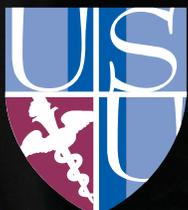


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Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way

Sharon Holland

Deputy Vice President for External Affairs and Managing Editor

Christopher Austin

Writer and Interim Editor

MC2 Laura Bailey

Writer and Photographer

SSgt. Stephanie Morris, USAF

Writer and Photographer

Sarah Marshall

Contributing Writer and Photographer

Tom Balfour

Photographer

Production

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King, Belen earn Energy and Water Management Awards



Cheryl King, director of Facilities; Miguel Belen, chief of the Engineering division; and William Ortega-Ortiz, the NSAB installation energy manager, hold their 2016 Federal Energy and Water Management awards. (Photo Courtesy of the Department of Energy)

By Sharon Holland

The 2016 Federal Energy and Water Management Award recipients were presented on Dec. 7 in Washington, D.C., and two Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences employees were among the honorees.

Cheryl King, director of Facilities, and Miguel Belen, chief of the Engineering division, were among the Navy and Marine Corps winners of the award.

The Federal Energy Management Program, run by the U.S. Department of Energy, in conjunction with the Interagency Energy Management Task Force, sponsors the annual Federal Energy and Water Management Awards. The awards recognize individuals, groups, and agencies for their outstanding contributions in the areas of energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of advanced and renewable energy technologies at federal facilities.

Awardees are selected for outstanding achievements in energy and water efficiency and

conservation, renewable energy implementation, sustainable practices for high-performance buildings, and fleet and transportation management.

King and Belen were selected for the award as part of a team from Naval Support Activity Bethesda for their design and implementation of a comprehensive base-wide energy efficiency/retrofit project, improving the exterior lighting systems and enhancing steam trap performance and safety across the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center campus. Other team members included William O. Ortega-Ortiz, the installation energy manager, Navy Lt. j.g. Quintrell Mazant, construction manager. King served as the USU liaison on the team, and Belen was the WRNMMC liaison at the time the project took place.

“I couldn’t be more proud, it is very well deserved. Cheryl can add it to her long list of accomplishments as a great way to end her dedicated service to our University,” said Arta Mahboubi, assistant vice president for administration. King will be retiring at the end of December.

**On the cover**

Dr. Richard W. Thomas accepts the ceremonial mace from Mr. Peter Levine, performing the duties of the under secretary of Defense for Personnel Readiness, officially signifying the transfer of power as USU's sixth president, Dec. 9, 2016. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephanie Morris, U.S. Air Force)

'I used to be a wounded warrior'

Panel discussion sheds light on advancements, challenges in military medicine



A recent panel discussion at the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States meeting highlighted advancements in military treatment, and challenges in caring for, wounded warriors. From left to right: Dr. Rory Cooper, retired Army Col. Greg Gadson, retired Navy Cmdr. Larry Miller, and USU's retired Army Col. (Dr.) Paul Pasquina. (Photo by Sarah Marshall)

By Sarah Marshall

Retired Army Col. Greg Gadson lost both of his legs in 2007 after being injured by an improvised explosive device in Iraq. Through lots of hope, support from his community, and advancements in military medicine, he made a successful recovery and returned to active duty. He later became garrison commander of Fort Belvoir, Virginia in 2012, making him the first double amputee to lead a major Army installation.

During a panel discussion at a recent annual Association of Military Surgeons of the United States meeting, Gadson shared his journey, the challenges he faced, and his perspective on the care he received that he attributes to his successes. The panel also included Rory Cooper, Ph.D., who suffered a spinal cord injury while serving in the military, as well as retired Army Col. (Dr.) Paul Pasquina, professor

and chair of the Department of Rehabilitation at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), and retired Navy Cmdr. Larry Miller, a physician assistant at a veterans affairs hospital in Tampa, Florida. Navy Capt. Walter Greenhalgh, director of the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, moderated the discussion.

With the theme, "I used to be a wounded warrior," the panel focused on the importance of providing quality care not just from the point of injury, but throughout the continuum of care, for both wounded warriors and their families. The panelists discussed some of the challenges wounded warriors and providers face, while highlighting advancements in military medicine.

