In late 2010, we received the exciting news that we had been awarded a 5-year HRSA grant, which we have named the Underserved Community (UCS) Scholarship Program. This funding, made possible through the Expansion of Physician Assistant Training grant program, enables us to further our mission by placing students in a new longitudinal community-based experience during their clinical year. Program Director Patricia Dieter is the project director for this grant. The grant provides scholarship funds to a select number of students who then spend six months completing a clinical rotation in an underserved community of North Carolina. During this rotation, the students will complete the equivalent of an 8-week rotation in Primary Care, a 4-week rotation in Pediatrics, a 4-week rotation in Obstetrics and Gynecology, a 4-week rotation in Behavioral Medicine and a Primary Care-based elective. The students live in the community for the duration of their rotation, allowing for integration into the community and possibly employment in a similar setting after graduation.

Shortly after learning of the grant award, we were charged with identifying four students from the Class of 2012 who were ideally suited for this new project. We looked for students who were dedicated to working in primary care with underserved populations. We developed a rigorous application and interview process, and received 17 applications by the early 2011
Recently, my mother passed away at the age of 86. She was a teacher, mentor, and friend to many. I remember the moment when she first encouraged me to become a PA. In school to become a nurse, I realized that the nursing profession might not be the best path for me in my journey to provide comprehensive care to underserved patients in rural areas. My mother recognized that, and carefully clipped an article from the Sunday newspaper about PAs. She never wavered in her support of my entering this new profession. I owe her much for that.

Each August, at the conclusion of Orientation week, we have a White Coat Ceremony. The ceremony is a wonderful and meaningful tradition in which students are welcomed as colleagues dedicated to compassionate and competent patient care. The White Coat Ceremony has been part of our program for the past decade. One of the speakers each year is Peggy Robinson, Duke PA Class of 1992 and Scheele Award Recipient. She movingly reminds the students and faculty to remember the moment when they first knew they wanted to take care of patients.

So, I encourage all of our graduates, recent and remote, to remember their moments – when they were first told about the profession, or first met a PA, or first cared for a patient and knew this is how they would spend the rest of their professional working lives. And if a PA or a family member inspired you, send them a note, call them, and let them know how much their encouragement meant to you.
My first assignment as the new Chair of the Duke Physician Assistant Alumni Steering Committee was a great opportunity for me. I was asked to induct two outstanding physician assistants into the Alumni Hall of Fame. Michael G. Phillips, from the Class of 1973, was the first inductee. Michael has been a pioneer in the field of organ procurement, preservation and transplantation. He is currently president and CEO at Life Connection of Ohio, an independent, nonprofit organ procurement organization. The second inductee was James H. Carter, Jr., who served as Chair of the Physician Assistant Alumni Steering Committee from 2006 to 2011, and Distinguished Alumnus for 2011. We all owe Jay a debt of gratitude for his years of service to this committee, for his leadership, friendship, and the many contributions he has made to our profession.

In the audience for the Alumni Hall of Fame ceremony were the Class of 2013 (the Class of 2012 were on clinical rotations). Looking into the audience and seeing those eager, excited faces brought back many memories of my own excitement and yes, some memories of anxiety and fear during my years as a Duke PA student. After the ceremony and induction of Michael and Jay, attendees were able to tour the state of the art Duke Physician Assistant educational facilities.

Also present at this event were four PA students and their clinical coordinator from Fort Bragg who joined us for the ceremony and to visit the birthplace of the PA profession.

We have so much history here at Duke and each graduate is a part of this history. We need to remember those graduates from the first five classes, 1967 through 1971, for without their efforts and success, the profession would not have succeeded. I salute all the Duke University Physician Assistant graduates for their continued achievements in healthcare delivery, education, research and management. I applaud the faculty and staff, present and past, of DPAP who through vision and tireless work have consistently made this the best Physician Assistant Program in the country.

During our Alumni Steering Committee meeting November 9, 2011, I was happy to see my fellow committee members, sad to say good-bye to Jay and delighted to meet Ms. Jennifer Pennington, the Alumni and Preceptor Development Program Coordinator. Jennifer brings energy, expertise and gracious “southern” hospitality to this position. Whether mailing a card to a former alum with family illness, trying to collect and update contact information on alumni or working hard to set up new preceptorships, Jennifer is one busy lady. Jennifer reports she has

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News from Alumni

Victor Germino ('67) was honored by the Veterans’ Caucus of the AAPA for the role he played in creation of the PA profession, “being a true pioneer” and also proclaimed honorary lifetime member of the VAPA Association.

Judy (Storsteen) Ortiz (’93) accepted the position of Program Director at Pacific University on July 1, 2011. Judy began at Pacific 14 years ago as an academic coordinator and then became associate director prior to being promoted to her current position. Congratulations Judy!

