

USU Newsletter

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Commencement, Pg. 4



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**USU Newsletter
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**Cover photo by
MC3 Jeff Hopkins**

Dr. Casscells Congratulates 2008 USU Graduates

I am sorry I couldn't be with you to recognize your achievement, and the pride (and patience!) of your loving families. I am visiting our hospitals in the sands and mountains that many of you will soon know well.

Together with Army Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoemaker, and Joint Staff Surgeon Rear Admiral David J. Smith, I am learning how we can better train our medical personnel to prevent and to treat the physical and mental injuries of combat, and to help war-torn people care for their own. This visit, like the one we made in January that included Navy Surgeon General VADM Adam Robinson, Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. James G. Roubush, and CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding, M.D., should net us "eyes on" knowledge that will benefit our future mission.

These tasks, together with your humanitarian relief for disasters like the earthquake in Peru and the cyclone in Myanmar, and our efforts to prevent and respond to epidemics in Asia and Africa, will challenge your fortitude and measure your devotion to duty.

You will be far from your loving families but constantly watched by a God who "neither slumbers nor sleeps."

You will also have the company of line leaders who are "first out of the foxhole and last in the chow line," and young medics and corpsmen who answer "corpsman up!" or "medic!" with a prayer and a dash to save a life that has, in some 170 instances in these wars, cost them their own.

Your courage will be of a different sort: exposure to infections and toxins and bombs. Yes (and we were reminded of this the other morning as a

rocket exploded 200 meters from the tent hospital).

More importantly you will make - and help our troops and commanders make - life and death medical decisions, and weigh the medical issues of the patient and the mission. This is the courage that Washington showed when he vaccinated his troops against smallpox.

You will also be challenged to lead by your wisdom, your understanding of people and increasingly, by your ability to innovate and to communicate. This will mark you as leaders, enabling you to transcend medical technology and play a critical role in preventing crisis from erupting into conflict. This unique form of medical leadership, which transcends the technical craft of the physician and marks the service of every uniformed health care professional (nurse, administrator and others) is hard-won and requires much schooling and practical experience. It is a major concern of all of us who lead in military medicine and is the reason we make such strong investment in your education as military physicians.

Your hard work and dedication has just begun. Perhaps this is an odd thing to say to a graduating



S. Ward Casscells, M.D.
**Assistant Secretary of
Defense for Health Affairs**

See **CASSELLS**, Pg. 6

SOM and GSN Host Annual Award Ceremonies

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Graduate School of Nursing held its Class of 2008 Honors and Awards Ceremony May 12, and the School of Medicine held their Graduation Awards Ceremony May 15.

The following are the recipients of awards from the School of Medicine:

Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces Award: 2LT Massimo Federico, MS, USA
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States Award: 2LT Caroline Mans, MS, USA
Surgeon Generals' Awards: 2LT Massimo Federico, MS, USA
ENS Lindsey Rath, MC, USN
2nd Lt William Howarth, MSC, USAF
ENS Sarah Hartnett, USPHS
Navy League Award: ENS Sandra

McLaughlin, MC, USN
Air Force Association Award: 2nd Lt Stefan Hamelin, MSC, USAF
Association of the United States Army Award: 2LT Jeanne Patzkowski, MS, USA
Outstanding Biomedical Graduate Educator Award: Neil E. Grunberg, Ph.D.
The Cinda Helke Award: Neil E. Grunberg, Ph.D.
School of Medicine Outstanding Civilian Educator Award: retired Col David R. Welling, MC, USAF
William P. Clements Jr. Award: Lt Col Pamela Williams, USAF, MC
Carol J. Johns Medal: Merrily Poth, M.D.
John F. Maher Award: 2nd Lt. Andrew Skabelund, MSC, USAF
Marcia Salazar Award for Humanism in Medicine: 2nd Lt. Brian Fitzgerald, MSC, USAF
CAPT Angeline A. Lazarus

Outstanding Achievement Award: ENS Grace Lee, MC, USN
Jeffrey P. Kavolius Award for Academic Excellence: 2LT Massimo Federico, MS, USA; 2LT Jeanne Patzkowski, MS, USA
Enrique Cervantes Agurre Medical Education Award: ENS Mason Harrell, MC, USN
Captain Richard Hooper Memorial Award: ENS Peter Seguin, MC, USA
A. Bernard Pleet Outstanding Student in Neurology Award: 2LT Jenna Schwartz, MS, USA
Emma Bockman Award: 2nd Lt Brian Fitzgerald, MSC, USAF
Henry M. Jackson Foundation Fellowship Award: Lara Kingeter, Emerging Infectious Diseases; Robyn Osborn, Medical and Clinical Psychology
The Val G. Hemming Fellowship
See **AWARDS**, Pg. 6

USU Department Chair to Receive NIAID Research Grant

CAPT Gerald V. Quinnan, Jr., M.D., USPHS, professor and chair, Department of Preventative Medicine and Biometrics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), will be one of 10 scientists awarded a grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health.