Gadson said he liked the panel's theme, because he doesn't like to think of himself as a "wounded warrior."

"I am a warrior, and I was wounded. That was almost 10 years ago, and I am not continually wounded," he said.

After being injured, there were significant implications associated with having lost both legs above the knee, while also suffering organ shut down, and severe damage to his right arm, he said. However, he was able to overcome these challenges, and transition back to active duty. He stayed on for an additional seven years, was promoted, and served as director of an Army wounded warrior program. Advancements in care and technology in the military, he said, allowed him, and many others, to survive battlefield injuries that were never survivable in previous wars.

"The bar has been raised in our medical community," he said.

But that's just the beginning of the journey, Gadson added. It's important to continue not only making sure service members survive battlefield injuries, but also have a quality of life.

"We have a great responsibility to our nation to make sure that our veterans and our families, who have paid significant sacrifice, can still pursue their dreams," he said.

Pasquina agreed, noting the military has achieved historic survival rates since Sept. 11. "That's just the first step," he said.

The goal is to make sure these individuals are able to re-integrate back into their communities, back into active duty, and back into their families, he continued.

Continued on pg. 14

Dr. Richard W. Thomas Installed as Uniformed Services University's Sixth President



By Sarah Marshall

During a ceremony steeped in tradition and academic pageantry, Dr. Richard W. Thomas was inaugurated as the sixth president of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) on Dec. 9.

Thomas was officially sworn in as the University's newest president in July, succeeding Dr. Charles Rice, who served as president from 2005-2016. Thomas is responsible for advising the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the

four Surgeons General on a wide array of issues related to graduate health professions education and health care research.

Thomas said, first and foremost, he is committed to life-long service, having served as a physician, dentist, surgeon, commander, Soldier, Army general, and now a university president.

"As such, I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of so many through the leadership of a premier federal university," he said. "A love of learning, a longing for discovery, a commitment to pursue the truth – these are the underpinnings of a great university. I find each of these here in abundance."

Thomas also emphasized his commitment to enhancing the university's already eminent standing as a place where gifted scholars focus on research, teaching, and mentoring the rising generation to become tomorrow's leaders in



Dr. Richard W. Thomas (second from the left) applauds a guest speaker during his inauguration ceremony on Dec. 9. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephanie Morris, U.S. Air Force)

military medicine.

"This is our mission, and our mission is like no other university's," he said.

Supporting and working with the armed forces and their respective medical departments, he added, USU will lead the way to a new era in education, research, and health care.

"We are members of the finest medical team the world has ever seen. We represent the investment in trust our nation has made in health readiness. That's exactly as it should be," he said.

The newest member of USU's Board of Regents, and former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Honorable Dr. Jonathan Woodson, echoed similar sentiments. The guest speaker said, "The joint nature of USU's research, programs and curriculum, are what spur innovation and enable the

Thomas graduated from West Virginia University (WVU) in 1981. He is a graduate of the WVU School of Dentistry and received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the WVU School of Medicine in 1994. He earned a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2006. He completed his internship at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and residency in Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery at Madigan Army Medical Center, Fort Lewis, Washington.

Previously, Thomas held a faculty appointment as clinical associate professor at the University of Washington in Seattle, and served as adjunct faculty and staff surgeon at the Swedish Medical Center in Seattle and American Lake Veteran's Administration Hospital in Tacoma, Washington. He currently serves as an American Academy of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery diplomate, and is an American College of Surgeons



Former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Honorable Dr. Jonathan Woodson, was a guest speaker at Thomas' inauguration. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephanie Morris, U.S. Air Force)

fellow. He is also a member of several professional associations, including the American Association for Physician Leadership, the American Dental Association, the American Medical Association, and the American Academy of Pain Medicine.



