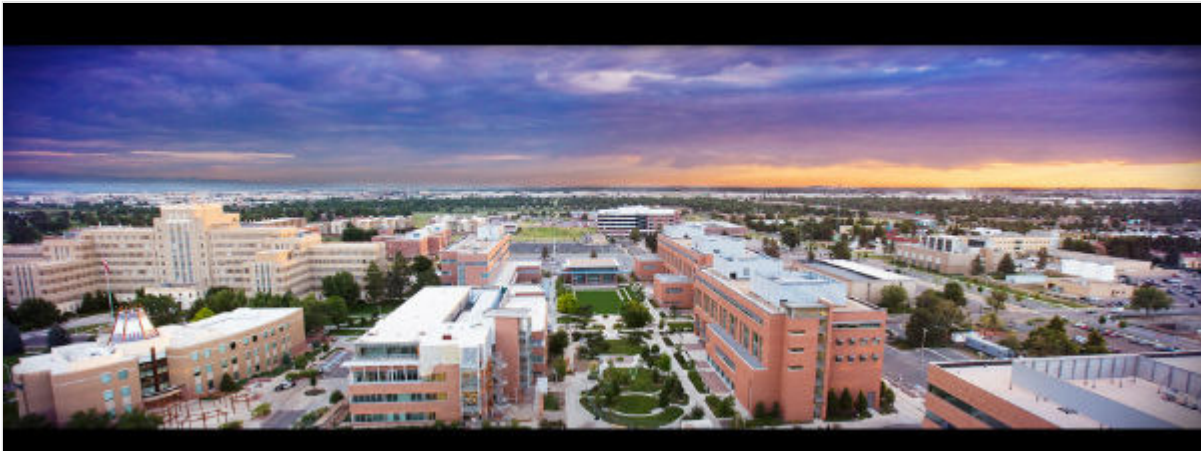


Current information about the CHA/PA Physician Assistant Program at the University of Colorado Denver.

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CHA/PA Newsletter

Read on to learn more about students involved in interprofessional education, the Dawn Clinic, and the national PAEA Education forum!



Exploring the Field of Hospitalist Medicine

Sarah Witowski initially pursued her passion for medicine by working as a clinical research coordinator with breast cancer patients. While helping women join clinical trials at the University of Colorado, she had the opportunity to interact with a variety of health professionals. It is



CHA/PA Fall Banquet

Alumni, students, preceptors, faculty, and staff gathered on October 3rd at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science to honor Dr. Richard Krugman. Dr. Krugman completed his tenure as Dean of the CU School of Medicine earlier this year after serving for

through this experience that Sarah realized that she wanted to be more involved in the medical decisions of patients and that the PA route best fit her goals.

CHA/PA's program is unique in that students start clinical rotations their first year and end in their third year with ten, one-month rotations.

During her third year as a student, Sarah spent a month rotating with an internal medicine physician. This rotation sparked her interest in the field of hospital medicine, so she was excited to learn about the hospitalist training fellowship at the University of Colorado Hospital. Sarah began her one-year fellowship after graduating in May 2015. The fellowship exposes her to patients in a variety of settings from the general medicine floor to ICU, ED, and specialties such as neurology. Sarah loves the challenge of working with patients with medical conditions that she has only learned about in class, or even conditions that she has never heard of. The most challenging part of her position has proven to be setting up the correct care for each patient after they leave the hospital in conjunction with the case workers. It is essential that patients receive the correct follow-up labs and appointments. Despite the challenges, Sarah loves it. "When I am getting ready to discharge a patient from the hospital and they give me a hug and say thank you – it

twenty-five years. He has been a long-time advocate of the CHA/PA program and continues his distinguished career as a Professor of Pediatrics at the Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect. The new Dean, Dr. John Reilly, was also in attendance to commemorate this event.



