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### TIPS FROM OUR OFFI- CERS:

- Don't forget to bookmark [PHSPHARMACIST.ORG](http://PHSPHARMACIST.ORG)
- Set an Outlook reminder for university events, as well as a reminder to log in every few months
- Write your PHSPharmacist-password down and make it easy enough to remember
- Bring extra business cards (Make your own— see p2)
- Set an Outlook reminder to call your school's administrators

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# University Point of Contact Newsletter

An informational and informal publication of the USPHS Pharmacist Professional  
Advisory Committee

[WWW.PHSPhARMACIST.ORG](http://WWW.PHSPhARMACIST.ORG)

FALL 2008

## Have you Logged in to [www.phspharmacist.org](http://www.phspharmacist.org) Lately?

Since the inception of the University Point of Contact Program in 2002, the PharmPAC has recognized the value in having a program dedicated to providing a “personal” contact with pharmacy schools. One goal has been to develop an online collaborative database of volunteer officers. With the recent re-opening of [www.phspharmacist.org](http://www.phspharmacist.org), we are one step closer to achieving this goal. All UPOCs should log into the site, update their contact information, and document recent school contacts, as well as upcoming events. This site has been tuned to allow quick updates for busy pharmacists.

Although the appearance of the site hasn't changed significantly, fields for event entry have been revised to accommodate requested entries. Additionally, if you have forgotten your password, there is a link to retrieve it without administrator assistance. Lastly, the automatic logout time has been extended to 8 hours so users' sessions aren't timed out as fast as before. These little improvements intend to improve the users experience.

Once officers begin updating

their profiles and documenting visits to schools, the PharmPAC will be able to run reports to correlate UPOC activities with officers recruited. Additionally, we will see which schools we are reaching, and which ones we are missing, and which officers have logged in



recently and which ones haven't. We depend on your commitment to make this program a success and provide accurate information.

If you are a new user, you will have to be “assigned” the role of UPOC in order to have full use of the system. After you've logged in for the first time, send an email to one of the administrators and request addition to the UPOC group so you may begin documenting visits.

Once you log into the website, you'll have options to edit your profile, edit events, or view the event calendar. If you want to

see what's going on around the country at different schools, select the event calendar, and you can click on the events to view more detail. You can also view events month by month by clicking on the arrow above the calendar. If you wish to add an event, select “Events” then “Register an Event”. Next select your name from the dropdown box and follow the prompts. You will be asked to enter the event type, name of event, the date, duration, number of officers, number of students reached, and any additional notes. The comment box at the end is a good place to explain the event in greater detail.

If you are entering in a future event, you'll still be asked for the same information, so if you don't know who will be attending the event, simply write “unknown”, and then the event can be updated afterwards.

Soon, users will have access to download an Excel document that will let users easily find which other officers are points of contact for which schools. This will make communication between UPOCs more convenient.

Thank you all for your participation in the UPOC program and dedication to the Corps.

## Keeping Up...

### PKBS Updates:

This fall, only minor revisions have been made to the document. The Commissioned Corps website has been added to the bottom of the document. Also, in the next few months, be on the lookout for the 2009 update that will include any pay raises approved by Congress, as well as a revised look to match the new Commissioned Corps recruitment materials.

### Build Your Own Business Cards

Not all of us have fast, easy access to business cards from their organization, and sometimes we don't have time to revise the cards between a change in position or contact information before a UPOC event. Did you know you can build your own business cards in just a few minutes? Try this in a pinch:

Go to your local office supply store and purchase Avery cards #5371, 8371, or 8871. Next on your computer, open up MS Word, (instructions are for Word 2007) and select the icon at the top left corner, and click "New". Next click "Business Cards" on the left margin. This will open up a template where you can enter in your contact information. Don't forget to include your email address, and the Commissioned Corps homepage [www.usphs.gov](http://www.usphs.gov). Commissioned Corps logos can be downloaded from the homepage and used on your cards. ([http://dcp.psc.gov/logo\\_files.asp](http://dcp.psc.gov/logo_files.asp)) Additionally, you can copy and paste your facility/agency logo and paste it into the template. Place the card sheets into your laser or color printer, and print away!



