



CHA/PA Newsletter

Read on to meet CHA/PA faculty member, Felicia Doherty, MPAS, PA-C; learn about recent faculty, student, and alumni accomplishments. Nominate a fellow CHA/PA alum for one of our 3 Alumni Awards and don't forget to share the link to register for our last information session of the season on April 17, 2026.



Re-introducing Felicia Doherty, MPAS, PA-C

Although Felicia Doherty has been with CHA/PA for a while, we would love to re-introduce her and ensure everyone knows how critical her work is to the Clinical team! Felicia graduated from the CHA/PA program in 2013 and found her professional



Rural Track Students bring Compassionate Care to the National Western Stock Show

This year's National Western Stock Show offered more than livestock, crowds, and Colorado tradition—it offered community care, connection, and real world learning opportunities for two of our Rural Track PA students, Jacqueline Hutson, PA-S1 and Lucy Kludt, PA-S2. Their volunteer work at the health

home in primary care at Denver Health, where she has spent the past decade caring for patients in an outpatient Internal Medicine clinic. In addition to her clinical practice, she serves as Medical Director for the Healthy World programs, which support patients and families across the lifespan. Her work focuses on empowering individuals to improve their quality of life through practical lifestyle and nutrition education—meeting patients where they are and walking alongside them toward better health.

In 2019, Felicia returned to CHA/PA as the Site Director for students rotating at Denver Health. In 2024, she expanded her involvement by stepping into the role of Clinical Site Educator, partnering with clinical sites across the Denver metro area and throughout Colorado. She enjoys supporting learners at such a formative stage in their careers and collaborating with dedicated preceptors who generously invest in the next generation of providers.

What energizes Felicia most is working at the intersection of many communities—students, patients, faculty, hospital leadership, and community clinicians. She values the unique perspective each group brings and appreciates the opportunity to help connect those perspectives in ways that strengthen both clinical education and patient care.

Outside of work, she can usually be found baking with sourdough, tending to her family's beehives, running long (and occasionally ridiculous) distances in the mountains, or camping and

screening booth highlighted not only their passion for medicine, but also the values that drew them into the PA profession and into serving rural communities.

For Jacqueline, the journey toward becoming a Physician Assistant began with a lifelong love of science shaped by growing up in a community surrounded by scientific work. But it was her desire for meaningful human connection that ultimately guided her. For her, medicine is as much about empowering patients as it is about diagnosing and treating. Lucy found her calling early as well. A strong interest in science and a desire to create meaningful impact every day led her toward healthcare. What set the PA profession apart for her were its core values—especially its commitment to improving access to care. “I knew PA school was where I belonged,” she shared, “because it aligns with the kind of provider I want to be.”

Both students share deep personal ties to rural life, and their experiences growing up in small towns shaped their dedication to rural medicine. Having grown up in rural Wyoming, Jacqueline witnessed firsthand the challenges rural residents face: long travel distances, difficulty securing appointments, and limited specialty care. These experiences fueled her passion for addressing disparities in access. “I want to be the provider who understands these barriers and actively works to reduce them,” she explained. For Lucy, who comes from northern Idaho, rural healthcare

exploring in a vintage camper with her husband, three children, and their beloved super mutt.



We are so grateful to have Felicia on the CHA/PA team joining us in this important work.



Guest Lecture Spotlight: Celebrating Keri Riechers, MPAS, PA-C

The CHA/PA Program is delighted to spotlight Keri Riechers, MPAS, PA-C, an accomplished Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine PA whose dedication to both patient care and PA education has made her an invaluable member of our teaching community.

Though born in New York, Keri proudly claims “native” Colorado

has always been a natural fit. Her work as an EMT/FF and primary care MA in a resource scarce community helped her see the essential role advanced practice providers play.

“I’m excited to use what I’ve learned in the Rural Track to build a future practice in rural Colorado,” she said.

Volunteering at the Stock Show proved to be a meaningful moment of reflection and growth for both students. Jacqueline said, “events like this meet people where they are”; highlighting how such outreach aligns with her goal to provide proactive, community centered care.

