

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

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## CHA/PA Newsletter

Faculty and students have been involved in numerous local events, education, and community outreach over the last few months. Read on to learn more!



### Life Experiences Lead to PA School

There have been so many influences in John Farho's life that have led him to PA school. Growing up in West Africa as the son of missionaries, John learned at an early age to appreciate all he had and clearly saw all that he could give to others. He learned independence and self-sufficiency throughout his youth as he attended boarding school over six hours away from his parents in Cote



### An Evening at the National Western Stock Show

Miniature oil derricks dressed the tables, tumbleweeds full of twinkling lights hung from the rafters, and the rodeo arena floor was covered with carpet and dining tables for the National Western Stock Show's Citizen of the West banquet. The evening's dress included plenty of cowboy hats, boots, bolo ties and turquois. The annual event honors those who embody the spirit and determination of the Western pioneer and perpetuate the West's agricultural heritage and ideals. This year's

d'Ivoire starting at the age of seven. These attributes served him well later in life as he went on to join the army and became a combat medic. During his nine years in the army, he served two long missions in Iraq, where he cared for everything from immunizations to combat injuries for his platoon and infantry soldiers. He consulted with MDs or PAs for knowledge or medications as needed. John sees his time as a combat medic as the ultimate shadowing experience, which crystallized his interest in the PA profession. John's background has also taught him to manage stress as he faces competing priorities. This has proven especially helpful as John is married with a seven-month old daughter. Managing a personal life and PA school is challenging for anyone, especially when a young family is involved. His previous life experiences give him valuable perspective, and he actually feels the stress of PA school dims in comparison to previous life situations he has encountered. As a PA student, John has found his instruction at the Center for Advancing Professional Excellence (CAPE) especially valuable. The CAPE is a full-service assessment and education center specializing in the use of standardized patients, teaching associates and simulators. CHA/PA students spend time at the CAPE throughout the three year program. John has found that working with actors at the CAPE to be one of the best aspects of his first

honor went to Fred Hamilton, a Denver businessman and philanthropist who discovered Canada's third largest gas field and who is a leading supporter of the Denver Art Museum and University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. The event, attended by nearly 900 guests, supports the National Western Scholarship Program, which awards \$300,000 to students in Wyoming and Colorado studying rural family medicine, agribusiness and large animal veterinarian medicine. As the CHA/PA class of 2016 scholarship recipient, I joined nearly 20 other students from Colorado and Wyoming to greet guests and represent the CHA/PA program. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to swap stories about my uncle with Alan Simpson, the salty and outspoken former Wyoming Senator. The two had served together many years ago in Wyoming's State Legislature. While Simpson and my uncle were on opposite sides of the political aisle, they worked closely together for the common good, something that has always inspired me. Even more than rubbing elbows with the likes of Governor Hickenlooper and Colorado Agricultural Commissioner John Salazar (I confess - I'm a political junkie), it was an exceptional experience to be able to relay my gratitude to the guests I spoke with for their support that ensures PA practitioners return to rural Colorado and Wyoming communities to practice. Many of the

year as a student. His interactions with actors have increased his confidence for his interactions with patients in clinic.

John is not sure what type of practice he would like to join after graduating in 2016, but trusts that his clinical experiences will help him make that decision. John has clearly seen the needs that exist in developing countries first hand, but feels just as passionate about the needs right here in Denver.



### Children's Hospital Colorado Critical Care Longitudinal Experience

The Critical Care Longitudinal Experience (CCLE) is a new educational opportunity for CHA/PA students beginning with the Spring 2014 term. The CCLE was developed by Dr. Carol Okada and CHA/PA faculty member David Eckhardt. The CCLE is directed by Dr. Okada, a critical care physician at Children's Hospital Colorado. The longitudinal experience provides specialized skills in acute pediatric care at Children's Hospital Colorado. Each participating student completes a yearly clinical rotation with the same preceptor team over the three years of the CHA/PA program to ensure the

guests were truly interested to hear about our remarkable program and the Anschutz Medical Campus I am so fortunate to occupy.

And the tasty steak wasn't too bad either.

**Robyn Morrison**  
**Class of 2016**



### Faculty Member's Workgroup Wins Emmy

Faculty Member Jacqueline Sivahop is a member of the Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Workgroup at Children's Hospital Colorado, who was awarded with a Heartland Emmy for their Calm a Crying Baby Campaign. This campaign has been successfully implemented in collaboration with 9News and Kohl's. Kohl's presented a check for \$282,000 to continue to fund the Calm a Crying Baby Campaign at a ceremony at Children's Hospital Colorado in November.

growth and progression of clinical skills, reasoning, and autonomy. Additionally, students complete a specialized curriculum through targeted readings and lectures. This individualized educational experience prepares students for careers in pediatric emergency rooms, pediatric intensive care units, and other acute pediatric care settings.



