

# USU Newsletter

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*USU Commencement, Page 3*



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**Cover photo:**  
MC1 Chad Hallford

## University calls for participation in Faculty Forward survey

by MC1 Chad Hallford

Time is running out to complete data collection for the inaugural Faculty Forward survey. USU is one of 26 institutions selected nationwide to participate in the Association of American Medical Colleges program.

The university is in the third round of surveys and the data gathered will be used along with data from peer institutions to identify, implement and sustain improvements to the academic medicine workplace.

“We have a tremendous opportunity to improve the University’s work environment and culture, and thus increase faculty retention, satisfaction, and morale,” said Professor and Facul-

ty Development Director Cindy Wilson, Ph.D., C.H.E.S.

The program will only operate to improve the university if faculty actively participate. Feedback on faculty attitudes, motivation and morale will allow leadership to take steps to modify the culture of the university as appropriate to improve faculty satisfaction with USU as a place to work.

“The university leadership is committed to achieving higher levels of satisfaction and to improving faculty retention, and they have made a significant investment in financial and faculty time to achieve the greatest success,” said Wilson. “Now we need the support of our faculty to make sure we have gathered the best information.”

## Faculty Senate to host second annual Education Day

by MC1 Chad Hallford

The USU will convene its second annual Education Day, June 26 — “Building Bridges: Integrating Basic and Clinical Science Education.”

“We are delighted to have two outstanding, nationally known guest faculty with Gail Morrison, M.D., vice dean for academic programs at the University of Pennsylvania and Cynthia J. Forehand, Ph.D., professor and director of assessment in the pre-clinical years, University of Vermont,” said Professor and Faculty Development Director Cindy Wilson, Ph.D., C.H.E.S.

The panels, demonstration and posters promote continuing education of faculty, its staff and students at USU and affiliated teaching institutions, provide interdisciplinary discussion of innovative and effective strategies in health sciences educa-

tion and facilitate transfer of strategies between and among basic science and clinical disciplines.

Among the presentations to be conducted are: “A unifying concept of curriculum to integrate and energize teaching: integrating the medical curriculum,” “Assessing teaching and learning in an integrated environment,” “The role of data in clinical decision making: the good, the bad and the ugly” and “Does data motivate learners? ... From basic research to clinical practice.”

The event is sponsored by the University Faculty Senate and made possible by the generosity of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine.

Details may be found at <http://www.lrc.usuhs.mil/Educationday2009> and any event concerns or questions may be directed to Dr. Cindy Wilson at [educationday@lrcm.usuhs.mil](mailto:educationday@lrcm.usuhs.mil).

# University celebrates 30th commencement exercise

by Christine Creenan

More than 200 physicians, advanced practice nurses and scientists became USU alumni in a ceremony steeped in military and academic traditions, May 16.

Thousands of friends and family gathered to celebrate with the USU graduating class of 2009 at the Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall during the University's 30th commencement ceremony.

"We are producing from this school the sustaining professional cadre of military medicine," said Associate Dean for Student Affairs Richard MacDonald, M.D. "Our University is contributing substantially to the well being of this nation."

The keynote speaker, Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. James Roudebush, echoed those sentiments and discussed the importance of educating leaders in uniform.

"The expectation is that military medicine will be there," he said. "This expectation represents trust.

"You are now the keepers of that trust," said Roudebush, who told graduates it is their job to care for service members, "our nation's most precious treasure."

The University alumni will

carry out this charge at their new duty stations across the country.

"This is a really exciting time for me," said School of Medicine graduate, Air Force Capt. Eric Heygood. "I am serving more than just individual patients. I am serving my country, too."

Honoring those who serve was an important theme of this year's commencement ceremony. Tribute was paid to several individuals of unique accomplishment. Most notably, the degree – Doctor of Military Medicine Honoris Causa – was

awarded to Robert Joy, M.D., emeritus chair and professor in the Department of Military Medical History.