Quinnan has conducted extensive research with HIV and recently had the results of his research titled: "Extensively Cross-Reactive Anti-HIV-1 Neutralizing Antibodies Induced by gp140 Immunization" published in Proceedings of the National

Academy of Sciences.

The grant is being awarded in order to advance underdeveloped approaches to designing a preventive HIV vaccine. The NIAID is launching a new program to foster the study of B cells, immune cells that can produce antibodies with the capacity to neutralize HIV. The \$15.6 million, five-year program will strengthen and expand the scientific foundation of HIV vaccine research through a network of 10 research teams nationwide that will share resources, methods and data to accelerate progress.

In the immune system, B cells recognize key parts of microbes, called antigens.

Then, in cooperation with T cells—parts of the immune system that kill cells infected by pathogens—a reaction is triggered that leads B cells to produce antibodies, which can lock onto antigens and sweep them out of the body. HIV is devilishly good at fooling B cells and shielding itself from antibodies or changing its antigenic parts, so antibodies can rarely rid the body of the virus.

The new NIAID research program aims to uncover mechanisms that will enable scientists to outwit HIV and stimulate the B-cell production of long-lasting antibodies that can neutralize strains of the virus.

Student Profile: LCDR Jeremy Hawker, NC, USN, GSN PCNS Program

By Christine Creenan
Web Writer, Office of External Affairs

LCDR Jeremy Hawker knew early on he wanted to be in the military. As a young boy he played soldier, was proud of the father who flew A-6 Intruders for the Marines, and liked exploring different parts of the country as his family moved from one base to the next. For most, it was of little surprise and excited anticipation that Hawker decided to carry on the proud military tradition by joining the United States Navy.

A third generation officer, Hawker used the nursing degree he received from the University of Minnesota at Mankato, to promote wellness across the globe. Deployments to Iraq and humanitarian missions in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia taught him to care for patients in challenging conditions. "That's what we join for," Hawker said of his experience overseas. "Not everyone in the Navy Nurse Corps gets the opportunity to deploy. I feel fortunate."

Fortune would strike again while aboard the USS Eisenhower when Hawker's mentor, CAPT Brian Dawson, encouraged him to apply to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Soon after, he was accepted into the Perioperative Clinical Nurse

Specialist program where he quickly made a name for himself. His peers elected him class leader and he became involved in several extracurricular activities, including membership in the Student Advisory Committee.

After spending two years at the university, Hawker graduated this month. He is excited about the manuscript he has created and believes the university's focus on research allows students to "walk away with a product other health care professionals can potentially use." He credits USU with instilling a "leadership quality you wouldn't get at another university."

Hawker has realized his childhood dream for more than a decade now and plans to serve in the Navy well after graduation. His wife and children will enjoy the same lifestyle of his upbringing. "I wanted to be in the military from day one," he said, and "I wouldn't do it any differently."



LCDR Jeremy Hawker, NC, USN

USU Staff Participate in Avon Walk for Breast Cancer

By Christine Creenan
Web Writer, Office of External Affairs

How far would you go to make a difference? For SSgt Melissa Witter, USAF and SGT Jamie-Lea Donnelly, USA, the answer is at least 34 miles. In just two days, coworkers at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) treaded an arduous course which began in Washington D.C., continued across the Virginia line and ended in Bethesda, Md. in order to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer treatment, research and education.

The ladies each raised more than \$2,000 for the Avon Foundation, a public charity committed to improving the lives of women and their families through scholar-

ship programs and community outreach.

Thanks to a Krispy Kreme fundraiser, internet collections, and down right pleas for donations, Witter and Donnelly relied on the kindness of family, friends and coworkers to provide the funding necessary to register for the event. Some people gave spare change while others pledged several hundred dollars, and the friends are thankful for every penny they could turn over to help the millions of women and men affected by breast cancer world wide.

