

Current information about the CHA/PA Physician Assistant Program at the University of Colorado Denver.

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## CHA/PA Newsletter

Major changes have taken place over the last few months. Our Program Director Anita Glicken retired and Faculty Member Jonathan Bowser was appointed Interim Director. Students are involved with fellow healthcare students and in their communities through education programs and mentoring programs. A graduate shares his reflections of his clinical time in Africa, and CHA/PA grads and students make the news. Read on below to find out the details.



### **Program Director Anita Glicken Announces Her Retirement**

Anita Duhl Glicken, MSW left her dual roles as Director of CHA/PA and Associate Dean of Physician Assistant Studies in March 2012. Anita built the reputation and quality of the PA program at CU. She's a dynamic, passionate, nationally-recognized advocate for her students and for health.

Anita commented on her retirement, "It is with mixed emotions that I announce that after 30 years with the CHA/PA program, I am leaving to pursue an opportunity to serve the PA profession in a new way. I have accepted a position as President and CEO of the NCCPA Foundation, soon to be known as the nccPA Health Foundation. In this role, I will be



### **Faculty Member Jonathan Bowser Appointed Interim Director**

Jonathan Bowser was named Interim Director of the CHA/PA Program effective March 16th. Jonathan will serve in this leadership role while the program conducts a national search for a permanent director. He has served as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics for CHA/PA since 2006 and graduated from CHA/PA in 2001. Jonathan's scholarly interests are in the areas of testing and assessment, and he is involved with national efforts to promote oral health in primary care. Additionally, Jonathan is involved in a partnership with Walter Sisulu University to promote a new medical profession in South

directing innovative research and programs that advance physician assistants nationally in their role to improve health care for all patients. I will also be working as a consultant and facilitative leader for the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health. I am excited to take all that I have learned from generations of PA students to these new leadership roles. I feel especially privileged to have worked with over 34 classes of CHA/PA students. I can honestly say that our students and faculty have never been stronger and I leave the program in very capable hands."

All of the CHA/PA faculty, staff, and students wish Anita all the best in her new role and thank her for her involvement in CHA/PA for the last 30 years!



Africa. He serves on the Frontier Center Advisory Committee and the Physician Assistant Education Association Conference Curriculum Committee, and is the chair of a PANCE test-item writing committee for the National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). The past few years have been an incredible time of productivity for the CHA/PA Program. The PA profession is in a period of explosive growth and Anita has positioned the program very well to be a national leader in PA education. Jon comments, "We have outstanding and energetic faculty and staff and the absolute best students in the country. I have the wonderful privilege to serve as Interim Director, and I look forward to helping us transition to the next chapter in the CHA/PA story."

## 2nd Alumni Dinner

Our 2nd Annual Alumni Dinner on March 9th proved to be a wonderful evening of fellowship, music, and fundraising. With over 200 in attendance, almost \$3000 was raised for the CO Coalition for the Homeless. The Coalition's Healthcare Services help 13,000 homeless men, women and children yearly. Additionally, the Coalition participates in street outreach, rental assistance, benefits acquisition, employment counseling and childcare – what a wonderful cause to support! Students used this venue to acknowledge preceptors and the integral role they play in their education. Additionally, Anita Glicken's retirement as Program Director was recognized, and she shared a few parting words. Thanks to all students, faculty, and staff who made this evening possible.



## Making a Difference One Person at a Time

“To the world you may be one person, but to the one person you may be the world.” This quote provided comfort to **Kevin Bogart**, a 2010 graduate, as he traveled to Kenya during his third year as a CHA/PA student. He spent a clinical rotation working in a private rural hospital and a government hospital. Ninety percent of patients he worked with were infected with AIDS and suffered the complications of the disease, such as Pneumocystis Pneumonia, Cryptococcal Meningitis, Kaposi’s Sarmoca, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The small medical facilities could not manage the ballooning number of patients, thus very sick patients would lay head to toe sharing twin beds.



