

USU Newsletter

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 6

WWW.USUHS.MIL

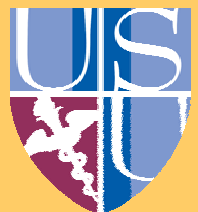
April 15, 2009

THERE
MAY BE
TIMES WHEN
WE ARE
POWERLESS
TO PREVENT
INJUSTICE
BUT THERE
MUST NEVER
BE A TIME
WHEN WE
FAIL TO
PROTEST

ELIE WIESEL

NEVER
AGAIN:
WHAT
YOU
DO
MATTERS

Holocaust Days of Remembrance



Professors receive 2009 Wu, Leonard awards for excellence in research

By Christine Creenan
Staff Writer

winners will receive a \$2,000 prize and deliver special award lectures during the University's annual Research Week in honor of the award namesakes.

A professor and chair in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Dr. O'Brien has spent nearly two decades researching a strain of bacteria called enterohemorrhagic *E. coli*. Along with a team of USU investigators, she is developing new technologies to identify, prevent and treat this food-borne pathogen. Her award-winning paper was published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"I am particularly honored to receive this award in Dr. Wu's name," said O'Brien, who fondly remembers the former professor and chair. "He was an incredibly bright scientist and a really kind and generous man."

Dr. Darling, associate professor in the Department of Dermatology, is equally humbled to receive an award in honor of one of USU's celebrated scientists, Dr. James Leonard — the founding chair of the Department of Medicine. Darling credits much of his research success to an outstanding team of investigators. Dr. Darling received



Photo by Tom Balfour

Dr. Alison O'Brien is the recipient of the 2009 Henry Wu Award for Excellence in Basic Research.

the Leonard Award for a paper, also published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, describing the effects of tuberous sclerosis complex, or TSC, an inherited syndrome often causing tumors.

"The skin provides a window into many internal diseases. For example, TSC is commonly diagnosed based on the skin findings. Despite this, much more was known about internal tumors than skin tumors. I felt we could help patients with their skin disease and our findings could also propel investigations into the internal tumors," Dr. Darling said.

To learn more about how these investigators are mobilizing science to improve health outcomes, attend this year's Research Week Wu and Leonard Symposia, May 11-13.

Drs. Alison O'Brien and Thomas Darling have been selected as the recipients of the prestigious Henry Wu Award for Excellence in Basic Research and the James Leonard Award for Excellence in Clinical Research, respectively.

The Wu and Leonard awards, established by the Faculty Senate, recognize individuals who have made unique and fundamental contributions to the fields of medicine and biology through published works. The peer-selected



Photo by Tom Balfour

Dr. Thomas Darling is the recipient of the 2009 James Leonard Award for Excellence in Clinical Research.



Courtesy of the National Archives

Days of Remembrance

It is a time for recollection as people across the nation commemorate the victims of the Holocaust through Days of Remembrance, April 19-26. Nobel laureate and holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel said, "The essence of this tragedy is that it can never be conveyed." But, honoring the lives of those who suffered under the Nazi regime remains an important part of our social conscience and assures similar carnage will never again be a part of world history.

Bill Bester
Acting Vice President for
External Affairs and
Managing Editor

Ken Frager
Public Affairs Specialist

Christine Creenan
MC2 Chad Hallford
André Nicholson
Staff Writers

Marla Wright
Shaun Sadowski
Webmasters

Publishing
USU Duplicating Office

Production:

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the USU Office of External Affairs unless otherwise indicated. The Newsletter staff may include or exclude articles based upon news value, impact on the university and space availability.

Submissions:

The USU Newsletter will be published bi-weekly on Mondays. The deadline for submission is Friday at 4 p.m. Submissions can be sent to usunewsletter@usuhs.mil or by calling 301-295-3338.

