

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

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CHA/PA Newsletter

A permanent director has been named for the CHA/PA Program. We have students and graduates engaged in advocacy and leadership through Capitol Hill visits and appointments in national organizations. We also celebrated the graduation of one class and welcomed another. Read on below to find out more.



A Graduate's Integral Role in PA Leadership and Advocacy

Connie Goldgar, an '82 graduate, has had the opportunity to put her PA education to work in various arenas, including in research, clinical settings, and education, as well as national leadership. She first heard about the PA profession while pursuing her undergraduate



Jonathan Bowser Appointed Director of the CHA/PA Program

Jonathan Bowser, MS, PA-C, was appointed as the permanent Director of the CHA/PA Program as of May 1, 2013. Jon has practiced in family medicine since graduating from the CHA/PA Program in 2001. He joined the faculty in 2006. As the first physician assistant to serve as

education in Iowa. Connie has a passion in particular for pediatrics, so CHA/PA was the perfect fit for her as the only PA program in the country offering additional training in pediatrics. She looks back on her time at CHA/PA with pride, especially noting the program's focus on social responsibility, justice, and community-orientation.

After graduating, Connie's first position was in a pediatric gastroenterology clinic where she gained firsthand experience of team-based medical care, which included a nutritionist, a nurse, a pharmacist, MDs, and herself. She then transitioned to working in research in pediatric gastroenterology and genetic epidemiology. Ultimately, she accepted a faculty position at the University of Utah Physician Assistant Program, where she is currently the Associate Director. Connie's professional interest in genetic epidemiology resulted in a grant to work with the National Coalition for Health Professional Education in Genetics. The grant enabled her to work in a team to devise an interactive, case-based genetics education website for practicing PAs, PA faculty, and PA students. Connie was awarded the Michael J. Scott Jr. MD Award in 2010, honoring her contribution to genetic education for health professionals.

Connie is also passionate about the core mission of many PA programs - primary care to the underserved. She misses working directly with patients as an educator, but feels

Program Director, he is excited to continue the CHA/PA legacy of educating the nation's finest PAs. Jon has been the course director for Adult Clinical Medicine and Physical Diagnosis since joining the faculty in 2006. Jon'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. He has redesigned courses, implemented new teaching and assessment modalities, and created and evaluated a longitudinal interprofessional oral health curriculum during his time as a faculty member. As program director, Jon hopes to build on the decades-long CHA/PA tradition of educational innovation, scholarship, and community engagement.

Jon has received national recognition for his contributions to PA education. He was awarded the Rising Star Award from the PA Education Association (PAEA) in November of 2012 and the Student Mentor Award from the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants at the 2013 AAPA Annual Conference. He serves on the national Smiles for Life Steering Committee, the Frontier Center Advisory Committee, the Physician Assistant Education Association Conference Curriculum Committee, and he chairs a PANCE test-item writing committee for the NCCPA. In addition, he is the principal investigator on several grants, including an NCCPA Foundation Research Grant focused on advancing oral health initiatives, the Health

she can affect more individuals by training competent, compassionate PAs. She also has the opportunity to bring influence in her role as the PAEA (Physician Assistant Education Association) President. Connie was initially drawn to this position based on PAEA's involvement in advocacy. She sees leadership as the key for the PA profession's involvement in shaping patient care in the midst of a changing healthcare system. As Connie studies the rapidly changing healthcare landscape, she feels that how PAs respond is critical for the growth and ever-changing roles of PAs. "We are a major part of the solution to what transformation is taking place. Primary care is an ever increasing need in our country, especially with the 30+ million people that need to be absorbed into our healthcare system – and we can easily fill this need. Our very adaptable nature and training allows us to fill needs in a multitude of settings."



Students and Faculty Visit Capitol Hill

I have heard a lot lately how exciting of a time it is for PAs, and I was

Resources Services Administration Bureau of Health Professionals Grant for curriculum development, and an American International Health Alliance Grant whose aim is to increase the number of mid-level medical professionals in South Africa. Jon is excited about the future of the CHA/PA program. "We are in a period of incredible growth for the profession. It is a very exciting time to be a physician assistant and the CHA/PA Program continues to be a national leader in PA education. I am deeply committed to the program and our educational mission. It is a privilege to work with such accomplished faculty and to spend time in the classroom with so many vibrant and exceptional students."



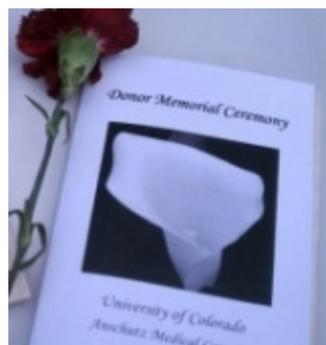
The Silver Society Received Two Awards

In April, The Silver Society was chosen as the recipient of the Excellence Award for Outstanding Student Organization for the 2012-13 Excellence Awards for Student Organizations, Leadership and Service. The Silver Society was recognized as an outstanding

fortunate to witness this firsthand at our national AAPA conference in Washington, DC. We certainly are part of a rapidly growing profession, and along with that growth comes an ever-shifting scope of medical practice. The legislative changes that occur on a state and federal level directly affect our ability to maintain our profession and expand our scope even further. Affecting change takes a lot of hard work from many people and one great way to influence change is to meet with your congressional offices; exactly what we had the chance to do in DC! It was a particular highlight of the conference for me because I got to see the legislative process up close. I was actually able to influence the decisions being made by our representatives and senators. What a great feeling that was! In total, I heard that PAs met with around 100 congressional offices during our Wednesday morning Capitol Hill take over, which is 20% of all the federal congresswomen and men in DC. Personally, I got to meet with Denver's Representative DeGette's office along with fellow CU students Andy Henrichs and Caroline Freed, faculty member Joyce Nieman, and CAPA's Steve Kudebeh. We joined up with other PA constituents from across the state and followed up with a visit to Senator Udall's office. During the visits, we discussed who PAs are, what we do, and three specific bills PAs are particularly interested in passing during the next congressional term. As a growing

representation of the campus' student organizations and the tireless work contributed to the university. The Silver Society has completed several events which raised money, volunteered support and service or provided educational counseling on pediatric nutrition to children and their parents.