Gail Albergo (’02) was promoted to Lead Clinician for the Durham VA Hillandale Primary Care Clinic in January 2011.

Christina Law (’02) and her husband, Samson, were blessed with a daughter, Sienna Jade Lee, born on September 15, 2010, weighing 6 pounds and 12 ounces and measuring 20 inches in length.

April Stouder (’01) and her husband, Keith, became second-time parents on May 3, 2011 when baby boy Liam Heaston was born. He weighed 5 pounds and 6 ounces. Big sister Emerson was overjoyed!

Tina Christiaens (’03) and her husband, Richard, welcomed a baby girl they named Gracelyn Ruth on November 10, 2010. She weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 18 ¼ inches long.

Erin Kunz (’07) and her husband, Mike, welcomed Natalie Ann Kunz to their family, born on June 15, 2010, 8 pounds, 11 ounces, and 22.5 inches.

Kristen Specht (’08) and her husband, Jessamyn, recently became parents. Evelyn Marie was born on November 15, 2010. She weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 18.5 inches long.

Amelia Craver (’09) and her husband, Alex, became the parents of a baby boy on August 19, 2011. His name is Rowan Edward and he weighed 6 pounds and 5 ounces.

Elizabeth Bachiochi (’09) and her husband, Dave, became parents of a baby girl, Adelyn Grace, on August 1, 2011. Adelyn weighed 6 pounds and 1 ounce.

Kathryn Stovall (’09) and her husband, Adam, had a baby girl on November 28, 2011. They named her Reese Emmaline and she weighed 7 pounds and 13 ounces. Reese joins big sister McKenna.

Christina Vetere (’11) and Catherine Stamey (’11) were accepted into the Duke PA Surgical Residency Program which began in September 2011.

An article featured in the January 3, 2012 issue of the Raleigh, NC newspaper The News and Observer, “How to get fit and stay well this year,” highlighted James “Jim” Hill’s (’76) approach to a healthier lifestyle.

In memoriam

Theresa Lucatorto Gambaro (’96) passed away on Monday, December 6, 2010. Before her passing, Theresa developed a website “Theresa Gambaro Legacy Project” (www.tgambarolegacy.com) which contains dedications, essays, photographs, and links important to her.

Ronald Charles Denton, Sr. (’75) passed away at Duke University Medical Center on Thursday, May 19, 2011. A funeral service was held on Sunday, May 22, 2011 at Catawba Valley Baptist Church in Morganton, NC.

Kenneth Edgar Lewis (’89) passed away on Monday, January 9, 2012 at his residence in High Point, NC. A funeral service was held on Friday, January 13, 2012 at Culdee Presbyterian Church in West End, NC.
2011 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year

At the Duke Physician Assistant Commencement Ceremony on May 15, 2011, James H. Carter, Jr., MHS, PA-C was recognized as the 2011 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. Mr. Carter is a 1986 graduate of the Duke PA Program, and returned to Duke to earn the MHS in 1994. Mr. Carter entered military service in 1988 as a Direct Commission Officer in the United States Navy, and has attained the current rank of Commander. Mr. Carter’s career in the civilian world has been spent at Duke in Neurosurgery, where he has practiced for many years with renowned neurosurgeon Allan Friedman, MD. He is a co-contributor to several publications and research projects and assistant professor in the Department of Surgery. In service to the PA profession, Mr. Carter’s leadership roles include service to the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants and Triangle Area Physician Assistants. Mr. Carter teaches and serves on the admissions committee of the Duke PA Program. He served on the Alumni Steering Committee since 2001 and as president from 2006 to 2011.

Lisa Shock, MHS, PA-C presents award to James H. Carter, MHS, PA-C

Joyce Nichols is Honored

Joyce Clayton Nichols, PA class of 1970, was honored by the Auxiliary to the Durham Academy of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy on Saturday, August 20, 2011 at its 18th Annual Legacy Luncheon at the Hilton Durham Hotel. The Keynote Speaker was Cedric M. Bright, MD the 112th President of the National Medical Association (NMA).

Joyce was honored for being the first woman PA in the US, graduating in 1970 from the Duke PA Program. Joyce’s distinguished career is noteworthy for many “firsts.” She started one of the first rural health clinics in North Carolina, was a charter member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants, and a Trustee for Durham Regional Hospital. She was also an Instructor at the Duke PA Program, served as commissioner for the Durham Housing Authority, and as Chair of the Lincoln Community Health Center Board. Joyce practiced at Duke for 16 years and at Lincoln Community Health Center for 23 years. While at Lincoln, she started a weight control clinic, diabetes clinic, hypertension clinic and foot care program. Joyce was recognized by the Duke PA Program as Distinguished Alumnus in 2002 and is also a member of the PA Program Hall of Fame, among her many awards and recognitions.