In This Issue

| |
|---------------------------|
| Wu & Leonard Awards.2 |
| Holocaust Awareness...2 |
| Special Pre-Screening...3 |
| Musical Visitors.....3 |
| Sophocles.....4 |
| Technology Watch.....4 |
| SOM Volunteers.....5 |
| Soccer Trophy.....5 |
| USUCHD.....6 |
| Word Find.....6 |
| Briefs.....7 |
| In Memoriam.....7 |
| Packard Lecture.....7 |

Cover photo:
Courtesy of Defense
Equal Opportunity
Management Institute

Sesame Workshop screening draws positive acclaim

By Christine Creenan
Staff Writer

The USU community understands the extraordinary circumstances faced by military families and how these challenges are compounded when the Nation is at war. Since young children of service members have special needs, the university partnered with Sesame Workshop and Maryland Public Television to host a special pre-screening of "Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change" March 30.

The program, starring Queen Latifah, John Mayer and Sesame Street's Elmo and Rosita, tells the story of service members returning from battle with injuries both visible and hidden. The wounded warriors in the film are working toward recovery. They are involving the entire family in the healing process, because as one of the soldiers said, "This particular fight, you can't do alone."

Watching the families pull through together, an audience of nearly 200 gathered in the Sanford Auditorium to receive a candid glimpse into the lives of the true American heroes featured in the special. An emotional tone was set from the very beginning

of the television special when a young voice is heard saying, "I took my first steps the same day as my daddy."

While family support is an integral part of the recovery process, discovering a "new normal" also requires a great deal of support from the community, according to Dr. Stephen Cozza, professor, Department of Psychiatry, and associate director of the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress. Featured in the film, Dr. Cozza believes the Sesame program gives parents a medium to help

discuss deployments with children. It also gives voice to the plight of the military family, allowing civilians to better understand their struggles.

"This program, reaching a national audience who may not otherwise be exposed to these types of injuries, hopefully will help to smooth the reintegration for returning service members back into communities," he explained.

The half-hour special garnered positive reaction from many of the audience members, including USU alumnus and GSN assistant professor LTC Richard Prior. "What I found most striking was the strength these families had in dealing with adversity. Their collective desire to continue serving and transcending their wounds was very inspiring." Having served two deployments, the father of two saluted the program for educating people about the sacrifices being made by military families.

"Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change" is the second episode in a three-part series designed to foster positive communication. To learn more about Sesame Workshop visit www.sesameworkshop.org.



Photo by Tom Balfour

Army Lt. Col. David Benedek visits with Elmo. The beloved Sesame Street character greeted guests before the screening of "Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change."



Photo by Tom Balfour

Hundreds of guests filled the Sanford Auditorium to watch the special pre-screening of "Coming Home: Military Families Cope with Change."

The Sound of Music

The ordinary clamor of lunchtime in the cafeteria gave way to beautiful melodies performed by students from Staples Motley High School, April 9. Traveling all the way from Minnesota, more than 100 students serenaded the people of USU through song and instrumentals. The group's repertoire included a blend of classical and contemporary pieces. "I thought the performers were superb. It was really great the band chose our university," said concertgoer Sandy Silvergeld, purchasing agent. The singers and musicians performed at various locations throughout the National Capital Region before heading to Chicago and then back home.



Photo by HM2 Michael Oliver

Sophocles: A modern look

By MC2 Chad Hallford
Staff Writer

For those who think of Sophocles as only an ancient Greek playwright, four acclaimed actors raise the thought that maybe Sophocles was coping with and addressing issues that apply even more today than ever.

Bryan Doerries, the writer, founder and director of *The Philoctetes Project: Theater of War*, and his crew performed readings from *Ajax* and *Philoctetes* at USU April 2. The presentation led to discussions among faculty and students alike that were reminiscent of Ancient Greece but applicable for today's medical student, especially those in uniform.

"I arrived here (at USU) through a series of connections over the last three years. I had been trying to find a military audience for these ancient Greek plays, Sophocles: *Philoctetes* and *Ajax*," said Doerries. "In August 2008, (I) was given the opportunity to perform them for Marines in San Diego near Camp Pendleton, and that opened up the door for more military performances."

In between performances, the actors were given the opportunity to reflect and comment on the various venues and atmospheres where they have read.