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### Roundtable Discussions Increase Student Awareness of the USPHS

On September 12th, I participated in a Career Roundtable for 4th year pharmacy students at Howard University as a panelist. The set-up of the seminar consisted of roundtables that sat 10 people per table. Each guest panelist was designated a table for 1 & 1/2 hour length of time. I did two 1 1/2 hour sessions. During the time allotted, the students had an opportunity to visit various tables for a total of 4 sessions or 20-minute segments. This allowed the students to speak to several pharmacists over a short period of time. I repeated myself with each 20-minute turn. The experience was not designed for recruiting, but it allowed students a chance to network and learn more about career options beyond entry-level post graduation positions.

The experience introduced students to the U.S. Public Health Service as well as the possibility of pursuing a career in FDA. As a result of the roundtable, I will be serving as a preceptor to two Howard University students in the Spring 2009 semester.

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### CDR Peter Vermilyea Discusses Career Options in the USPHS to Students;

Last summer, I was contacted by the Chair of the Dept. of Pharmacy Practice for Midwestern University looking for a last minute sit-in lecturer to talk to PI students as part of a series of classes informing students about opportunities in pharmacy practice. Since attendance was mandatory, I was fortunate to have an audience of about 130 attentive students! That's an idea for fellow UPOCs— offer to give a talk to students, but try to do it as part of a course for credit. It will give you a guaranteed audience.



## Excellence in Public Health Practice Submitted by LCDR James Czarzasty



Pharmacy Practice at URI regarding opportunities in federal pharmacy and the Commissioned Corps. I also met briefly with the Dean. I think that the presentation of these awards affords a great opportunity for marketing the PHS to pharmacy students.

It is a small commitment in time and benefits us all. LCDR Czarzasty is the Chief Pharmacist at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT, and can be reached at [james.p.czarzasty@uscg.mil](mailto:james.p.czarzasty@uscg.mil)

I had the honor of presenting a 2008 USPHS Excellence in Public Health Practice Award to the recipient at the University of Rhode Island (URI). The award was presented at a short ceremony in the College of Pharmacy and was followed by a luncheon for the awardees. I had the opportunity to speak at length with the Associate Dean and the Director of Experiential

Most of the students have already committed to their immediate future at this point in the academic year, but the exposure to the PHS will hopefully be a lasting one that may yield another new accession should they choose to take their career in another direction. I'd encourage any one who has not had the opportunity to take part in presenting a student award to do so.



## LCDR Greg Dill Visits the University of Illinois Submitted by LCDR Greg Dill

Three other pharmacy officers and I recently participated in the University of Illinois, College of Pharmacy annual recruiting fair. We had well over 300 pharmacy students in attendance with at least 100 stopping by and asking a question or inquiring about PHS opportunities. The various PHS officers at the booth really made a difference in reaching out to students. CDR Todd Stankewicz could leverage his experience in Iraq, CDR Janelle Derbis could explain how she worked with various professional associations to get the FDA message out, and LT Thien Nguyen, newly commissioned in May 2008, could talk to the students at their level and could really explain the benefits of PHS in comparison to other em-

ployment offers. As a prior service Army Officer, I spoke to a number of students who were previously enlisted and explained how PHS Pharmacy really is the "best kept secret". We were also fortunate to be located next to the IHS booth which was staffed by a civilian pharmacist from Tuba City, Arizona. This worked extremely well, since we could refer students to the different booths for more information about the various programs.

Just a reminder to other University Point of Contacts: have a notepad available to let students provide email addresses to allow for follow up as the year goes on.

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Email UPOC school reports & photos to CDR Peter Vermilyea at [peter.vermilyea@wihcc.org](mailto:peter.vermilyea@wihcc.org)