But raising money was only half the battle, as the ladies would soon find out. "The first day was 80 or 90 degrees," Donnelly said. The course became very trying, but according to Witter, "we kept going." Motivated by the outpouring of community



Courtesy photo

SSgt Melissa Witter, USAF, (left) and SGT Jamie-Lea Donnelly, staff of USU's Multimedia Design Center pose at the finish line of the 2008 Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

support, encouragement came in the form

See AVON, Pg. 5

USU Graduates to “Care for Those in Harm’s Way”

By David Loeb sack
Health Affairs

As the soon-to-be graduates of medical school and the Graduate School of Nursing of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) paced the hallways of Constitution Hall on the morning of May 17, the surrounding crowds chatted excitedly. Most of these students and their families have looked forward to this day for many years, and during the final minutes before this landmark ceremony, these great expectations showed. Lt. Paul Gerald Albers, a USU graduate, accurately summed up the emotion: “This is one of the best feelings in the world.”



Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins

Class of 2008 graduates help each other with their robes outside of the Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Hall before the 2008 USU Commencement ceremony.

Just days prior, the class of 2008 gathered on campus for a weeklong celebration of their academic achievements in medicine, graduate biomedical sciences and advanced practice nursing. Every year, USU hosts this “Research Week” event to offer students, faculty and staff the opportunity to collaborate with one another and promote their research. But for the graduating class, Research Week 2008 was also a celebration and a prelude for commencement.

One medical student, Lt. Edward Jones, was given the opportunity to speak at the graduating class’ academic awards ceremony. During his address, Jones revealed his deep appreciation for the love and friendship he came to share with his classmates. “I joined the Army in search of a family that I never had,” said Jones, as he began his speech.

“When a soldier finds himself under fire, the only guy he cares about is the guy on his left and his right. They’re his buddies, they’re his brothers, he’d do anything for them and they’d do anything for him. And you are my brothers and my sisters, and I would do the same for you – everyone in the class of 2008.”

Without a doubt, the men and women of the class of 2008 will remember and cherish their experience at USU throughout their careers. But Dr. Larry Laughlin, dean of the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, added that this graduating class should also leave USU with a strong conviction. As he spoke, he emphasized that the journey does not end at



Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins

Dr. Charles L. Rice, university president, and the members of the official party look on as SSgt Rachel Broussard, USAF, USU Service-member of the Year places the ceremonial mace in front of the lectern at the 2008 USU Commencement ceremony.

graduation – it begins.

“I believe that this group of people is gifted, that’s the good news,” Laughlin said. “The bad news is that with great gifts come great expectations, and with great expectations comes great responsibility.”

Three days later, as the class of 2008 patiently waited for the moment they would receive their diplomas, Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni, director of the National Institutes of Health, reinforced Laughlin’s claim during his commencement speech, reminding graduates of the great task ahead. Zerhouni, who has been practicing and teaching medicine for more than 30 years, not only warned this class of the awesome responsibility of medical stewardship, but also clued them in on a very real goal that he says, must be achieved.

“Medicine cannot stay as we know it today. It will not serve our country as we know it today. It has to transform itself from a medicine where we waited for disease to strike the patient to intervene, to a medicine where we will be preempting disease because we understand disease at a more fundamental level than we did twenty years ago,” Zerhouni said.

As the graduates received their diplomas, RADM Steven K. Galson, acting surgeon general of the United States, beamed with pride alongside Air Force Surgeon General Lt Gen James G. Roudebush and the rest of the official party. Once the last diploma had been awarded, the concert hall overflowed with celebration as roars of applause burst from a crowd of more than 3,500.

Having officially entered their professional careers as physi-

cians, biomedical scientists and advanced practice nurses, the class of 2008 dressed in their new uniforms and ranks, transforming the front rows of Constitution Hall into a spectacle of Army greens, Navy whites, Air Force blues and Public Health Service dress blues. The United States Marine Band, “The President’s Own,” played a medley

of songs for each service as the country’s newest uniformed health care professionals congratulated each other with proud smiles and handshakes. And as the medical graduates recited the Hippocratic Oath, they officially assumed the responsibility that Dr. Zerhouni, Dr. Laughlin and countless professors throughout their graduate and professional programs had spoken about: the responsibility to protect life.

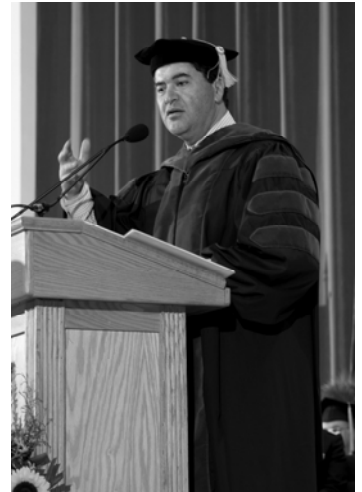


Photo by Tom Balfour

Dr. Elias Zerhouni, director for the National Institutes of Health, addresses the graduates and attendees of USU’s 2008 Commencement Ceremony.



Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins

2008 graduates pose with friends and family outside of DAR Constitution Hall after the ceremony.

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of messages chalked on the pavement and dangling from the trunks of trees as well as in the marchers, themselves. "The stories were so touching," Witter said before adding, "You're walking next to people who just had chemo."

She goes on to discuss several of the courageous "ambassadors for the cause" including an elderly woman who travels from city to city, participating in all nine of the Avon sponsored marches. It is clear

Witter is deeply humbled by the marchers, which is perhaps the reason she is so reluctant to discuss the injuries she sustained 20 miles into the walk. They were minor—three blisters—but painful additions to an already difficult journey. When asked about care, hesitation gives way to pride because Witter's care givers were School of Medicine students. In fact, several USU volunteers were stationed intermittently along the course, ready to administer first aid to the sprained ankles, calloused feet and dehydrated bodies that crossed their

path.

"It feels like we're doing something to help people, which is why we came to medical school in the first place," said medical student and Avon volunteer, 2LT Robert Vietor, USA, an MS-2.

A newly bandaged Witter and companion, Donnelly finished day one at mile marker 21 where they camped in tents on site and woke to begin the process again. A new day and 13 miles later, the volunteers finished what they set out to do: prove every step counts.

Catching Up with USU School of Medicine Alumni

By *Leeann Ori*

Alumni Program Specialist, Office of External Affairs

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha honored new inductees by hosting a dinner, May 10.

During the festivities, USU alumnus COL Terry Walters, MC, USA, was the distinguished speaker at the event. Walters graduated from the School of Medicine in 1984 and received her Master of Public Health degree in 1995. Walters, who is currently the commander of Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg, is also a former U.S. figure skating national champion and holds national and world power lifting titles. Two other USU alumni, Dr. John Farley, SOM Class of 1990, and Dr. Tandy Olsen, SOM Class of 1997, were also part of the festivities as new inductees.

As many USU alumni rise to the top of their fields they have taken hold of other medical schools. CAPT Chris Kane, MC, USN (RC), SOM Class of 1989, recently became a professor of surgery and chief of Urology at the University of San Diego. Kane specializes in prostate and kidney cancer. Retired CDR Peter Johnstone, MC, USN, also SOM Class of 1989, was honored as a professor and

chair of Radiation Oncology at Indiana University.

Col Arnyce Pock, MC, USAF, SOM Class of 1985, was honored as the recipient of the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Each year a single award is given to a graduate from each of the three University of Illinois campuses and is presented during the annual commencement exercise. As cited by the University's Alumni Association, the awards recognize "outstanding alumni for their professional achievement, distinguished service to the university and/or humanitarian efforts."



Photo by Leeann Ori

AOA advisor and USU Department of Medicine chair, Robert Goldstein, presented COL Walters with a plaque and coin in appreciation for her appearance at this year's induction dinner.



Photos by HM2 Michael Oliver

Honoring a Commitment to Those Who Served

Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) welcomes the audience to the Veteran Affairs community outreach discussion. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the services and benefits that are available to veterans and how they can be accessed. Members of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' Office of External Affairs were present to provide information about the education and research being conducted at the university.

From **CASSELLS**, Pg. 2

class, but know that I fully realize the hard work and dedication you have already contributed. As I'm sure you've heard before, becoming a medical professional means a lifetime of learning about science and about people.

Please take a minute to thank not only your families but your teachers and the leaders like the late Dr. Jay Sanford, who nurtured this school to adulthood, VADM James A. Zimble who has been stalwart in its defense, and President Charles Rice who has built bridges to other universities, the Army, the Veterans Administration, and the National Institutes of Health.

And don't ask your chairman, Everett Alvarez, about his heroism in Vietnam. Just thank him for two decades of clear-eyed service to USU, and for his example. And thank the unsinkable Tammy Alvarez for the love that produced, *Fighting For Life*, the most inspiring movie of our lifetime.

Please also thank our unflappable dean, Larry Laughlin, M.D., and welcome the distinguished dean of our graduate school of nursing, Ada Sue Hinshaw, RN, Ph.D.

And thank your classmates for buddy learning, and for shouldering to lean on, even as they held you to standards that are incomprehensible in civilian medical schools.