Lucy described the Stock Show as a grounding experience—one that reminded her why she chose medicine in the first place. Amid the intensity of didactic learning, volunteering reconnected her with her passion for preventive health and collaborative care.



Jacqueline and Lucy exemplify the compassionate, community-driven spirit at the heart of the Rural Track. Their experiences at the National Western Stock Show highlight the powerful role PA students play in expanding access to care.

status—having moved here at the age of two—and her deep connection to the state is reflected in her personal passions and clinical career. A CHA/PA alumna from the Class of 2015, Keri joined CU Sports Medicine immediately after graduation and has now spent a decade caring for Colorado’s active population. She splits her time between the operating room and clinic, treating patients ranging from weekend warriors to collegiate and professional athletes. Her work centers on helping individuals return to the activities they love and fully enjoy the Colorado lifestyle.

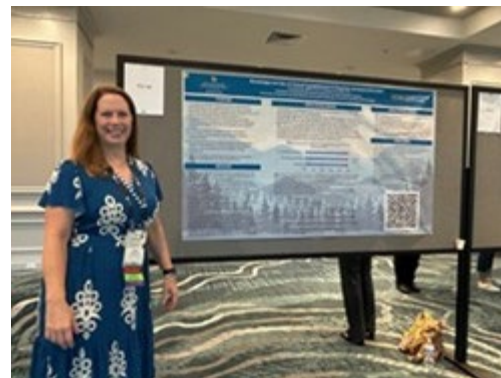
Keri began lecturing for the CHA/PA Program in 2022, bringing her orthopedic expertise to the MSK block through her lecture “Bursitis, Tendonitis, & Other Common Orthopedic Complaints.” She emphasizes how vital musculoskeletal knowledge is for future primary care providers, noting that up to 30% of primary care visits involve MSK issues. With her practical insights and approachable teaching style, she empowers students with confidence in evaluating and managing common orthopedic concerns.

When asked about her favorite part of lecturing, Keri immediately points to the students. She appreciates their eagerness to learn, their thoughtful questions, and their drive to dig deeper into complex topics. Their energy, she says, is what brings her back year after year. For Keri, teaching is both a joy and a meaningful way to give back to the program that shaped her own career.



CHA/PA Faculty Members Partner on Recent Publication

Jackie Sivahop EdD, MS, PA-C and Amy Akerman MPAS, PA-C contributed to an article published in the PAEA journal titled, “Forecasting the Future: The Relationship Between Pre-matriculant Casper Scores and Student Professionalism Infractions During Physician Assistant School”.



The article summarizes their research that explored whether a relationship exists between a student’s Casper z score and receipt of a professionalism infraction during PA school. For context, Casper is a situational judgement test that can serve as a data point in a holistic admissions process.

This quantitative study sampled 3 cohorts of PA students who completed the curriculum and found that there was a statistically significant relationship between a negative Casper z score and receipt of a professionalism infraction and a positive Casper z score and not

Outside of work, Keri embraces the outdoor spirit of Colorado. When she's not in clinic or the OR, you can find her trail running with her Bernedoodle, mountain biking with her husband, or playing with her adventurous 13 month old daughter.



We are grateful for the expertise, enthusiasm, and generosity Keri brings to the CHA/PA Program and for the lasting impact she continues to make on the next generation of PAs.



CHA/PA Faculty Promotions within the School of Medicine

This past fall, two CHA/PA faculty members were promoted within the School of Medicine:

Jackie Sivahop, EdD, MS, PA-C was promoted to Professor. She is the first PA in the history of the Department of

receiving a professionalism infraction.

The findings from this study confirm that the use of Casper z score as a data point can aid with further clarity around students that may need faculty support on developing professionalism competencies. Not only did this study identify future research questions examining specific variables including Casper z scores and type of professionalism infraction, but moving forward, these findings can serve as the starting point for PA programs to explore their admission practices to meet the ever-changing landscape of PA education and health care. For the full length article, click [here](#):



Alumni Council continues to gain Momentum

It has been a post-pandemic goal to revive the CHA/PA Alumni Council.

