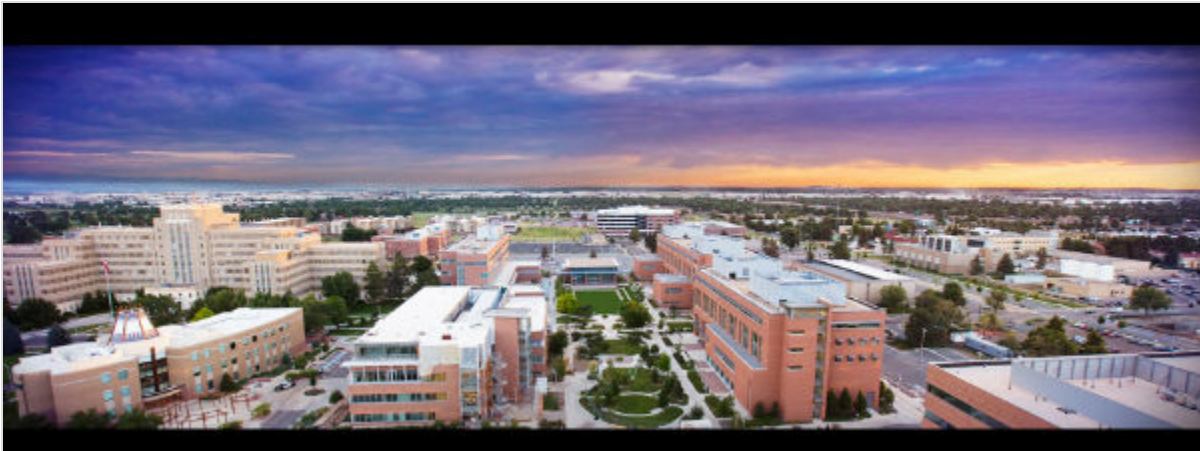


Current information about the CHA/PA Physician Assistant Program at the University of Colorado Denver.

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CHA/PA Newsletter

Read on to learn more about upcoming events, faculty and graduate accomplishments, scholarship recipients, and much more!



Celebrating 50 Years!

Join the University of Colorado Child Health Associate/Physician Assistant Program as we celebrate 50 years of educational excellence, preparing physician assistants for practice in all areas of medicine!

Our 50th Anniversary Celebration will take place on Friday, October 4, from 6–9 p.m. at the University of Colorado South Denver (formerly the



A Career in Advocacy

Congratulations to Ann Davis, 1979 CHA/PA grad, on her retirement this year from her position as the AAPA (American Academy of Physician Assistants)

Wildlife Experience). There will be dinner, cocktails, music and stories of alumni from the past 50 years. CU South Denver also provides free parking at the venue.

We hope you will join us to celebrate the history and accomplishments of the program, and to recognize philanthropic support for student scholarships!

Alumni, students, preceptors, faculty & staff, and CHA/PA partners are invited to attend. Please visit our [website](#) for registration and pledge information.



Scholarship Recipient Facilitates Research in Guatemala

This June I traveled to the University of Colorado clinical site in Trifinio, Guatemala for three weeks to engage in a combined clinical and research experience. Alongside my fellow Global Health Track companion, Melissa, we spent our mornings in the rural primary care clinic on the plantation—seeing

Vice President of Constituent Organization Outreach and Advocacy. Preceding her 24 years at AAPA, Ann also worked as a pediatric PA in California & Arizona, and spent time as a CHA/PA Faculty member.

Ann's roots in her medical career began in a small northern Colorado town called Sterling where she was a full-time student at the local community college. In Sterling she worked as a nurse's aide on medical/surgical services, in a level one nursery, and in post-partum service. Ann realized at that time that she did not come from a family of physicians and found it challenging to wrap her head around the financial and academic burdens that came with medical school. Describing the PA profession as being invented exactly for her, Ann found a home in the CHA program which enabled her to pursue the career she desired in Pediatrics.

Like other early CHA grads, Ann is familiar with participating in many "firsts." A couple examples are that she was the first PA in Flagstaff, Arizona and also the first woman to serve as President of the Arizona State Association of PAs. Ann hopes that the legacy she has left in her career prior to retirement had a positive impact on the state laws governing PA

everything from diarrheal disease in babies, to chronic kidney disease and laceration repairs in adults.

In the afternoons, a research team of 10–12 of us drove to schools in the area to administer the CDC Global School–Based Health Survey – with the goal of collecting 1,400 student responses. The same survey was administered three years ago to students in the same area with the goal of identifying gaps in health education—from nutrition and physical activity, to violence and sexual health. Using data analysis, our team hopes to evaluate how the current “Big Decisions” health education program has impacted outcomes in the area and pinpoint opportunities for future programming in local schools. The Rotary International Health Scholarship in Denver helped fund our summer project and we are incredibly grateful we had their support, allowing us to think beyond the clinic during our medical training and explore the public health needs of the coastal Guatemalan adolescent population. It was a privilege to interact with the students, take their vital signs for quantitative measures, and to observe their daily activities so we can better serve them as an effective partner to improve health outcomes and create sustainable community change. We will present our initial findings and talk about our

practice and consequently improving care for their patients.