Faculty from USU and other universities throughout the mid-Atlantic region participated in the installation ceremony, Dec. 9. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephanie Morris, U.S. Air Force)



Dr. Richard W. Thomas, the sixth president of Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, addresses the audience at his inauguration. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephanie Morris, U.S. Air Force)

New course uses virtual reality to teach communication



Students learn to use off-the-shelf smartphone virtual reality headsets to practice public speaking in a class given by Navy Capt. (Dr.) Gregory Gorman in the Department of Pediatrics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. The elective, conceived and organized by F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine Associate Dean Army Col. (Dr.) Jeffrey Hutchinson, teaches students communication skills in both old and new media, including oratory and radio interviews, podcasts, video, and social media. (Photo by Capt. (Dr.) Gregory Gorman)

By Christopher Austin

A new elective at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences is teaching students from the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine (SOM) and the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing (GSN) how to manage modern communication like social media, video and podcasts. It's also teaching them how to practice traditional communication in a non-traditional way.

Conceived by Army Col. (Dr.) Jeff Hutchinson, associate dean in the SOM, "Media Communications in Health Care" was offered in the fall and will be offered again in February. It is a post-clerkship elective that aims to improve students' understanding and use

of the media available to them, and improve their skills in public speaking. To approach the latter, the course made use of virtual reality (VR) technology.

"It's something I had used before with the residents in my program as a way to practice public speaking," said Navy Capt. (Dr.) Gregory Gorman, associate professor of Pediatrics at USU and director of the National Capital Consortium Pediatrics residency program.

"When they start getting invitations to platforms like national meetings, they're naturally anxious about it. We would practice where they'd present in front of small groups. Some of the people the speakers would know, others they wouldn't. We'd critique them not

only on content but also form. But that doesn't give you the awe of seeing a room full of a hundred-some people."

Using an off-the-shelf VR headset that works with their smartphones, students can access an app called VirtualSpeech, which puts them in scenarios where they can test their public speaking skills, like interviews, wedding speeches, or small or large presentations.

The app features actors as audience members who, during the user's presentation, will reflect the attentive, disinterested, or hostile audiences that students may find during their careers.

Continued on pg. 12

Mary Maniscalco-Theberge named first ACS Mary Edwards Walker Inspiring Women in Surgery Award recipient

By 2nd Lt. Patricia Vu, U.S. Air Force

Dr. Mary Maniscalco-Theberge, a clinical professor in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USU) Walter Reed Department of Surgery, became the first person to receive the Mary Edwards Walker Inspiring Women in Surgery Award from the American College of Surgeons' Women in Surgery Committee.

Maniscalco-Theberge was recognized for her notable contributions to the advancement of women in the field of surgery. The award is named for Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, the first female surgeon in the United States Army, and the only female recipient of the Medal of Honor. After serving in the Civil War, Walker committed her life to women's rights in addition to being a pioneer for women in surgery. The award was presented during the annual American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress.

As an undergraduate student at Old Dominion University, Maniscalco-Theberge was not afraid to be different. She was a cheerleader, an Army cadet and a chemistry major. She chose this field of study knowing it would allow her to stand out among her pre-medical peers—the majority of whom majored in the biological sciences. Even before beginning her medical career, “Dr. Mary,” as she is affectionately called by colleagues and patients, was already inspiring women to do more and be more. She became the first female battalion commander of her Army ROTC program.

After graduating in 1978, Maniscalco-Theberge attended Eastern Virginia Medical School, where she discovered her passion for surgery. Regardless of the fact that women were often discouraged from pursuing a career in surgery during the 1970s and 1980s, Maniscalco-Theberge simply wanted to “give it a try.” Her determination and enthusiasm led to her acceptance into a five-year surgical residency program at Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Fort Gordon, Georgia. Once again, she stood out — she was the only woman in the program. Although she faced negative comments such as “the only place a woman belongs in the operating room is on the table,” the thought of withdrawing from the program never crossed her mind. Throughout her residency training, she found strength and support from ICU nurses, pathology residents and family medicine residents.

Despite the cruel remarks from male colleagues on top of being submersed in an already physically and mentally demanding environment, Maniscalco-Theberge has been able to shed positive light on her experiences. She emphasizes that everyone in the workplace has something to offer, and that it is important to help everyone maximize his or her potential so that the team can succeed. Maniscalco-Theberge leads by selfless compassion and example, always striving for perfection and working hard. She deeply believes in doing the right thing and making choices that are for the greater good.