Together, your fullness of dedication will lead to a fullness of life. You will face – and most of you will meet – challenges un-

known to your civilian colleagues. But these will prepare you to lead, when you conclude your military career, in the world of medicine, or rather, in the medicine of the world.

Many of you will distinguish yourselves as "doers," many as teachers, and all as leaders by example. Some of you may follow the path of the 17 former service members like Joe Murray and Ed Krebs and Gerald Edelman who won the Nobel prize in medicine, or should have, like the late Maurice Hilleman and Judah Folkman.

Basic research is one way to serve, as are clinical and health services research. But you can also serve just by spending time with researchers. They need to know your needs. That is one of the secrets of success of the great surgical pioneers who began their careers in the military: Harvey Cushing, Michael DeBakey, Denton Cooley, James "Red" Duke, and Ken Mattox. (Almost all are Texans: facts are facts).

You heard from Dr. Elias Zerhouni, your commencement speaker. Please take his words into your hearts.

Dr. Zerhouni has led the National Institutes of Health into an innovative era of interdisciplinary focus. He and his NIH colleagues have pursued a different path from yours. They are specialists dedicated to discovery and invention on a time span of decades. We are grateful to them for partnering with us in our new areas of focus for

USU: brain injury, psychological resiliency, and stem cell therapeutics. We also partner with NIAID's Dr. Anthony Fauci in infectious diseases, and are likely to do more with NIH in areas like imaging, biomedical engineering and informatics. Let's not forget telemedicine and web-based education, by which the unique lessons learned at USU can benefit our allies everywhere.

We are also learning from leaders in public health like Institute of Medicine President Harvey Fineberg, M.D., CDC Director Julie Gerberding, M.D., HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt, who has led the nation's efforts in informatics and in avian influenza, and FDA Commissioner Andrew von Eschenbach, with whom we are developing new ways to monitor drug safety.

In each area USU brings unique needs, responsibilities, and talents, to compliment the specialized knowledge of our civilian colleagues. Armed with the new tools that result from these collaborations, and recalling that only a few years ago Soviet soldiers were driven from Afghanistan more by preventable diseases than by rockets, you will quickly make decisions that change the course of an epidemic or of a war.

Catch your breath now, express your thanks, and accept from me the thanks of our surgeons general and Secretary of Defense Dr. Robert Gates. Then go out to lead, by serving those who guard our families and our freedom.

From **AWARDS**, Pg. 2

Award: Christina Faherty, Emerging Infectious Diseases

LTC Daniel Kayanan AMSUS Military Medicine Award: ZLT Jeanne Patzkowski, MS, USA

Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award: ZLT Karen McGrane, MS, USA; ZLT Emily Simmons, MS, USA

Government Services Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, Emergency Medicine Award: 2nd Lt Joseph Maddry, MSC, USAF

Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians, Outstanding Student of the Year: 2nd Lt Elizabeth Casstevens, MSC, USAF

Outstanding Student in Pediatrics Award: ENS Ben Nelson, MC, USN

American Academy of Pediatrics, Uniformed Services Chapter East, Outstanding Achievement in Pediatrics Award: ZLT James Cox, MS, USA

Outstanding Student in Psychiatry Award: ENS Chai Wu, MC, USN

Armed Forces District, ACOG, Outstanding Student in Obstetrics and Gynecology Award: 2nd Lt Christopher Meinhart, MSC, USAF

Army Chapter of the American College of Physicians, Outstanding Achievement Award: ZLT Nicholas Orr, MS, USA

Society of the Air Force Physicians, Outstanding Achievement Award: 2nd Lt Bryan Ramsey, MSC, USAF

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal: 2nd Lt Beau Baum, MSC, USAF; 2nd Lt Thomas Beachkofsky, MSC, USAF

Admissions Committee Certificates of Appreciation: ENS James Bailey, USN; 2nd Lt Jessica Beachkofsky, USAF; 2nd Lt Thomas Beachkofsky, USAF; ENS Jerald Cook, USN; ZLT Austin Cox, USA; ENS Robert Drewelow, USN; 2nd Lt Brent Feldt, USAF; 2nd Lt

Philip Flatau, USAF; ENS Andrew Harbuck, USN; ZLT Leslie Jetté, USA; 2nd Lt Richard Kipp, USAF; ENS Grace Lee, USN; ENS James Masterson, USN; ENS Andrew McLaughlin, USN; ZLT Nicholas Orr, USA; ENS Colleen Perez, USN; ENS Ryan Restrepo, USN; ENS Peter Seguin, USN; 2nd Lt Andrew Skabelund, USAF; 2nd Lt Alison Smith, USAF; ZLT Rachel Sullivan, USA; ZLT Christopher Tracy, USA; 2nd Lt Baxter Tharin, USAF; ENS Allison Weisbrod, USN; 2nd Lt Michael Zeola, USAF

