and five external organizations participated in the highly successful event.

Young Scientist Investigates Radiation Effects on Plant Growth

By Donna Solyan
Chief, Publications Design Division

A 16-year-old junior at West Potomac High School in Alexandria, Va., took first place in the plant science category in her high school's recent science fair. Potential future scientist Chelsea Bender's project was to observe the effects of a range of radiation doses on the growth of radish seeds.

In the interest of "growing" future scientists, staff members at AFRRRI provided guidance to Ms. Bender. "I'd like to thank especially Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Christie Hooker for her explanations about irradiation," said Ms. Bender. Ms. Bender's next step is to enter the Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair on March 27-29. In addition to enthusiasm and degree of independent effort, judging was based on the application of the scientific method, the quality of the research, the results and conclusions, the presentation of the information, and ideas for future studies.

"We are pleased to encourage interest in scientific careers and particularly the study of radiation science, which plays an important part in many medical and commercial aspects of our lives," said AFRRRI Deputy Director Col Donald E. Hall. Such education and assistance, he said, is coupled with our routine operations, which allows us to assist in the experience without additional expense or use. On March 3, as it does each year, AFRRRI will host some 40 high-school students from across the country at the request of the Presidential Classroom Science, Technology & Public Policy Program, a nonprofit civic education organization.

Ms. Bender, showing the long-term devotion required in scientific research, built her project on her 2008 science fair entry. That experiment used radish seeds that were purchased online and came with exposures of 50,000 to 4 million rad. Her 2008 findings indicated that the seeds exposed to 50,000 rad grew best. For this effort she was awarded a third place in the Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

For her current project, Ms. Bender wanted to limit variables and observe the effects of a narrower range of exposures from 5,000 to 100,000 rad. She purchased seeds from a seed company so as to verify things like the age of the seeds. AFRRRI was able to help her obtain details and guidance about the irradiation process. Her results this time indicated that the control group (0 rad) grew best.

Ms. Bender hopes to next observe radiation hormesis, which hypothesizes that chronic exposure to low doses of ionizing radiation are beneficial and, in this case, should boost the growth of radish seeds. Exposing the seeds to levels between 0 and 5,000 rad, she feels, would be a logical extension of her project.



Photo by David Morse

Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Christie Hooker (left), an AFRRRI radiation health technician, explains to high-school student Chelsea Bender and her mother Lindsey Bender how containers of radish seeds could be placed on the exposure platform in the AFRRRI 60-cobalt facility. They are escorted by Army Specialist Walter Cruz.

In addition to using deeper soil containers and planting seeds outside, she would like to vary the dose rate—the speed at which the dose is delivered—to test whether the same dose given over a short versus a longer period of time may yield different results.

Look Who's Talking...In honor of Women's History Month, the people of USU talk about the females who inspire them.



"I would say my role model is Michelle Obama. She is independent and can stand on her own two feet. As a female, I think that is very important."

-SSgt Latoya Carr
Medical Technician



"My female role model is a lady named Robin Sundeen. She's a horse instructor who has been educating herself her entire life. I think that's cool because no matter what you do, you can always be better."

-2nd Lt Kristina Rustad
Medical Student



"My wife is my role model. She is on the city board and on the education board, while also working two jobs and completing her MBA. She does her thing."

-SFC Kimani Harris
NCOIC Military Personnel Office



"Congresswoman Jackie Speier is my role model. She accompanied Leo Ryan as his undersecretary on a trip to Jonestown, Guyana in 1978. He died in the massacre and she sustained major injuries. I had the chance to meet her and she was a powerful woman, who left a lasting impression."

-Wes Summers
IT Specialist

USU Briefs

DEOMI Equal Opportunity Climate Survey: All active duty members of the USU Brigade should have received directions to complete the DEOCS/Command Climate Survey. The survey is available until March 9. If you have not yet received the email with directions on how to complete the survey, please contact the BDE EOO, MAJ Fitzhugh, at dfitzhugh@usuhs.mil or 295-9506.

Helpdesk Closure: The UIS helpdesk is closed for training on Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. During this time, you can leave a voicemail message at 295-9800, utilize the HEAT Self Service (<http://www.usuhs.mil/uis/forms/trouble.html>), or email 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 TSgt Ernle at 295-3281; Navy contact FC1 Race at 295-9637; and Army contact SSG Rogers at 295-3720.

Personal Exercise/Fitness Areas: Physical Fitness training should be conducted in designated areas. The only authorized space for PT within the university is room G060. All other spaces within the university are not authorized for exercise or fitness, with the exception of the Student Community Lounge area during specified PFT testing dates/times. Another option for indoor PT on base is the Comfort Zone Complex (CZC) in building 23. The CZC hours of operation are Monday – Friday from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on weekends and holidays from are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Antietam Road March: The annual Antietam Road March will take place on April 30 beginning at 7 a.m. This march is an important lesson in medical history that allows students, faculty and staff the opportunity to witness the medical practices of the Civil War. Mili-

tary faculty, staff and students are to adhere to their service specific uniform regulations for backpacks and it is preferable that all who attend this function wear only black backpacks. Further guidance will be disseminated as the date draws near.

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

Proper Use of Computer Resources: Security incidents continue to be a drain to limited USU Information Assurance (IA) manpower. The following highlight current DoD policy and best practices: Personnel must not install self-coded or non-licensed software on network resources; add, remove, configure, or attempt to modify USU computer operating systems or programs; move audio/visual or network cables, computers or attempt to connect personal computers to the network (including MDL and lecture hall spaces); connect personal devices except for those previously authorized by UIS; download pornographic material and store or display offensive material, such as racist literature, sexually harassing or obscene language or material; store or process classified information on any USU system; permit unauthorized individuals access to a government-owned or government-operated system or program; access online gambling, games, and social engineering sites.

Tom's Run 2009: Tom's Run is a 200-mile Ultra Distance Team or Solo Trail Run from Cumberland to Bethesda. The event takes place this year on May 28-30. The course ends on the USU Quadrangle. Staggered start means all teams or solo runners compete equally. This is an excellent team building event. All runners must be shadowed by a mountain biker, which means almost anyone can compete in this event. For more information call Mr. Ray Handel at 295-3949.



The USU Newsletter Wants Your Story

The USU faculty, staff and student bodies each have stories to tell and we'd like to hear from you. Contact the Office of External Affairs or send your submission to usunewsletter@usuhs.mil to share your story.



UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY *of the Health Sciences*