Dr. Mary Maniscalco-Theberge is the first recipient of the Inspiring Women in Surgery Award, chosen by the American College of Surgeons' Women in Surgery Committee. Maniscalco-Theberge is a clinical professor in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' Department of Surgery. (Photo Courtesy of Veterans Administration)

These very views are some of the main reasons she enjoyed being in the military, and why she continued serving in the United States Army after fulfilling her service requirements for the scholarships from ROTC and Health Professions Scholarship Programs. For her, the military became an instant family, striving for a common good. She eventually became the first and only female chief of Surgery at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Continued on pg. 14

Students build teamwork at Well-Being program kickoff

Students from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine took part in a well-being program kickoff on Nov. 28, 2016. The event saw first- through fourth-year students divided into teams made up of members from the different Services, and pitted against each other in a variety of activities with a focus on improving teamwork. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Stephanie Morris, U.S. Air Force and Sharon Holland)



Students in the USU School of Medicine's Well-Being program participate in one of several team-building challenges.



Students in the USU School of Medicine's Well-Being program participate in one of several team-building challenges.



Students participate in a hopper ball race.



Army 2nd Lt. Emad Madha prepares to throw a dodgeball.



Inter-Service teams take part in a game of volleyball.



Air Force 2nd Lt. Lawrence Grey from the class of 2020 attempts to outrun the pitcher during a kickball game.



The USU School of Medicine's Well-Being program kickoff winning team displays its cast iron trophy, presented by Dean Dr. Art Kellermann.

Student selected for Henry Jackson Foundation Graduate Student Fellowship in the Medical Sciences Award

By Christopher Austin

Lisa Shank, a graduate student at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), has been selected as this year's recipient of the Graduate Student Fellowship in the Medical Sciences Award for 2016-2017 from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine (HJF).

A fourth-year doctoral student in the medical psychology program in the Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology at the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine (SOM), Shank received the award based on her dissertation research examining the relations that exist among loss of control eating (LOC), inflammation, and metabolic syndrome in youth with and without obesity.

The primary hypothesis of Shank's research is that youth with LOC will have a larger increase and prolonged elevation of salivary markers of inflammation in response to stress compared to youth without LOC. Another hypothesis is that the inflammatory response to stress will at least partially explain the relationship between LOC and components of the metabolic syndrome.

"Kids with loss of control eating are at increased risk for weight and fat gain. Independent of weight and fat mass, they are also at increased risk for metabolic syndrome and have increased markers of chronic inflammation," Shank said. "It seems like something about them is putting them at increased risk for adverse health outcomes above

and beyond weight, and there's evidence to suggest that stress plays a role in both LOC and these health outcomes."

For her research study, Shank presents subjects, ages 12-17, with a cognitive stressor and measures salivary markers of inflammation once before and six times after the stressor is completed. A session with a single subject lasts around three and a half hours.

The stressor is a working memory test where subjects are read a series of numbers and instructed to respond with the sum of each pair of numbers read to them. The rate at which the numbers are read to them speeds up, and the subjects are told that they are being recorded and judged. Seven times over the course of the experiment, synthetic swabs are put under the subject's tongues for five minute periods. These swabs are later examined to determine the concentration of inflammatory markers present.

"I'm really interested in salivary markers of inflammation because they're so new, and you tend to see changes in these pro-inflammatory cytokines before you see them in the blood," Shank said. "It's potentially a more useful, innovative biomarker, but only a few studies have used these with respect to acute stress, so it's a new field. That was an interesting part of the experiments."

Dr. Marian Tanofsky-Kraff, a professor in the Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology in the SOM and Shank's research advisor and mentor, hopes that Shank's research can help bring an understanding to how obesity



Lisa Shank, a Ph.D. graduate student at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, has been selected as this year's recipient of the Graduate Student Fellowship in the Medical Sciences Award for 2016-2017 from the HJF. (Courtesy Photo)

and disordered eating impact the physical and psychological health of military children, so that the best treatments and preventive measures can be taken in the future.