Annual NCAPA Summer Conference

The NCAPA held its annual summer conference in Myrtle Beach August 14 through 19, 2011. Approximately thirty alumni joined Division Chief, Justine Strand de Oliveira, at the alumni luncheon on August 16.

The Duke PA Program is well represented within NCAPA. Members of our faculty attend the conference or serve as guest lecturers, and we meet with many of our alumni during the Alumni Luncheons held at the meetings. Peggy R. Robinson chairs the Diversity Committee and program director Pat Dieter is newly appointed to the Internal Audit Committee. Student representatives are chosen from each class: Michele Johnson is the student representative for Class of 2013 and Fiona Mensah for Class of 2012.

Students from each class now visit the Stead Center each year for a tour and to hear former DPAP program director Dr. Reginald Carter speak about the history of the PA profession.

Duke PA Pioneers

The Pioneers of the Duke PA Program — graduates of the first five PA classes, 1967 through 1971 — are widely acknowledged as having laid the groundwork for the PA profession. Despite trying times and less than ideal working conditions during their education and after graduation, the Pioneers’ dedication to patient care prevailed. The PA Program recently added a link to our website highlighting all graduates of the first five years. In addition, on May 26, 2011, Duke University President Richard H. Brodhead wrote a letter recognizing the first graduates and their many accomplishments. Please visit their recognition page at http://pa.mc.duke.edu/Hall-of-Fame/Pioneers/.
PA Day 2011

Our annual PA Day Celebration was held on October 5, 2011 as part of National PA Week. Alumni, students, staff, and faculty joined together for the Hall of Fame induction and reception. Among the speakers were E. Harvey Estes, Jr., MD, one of the founders of the PA profession, and Susan Blackwell, MHS, PA-C ('89), Alumni Steering Committee Chair. Michael G. Phillips, BHS, PA-C, DFAAPA ('73) and James H. Carter, Jr., MHS, PA-C ('86) were inducted into the Hall of Fame. We were honored to have special guests MAJ Amelia Duran-Stanton, PhD, DScPA, PA-C and four PA students from Womack Army Medical Center.
Alumni News

AAPA’s 39th Annual Physician Assistant Conference

Almost 9,000 people headed to Las Vegas for the 39th Annual AAPA Conference, making it one of AAPA’s largest conferences! Thirty-five students from the Class of 2012 joined alumni and faculty at the meeting. The Duke PA Alumni reception was held on June 1, 2011, which was the perfect occasion to network, catch up, and relax. The Challenge Bowl Team, made up of Jessica Weather, Andrea Calef, and Lindsey Brun represented the program at the SAAPA Challenge Bowl on Sunday, May 29th. Their classmates eagerly rooted them on, but not before donning their Duke-blue war paint!

Zach Asher ('10) and guest (left), and Karen Hills

Challenge Bowl contestants Lindsey Brun, Jessica Weather, and Andrea Calef

Loyal fans show their spirit at the Challenge Bowl

Bud Shelton ('74), John Braun ('68), Carl Fasser ('69), Jim Bartow ('71), Prentiss Harrison ('68), Steve Joyner ('68), Charles Lewis ('71), Gil Nelmes ('71), Gary Phelps ('71), Jim Konopa ('70), Bob Freeman ('71), Barry Cassidy ('71), Bill Stanhope ('69) with Pat Dieter

36th Annual NCAPA Summer Conference
August 19 - 24, 2012
Kingston Plantation
Alumni Lunch
Myrtle Beach, SC

AAPA Conference: IMPACT 2012
May 26 - 31, 2012
Metro Toronto Convention Centre
Alumni Reception
Toronto, Ontario
Early in 2011, Jay Carter expressed his desire for a reunion of his PA classmates (1986). Jay has served for many years as chair of the Duke PA Program Alumni Steering Committee, and in true leader fashion he delegated to the 1986 class representative to “make it happen”… Once the summons went out to those for whom we had contact information, the response was amazing! Out of a class of thirty-eight, twenty-three expressed an interest in coming, though only nineteen were able to make the journey due to other commitments.

The Alums descended upon Durham during the Duke Alumni Weekend from all over the US. Each had their own story to share about their journey as PAs since that fateful graduation day.

The weekend began with a small group of golf enthusiasts hacking it out at the Hillandale Golf Course. Later that evening the group gathered at the PA Program’s new facility on Duke Street, which was a first time visit for the vast majority. As the tour began, eyes were wide with wonder at the elaborate building design and landscaping. Upon arriving at the “state-of-the-art” lecture room, each former student scrambled to a seat to have their picture taken for posterity. A classmate who had texted regrets about not being able to attend was sent a copy real time. The group continued to file past the dedicated labs, physical exam rooms, instructional simulators and other amenities enjoyed by current students. Of course the tour was filled with commentary on how it was done “in the good old days”.