"I learned again that this material is very applicable to this community, and that the

responses and insights that were expressed by the audience and in the discussion groups afterward showed me again how vital and how useful this project can be to starting dialogue," said David Strathairn, best known for his Academy Award nominated portrayal of Edward R. Murrow in *Good Night, and Good Luck*, and performances in *The Bourne Ultimatum* and *L.A. Confidential*. "We're certainly not experts, or trained in a particular (medical) discipline, but it starts the dialogue dealing with PTSD amongst the medical communities and support care professionals."

Speaking specifically on Doerries' modern adaptation, actor Michael Ealy said, "I think the adaptation is a way to kind of get to the meat of it, or basically to convey to this audience what Sophocles was trying to say. Even 2,500 years ago there was a stigma associated with war — war that ravaged the minds of soldiers. They didn't have a diagnosis back then, but now that we are (understanding PTSD and other psychological conditions brought about during war), perhaps we can prevent the kinds of things that some of the people in these plays do with their own lives."

Ealy also starred in the Showtime television series *Sleeper Cell: American Terror*, and has been featured in other film and television.

Doerries spoke about a performance at

Weill Cornell Medical College, "I had a total revelation that an audience new to classics and to these ancient stories could teach me more about the plays than I knew myself. This opened the possibility that this could happen with a military audience — and I realized the plays were actually about veterans."

With the assistance of Army Col. Charles Engel, M.D., assistant professor and assistant chair, Department of Psychiatry, the USU venue encouraged post-reading faculty discussions and student-group discussions. The afternoon discussion, led by Air Force Maj. Glenn Burns, M.D., assistant professor, Department of Military and Emergency Medicine; Lyuba Konopasek, M.D., associate professor of Pediatrics (Education) at Weill Cornell Medical College; and Doerries, examined relevance in the topics of violence, ethics and suicide that led to discussions about approaches to military medical treatment and education.

Doerries said, "Our hope is that the plays will help the medical audience gain some insight. Understanding they are told to be detached as they move into the clinical setting, but they have this foothold, this memory of a play, about a suffering man called Philoctetes."

Doerries hopes this recollection enables students to find the right balance.

Technology Watch

Operations Security Asks: Who needs to know?

Commentary by Scott Carey
Navy OPSEC Assessments Division Lead



Graphic Illustration by Beth Vinson

As many of us try to assimilate into the twenty-first century, we have a tendency to forget the lessons learned from history. As I look back on my younger years, growing up in my parents' house, I was always told "Listen to what I have to say, learn from my mistakes so you don't make the same ones."

I still try to apply this philosophy to my life today.

Communications technology has shown an upward spike in the past several years with no downward trend in the foreseeable future. Take for example the ability to communicate on the World Wide Web through sites such as Facebook and MySpace. Both of these social networking websites have been featured in the news

as a growing medium, especially for those ages 18 to 40. Between the two networking sites, there are more than 170 million active users. What does this mean? In some way, the owner of each account has probably placed information online identifying themselves, family members, friends, associated organizations and so on for the entire world to see.

One of our adversaries (al-Qaeda) has written that at least 80 percent of intelligence needed to conduct operations against an opposing force can be obtained via open source. Open source consists of more than just print and broadcast news stories. Other avenues of open source intelligence can be, but are not limited to, observing routines, listening to conversations, dumpster diving, and even scouring blogs or networking Web sites.

Our personal information — as well as work, family and friends — is always in danger of being compromised if we do not keep it out of open source media.

No matter how knowledgeable you are about operations security, if you share your information with others not educated in OPSEC it can unintentionally pose a vulnerability to you.

As I was taught, I challenge you. Learn from other's mistakes and don't make the same ones. Before you divulge information in an open source forum, ask yourself the question "Who needs to know?" If the answer isn't "the entire world," then rethink the venue of communication and keep it away from the adversary.

Students Helping Students — USU volunteers reach out to young scholars

By Jan Clark
Director, Government and Community Affairs

Taking their education one-step farther, members of the Family Medicine Interest Group, or FMIG, spend their Saturday mornings tutoring Wheaton High School students in Advanced Placement, or AP, biology.

