



## CHA/PA Newsletter

The last few months at CHA/PA have been filled with numerous exciting events. Interviews have begun for the Class of 2015, our faculty and students are engaged in several campus-wide initiatives and presentations, and CHA/PA students have returned from experiences abroad. Read on below to find out the details of the lives of CHA/PA students and faculty.



**CHA/PA in Peru**



**Interprofessional REACH**

Three second year students from the CHA/PA program– Elizabeth Hewes, Beth Poeppelman, and I, along with CU Medical and Pharmacy students travelled to the Peruvian Amazon this summer to work with the non–profit organization Comunidades Unidas Peru (CU Peru). CU Peru delivers health care training to community health workers, called Health Promoters, who have little formal health care education. These Health Promoters serve villages of 100–300 people along the Napo and Amazon Rivers in northeast Peru. These villages are among the poorest and most isolated in Peru, located many hours from trained professionals at official health care facilities.

This summer’s trip combined multi–day training workshops and individualized, one–on–one instruction with Health Promoters in their villages during follow–up visits. The curriculum was developed by student members of CU Peru who

## Program

This fall marks the roll out of the Interprofessional REACH program (Realizing Educational Advancement for Collaborative Health). It is a program involving over 600 students from multiple disciplines across the Aurora campus—MD, PA, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry and others. Students work in interprofessional teams of 6–8 students. The program began with a team–based learning session in the afternoon of Tuesday, August 30th. Students had the opportunity to learn more about one another and their future careers while they collaborated on projects converting poor feedback into constructive feedback.

The students also met with a health mentor who is a volunteer from the community with a chronic illness. The students had the opportunity to listen and learn more about the experiences that their health mentor has had while living with a chronic illness.

adapted it from the WHO Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) and Peruvian Ministry of Health training materials in collaboration with input from local health officials and experts in the field. This curriculum emphasizes early recognition of warning signs of diarrheal illness and dehydration, basic clinical assessment, first aid skills, and preventative health promotion. For more information on CU Peru please visit the website: [www.cuperu.org](http://www.cuperu.org).

Sonja Hanson PA-S2

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### Student Profile

**Veronica Carrillo** is part of the Class of 2014. As one of four children, she grew up in Lamar, CO by parents who

After this session, students gained a much broader understanding of what factors can influence the health and wellness of a patient. It will be inspiring to see how future interactions with their health mentors will shape their practice of medicine.



### Student Reflections from Costa Rica

Here you are! . . . Hola Como esta? Thankfully my vocabulary is no longer comprised of just these phrases after spending 4 weeks overseas. This summer a few of us second year CHA/PA's joined with MD and NP students for a Spanish immersion experience in Costa Rica. Along with improving our Spanish we learned how to become more culturally

were born in Mexico and immigrated to the U.S. in their early teens.

Veronica is the first person in her family to receive a four-year degree, so her family is extremely proud of her for pursuing her Master's through CHA/PA.

Veronica's interest in the medical profession began when her sister was born while Veronica was a teenager. Being part of the doctor's visits with her Mother throughout the pregnancy peeked her interest in the type of work and care health professionals offer. Veronica is very close to her younger sister, and this relationship drives her to become the type of PA that will have a positive impact on the lives of expectant mothers and their children.

While pursuing her undergraduate degree in Biology at CU Colorado Springs, Veronica initially planned on going to medical school. In her junior year, she was exposed to the Physician Assistant profession and realized that it was a better fit. Her

competent as future healthcare providers. Mornings were spent in Spanish class and the afternoons were spent in various locations teaching and performing well child checks. In groups we gave lectures within the community on child development, substance abuse and sex education.

My best memories are with my host family. They were extremely hospitable and gracious to speak slow and teach me about their culture and lifestyle. We often had salsa dancing parties in the living room! Even though I wasn't able to express myself verbally all the time, I realized that sometimes the best communication involves action accompanied with a smile of understanding. I hope that this carries over to my practice as a future PA!