No reunion would be complete without a slide show of old pictures from days past. The PA Program graciously set up a laptop to display, on their wall mounted, 32-inch flat screen TV monitor, snapshots of the Class of ’86 studying, playing and gathering for our Friday “refueling” at Rockwood Filling Station (now Q-Shack).

Though the weekend passed quickly, over an hour was spent in the former classroom, with each in their respective seat, reminiscing about all that made those PA student days memorable. Whether it was quirks of instructors, mishaps in the lab or clinical rotations, all accounts were as real as if they had just happened. We reflected on the quality medical education we received which afforded us access to limitless avenues of expression.

The time for our final farewell was bit-tersweet as we assembled for dinner together. Cameras were again flashing and contact information exchanged with the promise that it will not be another twenty-five years before we meet again.

Upon returning home we shared via the web our collage of pictures and departing comments about a weekend well spent.

As for Jay Carter, who completed his term as chair of the Alumni Steering Committee, it was a great way to end his tenure. We encourage other PA classes to follow our lead and come back for your own reunion!
Our class is filled with a mixture of excitement and nerves as we marvel at how much knowledge we gained in the first year of PA school. It feels like just a short time ago we were all meeting for the first time, and now we are out of the classroom and onto clinical rotations. The time is flying by, but everyday our class is taking the knowledge we gained from the classroom and applying it in our clinical year.

Throughout our first year in PA school we explored Durham, finding the best places to eat, study, work out, watch Duke Basketball games, and hang out together as a class. We also came together as a class to help serve our community. As a class we donated over 300 books to the children’s hospital, collected hundreds of dollars worth of supplies to send to our troops overseas, and coordinated a blood drive through the American Red Cross. We also participated in the annual Burton Elementary project. Our biggest contribution to the community was our Stead Society Shave-a-thon, which raised money for the St Baldrick’s foundation benefitting pediatric cancer research. Members of our class pledged to shave their heads for donations made to our event. As a class we raised over $15,300 for the foundation. This was a great accomplishment for our class and was an excellent way to reach out and connect with the community, raising awareness for the cause and the program.

From Durham to Sri Lanka, Duke PA students are working in all areas of medicine during their clinical experiences. At call back days everyone shares their tips and stories for being successful in various settings.

We are looking forward to graduation in just a few short months! It is an exciting and challenging time.
It really is quite incredible how quickly a group of 80 complete strangers can become a family. The Class of 2013 came to Durham as a group of unique individuals from the far stretches of the country, all anxious and excited to find a new home at the Duke Physician Assistant Program.

The phenomenal building our program is housed in made the first element of our transition very easy. What we affectionately refer to as DPAP came equipped with ergonomically designed chairs, groundbreaking technology, a plethora of study rooms, refrigerators, showers, microwaves, and many strategically placed coffee makers. In addition, the abundance of patient assessment rooms, an anatomy model room, and a wet lab made for an ideal learning environment that we all gratefully accepted as a home away from home. Incredibly, as we began to get to know each other we found it just as easy to develop a tight-knit community of learners. As we were quickly thrown into the rigorous curriculum, we discovered not only our unique strengths that make us capable of handling this program, but also the uniting characteristic each member of this class possesses: passion for learning and medicine.

That passion for learning was obvious from the start, and our pursuit of academic excellence allowed us to bond as a community of learners hungry for knowledge. With each others’ help, we’ve mastered complicated subjects at an unbelievably rapid rate. We also found ways to bond with each other outside of the classroom, taking much needed mental breaks from the rigorous program. Duke’s Basketball Campout served as a unique way to get to know each other from the start. The annual event beckoned many of our classmates, along with other Duke graduate students, to endure a rainy weekend of camping on campus made even more difficult by the constant barrage of check-in alarms sounding all day and night. We attended football games, basketball games, participated in flag football, and explored the unique culture that Durham has to offer while pacing our way through the countless exams administered throughout the year.

