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



CHA/PA Newsletter

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



AAPA 2019 is in Denver!

CHA/PA Alumni and PA preceptors are invited to attend the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) CHA/PA Alumni Reception at the *Hyatt Regency Denver Hotel* on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 5-7pm.

Join us for a complementary drink



Leading in PA Education

Congratulations to Jonathan Bowser, CHA/PA Program Director, on officially assuming his role as the President of the *Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA)* Board of Directors. To learn more about him and his role as President, visit the PAEA [website](#) to read a short interview!

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prior to the AAPA National Medical Challenge Bowl at the Colorado Convention Center at 7pm. CHA/PA students will be competing against other PA programs from around the country in the legendary AAPA competition!

Registration opens March 4. Please be sure to update your email address with the CU Anschutz Alumni association [here](#) to ensure you receive the details!

For more information on registering for the 2019 AAPA conference and discounted hotel rates, please visit their [website](#).



2019 CAPA Physician Assistant Educator of the Year

Congratulations to CHA/PA faculty member Jacqueline Sivahop who has been selected as the 2019 *Colorado Academy of Physician Assistants* PA Educator of the Year! Nominated by our very own students, we are overjoyed to see her dedication to educating future PAs officially recognized in this way. Way to go, Jackie!



Spring Info Session

Prospective students seeking information about the CHA/PA program, admissions, and the PA profession in general are invited to join us for our Spring Information Session on Friday, March 8, 2019. Following the faculty and staff presentations, there will be a panel of current students to answer audience questions. Students will then lead a short walking tour of the the Anschutz Medical Campus.

For more information & to register please visit our [website](#).



Caring for the Underserved

One of the main reasons I came to the CHA/PA program was because of our mission to provide care for the medically underserved. Being a part of the Urban Underserved Track has

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Helping Women in Need

Women in Mali (West Africa), no matter their level of education, professional achievement, or wealth, are commonly obsessed with marriage as many in the culture consider it their worthiest achievement. They are also terrified of divorce because of the social stigma it holds and the effect it has on the welfare of their children. A wife being physically disciplined by her husband has historically been culturally accepted in Mali. It has never really been publicized locally as an issue until these past 5 years because many women have died as a result of domestic violence.

I felt compelled to do something about this, and therefore created a restricted group of social networks to bring awareness to domestic violence, marital sexual abuse and many other sensitive social issues. The impact has been unbelievable as it has helped us to build support groups in Mali, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Niger, and Senegal. With some friends, I helped to create this secret network to provide shelter to endangered women and help with legal assistance in the capital city of Mali, Bamako. This has been very challenging

among a variety of CU healthcare students who strongly believe that every human is equally deserving of access to quality medical care. The track has allowed me to meet individuals from the community who are marginalized and stigmatized in society and to better understand them and their needs in healthcare and in everyday life. I have learned about the communication that providers use which harm patients, scarring their view and trust of healthcare. I have also learned what patients from different walks of life need from providers to feel accepted for who they are and thus feel comfortable continuing their care. If I have learned anything in my first year in PA school and in participating in this phenomenal track, it is that stigmatization leads to isolation, worse healthcare outcomes, and a worse quality of life.

Years ago, Martin Luther King said, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." Injustice can mean a lot of things, but after being a part of the track, I can tell you what it means to me. Injustice is when someone homeless does not feel safe in a hospital, because every time they go they are treated as less than a human. Injustice is when a transgender man must buy hormones on the black market because he feels judged at a clinic. Injustice is when a woman living in poverty cannot make it to her health provider visit because she lacks any means of transportation

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and our ability to protect these women from any further harm, but most importantly from the social stigma attached to many of the issues they face.

We then decided to take our efforts a step further as we have witnessed the power of knowledge in many of these women's lives. We initiated a symposium last year in the city of Bamako with conferences and workshops held by religious leaders, legal services, doctors and non-profit organizations on the issue of domestic violence, excision and women's rights in marriage. The turnout was great and the impact even bigger. On a regular basis, we receive requests to connect with lawyers, law enforcement, and higher authorities who share our views on these sensitive social issues.

In addition to what we have accomplished, we are already working on the second edition of our mission where we will focus on post-partum depression and other pregnancy-related problems that may put women in a vulnerable position. My hope for the future of our network is to be able to reach out to women in rural areas.

–Aicha Diakite
CHA/PA Class of 2020

healthcare system does not do what it is there to.

I believe that in one sense or another, the reality behind Dr. King's quote has brought us all to Anschutz to improve the medical care we offer to all people, no matter their background, religion, race, gender, sexuality, or socioeconomic status. At CU and in this track, we strive to combat these inequalities, to eliminate the gap, and provide everyone with the basic human right of quality healthcare.