The following are awards from the GSN's Honors and Awards Ceremony:

Federal Nursing Service Chiefs Award: Ph.D.: LCDR Michelle Kane, NC, USN; Masters: CPT Kelly Chiffer, AN, USA

Military Officers Association of America Outstanding Student Award: Ph.D.: Col Lela Holden, NC, USAF; FNP: CPT Un Kim, AN, USA; NA: Capt Adam Dagleish, NC, USAF; PCNS: LCDR Jeremy Hawker, NC, USN

Distinguished Academic Performance Award: FNP: LT Jennifer Lezcano, NC, USN; PCNS: LCDR William Young, NC, USN

Distinguished Clinical Performance Award: FNP: MAJ Jane Christensen, NC, USA; PCNS: CPT Shannon Cole, AN, USA

Dean's Award for Research Excellence: FNP: LT Agnés Ambrosi, NC, USN; LT Jennifer Lezcano, NC, USN. PCNS: LT Paul Albers, NC, USN; Capt Steven Blevins, NC, USAF; LCDR Richard Lawrence, NC, USN; and LCDR William Young, NC, USN

Academic Excellence Award: LCDR William Young, NC, USN (PCNS)

First Year Outstanding Student Award: FNP: Capt Lisa Madison, NC, USAF; PCNS: Capt Mary Hillandbrand, NC, USAF

Distinguished Masters Uniformed Faculty Award: CDR John Maye, NC, USN

Distinguished Masters Civilian Faculty Award: Roopa Biswas, Ph.D.

Dates to Remember

May 28 : Seminars, "Molecular Mechanisms of EphA2 Deregulation During Heliobacter Pylori Infection," and "Mechanisms of Angiotensin II-Induced Apoptosis in Primary Endothelial Cells" - Speakers will be Reyda Gonzalez-Nieves, MCB graduate student, and Young Lee, MCB graduate student, respectively. Lectures begin at 3:30 p.m., Lecture Rm. A.

June 6-8: Tom's Run 2008— Tom's Run is a 200-mile fitness event in memory of CWO4 Tom Brooks, USCG (Ret.), who contracted amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Each year teams of runners relay from Cumberland, Md. to Washington, D.C., and finish at USU. For information, contact SSgt Rogers at mrogers@usuhs.mil.

June 30 : First USU/HJF Symposium — "Military and Civilian Medicine Joining Forces to Advance Research," will be held from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Bethesda, Md. For more information, visit <http://www.hjf.org/symposium>, or call 301-294-1218.

2008 Field Exercises: Operations Bushmaster and Kerkesner will be conducted July 13-25 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn. 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 135 uniformed personnel needed to support this mission.

101 Days of Summer Safety Message, 2008: From the Secretary of Defense: Tragically, last year during the 101 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day, 77 service men and women died in private motor vehicle accidents. While Memorial Day marks the beginning of summer it also means increased traffic on our Nation's roads. Know that the choices you make at sporting events, barbecues and other summer activities can impair your judgment and reaction times, all of which are necessary for safe driving. Don't put your life, or the lives of others, in danger by making poor decisions. Most vehicle accidents are the results of alcohol, fatigue and excessive speed. Your safety and the safety of those around you, is in your hands. Enjoy the summer and all it has to offer, but be smart and be safe!

Military Personnel Office Information: When a military member transfers to another department or their rating official changes, please inform the Military Personnel Office staff of this personnel action to determine if a Change of Rater Report is required. When a change of rater is greater than 90 days for Army personnel and 120 days for Air Force personnel after the last evaluation close-out date, a Change of Rater Report is mandatory.



Photo by MC3 Jeff Hopkins

Stepping Out

As part of "America On the Move," HMC Jeffrey Mueller, USN, Leading Chief Petty Officer of the USU Company's Navy Division, has lead a walking group during lunch for the duration of May. AOM is a national non-profit organization who are working to improve the health of Americans by promoting a healthy diet and exercise. Mueller (far left) and HM1 John Motichka, USN, Leading Petty Officer for the Navy Division, lead a group of staff and faculty on a walk around the grounds of the National Naval Medical Center.



UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY *of the Health Sciences*