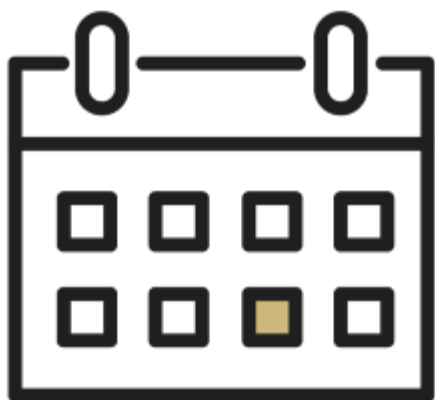
Last year, local Alumni from classes ranging from 1972 to 2024 were invited to participate in the revived Alumni Council. Their first goal was to develop awards that would allow the program to recognize CHA/PA Alumni that have made contributions to the CHA/PA program or the PA profession.

The first awards cycle included

Pediatrics to attain this rank. Also, Kelsey Dougherty was promoted to Associate Professor.

Promotion to these ranks within the School of Medicine requires that faculty submit a detailed dossier describing their years of work and accomplishments in the areas of Teaching, Scholarship, Clinical, and Service. Promotion dossiers undergo rigorous evaluation by a committee within the Department of Pediatrics and then are sent to the School of Medicine for an additional round of evaluation.

Congratulations to Jackie and Kelsey for representing CHA/PA so well with their hard work and determination!



Final CHA/PA Spring Information Session

CHA/PA is hosting our final Information Session of the year on Friday, April 17th from 1 - 3pm MST in person at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, Education 2 North Building, Room P28-1102

Please share this information with

developing the awards, reviewing nominees and selecting recipients for two awards – the Rising Star Award and the Alumni Achievement Award. Award recipients were celebrated at the CHA/PA Alumni Event held in conjunction with AAPA conference held in May 2025 in Downtown Denver. The second awards cycle, the Henry Silver Award was added to the two original awards. Four recipients were recognized at the Fall Alumni Reception, and we are grateful to the Alumni Council for their effort in reviving the important work of recognizing CHA/PA alumni and keeping them connected to the program.

The Alumni Council has kicked off their work this year by opening the third cycle of CHA/PA Alumni Award nominations. You can find out more about each award and nominate CHA/PA Alumni at the following links:

[Rising Star Award](#)

[Alumni Achievement Award](#)

[Henry Silver Legacy Award](#)

We are grateful for the commitment and time our Alumni Council has given for this important work. If you are interested in serving on the Alumni Council, please email us at: pa-info@ucdenver.edu



CHA/PA News Bites

anyone that may be interested in the
CHA/PA program or the PA profession.

Those interested can register at this
[link](#) .

Jeremy Gage, PA-C, Class of
2020, was recently second author on
an abstract related to coronary CTA
for firefighters in the metro area
published in Journal of
Cardiovascular
Computed Tomography. You can
read the article at this [link](#).

Kelly Hoose, PA-C, Class of
2020, was promoted to Senior
Instructor at Children's Hospital
Colorado. Congratulations, Kelly.

Lauren Griffin (Rogers), PA-C, Class
of 2019 was recognized at the CU
Department of Pediatrics Instructor
Recognition Program this past
fall. The Department of Pediatrics
Instructor Recognition Program aims
to recognize instructor/senior
instructor faculty who are making
substantive contributions to the
university above and beyond their
primarily clinical roles. Read more
[here](#) .

Russ Cherne, PA-C, Class of 2002,
passed away this fall, and most
recently practiced in the Denver
area. Our condolences go out to
Russ' family, friends, and colleagues.



Have an Idea
for our
Newsletter?

We love to hear from



Job Listings!

Do you know that we
have an active job



Interested in precepting CHA/PA students?

our alumni that are doing unique things in the PA field. If you are interested in being a part of a future alumni spotlight in our newsletter, please email pa-info@ucdenver.edu and we will follow-up with you.

There are so many advantages to training our next generation of PA students. If you are considering being a preceptor to CHA/PA students check out this area of our website [Preceptor section](#) and contact us today!

listings page on our website? If you are looking for a new opportunity, you can find [job listings](#) on the Alumni webpage.

If you have an open PA position in your practice, we are happy to post the listing to our website. Email pa-info@ucdenver.edu to add a listing to our website.

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Web: <https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/physician-assistant-program>

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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