–Luisa Fernandez
CHA/PA Class of 2020



CHA/PA in the News

Katie Ganser, first year CHA/PA student, was elected as a Student Delegate to the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) House of Delegates. This is the policymaking body that votes on and enacts policies that guide the values, philosophies, and principles of the PA profession.

Karli Nash, second year CHA/PA student, was elected into the new Student Director position for the Board of Directors of the Colorado Academy of PAs (CAPA). This new position on the voting board is meant

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National Western Stock Show

A big thank you to all the CHA/PA students who volunteered at the National Western Stock Show to provide free health screenings this year. Your dedication to preventative healthcare is commended!



CHA/PA Alum & Ally: Linsey Weller

Linsey Weller is an alumni, preceptor, and well established ally to the CHA/PA Program. Involved in many areas including guest lecturing for our PA students, facilitating small group clinical discussions, and assisting in admissions interviews, she is a long-standing partner in cultivating the education of our students and shaping the future of the PA profession in Colorado. Currently serving as a Pediatric Hospitalist for Children's Hospital Colorado, her work days are also a

student interests and issues.



Fundraising for the "Best Week of the Year"

Camp Wapiyapi is a week long summer camp where kids with pediatric cancer, as well as their siblings, get to experience the joys of summer in the beautiful mountains of Colorado. While this is already a wonderful place for these kids to simply be kids, this experience comes at no cost to the families, which is incredible.

This is an opportunity that we as students feel humbled to be able to participate and partner in. Each year, students from our program work on a fundraiser for Camp Wapiyapi that takes place during PA week in October. This year, the diversity and community service committees in our program worked together to sell mugs with a design of the CHA/PA logo on them. (A special thanks to one of our classmates, Alyssa, who spearheaded the design and coordination of these mugs.) We are also thankful for everyone who participated in this fundraiser as there were 104 mugs sold and \$520 was raised to send to Camp Wapiyapi.

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including caring for healthy newborns, complex medical inpatients, and most recently—coordinating PA students for the Yellow Team of the hospital medical wards.

Before taking the dive into PA school, Linsey worked as a research assistant in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Cincinnati. It was here that she was co-author to a publication in the Arthritis and Rheumatism Journal of the American College of Rheumatology. It was also at this position that she learned of the PA profession and decided to return to Colorado upon acceptance to the CHA/PA Program. Linsey states “I knew that the PA profession was for me because I value the connection with people and every encounter is a valuable connection and a chance to educate another person to better themselves or their children.”

As a fresh CHA/PA graduate in 2005, her first position was working at Clinica Campesina in family medicine for 3 years, however she knew her heart was calling her to pediatrics. Following her first position, she moved to Advanced Pediatric Associates in Aurora, CO where she subsequently spent 9 years cultivating and developing her skills as a PA caring for infants, toddlers and adolescents. Linsey expresses that she hopes to be perceived by her patients as a friendly face, a close listener to their concerns, and an active participant in their medical

from the camp about how our contribution will help kids continue to have this experience of “the best week of the year.” We are excited to continue working with this camp to help bring laughter and fun to these brave and wonderful kids.

–Emily Campbell
CHA/PA Class of 2020

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AAP Colorado Annual CME

Looking for a CME opportunity? On Friday, April 5, 2019 (all day), Children's Hospital Colorado will host the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Colorado Annual CME event. Find more information and registration for this event [here](#).



**Colorado Curriculum–
Update!**

Following the launch of the Colorado Curriculum in July 2018, the CHA/PA program is happy to announce the Fall 2018 semester wrapped up successfully. We also are excitedly

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As a self-described life-long learner, Linsey explains that she combats the inevitable plateaus reached in any career by challenging herself to “be more” and staying motivated to keep learning. This attitude of consistently challenging herself and breaking new ground is apparent in her current position where she was hired as the first PA in the Division of Hospital Medicine at Children’s Hospital Colorado. She hopes her legacy will leave a trail that makes hiring a PA a point of pride for the medical community as a whole.

arriving on campus to start classes in July. Faculty and staff are in the midst of applying the curriculum to current first year students and also preparing more advanced material to be covered in their upcoming second year.

For more information on the Colorado Curriculum please visit our [website](#) for a curriculum overview.



Do you have a PA position to list with your practice? Email pa-info@ucdenver.edu to add a listing to our website. You can find [job listings](#) on the Alumni webpage.



Interested in precepting CHA/PA students?

Have you considered 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](#).

Contact Information:



CHA/PA on Facebook

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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
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