**Sarah Wong, PA-S2**

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adjustment to the CHA/PA program has been a challenge after a year break from school. Yet, she truly enjoys the program due of the atmosphere the faculty and staff create. Everyone is encouraging and helpful, wanting all students to succeed.

Veronica is excited for what the future holds. She is making lifelong friends and colleagues during her time at CHA/PA, and she looks forward to having the opportunity to be a role model for others upon graduation. She specifically would like to focus attention on the Hispanic community, encouraging a healthy lifestyle and higher education.



**Oral Health Training**



## **Preceptor Profile**

**Brian Englund** became interested in the PA profession while working in Radiology at The Children's Hospital. His passion was always working with children, and he decided at that time that he wanted to do more and be more. Brian reenrolled in college, and ultimately was admitted to the Class of '97 at CHA/PA.

Brian has been a Pediatric PA at Greenwood Pediatrics for over 14 years, where he currently precepts 24–28 students each year. He had some great preceptors as a student, which drove him toward precepting after graduation. He is passionate about being the best teacher he can, and to help the students see the need for preceptors in the PA profession. Brian strongly believes that a great

First year PA students participated in a two-hour interprofessional lab experience, pairing PA students with third-year dental students and dental faculty. Dental students provided instruction in oral health prevention and diagnosis including physical exam skills and the techniques of fluoride varnish application. Each pair of PA students practiced these skills on each other under the supervision of the dental students and dental faculty.



## Spring Alumni Dinner

The Silver Society is making plans for our 2nd Alumni Dinner to take place in early spring. This event will celebrate 40 years of CHA/PA's involvement in child and family health. Last year over 300 attended! More details will be available in our

preceptor is defined by three important tools. The first is to educate the students, which requires staying current on new medical topics and teaching methods. Secondly, preceptors must observe. Students need to be viewed in action so that they can be provided with insight into their performance of exams and patient interaction. Lastly, feedback is essential to the students' growth. They need to know what makes them intriguing PA's, so they can try to reproduce those moments of brilliance.

Preceptors are a crucial component of the PA program at CHA/PA.

Precepting is a way of giving back and sowing into the next generation of PA's. Providers (PA/MD/DO/NP) can earn Continuing Medical Education hours and the opportunity to become Clinical Faculty at the University of Colorado.

Contact David Eckhardt, one of our Clinical Coordinators, if you would like more information on precepting

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with CHA/PA:

[David.Eckhardt@ucdenver](mailto:David.Eckhardt@ucdenver) or 303-724-1347.



### **Simulation Equipment Initiatives**

Following our acquisition of two High Fidelity Simulators in the spring, the CHA/PA program has integrated simulation into three different courses – Physical Diagnosis as well as Professional and Clinical Practice for the 1st and 2nd year students. Students will



### **Faculty Presentation**

Jackie Sivahop, one of CHA/PA's Clinical Coordinators, will be giving a talk on Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis at the 28th Annual CAPA Winter CME on Saturday, January 21st. The presentation will enable participants to recognize the presentation of various forms of JIA; identify appropriate



### **Meet Bucky**

The CHAPA Program officially welcomes Bucky the Skeleton! This wonderful teaching resource was donated to the program as a class gift from the class of 2011. Bucky replaces our well-used and dilapidated skeleton and will be put to good use for years to come. Thanks to the

experience a set of 8 simulations designed to increase in complexity as they go through the program. There is an emphasis on teamwork and leadership, as well as communication with the patient and family members. Currently, the faculty are conducting research on the effectiveness of simulation as a teaching tool, and this research will be incorporated into our end of year exams as well.

lab/diagnostic studies for JIA, and recognize the goals of treatment and rehabilitation for patients with JIA.

Jackie currently works part time at the Children's Hospital of Colorado (previous The Children's Hospital) in pediatric rheumatology.

class of 2011!

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