The Stead Society has proven to be a perfect platform for our class efforts to serve the community. In addition to many of the traditional Stead Society outreach activities, the Class of 2013 has initiated many new projects and events. We kicked off the year with a large book drive, donating a variety of books to children facing significant medical challenges. Our class also enthusiastically participated in “Movember,” a worldwide campaign that seeks to raise awareness for men’s health by encouraging men to grow moustaches throughout the month of November. The intention of the Movember moustaches is to spark conversation and spread awareness of frequently ignored men’s health issues. As our male classmates valiantly groomed their moustaches we all championed their efforts. We held a Thanksgiving food drive at the end of November, spreading holiday cheer to those less fortunate. In addition to all of these activities, our class has taken a special interest in working with the Melanoma Research Foundation in honor of a 2010 graduate fighting stage IV melanoma. We have initiated a variety of fundraising activities for this cause, including a winter holiday party and events at local restaurants. The Stead Society has also initiated a
Laura Gleason (‘12) and her husband, Donald, had a baby girl on March 16, 2011. Baby Audra weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces.

Roger Gomez (‘12) and wife, Adriana, welcomed baby girl Kaitlyn Gabrielle to their family. She was born on July 10, 2011 and weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces.

“Green Team” committee in an effort to reduce our program’s environmental impact. The Green Team has successfully made changes to reduce energy expenditure, increase recycling efforts, encourage economic transportation, and keep us all conscious of the need to reduce our carbon footprint.

As we’re reaching the end of the long winter days and looking forward to spring, we still have so much to look forward to in the months and year ahead. March marks the start of fundraising efforts for St. Baldrick’s Foundation, a volunteer-driven charity committed to funding research for childhood cancer. Many of our class members will volunteer to shave their heads if enough funds are donated to the charity on their behalf. Our class is also preparing for our 10th anniversary of the Burton Elementary School project in April, when we will be returning to the fourth grade classroom to teach students about the importance of healthy eating, exercise, and personal hygiene. We are also excited to continue hosting the annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Many of our classmates will also attend the AAPA conference in Toronto, Canada at the end of May, where we will have the opportunity to interact with students in PA programs across the United States.

It is hard to believe that we will be starting our clinical rotations soon. When we enter our rotations, we will be doing so motivated by the same passion that fostered our sense of family. Most of all, we are motivated and united by the deep passion we have all developed for this incredible Physician Assistant Program we all now call home.

Class of 2013
Stead Society Officers

The Class of 2013 elected the following officers to the Stead Society: Lance Adams, President; Allison Ross, Vice President; Amy Hacker, Secretary; Kim Milliam, Treasurer; Rob Browning, HOD Representative; Kate Pocock, SAAAPA Representative; Liza Humes, SAAAPA Alternate; Michele Johnson, NCAPA Student Representative; Sarah Ramey, Graduate Professional Student Council Representative; Terri McGuire, Diversity Chair; Aleya Hyderi, External Affairs; Lisa Langmesser, Honor Council. The faculty advisor for the Stead Society is Karen Hills.

The Alumni Steering Committee would like to welcome a new member, Kimberly Schulz (‘13), who will represent the student body as the Alumni Steering Committee student representative.
The Diploma and Award Ceremony for the 72 members of the Class of 2011 was held at the Washington Duke Inn on Sunday, May 15, 2011. The Hippocratic Oath was led by Vice Dean Edward G. Buckley, MD, and the graduate remarks were made by Nicole Lane. The award for Distinguished Alumnus of the Year was given to James H. Carter, Jr., MHS, PA-C ('86), and Tiffany Ingold was presented the Richard J. Scheele award. The Honorary Physician Assistant Award was given to the Program’s Medical Director, Margaret Gradison, MD, MHS-CL, and
certificates of appreciation were given to Adam Coleman, MSPAS, PA-C, Lisa Clark Pickett, MD, FACS, and Brandi Tuttle, MSLIS, AHIP.

Concluding remarks were given by Annamarie Streilein, MHS, PA-C. Music for the processional and recessional was provided by the Capital String Ensemble. The ceremony was followed by a reception for graduates and their guests, faculty, and staff.
On April 8, 2011, Duke University PA Program Class of 2012 partnered with the Learning Together Program and Burton Elementary to sponsor an afternoon-long hygiene education session for the school’s 4th grade class. They delivered an interactive skit, “The Blue Devil of Oz,” learning stations, and a game of Jeopardy.
Duke PA Class of 2013 and their families were given a warm welcome at a picnic in their honor on August 19, 2011 at the Doris Duke Center. Faculty, staff, and the Class of 2012 were also in attendance. A great time was had by all!
5th Annual Blood Drive

Class of 2012 partnered with the American Red Cross to organize the 5th Annual Blood Drive on June 16, 2011. Forty-nine units were collected and thirty-five people were first time donors. Thanks to Class of 2012 organizers Kim Butler and Sarah Hall!

Pretty in Pink

The Class of 2013 (yes, even the guys!) wore pink on October 19, 2011 to show their support of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
St. Baldrick’s Event

As part of National Service Month, the Class of 2012 hosted a St. Baldrick’s head shaving event on April 22, 2011 to raise funds and awareness for pediatric oncology.