Volunteer Opportunity

Graduates – we have an opportunity for you to get involved with the Interprofessional Education and Development (IPED) program on campus. IPED offers an introductory course with a focus on three nationally identified competency domains that the health professions schools/programs on our campus and their respective accrediting bodies have adopted: teamwork and collaboration, values and ethics, and quality and safety. We are looking for facilitators to work with student teams to foster knowledge, skills and behaviors which promote interprofessional collaborative practice. We need facilitators on the

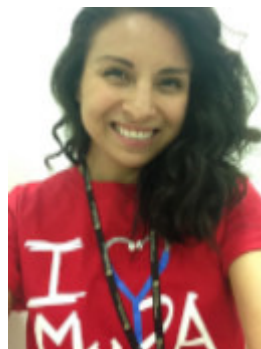
makes me feel like this is where I am supposed to be.”



Faculty Member Nominated to PAEA Position

Faculty member Cathy Ruff has been nominated to a new position in the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) as the Conference Council Chair starting in January 2016. The Conference Council promotes the excellence of PA education through ongoing professional development and networking of PA program faculty and others involved in PA education, including, but not limited to, PAEA's Annual Education Forum and the AAPA Annual Conference. The committee's main responsibilities revolve around the Annual Education Forum. The committee solicits proposals for education sessions at the Forum, reviews the submissions in a blinded process, schedules the presentations, and moderates and evaluates the sessions.

following dates: January 27th; February 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th; and March 2nd, 9th, and 30th from 2–5:30pm. Interested? Contact Reesie Roland at reesie.roland@ucdenver.edu.



Making a Difference at the DAWN Clinic

Many times, we go into medicine because we want to “help people” and eventually, once we graduate, we get to do just that. However, not many times as students do we get to impact a patient's life. At the DAWN clinic, we have this opportunity.

DAWN stands for Dedicated to Aurora's Wellness and Needs and it's a free, interdisciplinary clinic that is run by students from the CU Anschutz Campus. I have been a volunteer at the clinic since its beginning in the spring of 2015, initially as an interpreter. I started to feel more comfortable over time in my clinical role as a PA student and wanted be better utilize my skillset, so I begin to fill a new role

Faculty Member's Involvement in Pediatric Simulation Education

Faculty member David Eckhardt participated in a presentation at the International Pediatric Simulation Conference last May. This conference offers pediatric simulation experts from around the world the opportunity to collaborate on their simulation models. David was also nominated to be a member of the International Pediatric Simulation Society Education Committee.



Fostering Interest in PA Education Among Students

This November, the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) made history by extending an invitation to current Physician Assistant students to attend the annual PAEA Forum in Washington D.C. Up until this year, the forum

as a provider.

I cannot say enough about the DAWN clinic. The work that the students and volunteer preceptors are doing is astonishing. The services offered by the clinic far exceed what you think we would be capable of, and the patient population that we focus on is in desperate need of our care. Sometimes the work is tough, especially after classes, studying, and clinic; but, every night I walk out of the clinic feeling fulfilled that I actually got to make a difference in someone's life.

AnnaMaria Salas, Class of 2017



Educating Foster Children on Health Maintenance and Insurance

I had the opportunity to participate in a unique community outreach experience because of my Interprofessional Education (IPE) facilitator, Scott Harpin, PhD, MPH, RN. Scott is part of the faculty at the CU College of Nursing, and one day he mentioned that he was looking for volunteers to talk with a group of foster children who were getting

has been exclusive to current PA educators, but the organization saw a need to engage current students and increase interest in careers in PA education. Thus, PAEA's Student Advisory Task Force formulated and developed the Future Educator Fellowship, a program and scholarship designed for students interested in working in PA education one day. Twenty-five students were selected from programs across the country, and I was fortunate enough to be able to be a part of the inaugural group of fellows. Our schedule for the weekend included a chance to advocate for the profession with our state's Senators and Representatives, meet with the PAEA Board of Directors and other influential PA educators, and attend sessions both specific to student fellows and current educators. Everyone at the forum welcomed us into their community and was eager to share advice based on their own journeys. I especially appreciated seeing the familiar faces of CHA/PA faculty throughout the weekend and witnessing the immense amount of respect and success they have in areas such as PA research, patient simulation, and the flipped classroom. This experience was influential in shaping my future career aspirations and increasing my excitement not only to be a Physician Assistant, but one involved in PA education. [Learn](#)

ready to transition out of the program. I immediately signed up, knowing it would be a great opportunity to get out in the community and to interact with an interprofessional group of students.