"Lisa is doing very important work that will help Service members' children," Tanofsky-Kraff said. "Obesity and eating disturbance are prevalent among these youth and may be associated with more medical and psychological problems than for civilian children."

The award comes with a stipend from HJF, along with travel aid, which will allow Shank to travel to the Society for Behavioral Medicine

Continued on pg. 12

Varpio earns prestigious Diana Forsythe Award

By Sharon Holland

Dr. Lara Varpio, an associate professor in the Department of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and a faculty member in USU's Health Professions Education program, was presented the 2016 Diana Forsythe Award by the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA).

Varpio earned the award for her paper, "Building the Patient's Story," that studied how electronic health records impact patient care.

The Diana Forsythe Award honors either a peer-reviewed AMIA paper published in the Proceedings of the Annual Symposium or a peer-reviewed article published in the Journal of the American Medical

Informatics Association or other journals publishing medical informatics-related content that best exemplifies the spirit and scholarship of Diana Forsythe's work at the intersection of informatics and social sciences. Dr. Diana Forsythe was a leading anthropologist of science, technology, and work, and particularly in the field of artificial intelligence.

"Dr. Varpio is conducting groundbreaking, theory-driven research that is informed by multiple disciplines. Her winning this award is consistent with the spirit and scholarship of Dr. Forsythe's work that bridged the fields of informatics and the social sciences," said Dr. Steve Durning, director of the Health Professions Education degree program at USU.



Dr. Lara Varpio, an associate professor in the Department of Medicine at USU, received this year's Diana Forsythe Award from the American Medical Informatics Association. (Courtesy Photo)

CDP Offers 'Summer Institute' for Future Military Behavioral Health Providers

By Courtesy Article

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' Center for Deployment Psychology (CDP) is seeking psychology or counseling students for their "Summer Institute," June 19-23, 2017.

Nearly 2.8 million U.S. Service members have deployed in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Although most military members have acclimated well since returning, a number of them experience behavioral health problems, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, traumatic brain injury (TBI), insomnia, chronic pain or substance abuse. A significant need exists for behavioral health providers to be trained well in

military psychology. However, some graduate psychology students who are interested in this specialization may not feel adequately prepared to succeed as a pre-doctoral intern at a military treatment facility. Others may not be aware of the unique opportunities afforded by a career in military behavioral health.

The Center will host its third iteration of "The Summer Institute: Preparing for a Military-Focused Career," to raise awareness of military psychology careers and increase students' competitiveness for military internships.

"Psychologists caring for service members, veterans and their families are faced with unique issues and challenges. We hope that this course helps to prepare these

students to be successful as interns and professional psychologists working with this population," said Dr. Paula Domenici, director of civilian training programs for CDP.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens enrolled in an American Psychological Association-accredited doctoral program in clinical psychology or counseling as a second, third, or fourth-year student at the time of application to be eligible for the program. Additionally, students must be applying for a military clinical internship beginning in 2018 or 2019. Deadline for applications is January 13, 2017.

Virtual reality, continued from pg. 6

“I didn’t even know the app existed, which provided a very surreal experience in preparing and practicing presentations,” said Air Force 2nd Lt. Helal Syed, a USU class of 2017 medical student who took the course. “I wish I had known about it earlier, since fourth-year rotations generally involve giving presentations.”

The benefit of using the technology is that it gets students exposed to performing for large groups of people. The best way to get them comfortable with public speaking is to desensitize them to it, Hutchinson believes.

“The main thing we wanted the students to get was an increased level of comfort; it is impossible to become a media expert in a one-month elective,” he said. “We wanted to get them exposed to all different kinds of media from social to lecturing to small group communication.”

Hutchinson designed the course because he noticed that there are different levels of proficiency in

communication among health professionals. He knew from his own personal experience that some situations are easier than others, but professionals must be prepared to communicate effectively when the need arises.

Every student has their own strengths coming into public speaking, but they also have a lot to learn in regards to conveying their points, Gorman said. Classical techniques in communication are still relevant today and the students enjoyed learning them, he said.

