

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!

The Child Health Associate/Physician Assistant Program celebration event will take place on Friday, October 4, from



Welcome, New Faculty and Staff!

Kate Woodard has joined the CHA/PA faculty as an Instructor. Kate graduated from Quinnipiac University's Physician Assistant Program in 2015, and moved back to Denver shortly afterwards. She practiced in general surgery before finding her place in family medicine in 2016. She previously practiced at Swedish Family Medicine Residency where she was

6–9 p.m. at the University of Colorado South Denver (formerly the 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.



Gratitude for Donors and their Families

This year I had the privilege of organizing the Donor Memorial Ceremony with a group of student leaders from the MD, PT, dental, and modern human anatomy programs. Each year, students work together to host this event to express our sincere gratitude

a faculty member and practiced family medicine full-time. Kate will serve as co-director for the Psych block and Professional Practice thread and will also be involved in the CVP block. In her free time she enjoys hiking, camping and everything Colorado has to offer.

Miriam Venzor Majalca began working for the CHA/PA Program in March 2019. She is the Administrative Assistant and assists faculty, staff, and students with various clerical tasks. Miriam grew up in Denver, CO. She is an undergraduate student at the University of Colorado Denver working towards a Public Health, BA degree. Before going back to school, Miriam worked at Westside Family Health Center in Denver, one of Denver Health's community health centers, for over 2 years as a patient access specialist. In the future, she would like to work for programs that help people recover from drug and alcohol addictions. Miriam is the biggest fan of The Office, loves music and going to concerts, and enjoys listening to podcasts and books about true crime, history, social sciences, and philosophy.

toward those who choose to donate their bodies to the education of future healthcare providers. Through these donations—these acts of selflessness—we gain opportunities to learn the intricacies of the human body and to develop a strong understanding of the connection between anatomy and clinical medicine.

Melanie Logan, PA-S1, spoke at the event on behalf of CHA/PA to express our profound appreciation to the families of the donors. Family members of the donors also had the opportunity to speak in memory of their loved ones. By the end of the ceremony, we came to know our donors even more intimately through these stories of passions, loves, and losses. In Melanie's words, a final thank you to our donors: "At the end of life, we all hope to leave our mark on this world. I'm certain you have left your mark on countless family and friends through years of a long wonderful life. Now you have left your mark on us. Legacy is not leaving something for people, but leaving something in them. Thank you for doing just that."

–Kathryn Ganser
CHA/PA Class of 2021



AAPA Alumni Reception– Recap!

On Monday, May 20th, 2019, the CHA/PA program hosted an Alumni Reception at the annual AAPA Convention held in Denver this year. Over 150 alumni, students, faculty & staff, and friends of the program enjoyed an evening together to connect and gear up for the approaching 50th Anniversary Celebration on October 4th. Thanks to all who attended!



Alumni Receives AAPA Award

An accomplished member of the PA community, Ted Ruback (CHA/PA class of 1979) has recently been selected as the recipient of the AAPA Eugene A. Stead Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for 2019. Retired in 2016, Ted has had a long history in PA

Thanks to our Alumni Association!

A big thank you to the CHA/PA Alumni Association for helping to sponsor the PA Prom for our students this year! This opportunity for our students to add to their PA school memories together was much appreciated.



Surviving/Thriving– One Year of PA School Down!

“I just need to survive this,” was my thought about PA school after my first semester. Now, in reflecting over the entire first year, not only did I survive, but I thrived. This has been one of the most challenging and exciting years of my life. I chose to become a PA after having had another career and with a young family. What seemed like a rollercoaster first

education with achievements spanning from Founding Director of the first PA program in Oregon at the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) PA program to PAEA advocacy, –including serving as President of the Board. He was also involved in the development of CASPA & Chair of the CASPA advisory committee, Chair of AAPA’s Education Council, site visits for ARC–PA, Chair of the PA Committee of the Oregon Medical Board, and many other invaluable contributions to the profession.

Self–described as always having been interested in a medical career and specifically pediatrics, Ted’s extensive PA journey was established at a career fair in 1975 where he learned of the profession and the CHA/PA program specifically. Attending with a “junior partner” as his mentee through the “Partners” program, which connects Colorado youth to adult mentors, Ted unexpectedly discovered his own career match. After deciding CHA/PA aligned perfectly with his professional goals, he applied to the program and this year marks his 40th year as a Physician Assistant. Following his graduation in 1979, Ted’s career began by working for a pediatrician in a small rural Washington State multidisciplinary clinic. He then moved on to work at a large HMO in Atlanta, Georgia

semester, has become more of a smooth ride ahead. Maybe not in a convertible with the wind blowing my hair, but a journey in which I feel hopeful about the profession I am entering, confident in the education I am receiving and elated that I will soon be a practicing PA.