We ultimately had representation from the pharmacy, dental, nursing, and PA programs. The talk was given to a smaller group of foster care youths, and it was great to get to work with students from different disciplines. We gave a general overview on health maintenance, as well as insurance. The experience really increased my awareness of the difficulties faced by the young men and women at the talk.

Understanding what resources they had available to them while they were still in the foster program, and how to maintain those resources or transition to the next step after leaving the program, seemed particularly challenging. Ultimately, it was a very enriching experience, and one that I would gladly participate in again if given the opportunity.

Alison Barbieri, Class of 2017



PAEA Annual Conference

Several CHA/PA faculty and staff members presented at the Physician Assistant Education Association's

[more.](#)

Kelly Finnegan, Class of 2016



PAEA Photo Challenge

National PA Week takes place each year from Oct. 6–12 to celebrate the profession and its contributions to the nation’s health. Each year, PAEA sponsors a photo challenge – this is CHA/PA’s submission for 2016.



CHA/PA Institutes a New Admissions Model

CHA/PA revamped its admissions model starting with the 2015 cycle. We have used a traditional interview model since the inception of the program. The faculty and staff determined that a new hybrid model, including both individual

(PAEA) annual conference held in Washington, D.C. in November:

Presentations:

Preceptor Remediation: Time to Make Up or Break Up?

April Stouder, MHS, PA–C, Duke University; Joyce Nieman, MHS, PA–C, University of Colorado

Data Speaks: Documenting Teaching Excellence for Clinical Educators

April Stouder, MHS, PA–C, Duke University; Jacqueline Sivahop, MS, PA–C, University of Colorado

Developmental Clinical Evaluations: How Do We Assess Students Over Time?

Cathy Ruff, MS, PA–C, University of Colorado; David Eckhardt, MS, PA–C, University of Colorado

Teaching Metacognitive Skills:

Helping Students “Know What They Don’t Know”

Kevin Bogart, MPAS, PA–C, University of Colorado; Rebecca Maldonado, MSHPE, PA–C, University of Colorado

Developing a Capstone Project around Systems–Based Practice

Cathy Ruff, MS, PA–C, University of Colorado

Interview Models: A Perspective from Three PA Programs

Kay Denler, BA, University of Colorado; Mariah Kindle, MSOL,

and group interviews, would be advantageous for a variety of reasons. Some of the advantages of the new hybrid model include improved management of faculty and staff time resources, increasing the number of interview sessions, thus objectivity, and expanding the opportunities to see applicants in a variety of interview settings.

University of Washington;
Dianna Wachtel, DHSc, MS, PA-C,
University of Manitoba

Posters:

What Role Do Admission Variables
Play in Predicting Student
Performance?

Authors: Kay Denler, BA, University
of Colorado; Jacqueline Sivahop, MS,
PA-C, University of Colorado

"A New Age in Simulation:
Increasing Program Efficiency and
Effectiveness"

Authors: David Eckhardt, MS, PA-C,
University of Colorado; Elshimaa
Basha, BS, University of Colorado

Profession Specific Differences in
Outcomes from an Interprofessional
Course

Authors: Darcy Solanyk, PA-C, University of
Colorado; Wendy Madigosky, MD, MSPH,
University of Colorado; Mark Earnest, MD,
PhD, University of Colorado Denver; Diane
Brunson, MPH, University of Colorado Denver;
Kari Franson, PharmD, PhD, University of
Colorado Denver; Jackie Glover, PhD,
University of Colorado Denver; Karen Gorton,
PhD, RN, MS, University of Colorado Denver;
Amy Norton-Craft, DSc, PT, University of
Colorado Denver; Amy Barton, PhD, RN,
University of Colorado Denver



Pediatric

Advanced Practice Conference

The 6th Annual Pediatric Advanced Practice Conference will take place on February 8–9, 2016, 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 and CNE Credit are offered. Register at www.regonline.com/PedsAP16



CHA/PA Students at the CAPE



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



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