His impact was illustrated by University President Dr. Charles L. Rice, in the words of retired Army Brig. Gen. Robert Dougherty, "No one else contributed as much as he to our understanding of military medicine and its history. His contribution has influenced, and will continue to influence, students, historians and Soldiers for decades to come."

The university now has more than 5,000 alumni.



photo by Tom Balfour

*University President Dr. Charles L. Rice congratulates one of 2009's newly conferred doctors. The university recognized graduates from programs within the School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing.*

## First posthumous degree awarded, classmate remembered

Developed by Newsletter Staff

The USU bestowed the family of recently deceased Navy Ensign Christopher M. Gallagher, his degree, Doctor of Medicine, during a memorial service in Sanford Auditorium, May 7.

The university also recognized Gallagher with a moment of silence when his name was announced during the 2009 commencement ceremony. Gallagher died after a motorcycle accident in Norfolk, Va., April 3.

"An avid tutor, the first to offer help to a struggling classmate and friend, he was the first to open his home — always known for his generosity," said classmate, Navy Lt. Robert Lennon, M.D.

Classmates, faculty and family shared their thoughts on the essence and life of "adventurous, undaunted Chris." Gallagher was slated for residency training in general surgery at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va.

"This was just a wonderful day for me, and for Chris. He has been working for this his whole life. He just fol-

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*Gallagher, from page 3*

lowed his dreams, and he finally accomplished it,” said Marlene Smith, Gallagher’s mother. “I really feel like he was here with us today, and he was happy and smiling down upon us.”

Gallagher’s sudden passing created a void in the medical community.

His family “hopes his zeal for and approach to life

will be carried forward as his former classmates practice medicine.”

The presentation of “Dr. Christopher M. Gallagher” to the family was unprecedented in USU history. However, it was made possible by a unanimous decision from the USU Board of Regents as a result of Chris having completed all the requirements of the degree.

“We have had four students pass away in the history of USU. We have done a memorial service for each one of them,” said Dr. Richard MacDonald, Associate Dean of Student Affairs. “Our students are the primary focus of why USU exists.”

“(Chris) was an exceptionally valuable member of our community and we wanted to do two things: First, honor his memory and service as our colleague and friend — second, help ourselves grieve and work through such a sudden and devastating loss,” said MacDonald.

The service also offered an opportunity for Dr. John Gallagher, Chris’s father, to voice his gratitude to the university, and to Chris’s classmates.



*photo by HM2 Michael Oliver*

*Ensign Chris Gallagher’s family and friends, and university faculty celebrated his accomplishments and achievements during a ceremony held in his memory.*

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## Conway-Welch recognized as top health reformer

by André Nicholson

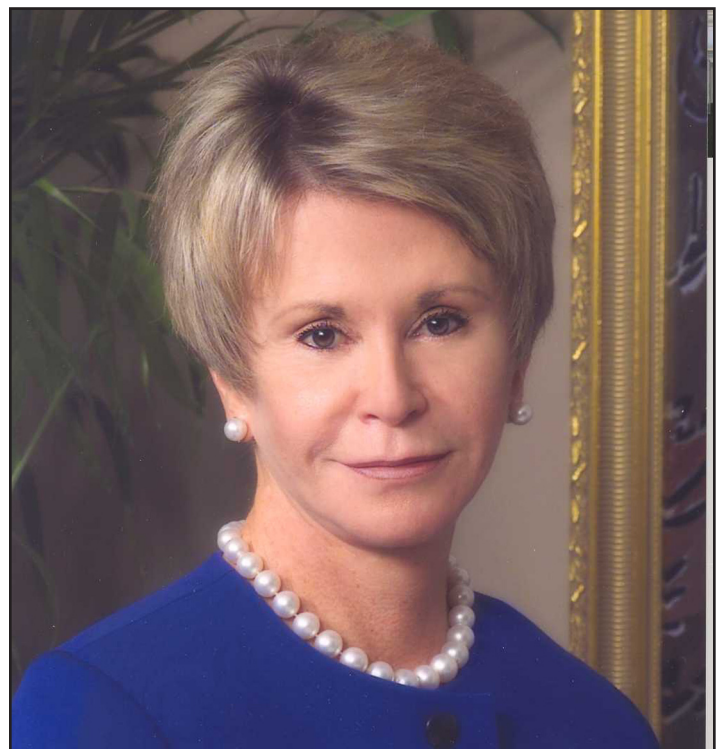
To USU she’s known as a member of the Board of Regents, to Vanderbilt University she’s known as the dean of the School of Nursing, and Modern Healthcare just named her as one of the Top 25 Women in Healthcare.