Purple and Pearls

On November 15, 2011, members of the Class of 2013 wore “Purple and Pearls” to raise awareness for lung cancer (pearls) and pancreatic cancer (purple).
Movember

The Duke PA Class of 2013 celebrated the month of Movember (November 1st-30th) by growing moustaches in support of men’s health. The goal of Movember is to promote awareness, education, survivorship, and research related to men’s health.

Ronald McDonald House

On June 20, 2011, 20 students from the Class of 2012 cooked and served dinner to about 50 residents at the Ronald McDonald House of Durham. Food and supplies for the event were donated by members of the Class of 2012 as well as members of the DPAP faculty and staff.

Global Health Experience

In January 2012, three members of the Class of 2012 completed a clinical rotation in Galle, Sri Lanka.

Harvey®, the cardiopulmonary patient simulator, provides comprehensive instruction in cardiac auscultation. Teaching physical diagnosis skills to Duke students has always been a priority, and the program’s two new Harvey Simulators were funded by a federal grant and enhance our curriculum tremendously. As our simulation suites are on site, the students are able to access these excellent teaching resources at their convenience. The Duke PA Program recently participated in a multi-institutional educational research study validating the instructional efficacy of this teaching resource. Along with Duke, Emory, Drexel and Miami Dade physician assistant students engaged in a cardiac auscultation curriculum that greatly enhanced their competence and confidence in this essential skill set.
As a preceptor, I enjoy being a part of the development of the next generation of clinicians. The PA students are enthusiastic learners and dedicated to the care of their patients. During the Internal Medicine rotation, students are exposed to a diverse patient population and this allows them to hone their clinical skills and build confidence in their ability to manage patients. Concepts that were covered in the classroom setting are now put within the context of their patient, and it is exciting to see students make the connection between didactics and the real world application of their knowledge. By serving as a preceptor, I contribute to a legacy of teaching that honors the educators of the past and inspires the educators of tomorrow.

Vernee Belcher, MD, Durham Regional Hospital

I feel precepting is just one way for me to give back to my profession and the Duke PA Program. Precepting helps keep me sharp clinically, and I enjoy hearing back from previous students once they are out practicing on their own.

Liz Riley, MHS, PA-C, Duke PA Program Class of 2004

Precepting PA students is very rewarding. I really enjoy helping to educate students who are looking for practical knowledge in the care of surgical patients. It helps me to drill down all the information into the most important points for patient management. I also enjoy that PA students are generally very sensitive to the emotional needs of the patients, and I try to encourage this aspect of their professional development.

Lisa Pickett, MD, Durham Regional Hospital

My fondest memories are of my days at the Duke PA Program and in particular, the mentors who helped me along the way. I hope to have that same impact on students. I consider my role as a preceptor a privilege, an obligation and an honor.

LCDR Karla H. Bowens, MHS, PA-C, US Public Health Service

I have helped with this since approximately 1999, and I enjoy the challenge that this brings to my practice. I consider it an honor and I always walk away from each student having learned something. I have approximately 6-8 students per year, and love their enthusiasm and ability to learn quickly. I would like to continue this, and would love the opportunity to come on campus and teach sometime!

Susan J. Horlick, MHS, PA-C, Duke PA Program Class of 1991, MHS Class of 1995

I precept because I love medicine and teaching, and because of the Hippocratic Oath. Precepting renews basic knowledge when questions are asked by students.

Richard Bloomfield, MD, Newport Family Medicine, Newport, NC

I enjoy precepting for many reasons. Not only do we have the opportunity to teach but as teachers there is a lot we can be taught as well. More importantly, in order to take our profession seriously and ensure its success, it is our responsibility to prepare the future clinicians.

Adam Coleman, MSPAS, PA-C, Emergency Department Education Director

Duke PA Program clinical preceptors play an essential role in the education of students in the clinical phase of the curriculum. This role involves important teaching and mentoring responsibilities that consistently yield meaningful benefits to the students, the PA profession, and the preceptors themselves. We recently invited several of our valued clinical preceptors to share their perspectives on precepting and what continues to compel them to support Duke PA education as part of their professional practice.
A new Clinical Coordinator has joined the program! **Melinda Blazar, MHS, PA-C** joined the PA faculty in August 2011. Melinda has been a Lecturer, small group facilitator, and clinical preceptor for the PA Program in addition to her full-time clinical duties. Melinda is a graduate of Colgate University in New York and completed the Duke PA Program in 2007. Prior to joining the PA faculty, Melinda worked in family medicine. Her clinical interests include pediatrics and adolescent medicine, as well as women’s health. Welcome, Melinda!