Hutchinson gathered together eight instructors, each for a different aspect of communication, to teach the course. Gorman focused on public speaking. Other areas of focus included video presentations, non-verbal communication, first impressions, one-on-one conversations, and even phone conversations.

Early in their careers, military health care professionals are expected to be teachers, Gorman said. They must be able to communicate not just with patients, but with small groups

during rounds, with large department groups and over the phone.

“[The course] was extremely helpful for me personally as I know that my time with patients will be limited in a clinic setting, and getting a message across in a way that the patient understands is all the more important,” said Air Force Capt. Stephanie Doane, a Family Health Nurse Practitioner student at the GSN. “I think that even though I may not be able to make a professional video or podcast yet, I have the resources and contacts to help me put together a message for patients, fellow staff and peers in the future.”

Both Hutchinson and Gorman agree that social media, another subject addressed in the class, is also important to modern communication for military medical professionals. It’s used in communicating with patients, other medical professionals, and can be used to publish research so that it gets more exposure.

Medical Sciences Award, continued from pg. 10

Conference in San Diego, California in March.

Originally from Thorton, Pennsylvania, Shank went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for a Bachelor of Science degree in Management Science in 2008. After deciding that research was her passion, she attended Drexel University to attain her Master

of Science in Psychology in 2013. At Drexel, she studied under Dr. Michael Lowe, focusing on hedonic hunger and obesity in young adults. The same year she graduated, Shank came to USU to pursue her doctoral degree in medical psychology.

“My time at USU has been fantastic, and I’ve really appreciated how great the students and faculty

have been here. They’ve been incredibly supportive of me and my career, and have only encouraged and facilitated me at every step of the way,” Shank said. “I definitely owe a lot to them.”

NeuroDRIVE: An adjunctive intervention for traumatic brain injury

By Mikelle D. Smith, DCoE Public Affairs

In a society that often requires a motor vehicle for completing daily tasks, being able to drive can promote independence. However, a traumatic brain injury (TBI) can interfere with the skills critical for attentive driving. Clinicians have developed an immersive virtual reality program that aims to restore confidence to those with TBI injuries and help them get back on the road.

The program, Neurocognitive Driving Rehabilitation in Virtual Environments (NeuroDRIVE), is a rehabilitation platform designed to address the psychological challenges often faced by individuals who drive following TBI, according to a presentation at the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Summit on Sept. 15.

NeuroDRIVE provides an immersive, engaging, and safe environment for rehabilitation and training in a wide range of skills relevant to driving, said the presenters.

“We expect that the enhanced ecological validity, engagement, and complexity that NeuroDRIVE offers will benefit real-world driving skills and general cognitive abilities,” said presenter Army Capt. Brian Guise, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the Uniformed Services University for the Health Sciences (USU).

“We developed this from a neuropsychological perspective,” said Brian Brandler, a research

associate in the Ettenhofer Laboratory for Neurocognitive Research in USU’s Department of Medical Psychology. “It has all the standard things that are in a car, but in a virtual environment.” The testing gear includes a steering wheel, gauges, and rear- and side-view mirrors. “It does not feel like virtual reality.”

One participant in the NeuroDRIVE program praised it for helping him change his driving pattern.

“When I returned from deployment, I really struggled with acclimating to defensive driving, because it was so different than how I was programmed to drive,” they said. “But after finishing these sessions, I get back into my car a lot calmer and prepared to drive safely again.”

NeuroDRIVE incorporates scenarios related to visual reaction, cognition, and physical motor skills as they relate to perceived speed, peripheral vision, hazard detection, divided and selective attentiveness, foot and leg responses, hand and arm responses, and contrast sensitivity.

Participants receive six 90-minute sessions over the course of four weeks. These sessions evaluate the individual’s driving and cognitive skills such as working memory and ability to control speed, maintain lane position and follow the rules of the road. In addition to virtual training, participants receive one-on-one feedback from providers.

