

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

Is this email not displaying correctly?
View it in your browser.



CHA/PA Newsletter

Read on to learn more about this year's AAPA Alumni reception, students' service at the Ronald McDonald House, the Donor Memorial Ceremony, and much more!



Balancing Family and PA School

“Don’t let anything hold you back.” That is the advice that Geoff Slater, Class of 2015, would give to individuals considering PA school. He has had additional challenges on his time over the last three years that many PA students have not – two beautiful little girls. Balancing family with PA school can be tough, but his



CHA/PA Alumni at AAPA in San Francisco!

Graduates –you are invited to the Annual CU Child Health Associate/Physician Assistant alumni reception at the 2015 American Academy of Physician Assistants Conference!

Following the opening session of the AAPA 2015 conference, join alumni, faculty, students, and staff at the fabulous View Lounge located on the 39th floor of the [San Francisco Marriott Marquis Hotel](#).

Saturday, May 23, 2015, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

experience testifies that it can be done. Geoff goes to the mountains most weekends and spends a lot of time with his kids, including nightly dance parties with his daughters before bedtime.

In addition to his family, a major source of support for Geoff has been his fellow classmates. He notes, "I would not have made it this far without them. We are our own built in support system." Students form tight connections during their three years at CHA/PA, and beyond. Geoff had the opportunity to work with fellow students in an area of special interest to him, healthcare improvement. Geoff and classmate Karen Wilson served on the steering committee for the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School. The Open School focuses on empowering students to be agents for change in healthcare. Geoff especially appreciates that the IHI examines healthcare as a system, and works to address flaws in the system, rather than assigning individual blame. As Geoff approaches graduation next month, he has set his sights on working in family medicine, internal medicine, or pediatrics. His passion for the profession is further fueled by his sense of fulfillment as his service as a PA will help alleviate the physician

San Francisco Marriott Marquis
View Lounge
780 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
Complimentary heavy hor d'oeuvres
and cash bar provided.
No cost to attend, but registration is
required.

[Register HERE](#) before May 18, 2015. If you have any questions please call the Office of Alumni Relations at 303.715.2518 or email healthalumni@ucdenver.edu. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to reconnect with the CHA/PA Program, hear the latest and greatest about our work, and mingle with fellow alumni and current students.

I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco!

Sincerely,

Jonathan Bowser, MS, PA-C
CHA/PA Program Director



**UPDATE – Commemorating
Dean Krugman's Retirement**

shortage, especially in primary care.



New Dean of the CU School of Medicine

John J. Reilly, Jr., MD, is the new Dean of the CU School of Medicine and the University's Vice Chancellor for health affairs. Dr. Reilly joins CU from the University of Pittsburgh, where he was the Jack D. Myers Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine. He completed his undergraduate education at Dartmouth College and his medical school education at Harvard. Dr. Reilly's areas of interest include the role of alveolar macrophage enzymes in emphysema, COPD and lung cancer as well as the genetic and environmental factors associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). [Learn more](#) about Dr. Reilly.



Dean Krugman's retirement will be commemorated at a ceremony this fall, instead of at this year's commencement ceremony. So, mark your calendars for October 3rd. Beginning at 6pm, there will be a cocktail reception and dinner at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Cost for alumni and guests is \$50 per person and students is \$10 per student and \$50 for each student's guest. Watch the mail early fall for your invitation!



Ranked #5

U.S. News and World Report publishes yearly rankings of all Physician Assistant programs in the country. CHA/PA is [ranked #5](#) this year!!



Observing Medical Care in a Women's Prison

Ronald McDonald House

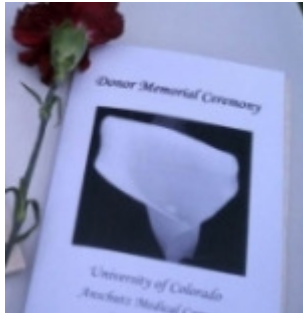
Family Dinner. We hear this recommended and encouraged throughout childhood to enhance development and encourage communication. It's a time to share a warm meal, discuss the activities of the day and bond as family members. However, when you spend your days and nights vigilantly by your sick child's side, how does this remain a priority? When I was transitioning to a co-leader of the Silver Society Community Service Group, giving back to families was on my mind. The Ronald McDonald house is a facility that provides housing for families whose children are undergoing treatment at The Children's Hospital Colorado. Since many families spend their days at these therapies, they often eat cafeteria food or quick meals to or from a procedure or treatment. This fall a group of 1st and 2nd year CHA/PA students prepared a family dinner of baked chicken, green beans, orzo salad, dinner rolls and fresh fruit with ice cream sundaes for dessert. While finishing the cooking, I looked out at the dining hall and saw families conversing, laughing, with smiles on their faces and many returning for seconds. We were asked for the orzo salad recipe twice and received overwhelming gratitude for preparing dinner. We gave those families a snippet of

Did you know that prisoners are the only population in which free medical care is mandated under the 8th Amendment banning cruel and unusual punishment? I found this out and more while touring the Denver Women's Correctional Facility. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to view life and the medical system inside a prison as part of the CU Unite track. The CU Unite track focuses on serving the uninsured and those with limited access to health care in urban areas.