## Health Mentor Program

This was the inaugural year of the interprofessional curriculum for students in numerous fields of healthcare study, including PA, MD, nursing, PT, Pharmacy, and Dentistry. Our campus is fortunate enough to have students from all of these programs studying in one place and was really designed and built for the purpose of facilitating interprofessional studies. During our fall and spring semesters, we met with our small group composed of students from all of the programs. We worked as a group on various tasks and activities, such as teambuilding exercises centered on communication within the healthcare team, discussing each other's roles in the patient-centered healthcare team, and coming up with ways to minimize

At times he struggled to handle the severity of the medical situation he was faced with. A gentleman passed away in a crowded medical ward and the only sign of his passing was the wailing of his family. Medical personnel did not rush over; rather they kept working with the surviving patients. Death is so common, and there were other patients to save. Kevin was shocked as severely ill patients were discharged from the hospital. A western-trained Kenyan doctor noted Kevin's reaction and provided perspective, "The patient is stable and we need beds for other sick patients."

Kevin was only one of three European "Mzungu's" whom he met over the three months he spent in Kenya. He walked by an orphanage every day on his way to the hospital, and just the sight of a "Mzungu" would interrupt classes as kids would scream out to him. Kevin met so many remarkable children and adults during his stay. One person of note was American Dr.

errors in a patient's path through the healthcare network.

The curriculum also included time with a 'health mentor,' a member of the community with a chronic health problem of some kind. Through discussion with our mentor, whose right arm had been paralyzed in an accident, we learned that his healthcare team told him that he would never use his arm again. He remained determined and took it upon himself to seek therapy and exercises until he regained full control of his arm and minimal control of his hand. His biggest piece of advice to us was to always give patients hope, because many other patients would not have had the resolve he did. We helped him design a healthier diet and exercise plan. We were happy to hear that by our fourth meeting he had joined a gym, started working out, and was working with an athletic trainer to try to improve control of his hand. Our whole team

John Ott who has lived and worked in Kenya for years. He became a father to numerous orphans, an ever growing problem in Kenya with over 11.6 million children orphaned by AIDS. Kevin was also touched by the community's reaction to the orphan crisis - most families had taken in nieces, nephews, and neighbors.

Facing such overwhelming difficulties, Kevin noted, "you either close off to the world around you or you become involved and take care of the community around you." He anticipated before arriving in Kenya that he would face poverty and disease on a level he'd never seen before, which was true. Yet, he also was pleasantly surprised by the resilience and happiness of the Kenyan people in the face of such adversities. The people were not focused on what they didn't have, but rather on what they did. They found great pleasure in simple things such as singing while doing laundry or

was excited that we had helped this man whom we had gotten to know over the year.

**Ryan Candee, Class of 2014**



### **Alumni – We need you!**

Would you like to become more involved with CHA/PA? We need preceptors, admission file reviewers, and admission interviewers. Giving back to CHA/PA by precepting our students is invaluable. Admission file reviews can be done on your own time in the comfort of your own home! Interviews take place on campus and afford alumni the opportunity to assist in selecting incoming students. Please contact Kay Denler at [kay.denler@ucdenver.edu](mailto:kay.denler@ucdenver.edu) for more information.

dancing when no one was watching.

Kevin has been able to use all he learned in Kenya as a PA at a primary care clinic at the Denver Health campus. His practice primarily serves urban underserved and uninsured patients. With a large immigrant patient population, he has conducted medical interviews in over fifteen different languages. Many patients have not had medical care for decades, and some immigrants have never seen a medical provider in their lives. Kevin finds working with this population extremely rewarding. He continues to find inspiration in that he cannot change the world alone, but he can impact the lives of individuals.



**CHA/PA Students Provide**





## Thank you!!!

We would like to acknowledge alumni, preceptors, and CU employees that assisted in our admission process by either reviewing applicant files or interviewing applicants over this last academic year. We couldn't do it without you!