Providing the infrastructure for the program is the USU Center for Health Disparities. Currently consisting of eight dedicated medical students mentoring 37 students enrolled in the Bio Sciences Academy at WHS, plans are underway for expansion into additional community schools.

The program's ultimate goal is to encourage high school students to pursue their dreams of careers in the health sciences. At the same time, the USU participants hope to reinforce basic science concepts while providing motivation to strengthen the students' excitement for learning.

"I learned about this tutoring opportunity from my wife, who is an AP biology teacher at Wheaton High School," said Army 2nd Lt. Michal Sobieszczyk. "My immediate thought was that it would be a great opportunity to get out of our 'medical school bubble,' interact with students from the local community and make a difference in their learning."

The FMIG volunteers feel tutoring is a rewarding experience and one that keeps them on their toes.

"Because all of the students at the Saturday sessions come voluntarily, they are very engaged and looking forward to learning,"

continued Sobieszczyk. "But, it works both ways. They bring incredible energy and motivate us to come prepared to teach and answer questions."

Second year medical student, Chris Premo, is finding the experience exciting as well as fun.

"I've enjoyed getting out of the classroom and into the community," he said. "It is great working with motivated and ambitious students, being able to use what we have learned to help others and aide in their education."

Wheaton High School sophomore, Patricia Nisa, believes the mentoring program is beneficial toward her goal of becoming a doctor.

"I think that the inspiration these USU students provide is a big gift," she said. "I see that they have this passion in them for what they are doing and they share it with us."

"They are providing a foundation to a further understanding of medicine. We get a broad idea of AP biology, with the medical students providing a more detailed understanding of what we are already learning," said Henry Espinoza, a senior at Wheaton High School.

With an eye to the future, the education programs implemented by the CHD and supported by the FMIG will reach potentially large numbers of high school students.

This exchange will encourage their continued studies toward careers as scientists and health-care providers.

"With the help of the CHD we hope to continue doing this for years to come as an outlet for community service," said Sobieszczyk.



Courtesy Photo

Wheaton High School students, Patricia Nisa and Kenia Lobo receive instruction from Army 2nd Lt. Michal Sobieszczyk as part of an on-going mentoring program provided by USU and the Center for Human Disparities.

Leg Up on the Competition

The "USU Docs" soccer team, sponsored and supported in part by the University, showcase the Montgomery Country Co-Recreation League Championship Trophy for Fall '08. The USU brigade commander, Army Col. John Wempe, (top right) formally presented the award and took a moment to pose with the athletes, who beat their tournament competition.



Photo by MC2 Chad Hallford

USUCHD enters educational training partnership with Steptoe Group

Submitted by USUCHD

The USU Center for Health Disparities Research and Education, or USUCHD, and the Steptoe Group, LLC, have entered into an agreement to research, develop and implement a culturally competent interdisciplinary educational training program for mental health providers and practitioners.

The program is designed for health providers with the expertise and capacity to deliver high-quality services that are patient-centered, evidence-based and address the mental health needs of vulnerable populations within the military community.

The partnership will address the lack of health care provider and practitioner training, educational resources, uniformity and systemic impediments. These differences in

cultural, economic, familial and regional geographic challenges contribute to disparities in health and health care. This is generally applicable to mental health and mental health care issues found among military and veteran populations.

The Steptoe Group and USUCHD will work in concert with each other to research innovative solutions to the health care challenges facing the military and veteran provider and practitioner communities. This includes the ability of health care providers and practitioners to adequately screen, diagnose, treat and manage service members, service member's families and veterans in a culturally competent and patient-centered manner when implementing evidence-based best practices.

This means managing and sharing infor-

mation, delivering standardized and effective mental health provider and practitioner training throughout the military and veteran communities. The programs will include: DVD, web-based training, web-based certification, and train-the-trainer workshops.

The USUCHD specializes in systemically assessing reasons for health and health care disparities and expertise in developing and implementing educational initiatives that aim to teach providers the key tools and skills to deliver high quality care to diverse populations grounded in patient centered methodologies to significantly enhance health care education, research and practice.

