

Spring 2003



Department of Community and Family Medicine

Physician Assistant Program

Barry Cassidy, PhD, PA-C ('71) — It All Happened Because Of Duke

Justine Strand, MPH, PA-C



Barry Cassidy took a chance on a new occupation more than 30 years ago, leaving a secure job as a deputy sheriff in Waukegan, Illinois to move to Durham and take a position at Duke Hospital on Knott Ward. Even after beginning work at Duke, there was no guarantee of acceptance into the PA program, but Cassidy was so taken with an article about PAs in a 1968 issue of *Look* magazine that he took a chance and pursued the possibility. "To be honest, I don't know why they picked us, we certainly were not the academic elite by any stretch of the imagination. I think what we all had in common in those years was some propensity to take risk, probably out of naiveté more than out of planning. But that was enough to get us through."

A former corpsman in the Air Force, Cassidy had only three hours of college course credits when he entered the Duke PA Program in 1969. This was typical of the time, with the vast majority of PA students having no college degree. "I don't think that more than 20% of the people in my class had a college degree, the vast majority of us were corpsmen who did not have undergraduate training. Somehow they taught us the science of medicine. For example, Professor George Spooner figured out a way to teach chemistry and biochemistry in 9 months to a bunch of people who had zero chemistry background. He was a wonderful teacher who somehow got us all to learn it. I remember one time we had a substitute professor from UNC who was lecturing and we were all looking at him like deer in the headlights, and he said, 'My God, you'd think you guys had never had any chemistry!' And we all said, 'We haven't!'"

From Knott Ward to his current groundbreaking position as the first PA to serve as Executive Director of a state medical board, Cassidy experienced the thrill and the uncertainty of being one of the first in a new profession called physician assistant. Immediately after graduating from Duke in 1971, he returned to Illinois and entered practice with a young, forward-thinking physician. Several articles about this new type of clinician appeared in the Chicago-area newspapers, and caught the eye of a physician who found the concept offensive and filed a complaint with the medical regulatory agency. Cassidy arrived at work one morning to find a state investigator at his clinic. There was no enabling legislation for PAs in Illinois at that time, as was the case

see **Barry Cassidy** on page 18



Justine Strand, MPH, PA-C

In the preparation for our reaccreditation site visit in April, we performed a thorough and honest study of the program and its curriculum. Going forward, we will scrutinize the curriculum on an ongoing basis for adherence to the ARC-PA standards. We continue to strive to educate not only the very best PAs in America, but future leaders for the health care system. The Duke PAs of tomorrow will not only provide health care one patient at a time—they will lead change at the local level

to create new models of care, work in teams to reduce medical errors and improve patient safety, and actively promote health and prevent disease. Armed with skills in quality improvement, fluent in evidence based medicine, cognizant of medical cultures that reinforce practice variation, their enthusiasm will energize their supervising physicians and team members to create synergies to reinvent health care as we know it today.

In 2002, the Institute of Medicine convened a committee to consider health professions education. They conclude that new skills, knowledge and attitudes are needed for the 21st century health system, and that the way that professionals are educated must change. In *Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality*,¹ five key points are delineated. How does the Duke PA Program stack up relative to these recommendations?

- ◆ **Provide patient-centered care.** Listen deeply, communicate empathically, possess at the minimum cultural awareness while striving for cultural proficiency, innovate disease management using population methods. For more than twenty years, our curriculum has included cultural diversity, and patient interaction skills are repeatedly practiced with standardized patients. We recently added curriculum regarding health promotion and screening for persons with disabilities, part of a departmental grant from the CDC.
- ◆ **Work in interdisciplinary teams.** The values of collaboration, communication and cooperation are already core to the PA ethos, and receive ongoing reinforcement.
- ◆ **Employ evidence-based practice.** “Integrate best research with clinical expertise and patient values for optimum care...” This year, we changed the Epidemiology course to Evidence Based Medicine I and Research to Evidence Based Medicine II, reflecting the evolving needs of clinicians today.

see **Director's Corner** on page 9

¹ Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality. Greiner A and Knebel E, eds. Institute of Medicine, 2003.

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Chair, Duke PA Alumni Steering Committee



Momentum is beginning to build for the newly created PA Alumni Steering Committee and Alumni Services Office as the first group to receive Hall of Fame recognition was inducted in October. Discussions are already underway for this year's candidates, and nominations are being accepted. If you have a nomination, please visit the PA Alumni web site to fill out a nomination form (<http://pa.mc.duke.edu/>). Additionally, the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year was honored during graduation exercises.

Additionally, we hosted the annual PA Alumni Reception during the AAPA Annual Conference in New Orleans. It was great to see many of you there!