This journey has been possible (and pleasurable) because of incredible people: friends who I can email late at night with questions and who can make each other laugh with medical puns; classmates who are kind and who ask about my kids; and faculty who took a chance on me and who have demonstrated that they want nothing more than for us than to become excellent PAs. Lastly, this journey would be inconceivable without a husband and family who have supported me 100% in pursuing a dream.

We have come a long way in 10 months. I was reminded of this while studying for finals. There were moments I felt overwhelmed by the amount of information I was trying to recall. However, the Sunday before finals was Mother's Day and it was important to be with my family for dinner. In deciding that I had studied enough, I took that moment to reassure myself of all the clinical knowledge I understood compared

where he also started his academic ventures by guest lecturing for the Emory PA program.

As an integral part of the development of PA education with contributions spanning nationally, Ted describes his most gratifying moment to be his time as Founding Director of the OHSU PA Program. During his 22 year tenure at the school, he enriched the lives of 576 graduates and the OHSU PA Program was listed by US News & World Report as among the top 10 PA programs in the nation in its very first year of eligibility. Having touched the lives of so many providers himself, Ted reminisces on his own role models from his time in PA school:

"Throughout my entire career I have benefited from the teachings of my early mentors and role models. I recall as if it were yesterday, sitting with my fellow classmates on the floor of Henry Silver's office listening to his every word while he generously shared "pearls" of wisdom with us."

Celebrating 50 years of caring for our communities this year, CHA/PA congratulates Ted on receiving this award from AAPA and thanks him for his contributions to our program legacy. With that said, a message from Ted to his classmates: *"I would like to use this forum to*

to last July.

We have much more to learn in the next two years and over our lifetime, but already we have an exceptional foundation of skills. We can spell and pronounce words we didn't even know existed last year. I am proud to be a part of such a tremendous group of individuals, each of whom inspire me and give me hope about the future of healthcare.

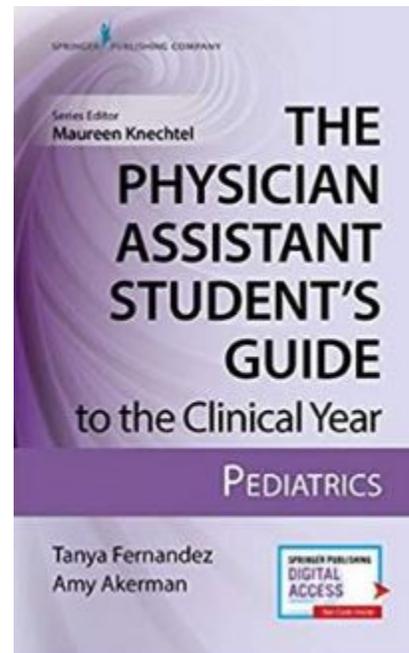
–Hilary Dryden
CHA/PA Class of 2021



Remembering James Arthur, MD

A memorial service for James Arthur, MD, who died January 30, was held Saturday, March 23 at St. Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church. Dr. Arthur joined the CU School of Medicine volunteer clinical faculty as a clinical instructor in 1960, was promoted to clinical professor in 1975, and retired as clinical professor emeritus in 1992. He received the Department of Pediatrics Career

encourage my fellow classmates, the Class of 1979, to attend the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Child Health Associate/Physician Assistant Program to be held in Denver this fall. Let's join together to celebrate our 40th reunion. I feel fortunate to have stayed in touch with a small number of you and would welcome the chance to see and catch up with everyone at this important and meaningful event. Hope to see you all there!"



Faculty Publication!

Faculty members Tanya Fernandez, MS, PA-C and Amy Akerman, MPAS, PA-C recently completed their publication of "The Physician Assistant Student's Guide to the Clinical Year: Pediatrics" which is one book in a series of guides for

Teaching Scholar Award in 1996. The CHA/PA program fondly remembers him as a member of our faculty and would like to extend our condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and previous students.

students published by Springer Publishing Company. Pre-orders are available right now with an official release date of September 28th, 2019. To order, please visit the Springer Publishing Company [website](#) or [Amazon](#).



Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations and good luck to our most recent graduates in the class of 2019 whose convocation was on May 23rd!



Job Listings

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



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of training up our next generation of PA students and find contact information on the [Preceptor section of our website](#).

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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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