Colleen Conway-Welch, Ph.D., has served as the dean of the nursing school at Vanderbilt for 25 years and is one of the longest-serving deans of a nursing school in the country.

She has also served as a member of the BOR for nearly three years.

Conway-Welch rounds out a list of women who are key players in the movement to reform the nation’s health care system, among them Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Fellow USU Board member Dr. Gail Wilensky was a 2005 Modern Healthcare Honoree.



*Courtesy photo*

# USU to present innovation in teaching awards

Developed by Newsletter Staff

The University Faculty Senate Education Committee announced the winners of the first “Innovation in Teaching Awards.” These prestigious awards are given by the Faculty Senate and consist of a \$2500 check to be used for future educational innovation and a certificate that is presented at the annual Education Day luncheon.

Two awards may be given annually -- one for preclinical teaching innovation and one for innovation in clinical teaching to faculty billeted at the university.

The awards serve to honor faculty who went beyond the standard

of teaching to improve the university and the student experiences

This year boasted seven strong submissions for this award program.

The Pre-Clinical Science award will be given to Dr. Rosemary Borke professor, Department of Anatomy, Physiology, and Genetics for work in neuroanatomy. She received strong support from students, her peers, and colleagues for her more than 25 years of contributions to the university and the educational process.

Borke was recognized for her effort to develop self-directed study materials that have assisted students in setting their own pace for learning and independent study. Borke is well regarded by students for her devel-

opment of computer-based modules on head and neck anatomy, anatomical and functional neuroscience and special senses histology.

The Clinical award will be given to Dr. James Smirniotopoulos, professor and chair, Department of Radiology and Radiological Sciences for technology changes in medicine, in particular Med-Pix, the electronic “Radiology Glossary” and the “Brain Lesion Locator.”

Smirniotopoulos also had strong support from his colleagues, both at USU and from outside the university, his students, and colleagues. He is consistently one of the first at USU to develop new electronic teaching methods and materials.

# University honors former board chairman

by Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

The USU recognized the outstanding contributions to the university by a former Board of Regents member and friend.

Retired Navy Cmdr. Everett Alvarez Jr. unveiled his official portrait at a special ceremony, May 15 in the Board of Regents room, which was previously dedicated in the former Board Chairman’s honor.

“It’s just been a tremendous honor. The people at this university and the board members are such fantastic people – true professionals from all across the country,” said Alvarez.

“It has been my pleasure to serve with them over the years. Being associated with them and their commitment to the young men and women here, who will go on to serve those in harm’s way, has been the greatest experience.”

Alvarez, who retired from the Navy in 1980, endured one of the longest periods as a prisoner of war throughout American history. He was the first American POW in North Vietnam. Alvarez spent more than eight years in captivity in the infamous “Hanoi Hilton.”

Following his retirement from the Navy, Alvarez served as Deputy Director of the Peace Corps and the Veteran’s Administration before being named to the USU Board of Regents.

And now Alvarez’s official portrait graces the wall in the Board Room that bears his name.