The effort to enhance development services has begun in earnest. We met with the Medical Alumni/Development Office in order to cultivate stronger ties and see how

our organizations might be able to work together. There was a clear willingness to assist in strategic support. And, at their suggestion, we are moving to develop a closer relationship with the larger Duke University Alumni Association. We have noticed that when it comes to monetary support, grant funding organizations are understandably viewing all comers with scrutiny in these lean times. However, it is also becoming clear that they consider the **percentage of current alumni participation** as a primary indicator of how "serious" an association is about fulfilling their mission and goals, and by extension, how worthy they are of monetary assistance.

Thank you to those who gave with the attached envelope in the fall newsletter. Every cent given by alumni goes directly to the scholarship fund to enable recruitment and retention of a diverse group of students, many of whom experience debt upon graduation on par with that of their medical student counterparts. To those of you who may be considering giving, I encourage you to participate in whatever amount you are able.... again, the amount is secondary to simple the act of participating. Finally, if you have not considered giving, please consider it now.

Many may consider this perhaps one of the worst times in several years to begin building an effective and visible alumni association. I consider it a challenge that will make the progress of the Duke PA Alumni Association that much more impressive to those who from the outside are watching to see how "serious" we are. ■





News from Alumni and Friends

■ **Dennison Kerlee ('75)** writes "Married to Anne for 31 years. Still at Group Health HMO — Seattle — Chief of Affiliate Medical Staff. Fall 2001 Semester at Sea Voyage around the world. Hope to go again (Medical Staff) Fall 2003."

■ **Carl Toney ('79)** was appointed by the Maine Attorney General last spring/summer, as one of two University of New England representatives to serve on the Community Advisory Committee [CAC] of the Maine Health Access Foundation [MeHAF]. The Foundation, with assets of 82 million dollars, is charged with helping to disburse funds to promote creative and sustainable improvements in the health care delivery systems in Maine; CAC is charged with providing community input and operational guidance in support of the Foundation's activities. In February 2003 he was invited, and agreed to serve on the Cross-Cutting Issues of Special Populations Committee, Health Advisory Team, Governor's Office of Health Policy & Finance. Maine's new Governor John Baldacci, who took office in January, created as one of his first acts, the Office of

Health Policy & Finance and charge them with developing a strategic plan for health finance and system reform for Maine. As Director of the University of New England's Center for Transcultural Health, Mr. Toney was recruited to serve to help identify strategies to meet the needs of underserved immigrant, refugee and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities.

■ **Anne M. Summer ('82)** has been selected for the 2003 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services [DHHS] Primary Care Policy Fellowship [PCPF], based in Washington, D.C. Anne, nominated by the Association of Clinicians for the Underserved [ACU], is one of thirty-three [public & private sector] health professionals selected in a national search who, as Primary Care Policy Fellows, will participate in an intensive six month experience that includes: 1) Orientation to various health related agencies and programs in both the legislative and executive branches of the federal government, and 2) Working on key primary care/public health/prevention health policy issues to provide input and recommendations to Tommy Thompson, Secretary, Department of Health & Human Services.

■ **John F. Kever, Jr. ('83)** died Wednesday, April 30, 2003 at his home in Asheville, N.C. A memorial service was held on Sunday, May 4th at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville.

■ **James (Jay) H. Carter, Jr. ('86)** was called to active duty on March 14, 2003 with the United States Navy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom for a period of 365 days.

■ **Beth Ann Pesavento ('90)** died November 21, 2002. Beth resided in Holly Springs, NC at the time of her death.

■ Will and **Sybil Robb ('00)** are proud parents of Charles Rockwell Robb (Charlie) born on Tuesday, April 8, 2003 at 11:20 p.m. He weighed 8 lbs 11 oz. and was 21 inches long.

■ **Kristina Silberstein ('02)** and her husband are happy to announce the birth of "Anna Carmen Rojas-Castillo", born March 15, 2003 at 7:31 a.m., weighing 7 lbs. 14 oz. ■



Alumni and PAs in The News

■ On October 24, 2002 **Delmer (Bud) Shelton, PA-C ('74)** received the Department of Defense ESGR Award. This award is given to employers, as well as managers of employees, who serve in the National Guard or Reserves. It recognizes their support of the Guard and Reserves by supporting the employees who are called to serve their country. A brief awards ceremony was held at the VA Hospital in Durham. Colonel Martin Ridge, Commander 3274th USAH, presented the Patriot Award and Certificate of Appreciation to Shelton, Dr. Jonathan Mark and Dr. Dana Weiner at the Medical Center.