**Alison Siler** began working as a Staff Specialist in the Physician Assistant Program at Duke University in August of 2011. Alison works with both the pre-clinical and clinical year teams. Alison hails from Charlotte Mecklenburg County. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a double minor in Music & African American Studies. Alison has a passion for helping people with special needs, along with her love of music, gardening and working at Duke University!

**Latanya West** joined the staff of the PA Program in February 2011 as administrative secretary. She has a BS in Sport Management from Towson University. Originally from Washington, D.C, she currently resides in Raleigh with her family.

**Suzanne Scott** accepted the position of Clinical Year Staff Specialist of the Duke PA Program in April 2010, providing staff support for the Clinical Team. Annie joined the PA Program in November 2009 as administrative secretary.

Three faculty members were promoted this year. **Justine Strand de Oliveira, DrPH, PA-C** was promoted to Professor. **Perri Morgan, PhD, PA-C** was promoted to Associate Professor, and **Annamarie Streilein, MHS, PA-C** was promoted to Assistant Professor.
Greetings from the Duke Physician Assistant Alumni Office! After working at the Duke PA Program since June 2007, it was an exciting step for me to move into the role of Alumni / Preceptor Development Program Coordinator in April 2011. I originally came to the PA Program in a position working primarily with the Admissions Team. As the class size grew and clinical year needs became greater, I transitioned into a role as staff support of the Clinical Year Team. After working with the Clinical Team for three years and working so closely with our second-year students and preceptors, applying for the position that our beloved Mildred Woody retired from after 35 years seemed like a perfect scenario – I could further my career by taking on more responsibilities, but I could continue to work with the (former) students that I adored and preceptors that I had established relationships with.

As part of my position as Alumni / Preceptor Development Program Coordinator, I am here to support you as Duke PA Alumni. I am excited about getting to know you, letting you know what is going on with the Program, and helping you stay connected with each other. Every day that I have this position, I learn more and more about you and I become increasingly proud of your accomplishments. I am here to take care of any Alumni needs you have and if I can’t take care of them personally, I can certainly point you in the right direction.

The other aspect of my position is related to Preceptor Development. I am charged with identifying new preceptors and helping show our undying gratitude to the preceptors we currently utilize. As someone who worked extensively with the Clinical Year Team, I know that our preceptors are key players in the education of our PA students. We currently utilize over 150 sites every year, and our need grows with each student that matriculates into the Program. We are always in need of quality preceptors, and if you have ever considered precepting, I am available to help you with the process and provide resources.

On a final note, one of my major projects over the past several months has been to find you! If you have moved residences or changed your email address, please let me know. I send emails periodically about various Alumni events, and I need your mailing address for items such as the Alumni newsletters and surveys. I am really excited about the opportunity to serve the Alumni of the Duke PA Program. I can think of no job that would be more enjoyable.
Underserved Community Scholarship Program

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deadline. After interviewing 11 students, the Underserved Community Scholarship Committee selected four students who were dedicated to the cause and flexible enough to leave their “real” lives to become part of another community for six months. In exchange for this experience, the students received $22,000 in tuition support for each of their two years at the PA Program. The students selected from the Class of 2012 were Kimberlee Butler, Elena Hierseman, Samantha Kephart, and Latisha Patterson.

The scholarship recipients were excited and honored when they learned the news. “I am looking forward to working in a clinical setting where I don’t have the advanced technologies that I am offered at larger institutions such as Duke, therefore, relying more on my history and physical exam skills that I learned throughout PA school,” said Latisha Patterson.

Samantha Kephart said, “I feel very honored to be chosen as one of the first students to represent Duke in the UCS project. When the opportunity was first mentioned, I knew immediately I was going to apply because it is a perfect match for my career goals.”

In collaboration with the North Carolina Medical Society Community Practitioner Program, we identified sites that would be amenable to hosting a student for a 6-month period and could provide the patient experiences required to meet curriculum standards. We established Murphy Medical Center in Murphy, NC, Vance Family Medicine in Oxford, NC, Robeson Health Care in Lumberton, NC, and sites in Ahoskie, NC as locations for the first year of this unique experience. The first four students began their longitudinal underserved community experience in January 2012.

Kimberlee Butler, who is completing her rotation in Ahoskie, NC, says, “I am very impressed by the genuine warmth and hospitality shown to me by my preceptors, the staff and patients. I know I will learn a great deal in the coming months about providing quality care in a rural, medically underserved setting.”

The number of students funded per year will increase over the five year grant period. The Class of 2013 will have six student participants, and the Classes of 2014, 2015, and 2016 will have eight. The application deadline for the Class of 2013 was January 3, 2012, and 15 applications were received. According to project director Pat Dieter, “This is one of the most exciting grant opportunities to come our way. It provides new opportunities for students with strong primary care interests to develop longitudinal relationships with patients and community providers, strengthening their resolve to practice with underserved communities.”