### Salud Family Health Center Oral Health Fair

Did you know that dental caries is the most common chronic disease of childhood? Did you also know that 90% of systemic disease has oral manifestations?

These staggering statistics demonstrate the need for medical providers to focus on commonly overlooked oral disease, especially in underserved populations. Fortunately, Colorado has become a national leader in promoting oral health and prevention through the Cavity Free at Three Program, whose goal is clearly stated – to eliminate early childhood caries through early recognition by primary care providers during well-childcare visits. Recognizing the need to train upcoming healthcare



### Healthcare Quality Improvement

Faculty member Joyce Nieman has a passion for healthcare quality improvement. She worked for the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care (CFMC) prior to returning to CHA/PA to teach in 2011. CFMC is the official quality improvement organization for Colorado. Joyce has been able to continue to pursue this passion through several safety and quality workgroups on campus. Additionally, she led a presentation on quality improvement concepts at the CO Academy of PA's Winter CME Conference at Copper Mountain in January.



### Community Health Education

One often overlooked role for Physician Assistants is that of

providers and to provide screening and education surrounding oral health to underserved populations, the CU-UNITE track organized the Oral Health Fair at Salud Family Health Center in Commerce City. It was a multi-disciplinary team, of course including CHA/PAs, as well as MD and NP students.

About 80 children and their families attended, and many were pleasantly surprised to win door prizes of food boxes, scooters, and bikes as early Christmas presents. We had multiple booths including information about smoking cessation, nutrition and oral hygiene instructions and handed out free toothbrushes to all. Each student was trained and given the opportunity to practice their oral exam skills as well as fluoride varnish applications. It was extremely rewarding to see the energetic kids learning how to brush our friendly dinosaur puppet's teeth and one little girl even tried to brush mine! The day was filled with lots of education, and hands-on learning for everyone involved, students and patients alike. When an event like this provides a commonly overlooked need, it gives us inspiration to continue working with the underserved where it is needed most and can make the biggest difference in our patients lives (and mouths!).

**Savannah Hill  
Class of 2015**

community health educator.

Increasingly, providers recognize the need to give their services outside of the clinical setting; indeed population health models require this.

For this reason, second year PA students all participate in community health education projects. We break up into teams and provide presentations at local high schools.

This project allows us to provide health education to adolescents that do not come to clinic often, and we also get to promote the PA career to students that may not be familiar with what a PA is and does.

This past semester, I teamed up with three other students and we worked with a biology teacher at Wheat Ridge HS that teaches a self-described "pre-pre-med" class for students interested in health careers. We then selected the topic of illegal drugs with a focus on newer "trendier" drugs such as spice, prescription drugs, energy drinks, and electronic cigarettes.

The best available day for us to give our presentation ended up being Halloween. When we arrived at the high school it was both surreal to be back in a high school and odd to see many of the kids in costumes. We began our presentation with an explanation of the PA career. Luckily, some of the students were very familiar with PAs and helped move the discussion along and many of the students expressed interest in PA as a career. When we gave our presentation about drugs, we were also encouraged by the interest and



## CHA/PA Faculty Participation at PAEA

CHA/PA Faculty were involved in numerous workshops and poster presentations at October's Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) annual conference in Memphis:

### Workshops & Presentations:

- "What is Your QI IQ? Recognizing the Importance of Quality Improvement in the PA Curriculum" – Joyce Nieman & Jonathan Bowser, CHA/PA
- "Using Script Concordance for Clinical Reasoning Assessment" – Rebecca Maldonado, CHA/PA & Kristine Himmerick, Northern AZ Univ
- "A Call to Program Directorship" – Jonathan Bowser, CHA/PA; Jeanie McHugo, Univ of ND; Dawn Morton-Rias, SUNY Downstate Medical Cntr; Kevin Lohenry, Univ of S CA; & Patrick Auth, Drexel Univ
- "The Appreciative Inquiry Curriculum Retreat: Encouraging Positive Change" Cathy Ruff & David Eckhardt, CHA/PA
- "Teaching Oral Health: A Model for Interprofessional Education"

questions we received. The students really seemed to appreciate getting this lecture from health professional students, rather than from the usual sources for presentations on drugs. Overall, it was a great experience. It was rewarding to get into the community and interact with many people at once and answer so many questions. Plus, it was fun to walk back into high school as an adult!