■ AAPA Leadership Advisory Commission selected **Vaughn J. Begick ('75)**, chief of PAs and NPs with the Blue Care Network of Michigan, as November's honoree. In the primary election, Begick won by more than a two-to-one margin (72% to 28%), pulling in almost 3,000 votes. Congratulations to Vaughn. www.begick.com/-vaughn/.

■ In AAPA News, **Carl Toney, PA ('79)** was highlighted in the book, *Big Doctoring in America: Profiles in Primary Care*. The book is a collection of oral histories and provocative essays about the past and future of generalism in health care. The author, Fitzhugh Mullan, M.D., interviewed dozens of primary care practitioners about their lives and their work.

■ Two Duke University physician assistant students were featured in the November/December 2002 North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants (NCAPA) News. **Daniela Crandall ('03)** received the William Franklin Cobb Award and was one of four students awarded a \$2000 grant from NCAPA. Daniela has a background in psychology research and an interest in forensic sciences. Originally from Chile, Daniela has a specific desire to work with Latino patients and help bridge the cultural and language gap. She provided prenatal services and education to Hispanic patients at the Moncure

Community Health Center prior to entering PA school. The North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants (NCAPA) invited **Kristin Boyt ('03)** to attend the Capitol Constituent Organization Workshop



Daniela Crandall ('03)

(CCOW) in Washington, D.C. and she found it to be a wonderful learning experience. In her article "A Student's Perspective," Kristin encouraged fellow graduates to become involved with issues pertinent to the PA profession. ■



Kristin Boyt ('03)



Reg Carter, PA History Office

Reginald Carter, PhD, PA has stepped down as Director of Alumni Services, citing the need to devote energy full-time to getting the PA History Office established. "The faltering economy and post 9/11 effects have made fundraising more difficult, and I need to focus fully on identifying resources to place the PA History Office on a firm footing." Michael Keene, MHS, PA-C is Chair of the Alumni Steering Committee and provides leadership and guidance to the new organization. Mildred Woody, BS is Alumni Services Coordinator and provides continuity and support for the many services provided. Mildred stays busy with the many requests for verification of educational credentials and publication of the newsletter twice a year. Division Chief and Program Director Justine Strand, MPH, PA-C will take over the role previously fulfilled by Dr. Carter. ■

Vicki Scott Assumes New Role



**Vicki Scott,
MHS,
PA-C ('81)**

After nearly 20 years as Director of Preclinical Education, Vicki Scott, MHS, PA-C ('81) is pursuing new challenges. She has accepted a position in breast cancer prevention research, coordinating projects and providing clinical services. She continues as PA faculty, coordinating the Behavior Medicine course. "Most students and alumni don't realize the number of hours that PA faculty must devote to maintaining a program of excellence, and innovating new curricula. I was long overdue for a change that would allow me to have more time to devote to my family. I continue to love teaching and enjoy my time with the program. I look forward to working on special projects in the future. The energy and enthusiasm of new faculty are infectious. I made this change knowing that the program is in good hands. I owe a debt of gratitude to the many Duke PA students who have taught me so much and enriched my life." ■

David Coniglio, MPA, PA-C

David Coniglio, MPA, PA-C, has joined the faculty of the Duke PA Program, where he serves as an Academic Coordinator and holds a faculty appointment as Clinical Associate. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the



**David Coniglio,
MPA, PA-C**

University of the South and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Tennessee. He completed his physician assistant training at the

Medical University of South Carolina. He has practiced clinical medicine at Duke since 1986, working in the Adult Bone Marrow Transplant Program and the Multidisciplinary Breast Oncology Program. Prior to joining the Faculty in January 2003, he served as a clinical preceptor and instructor in several courses. In 2002 he received a Certificate of Appreciation from the PA Program for his service to the Program. He is married to Lara Campagna, PA-C, ('97). They have one son, John Kyle Campagna Coniglio. ■



In Remembrance: Robert Howard, M.D.

By Reginald Carter, Ph.D., PA

D. Robert (Bob) Howard, M.D., a former director of the Duke University Physician Assistant Program and a key figure in the early development of the PA profession, died on January 8, 2003. He is survived by his wife Linda, son Derek and daughter Heidi.

Howard graduated from the University of Wisconsin Medical School in 1962 and served in the U.S. Air Force, including a tour of duty in Guam during the Vietnam War. He took over as director of the Duke PA Program in 1968, three years after it opened. He was hired by E. Harvey Estes Jr., M.D., then chair of Community and Family Medicine at Duke, to take charge of the fledgling PA program and to promote the PA concept to future employers, funding agencies, academic institutions and the general public.