The Silver Society also received The Chancellor's Diversity and Inclusion Award in May for outstanding work in the area of diversity and inclusion. This award was granted to only one student group. A key university-wide strategic priority is to enhance diversity at CU and foster a culture of inclusion.



Donor Memorial

I opened my mailbox purely out of habit. It was a ritual I did at the end of everyday, often finding it empty. I was already making my mental to do list and closing the slot when I realized there was a small beige envelope placed at the far end. I pulled it out and did not recognize the hand writing scrawled across the front, nor the return address written in the far left. I had been collecting RSVPs for the Donor Memorial for almost 2

profession, it is pertinent that we advocate for ourselves and these visits showed me how to accomplish this effectively and confidently. I learned that if I am willing to put forth the effort into speaking to my congressperson, they will listen.

Patrick Machacek
Class of 2015



Faculty Member Receives the President's Teaching & Learning Collaborative Scholarship

Faculty member Darcy Solanyk received the President's Teaching and Learning Collaborative (PTLC) Scholarship. The PTLC is a comprehensive, collaborative program that offers access to supportive expert educational research programs, financial support from the Office of the President, the campus Provosts, and a structured plan for completion of a classroom research project. Darcy plans to focus her research on the effectiveness of the Evidence Based Medicine Course on students' attitudes, knowledge, and skills. Additionally, she will study students' progression in their evidence based

months now, most of which had already been accounted for when this letter arrived in my box. Inside the envelope, I found a note addressed to me from a woman I had never met. She described how her father had been an anatomical donor and how she was so thankful to receive the invitation to the memorial. Within a few sentences her letter had transformed from a thank you note to a beautiful account of the life her father had lived, the family he raised, the type of man he was. The stress of school seemed so trivial as I read this woman's detailed history of her father, as I thought about the type of person he must have been, the kind of person who would give the ultimate gift to a complete stranger. A complete stranger like me. Planning the Anatomical Donor Memorial unintentionally became one of the most rewarding experiences of my first year of PA School. It not only allowed me to reflect on my own experience in anatomy the summer prior, but also served as an outlet to thank the family members whose loved ones have made all the difference in our lives. These donors, these first patients of ours, were our silent teachers as we took our initial steps toward becoming practitioners they could be proud of, practitioners worthy of their unending gift and sacrifice. As I move forward in my career, I carry a debt of gratitude that can never truly be fulfilled. I will never have the opportunity to thank my donor in words, but I hope that my actions and abilities will be proof that

practice skills from matriculation to graduation.



"PA's for Global Health" Scholarships Awarded to Two CHA/PA Students

Two CHA/PA students were awarded student scholarships by "PA's for Global Health" (PAGH). PAGH's mission is to support PAs and PA students who are actively engaged in the improvement of access and care in health professional shortage areas worldwide. This year at the AAPA conference in Washington DC, scholarships were awarded to Mathilde Sullivan for her rotation in Peru and to Kaitlin Ahern for her rotation in Guatemala.



CHA/PA in the News

Kristen Giltinan, Class of 2000, was named Colorado PA of the year by The Colorado Academy of Physician Assistants. This award was based on patient satisfaction, a knowledgeable background, and her commitment to the field of child psychiatry.

Brandon Nuechterlein, Class of 2009,

their unimaginable gift has not been forgotten.

Caroline Freed
Class of 2015



Angela Vondra Joins the CHA/PA Team

Angela Vondra has joined CHA/PA as the Business Services Professional for the program. Her duties include administrative support for the Program Director, admissions support for the Director of Admissions, and Budget and Finance Management. Angela is married to Tom and has 3 step-children as well as two dogs. Angela enjoys reading and spending time with family and friends.



Comings and Goings

On May 23rd, the 42nd CHA/PA class

was profiled in CU Medicine Today – "[From Cancer Survivor to Inspiring Caregiver](#)".

Sarah Davis, Class of 2015, was appointed as [the Regional Director, West for the Assembly of Representatives for SAAPA \(Student Academy\) of AAPA](#).

Robin Bull, Class of 2003, discusses her passion for primary care in [AAPA's article on PAs Connect](#).

Amanda Hansen, Class of 2014, was selected as the senior editor of PA Professional's Student Section. She will be editing and selecting student articles from all over the nation.

celebrated their Convocation Ceremony. School of Medicine Dean Dr. Richard Krugman, Pediatric Chair Dr. Stephen Daniels, and Program Director Jonathan Bowser addressed the students during the ceremony. Many family and friends joined the graduates to celebrate this momentous occasion.

The Class of 2016 arrived on campus May 30th for two days of orientation and participated in their Matriculation Ceremony on June 3rd. We are excited to have them join us!



CH/PA on Facebook

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CHA/PA faculty and administration participated in two separate campus events designed to provide exposure to students and advisors on various health careers. On June 8th, over 300 students visited campus to learn about the role of a variety of health care providers and the application process for the health programs



represented. On June 12-14, over thirty Colorado high school and college advisors attended presentations on a broad range of topics from preparing for standardized tests and financial aid to department-specific information on health careers and the admission process.



Students on a rotation in Guatemala

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