“Computer and examiner guidance are both available throughout the platform,” said Dr. Shawn Nelson



A Service member demonstrates NeuroDRIVE. The rehabilitation platform is designed to address psychological challenges faced by individuals who drive following traumatic brain injuries. (Courtesy Photo)

Schmitt, a neuropsychology postdoctoral fellow at USU. “We want to have a human element of professionals trained to engage in virtual environments. They provide ways to improve from session to session, and a print-out from a computer can’t give participants that feedback.”

Research evaluating NeuroDRIVE is presently underway at USU and the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center.

The program coordinators have identified requirements for future participants that they feel will best serve the research purposes of NeuroDRIVE: Participants must be 18 years of age or older; active-duty military, veteran or civilian; minimum of 12 weeks post-injury prior to initiation into the study; possess a current valid driver’s license or had a license prior to their injury; and able to effectively manipulate steering wheel and gas and brake pedals without adaptive equipment.

'Wounded warrior,' continued from pg. 3

"We need to be thinking all the way along that continuum of care from the point of injury, all the way through the rest of their lives," Pasquina said.

To put that in perspective, many of those serving overseas are under age 35, and so if they're injured, they're going to be living with these injuries for the next several decades, Pasquina said.

Generally, those who suffer from amputations, or trauma in general, are at a higher risk for chronic pain, constant skin breakdown, advanced arthritis, and other long-term effects, he said. Ongoing research has allowed providers to understand these issues, and allowed the military to advance its programs. Some of these advancements include robotic prosthetics – even one that's being

developed that could integrate into an individual's skeleton. These strides continue to allow injured service members to return to work, run marathons, ride a bike with their family, or just feel confident picking up and playing with their children.

After retiring from the military, Gadson said he's made it a priority to be a part of his community – it was his community that helped give him hope during his recovery. "Hope that I could live a productive life, and because of that ... I applied to stay on active duty," he said.

He aims to continue sharing his story, and educating the community about these important issues. "That's one of the primary reasons why I'm here today," he said. "I feel very privileged and blessed to be able to continue to share my perspectives."



Retired Army Col. (Dr.) Paul Pasquina, professor and chair of the Department of Rehabilitation at USU, is seen on the big screen during a panel discussion at a recent annual Association of Military Surgeons of the United States meeting discussing the care for wounded warriors. (Photo by Sarah Marshall)

Maniscalco-Theberge, continued from pg. 7

Shortly afterwards, she became an active member of the Association of Women Surgeons and has been an inspiring mentor ever since.

For Maniscalco-Theberge, mentoring is about giving back. Unfortunately, during her residency training, mentoring and nurturing were not part of the culture, which had emphasized "tough love." She explains that her path would have been easier if she had mentors earlier on to "pull her back and offer different perspectives on shared experiences, which are important for promoting resilience." She also emphasizes the importance of having a mentor to enhance networking and career development.

Currently, Maniscalco-Theberge is the deputy medical inspector for

Professional Services at the Office of the Medical Inspector for the Veterans Health Administration Central Office in Washington, D.C. Like Walker, Maniscalco-Theberge has taken women in medicine to new heights with her brave and outgoing personality. She continues to leave a lasting impression on future generations of surgeons with her mentorship of medical students by emphasizing "[finding] what brings you joy," and not compromising because of worry over not being able to have it all. According to her, "you can have it all, it just takes effort..." She also states that not doing something because of fear would always leave you wondering whether you could have done it. Her motto from a

Carole King song is "you've got to get up every morning with a smile on your face, and show the world all the love in your heart."

"Dr. Mary' has led and inspired several generations of military surgeons over the span of her career. Dr. Mary Maniscalco-Theberge, in particular, was a mentor to many of today's leading female military surgeons. She continues in this role through patient care in our Breast Care Center and by serving as a key liaison to our partners in the Veteran's Health Administration. It is a distinct honor and privilege to work with her and this distinction is well deserved," said Navy Capt. (Dr.) Eric Elster, chair of the USU Walter Reed Department of Surgery.

Final Frame



A delegation from the Fourth Military Medical University, People's Republic of China, paid a visit to USU on Dec. 20, 2016. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephanie Morris, U.S. Air Force)