(Additional contributions to this story made by Newsletter staff.)

Find the hidden words and receive a gift certificate for a free large coffee and doughnut courtesy of William III. The first person to bring their completed word find to a Newsletter staffer in B1009 receives the prize.



www.williamiii.com

Word Search Fun

```

F F C N I S H A V O I A S E H
A I O O X L E Y I A C M N W C
C L M B L E H R X U B I P G R
U E M S F L B E V V C L A I A
L F E D W P A L R I A X A U E
T X N N P C L B D B C P S H S
Y O C M S Q S E O B E E E G E
G M E Z A G M R B R L F C A R
V K M T N T A D H O A X B P S
L O E W W T E K U V G T A L X
J Y N X O Y T I S R E V I N U
A V T R G F Q L T G Z M D O A
M Q Y S U P M A C N M O H E N
B R I G A D E O M G A N C N O
N Q U O M F W X Q G N D T M E
    
```

ANTIETAM
COLLABORATION
GSN
RESEARCH

BRIGADE
COMMENCEMENT
LABORATORY
SERVICE

CAMPUS
FACULTY
MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY

USU Briefs

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.

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. Indoor PT is also authorized on base at the Comfort Zone Complex, or 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 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 allows students, faculty and staff the opportunity to witness the medical practices of the Civil War. Military faculty, staff and students are to adhere to their service specific uniform regulations and only backpacks are recommended. 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 more than 145 uniformed personnel needed to support this mission.

Proper Use of Computer Resources: Security incidents continue to be a drain to limited USU Information Assurance manpower. The following highlight current DoD policy and best practices: Person-

nel 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.

Brigade Awards Ceremony: The next USU Brigade Awards Ceremony will take place in Lecture Hall C on April 17 at 8 a.m. This ceremony will recognize the Enlisted Service Member of the Quarter, as well as other military personnel for their contributions to the organization. All department heads, chairs, supervisors and directors are encouraged to attend this special occasion to show their support.

Military Awards Nominations: The next military awards panel will convene on April 28. Nomination packages are due through the chain of command by April 21. Please provide a signed copy as well as an electronic version to Air Force Tech. Sgt. Louella Campbell at (301) 295-1515 or lcampbell@usuhs.mil or HM2 Sylvia McBee at (301) 295-3423 or Sylviamcbee@usuhs.mil.

2009 USU Commencement: The 2009 USU commencement ceremony will take place on Armed Forces Day, May 16 at 9 a.m. at the Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall. There will be a rehearsal at the DAR Constitution Hall from 9 a.m. to noon May 15. The buses will depart from the USU flag pole at 8 a.m. For directions, go to <http://www.dar.org/omni/directions.cfm>.

The exact timetable for staff personnel will be sent out in the near future. HM1 Sara Lee is the non-commissioned officer in-charge for enlisted support and can be contacted at (301) 295-9556 or sale@usuhs.mil. You may also contact Jeffery Swope at 295-4796 or jswope@usuhs.mil with additional questions.

In Memoriam

ENS Christopher M. Gallagher
School of Medicine, Class of 2009



Courtesy of Classic Photography & Imaging

Navy Ens. Christopher M. Gallagher died as a result of a motorcycle accident April 3, 2009 in Norfolk, Va., at the age of 33. A member of the Class of 2009, he was a fourth year USU medical student scheduled to graduate in May. Immensely proud of his Navy heritage, Gallagher had long dreamt of becoming a uniformed physician and successfully overcame several hurdles to reach acceptance at USU. Friends recall his intellectual curiosity, proactive nature and comforting sense of presence. He is honored in loving memory.



24TH ANNUAL
DAVID PACKARD LECTURE

THE FUTURE OF MILITARY HEALTH CARE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD



Gail Wilensky, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow, Project Hope
President, Defense Health Board
Member, Board of Regents, USU

Monday, May 4, 2009
3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Lecture
4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Reception

Sanford Auditorium; Building B
4301 Jones Bridge Road
Bethesda, MD 20814-4712



UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY *of the Health Sciences*