Robert J. and Judy Conger Endowment Fund Scholarship Recipient

I discovered my passion for medicine by working in a variety of settings before joining the CHA/PA program. I spent time as a Physical Therapy Aide, ER Medical Scribe, and a Substitute Teacher before realizing that the PA profession was the path I wanted to pursue. I have faced both emotional and financial challenges becoming a PA student and moving to Colorado from my native Hawaii. I feel fortunate to receive the Conger scholarship that has reduced a portion of my financial burden and has helped me better focus on my studies.

**–Richard Ugalde II
CHA/PA Class of 2022**

experience at the rotary meeting this fall.

–Melanie Logan
CHA/PA Class of 2021



Students Donate Backpacks to Child Health Clinic

This summer our first year students donated backpacks and other gifts to the patients of the Child Health Clinic at Children's Hospital Colorado. Their effort was much appreciated and will positively impact a large number of kids!



Year 1 – Taking the Plunge



CHA/PA News

Patrycja Kubica, PA-S2 was elected Student Director on the Board of Directors for CAPA.

Several Students were elected to the AAPA Student Board Committees:

Betsy Dunbar, PA-S2: Chair of Service Committee

Colin Jenks, PA-S2: Advocacy & Policy Committee

Bailey Buhr, PA-S1: Leadership Committee

Katya Saenz, PA-S2 was selected as one of 15 students to be a PAEA Future Educator Fellow.

Matthew Ferraro, PA-C, 2019 CHA/PA grad, was offered a spot in the Advanced Practice Fellowship at the University of Colorado Hospital.

Coming into the CHA/PA program, I thought that I would be studying 24/7 and wouldn't have time for anything else including working out and spending time with friends and family. The CHA/PA program was designed, in part, to prevent student and provider burn out. This assumption that I had about PA school was completely inaccurate. I have put in hours of studying during the week, but I have most weekends free to recharge and spend time with my friends. The most surprising part of my experience so far has been how many clinical applications and skills we have already been exposed to. At the end of each week, we take what we have learned and work through case studies utilizing the material that we learned earlier that week. I'm very excited to continue to apply medical knowledge we learn throughout the week to patient cases and later patient care in the spring semester. So far, the most difficult part of PA school has been getting back into the routine of studying and being in class. I graduated from my undergrad in 2016 and have been working full-time since. I'm happy to be a part of the CHA/PA program and cannot wait to see what the next few years bring!

**–Shannon Oliver
CHA/PA Class of 2022**



"Type 3 Diabetic" at Diabetes Camp Rotation

Diabetes Camp is unlike any other rotation. As clinicians, we are expected to listen, assess, diagnose, and devise a treatment plan for our patients. We hope our medical decision-making leads to relief and that our patients return to their lives. However, at Diabetes Camp we get to live with our patients. We have the opportunity to see—in real time—exactly how our insulin adjustments affect their lives. We learn to think critically: “We gave Sara her pump-recommended insulin dose at breakfast, but she crashed before zip lining, so let's reduce her lunch dose by 30%.” No amount of classroom education on Type I Diabetes can compare to the type of intuition gained at Diabetes Camp.



Class of 2022 White Coat Ceremony

Congratulations to our first year students who received their white coats at our ceremony this summer! The White Coat Ceremony is a rite of passage for our students exiting their Summer Immersion experience and entering the main didactic and clinical parts of their education.

“Type 3 Diabetic” is a term used to describe people who support Type I Diabetics. My classmates and I had the privilege of exemplifying what it means to be Type 3 by volunteering to place insulin ports on our own bodies during camp, complete with tubing, reservoir, and pump. We experienced—if just for a short moment—what our patients experience every day of their lives. The weight of the pump on our bodies served as a constant reminder that this diagnosis doesn’t rest; it consumes every second of their lives. For me, being Type 3 means being any ally, advocating for and acknowledging the bravery and strength required by those with Type I diabetes. I will forever be grateful for the insight provided by Diabetes Camp, and I will carry it forward into my future medical practice.

–Courtney Tyus
CHA/PA Class of 2021



Job Listings

Do you have a PA position to list with your practice? Email pa-info@ucdenver.edu to add a listing to



Interested in precepting CHA/PA students?

Have you considered



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our website. You can find [job listings](#) on the Alumni webpage.

precepting CHA/PA students? Find out about the advantages of training up our next generation of PA students and find contact information on the [Preceptor section of our website](#).

to keep up with the latest CHA/PA news!

Contact Information:

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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!!



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