**Geoff Slater**  
Class of 2015



## Inter-Professional Education Simulation

If you took a poll of my classmates and asked what is the major feeling that you have had since starting PA school, I would bet a winning lottery ticket the answer was "overwhelmed". If you also asked in that poll what was the most common phrase we have heard from the faculty when we state the aforementioned emotion, I would bet that same ticket that the phrase "By the time you complete third year you will be ready to enter the 'real' world" would be the answer. After participating in IPE (Inter-Professional Education) simulation, I can validate

Jonathan Bowser, CHA/PA  
& Grace Landel, Touro Univ

**Posters:**

- "Using the Institute for Health Care Improvement's Patient Safety Modules to Increase PA Student's Knowledge of and Attitudes About Medical Errors & Their Role in Preventing Harm" Joyce Nieman & Jacqueline Sivahop, CHA/PA
- "Using a Train-the-Trainer Model for PA Students to Provide Community Education on a State-Wide Education Outreach Campaign for the Prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome" Jacqueline Sivahop, CHA/PA; Antonia Chiesa, CU; Suzy Evans, Children's Hospital CO; & Abby Waldbaum, Children's Hospital CO
- "The Revised Fresno Questionnaire as a Measure of Efficacy of an Evidence-Based Medicine Course" Darcy Solanyk, CHA/PA & Lisa Traditi, CU
- "Linking Quality Improvement & Preventable Harm: Combining Lecture & Computer/Video-Simulation to Engage Students as Active Members of the QI Team" Joyce Nieman & Jonathan Bowser, CHA/PA
- "Changes in Knowledge & Skills Before & After a Palliative Care Curriculum" David Eckhardt, CHA/PA

the truth behind the faculty's statement.

IPE simulation is something that PA students participate in during their second year of school. We spend one afternoon working through several case-based scenarios with fellow future professionals (medical, nursing, dental, pharmacy, and physical therapy students). Working inter-professionally not only allowed me to see how far I have come since starting this program a year and a half ago, but also to see how everyone's education complemented one another and allowed us to effectively "save" our patient. As our patients' status declined, our code team came together seamlessly and filled the necessary roles, regardless of program. After the "patient" recovered and the simulation was over, our group walked out bonded together by the crisis, and with a new-found respect for one another's education.

Participating in IPE SIM allowed me to not only reflect on my education, but also allowed me a peek into the "real world" in which we will be thrown into scenarios with co-workers, who may essentially be strangers. I have to agree that the faculty is right - by the end of third year, we will be ready.

**Laura Erdman  
Class of 2015**

- "Student Mistreatment During PA Training" Cathy Ruff & Jonathan Bowser, CHA/PA



### CHA/PA in the News

The University of Colorado Hospital acknowledged Kandace Shepherd, a 1996 graduate, as an outstanding allied health professional at their Annual Awards Dinner on January 16th.

Program Director Jonathan Bowser and Faculty Member Jacqueline Sivahop's article "Advancing Oral Health in Physician Assistant Education: Evaluation of an Innovative, Interprofessional Oral Health Curriculum" was published in [The Journal of Physician Assistant Education](#).



### CAPA Scholarship Recipient

The Colorado Academy of Physician Assistants (CAPA) awards a scholarship annually to a PA student from the CHA/PA or Red Rocks PA program. The scholarship recipient is chosen based on service to the PA profession and community, potential for future leadership, and scholastic achievement. Patrick Machacek is this year's recipient. He is the CHA/PA student representative to CAPA for the Class of 2015. He has had exposure to the legislative process at a state and national level, where he learned about the importance of lobbying. Lobbying plays an essential role in maintaining PA's current scope of practice as well as expanding the profession in hopes of bringing better medical care to patients. Patrick is grateful for this scholarship, and notes, "My involvement with CAPA has definitely laid the foundation for me to continue to work with state and national level PA organizations as a student and throughout my career."





## Preceptor Newsletter

Our first Preceptor Newsletter went out this month to all CHA/PA preceptors. Topics covered were the orientation handbook, resources available on our website, student evaluations, and introductions to the clinical team. If you precept and didn't receive a copy through email, feel free to let us know at [pa-info@ucdenver.edu](mailto:pa-info@ucdenver.edu).

## Campus Events

The 4th Annual Pediatric Advanced Practice Conference will take place on April 7–8, 2014 at Children's Hospital Colorado Conference and Education Center. This conference will offer clinical updates in evidence-based, pediatric care focusing on integrated clinical and pharmacologic content. CME, CNE and ACPE Credit are offered. Register at [www.regonline.com/PedsAP14](http://www.regonline.com/PedsAP14).

The CU School of Nursing is sponsoring "Motivational Interviewing for Healthcare Professionals". This on-line course series is geared toward health care professionals who work directly with patients on issues related to health promotion or chronic disease management. CME & CNE Credit are offered. Register at: [www.regonline.com/CUmotivate](http://www.regonline.com/CUmotivate).



## CH/PA on Facebook

["Like" us on Facebook](#) to see our students involved in the Salud Dental Health Fair & more!

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