Susan Blackwell, MHS, PA-C, Class of 1989

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1100 active email addresses for Duke Physician Assistant alumni. However, 35% of alums have not updated their information in almost five years.

At the conclusion of our meeting, we all took a walk down the new “Wall of Fame”. There were stories shared, laughs and sighs as we reminisced and viewed the class photos from every graduating class from 1967 to 2011. The Wall of Fame is truly a walk down memory lane. Don’t miss it when you come back to campus.

As Chair of the Alumni Steering Committee, my goal for the next year is to work closely with Jennifer, Justine Strand de Oliveira and my fellow committee members to connect with as many Duke PA alumni as possible. Be on the look out for us reaching out to you. Please visit the PA program website at pa.mc.duke.edu, follow us on Facebook, or contact Jennifer at jennifer.pennington@dm.duke.edu or me at susan.blackwell@dm.duke.edu to update your information and reconnect. As always, a big thank you to the alumni of the Duke PA Program for representing our profession honorably, donating your time as preceptors for students, and for your generous contributions to the program. Please keep in touch with us.
## Contributions to the Alumni Scholarship Fund

Pledges and gifts listed were contributed between July 1, 2010 and December 31, 2011.

### Pledges over 5 year period

**Stead Club**

- $5,000
  - James H. Carter, Jr. ('86)
  - Pat and Bob Dieter
  - Mary Ettari ('81)*
  - Stacey and Andrew McCorison ('88)
  - Justine Strand de Oliveira ('81)

**Platinum**

- $2,500 - $4,999
  - Dawn and James Phares ('78)
  - Kathy Vokaty ('79)

**Gold**

- $1,000 - $2,499
  - Lovest Alexander, Jr. ('78)
  - John Horn, Jr. ('78)
  - Janet Khashab ('96)
  - Jonnie and James Marshall ('94)
  - Mary Cherney and Daniel Mattingly ('81)
  - Miguel Pineiro ('04)
  - Elmina Powell ('86)
  - Sherrie Spear ('95)
  - Jeffrey Stajich ('81)
  - Annamarie Streilein ('95)

**Silver**

- $500 - $999
  - Bruce Bennett ('79)
  - Mary Driebeek ('84)
  - Peggy Robinson ('92)

**Major Scholarship Gifts**

- Nancy and James Hill, Jr. ('76)
- Margo and Andrew Illobre ('87)
- Lisa and John McElligott ('74)
- Eric and Susan Poncelet ('93)

### Gifts

**Platinum**

- $2,500 - $4,999
  - Sheri Woo Agran ('98)

**Gold**

- $1,000 - $2,499
  - Mary Jo Bondy ('93)
  - Angela Richardson ('06)

**Silver**

- $500 - $999
  - Darlene Haviland ('89)*
  - Kenda Singer ('78)*
  - Justine Strand de Oliveira ('81)*

**Bronze**

- $100 - $499
  - Nancy Bahnsen ('04)
  - Lorrie Bates ('92)
  - James Blacksher, III ('83)
  - Julia Burfeind ('96)
  - Sherry and Reginald Carter ('78)*
  - Earl Echard ('73)
  - Michael and Marilyn Fitzgerald*
  - Mark Gallegos ('02)
  - Karen Hills and Gary James*
  - Rosann Ippolito ('82)
  - Elizabeth Jobe ('76)
  - Karol Kochsmeier ('89)

**Other gifts**

- Erin Kunz ('07)
- Christine Law ('02)
- Peter and Margarita Lyons ('96)
- Richard McIlvoy ('71)
- Sheryl McNally ('89)
- National Philanthropic Trust
- Mark and Cecile Noel ('94)*
- Jeanne Rabold*
- Karen Russell ('01)
- Ellen Seitelman ('00)
- William Vaassen ('74)
- Clara Vanderbilt ('71)*
- Heather Ying Yang ('96)

* Pledge or gift in honor of Mildred Woody
The Duke Physician Assistant Program’s mission is to educate caring, competent primary care physician assistants who practice evidence-based medicine, are leaders in the profession, dedicated to their communities, culturally sensitive, and devoted to positive transformation of the health care system.

Let Us Hear From You!

Alumni are interested in hearing from you! Send us a note about your professional activities, any “demographic” changes (marriage, children, moves), honors, newspaper articles or anything else you would like to share.

Please send your note to:
Jennifer Pennington
Dept. of CFM - DUMC 104780
Durham, North Carolina 27710
PAalumni@mc.duke.edu

Tara Hanaway-Quinlan (’12) enjoys the Welcome Picnic with her canine companion, Sabrina.