The inmates who stood out the most to me were the women who were serving lifelong sentences. Many of these women found purpose in life by participating in the dog-training program. Their rooms were shared with another prisoner and squeezed between their beds was a dog crate—their roommate for the month. Practicing medicine in a correctional facility is a very honorable position to fill. It comes with many obstacles that you would not expect to find in a community clinic, including keeping exam room doors open for safety and ensuring medications cannot be ingested in creative ways for non-medical benefits. The medical personnel in the prison uphold the same standards in caring for prisoners as they do the general population. They avoid educating themselves on the crimes their individual patients have committed, as their stories should have no

normalcy, something that many of us may take for granted. I felt overwhelming pride in providing something that was a staple in my childhood.

Whitney Bowser, Class of 2017



Donor Memorial Ceremony

This past week I was able to address the families, friends, and loved ones of the donors from our anatomy experience over the summer of 2014. Every year, students from all the schools that participated in the anatomy lab are able to give back by holding a Donor Memorial Ceremony. I cannot begin to explain the gratitude that our class felt for these families' extremely generous and selfless gifts. By donating their bodies to science, we, as students, were able to have tangible and invaluable experiences in the lab that made the anatomy books all the more real and impactful. This year's ceremony was an amazing event. I was deeply moved by my fellow students' thoughts and feelings regarding their own

bearing on the care they receive. For many prisoners, this may be their first medical visit in years (or ever!), as most come in from the streets uninsured and are thankful for the care that they receive.

Savannah Porter, Class of 2015



AAPA Leadership and Advocacy Summit

In early March, I had the opportunity to attend the Leadership and Advocacy Summit in Washington, D.C., hosted by the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA). Two second-year CHA/PA students joined me, Megan Smith and Michelle Gaffaney. The goal of the conference was to learn new ways to advocate for our profession and our patients back home. We attended sessions on everything from EMR protocol to team-based clinics. The first fun hiccup upon arrival was the government closure...due to snow. We three Colorado pros were pretty disappointed since our meetings on the Hill were now canceled. But this did not stop us. We made personal contact with political staffers for our Colorado Representatives and Senators and met

experiences, but the most touching part of the ceremony for me was when family members were able to address us regarding the memories of their loved ones. There were almost 250 people in attendance and around 10–15 people came forward and spoke on the legacies, memories, and wishes of their loved ones. I always wondered about the lives of the donors in the lab, and this ceremony gave me a little glimpse into some of their stories. I am so thankful that I was able to convey the CHA/PA Class of 2017's gratitude for our donors and their loved ones. I am so glad that I was a part of such an awesome event! [Read more](#) about the event.

Sam Colgate, Class of 2017

with them the next day. We educated them on why it was important to allow PAs to prescribe hospice care and care for hospice patients, particularly regarding continuity of care. The remainder of our meeting was mostly focused on explaining the role of PAs, on sharing our enthusiasm for patient access to care, and on offering our support in future medically-relevant matters. It opened our eyes to the political process and how daunting it can be. But, it also shattered the once-intimidating facade of political action, which now gives us confidence to make a difference in our communities.

Emma Smaldino, Class of 2017



Arrhythmias, an A Cappella Experience

I love being a member of the Arrhythmias, the Anschutz Medical Campus a cappella group. Not only does it give me a chance to relax during stressful and science-filled weeks, but I also meet



CHA/PA In the News

Faculty Member David Eckhardt and CU Standardized Patient Simulation Educator Elshimaa Basha presented the poster "A New Age in Simulation: Primed Observation,



CHA/PA on Facebook

["Like" us on Facebook](#) to see what is new at CHA/PA!

lots of people from all around campus. I have met medical, physical therapy, and PhD students as well as doctors, nurses, and other vital staff coming from the hospitals. Our choir director, Christina Bishop, is so talented and makes all of our rehearsals enjoyable. She picks beautiful and challenging songs that we perform at the end of the semester in a few concerts. We typically have a combined concert with the campus orchestra and then a concert just for us. This year we performed at the Donor Memorial Ceremony, and this summer we are invited to sing at the Rockies game on June 25th! If you are interested in joining, know that we accept all levels. No auditions required!

**Christine Cork, Class
of 2017**

Skills Practice, and Reflection Increase Program Efficiency" at the Annual Educational Scholarship & Innovation Symposium in Aurora this past February.

Program Director Jonathan Bowser presented on common oral pathologies at the FL Academy of PAs in January.

Joe Jones, Class of 2016, received second place in the annual Humanism in Health Care essay contest this past February.

Faculty members Joyce Nieman and Jacqueline Sivahop led a Clinical Coordinators Workshop for PAEA in Dallas in March.

Faculty member Jacqueline Sivahop participated in the [Live Blue Ribbon event](#) for April Child

Abuse Awareness
Month at Children's
Hospital Colorado.

Contact Information:

CHA/PA Program
Mail Stop F543
13001 E. 17th Place, Room E7019
Aurora, Colorado 80045

Phone: (303) 724-7963; Fax: (303) 724-1350

Email: PA-info@ucdenver.edu

Web: medschool.ucdenver.edu/paprogram

Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday

MOVING? NEW CONTACT INFORMATION? Please email
the office at PA-Info@ucdenver.edu so that we can keep in
touch with you!!



University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus
Child Health Associate/
Physician Assistant Program
School of Medicine

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)