“This is a deep honor. I’m extremely thankful for this honor,” said Alvarez. “It has been a tremendous experience that I will treasure forever. I really truly appreciate everything. Thank you all so very much.”



photo by Tom Balfour

Retired Navy Cmdr. Everett Alvarez Jr. and his wife, Tammy, stand outside the Board of Regents room. During a recent ceremony his official portrait was unveiled.

# Cox earns prestigious Carol Johns medal

by Christine Creenan

Continuing the tradition of honoring the best among university faculty, the USU Faculty Senate announced this year's recipient of the 2009 Carol J. Johns Medal.

Brian M. Cox, Ph.D., professor, Department of Pharmacology, earned the award for outstanding contributions to the nation's School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing as both a mentor and leader.

Cox's credits include the development of engaging lectures, the creation of an interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program and membership on several committees promoting academic excellence.

"His accomplishments as an educational mentor are apparent in the success of his mentees," said colleague, Neil Grunberg, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Neuroscience and Medical and Clinical Psychology. "His protégées have become leading scientists, teachers and academic administrators."

But Dr. Cox's reach extends beyond the classroom. He is dedicated to serving his colleagues and the university at large.



Courtesy photo

Dr. Brian Cox

"He is generous with his time and offers sage advice and guidance that has helped dozens of faculty members in their careers as scientists, educators, scholars and contributors to the university and to their fields of study," Grunberg said.

Cox is also a world-renowned scientist. His professional interests lie in addiction research. He is considered by many a pioneer in the study of endogenous opioid peptides. Cox's work contributes directly to the understanding

of the mechanisms and actions of key medicinal agents and abused recreational drugs.

Additionally, Cox serves as the President-elect of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, a scientific society whose members conduct basic and clinical pharmacological research in academia, industry, and the government.

And recently, he turned his attention to the study of brain injury and post traumatic stress disorder. In the USU Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine, Cox is heading the CNRM task force on biomarkers.

His work benefits the university and the larger health sciences community. In these ways, Cox emulates the spirit of the award namesake, Carol J. Johns, M.D., a former vice chair of the Board of Regents and long-time supporter of the university.

"We are extremely lucky to have Dr. Cox at USU as a leader, role model, mentor, colleague and friend. He has made USU better in so many ways and continues to bring honor to our faculty and institution," said Grunberg.

## On land or sea, education continues



US Navy photo

*USNS Comfort's crews have provided a series of classes to local health care providers and community officials during its humanitarian mission, Continuing Promise, 2009, in Basic Life Support, Emergency Nursing Skills Fair, Adult Advanced Life Support and Central Intravenous Therapy to name a few.*

*The curriculum was originally developed by USU faculty along-side staff from Naval Health Research Center, San Diego, CA.*

*"We've been busy in the USU CHE department, the CHE has supported the Comforts's educational programs while also maintaining programs at home." said Patricia Kenney, registered nurse and nurse educator. "In fiscal year 2008, we provided continuing education to 10,546 doctors, nurses, psychologists, health care executives and social workers. An additional 10,473 people received general certificates of attendance as well."*

# 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](mailto: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.

**2009 Field Exercises:** Operations Bushmaster and Kerknesner 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: 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.

**Military Awards Nominations:** The next military awards panel will convene June 30. Nomination packages will be due through the chain of command no later than June 23. Any award with higher precedence than the Defense Meritorious Service Medal must be submitted 150 days prior to presentation. 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](mailto:lcampbell@usuhs.mil) or HM2 Sylvia McBee at (301) 295-3423 or [Sylvia.mcbee@usuhs.mil](mailto:Sylvia.mcbee@usuhs.mil).



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## Caption contest

*Test your skills and write the best caption for this photo to win this edition's gift certificate for a free large coffee and doughnut courtesy of William III. Submit your caption in writing to the office B1009, or to [USUNewsletter@usuhs.mil](mailto:USUNewsletter@usuhs.mil). The best caption wins and the top three, as judged by the USU Newsletter staff, will be printed in the next edition.*



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