Kim Alfaro

Katrina Bailey

Ditty Bannon

Brian Boley

Rachel Byrne

Mary Cain

Ryan Conrad

Tanya Fernandez

Elizabeth Gibson

Melanie Gleason

Laurie Glezen

Doug Graham

Elizabeth Gyorkos

## Education to At-Risk Youth

A small group of classmates and I recently did a community education project on contraception that we presented to the Gemini House of Family Tree. Gemini provides services for adolescents who have been abused or neglected and are not safe in their homes, as well as for youth who are homeless or have run away. Our main objective was to get these teens connected with information about the BC4U program at Children's Hospital. This program offers free birth control, STI testing, pregnancy testing, and exams for anyone ages 12-24 without questions or exceptions. It seemed like a perfect fit for a presentation to young people who could potentially be at higher risk.

Armed with samples of every type of birth control imaginable in a big orange tool box, we arrived to give our presentation not knowing what to expect. We thought the teens would



Amy Hansen  
Maggie Hawkins  
Heather Heizer  
Kerri Held  
Traci Hess  
Tish Hollingsworth  
Sandy Hoops  
Christy Jones  
Lorrie Kehmeier  
Brian Kohuth  
Kari Lillehammer  
Lynsay Maclaren  
Dominic Martinez  
Maryanne McPherson  
Naomi Miyazawa  
Joyce Nieman  
Carmella Nogar  
Carrie Oss  
Shaun Peterson  
Sue Rancis  
Regina Richards  
Angie Riddleberger  
Fran Schreiber  
Anne Schuller  
Stacey Staudinger  
Lucinda Tanner  
Wanda Titus

be timid. We were wrong! The presentation went better than we could have ever expected. Our anonymous question box went unused, as the teens openly asked questions about sex and contraception. They all enjoyed being able to see and touch all of the various types of contraceptives. Although most had heard of things like IUDs and rings, they didn't know how big they were or how they actually worked. They seem genuinely interested and surprised that they could get all of these things privately and at no cost.

Overall, it was a very rewarding experience. I do believe many of those young people will use the resources and information we provided. It feels good to know that in one hour of an afternoon we might have really helped some people in a tough situation. It was the first time that we were the "front line" of medicine without preceptors or

Christian Valtierra  
Lindsay VonBernuth  
Michelle Warrick  
Lindsay Weiss  
Beth Welken  
Linsey Weller  
Linda Wyse

teachers to help us and we succeeded. It was a nice touch to our curriculum that enabled me to see the big picture beyond classes and exams. It reminded me why I will love being a PA.

**Melinda Jordeth, Class of 2013**



**Faculty Member  
Jackie Sivahop  
Authors  
Preceptor  
Handbook**

Jackie Sivahop is  
CHA/PA's third year  
Clinical Coordinator  
and a member of the  
The Clinical Education  
Committee (CEC) of  
PAEA. Jackie is one of  
four authors of the



**CHA/PA In the  
News**

CHA/PA graduate Megan  
Carson, Class of 2003,  
was [interviewed by](#)  
[WZZM Channel 13](#) in  
Michigan regarding steps  
to a healthy spring.

CHA/PA CU Unite (CO  
Urban Underserved  
Interprofessional Health



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Facebook**

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CHA/PA Program has  
a facebook page?  
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is new!

first edition Preceptor Handbook created by the CEC. The CEC was tasked with creating a Preceptor Handbook that all PA Programs could utilize as a template in providing important information to their preceptors about clinical rotations. All PA Programs that are members of PAEA will be receiving a copy of the Preceptor Handbook as well as online access to the Handbook. PA Programs can then modify, update or create their own preceptor handbook from these materials.

Training and Education) students participated in a community health fair at North Middle School Health Sciences and Technology Campus in Aurora. Anna Ballard, Anna Christenson, Lauren Raikes, and Chelsea Williamson gave free medical evaluations to staff, families, and community members. See the [Aurora Public Schools website](#) for more information.

CHA/PA students joined CU leadership, faculty, staff, alumni, students, and donors for [CU Advocacy Day at the Capitol](#).

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