D. Robert (Bob) Howard, M.D.

His contributions to Duke and to the PA profession were many. He secured funds for the Duke PA Program and educational loans for students and strengthened the basic sciences curriculum, expanded clinical rotations into community sites and into other states, and established the Bachelor of Health Sciences degree for graduates. He organized three national conferences at Duke to promote the PA concept and public acceptance of PAs. The conferences focused on curriculum development and the establishment of new programs, soliciting the leadership of organized medicine to set accreditation standards for educational programs and certification requirements for PA graduates, and developing model enabling legislation for states. They also addressed practice issues including hospital utilization, liability insurance coverage, and third-party reimbursement.

Howard also founded the American Registry of Physicians' Associates in 1970 and served as its first president. The registry's purpose was to elevate the standards of PAs by improving their education, determining their competence, and issuing certificates of registration for graduates of approved training programs. The Registry gave birth to the Association of Physician Assistant Programs and set the stage for developing a national certifying examination by the National Board of Medical Examiners and later the establishment of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. He helped draft the initial PA education standards, known as the "Essentials," which were adopted by the American Medical Association's House of Delegates in 1971. He was a good friend and advisor to AAPA during its early, financially lean years, providing institutional funds for the Academy's Board to exhibit at state and national medical meetings. He cherished his role as advocate for a strong, unified organization of PA graduates and students. Dr. Howard left Duke in 1972 to establish a family medicine residency in Florida. He became a state and national leader in promoting family medicine as a specialty, but never lost interest in the PA profession and the benefits of health care team delivery of cost-effective medical services. He was made an honorary member of AAPA in 1971 and an honorary PA by the Duke PA Program in 1972. ■



Commencement

COMMENCEMENT for the PA Class of 2003 was held on Sunday afternoon, May 11, at the Durham Marriott Civic Center. Over 300 were in attendance at this year's ceremony.

As has been the case since the MHS degree was instituted, PA graduates receive the MHS degree in May, but complete three additional months of clinical rotations and receive the PA Program Certificate of Completion in late August.

R. Sanders Williams, MD, Dean of the School of Medicine and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, administered the Hippocratic Oath to

new graduates and presented diplomas. Daniela Crandall provided graduate remarks on behalf of the class. Michael Keene ('91), Chair of the Alumni Steering Committee, presented Earl Echard ('73) with the Alumnus of the Year award.

This year's Richard J. Scheele Award for outstanding graduate was presented to Stephanie B. Stahl. A 1994 graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana, Stephanie worked as a clinical research associate in oncology and as an EMT/paramedic prior to entering the PA program. A recipient of the American Academy of PAs in Oncology

scholarship in her preclinical year, Stephanie will be employed in oncology at the University of Vermont Medical Center upon graduation.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to R. Scott Pollard, MSW, for his extensive work with the PA Program as standardized patient coordinator, and to the physicians and PAs of Williamsburg Community Urgent Care, for their nearly 20 years of dedicated teaching of Duke PA students.

Forty-one MHS degrees were conferred on PA graduates at the University Commencement ceremony held earlier in the day. ■



Earl Echard, PA-C and Michael Keene, MHS, PA-C



David Coniglio, MPA, PA-C and Stephanie B. Stahl ('03)

APAP Partnership Award

The Association of Physician Assistant Programs presented its annual APAP Partnership Award for 2002 to the North Carolina Area Health Education Center (AHEC).

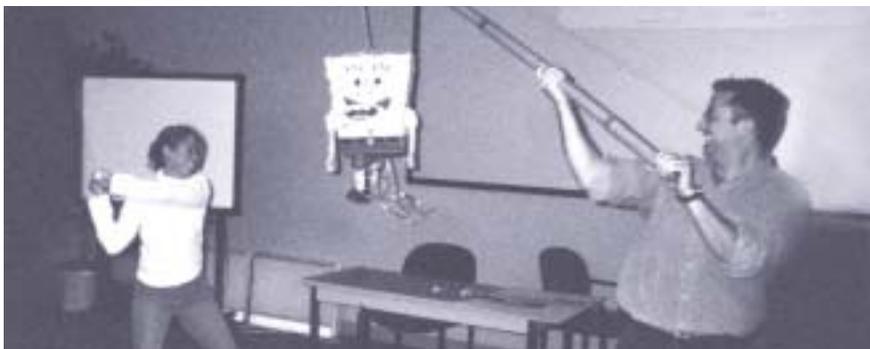
Justine Strand accepted the award on AHEC's behalf at the annual Education Forum in Miami, Florida, in November 2002. Among the statements of support submitted for AHEC, Reggie Carter, PhD, PA said that the AHEC program had greatly enhanced the program's ability to recruit, educate, and deploy residents from four targeted, medically underserved AHEC regions back to their home communities as physician assistants after graduating from Duke or other regional PA programs; and that AHEC had been

a true partner, not just to the Duke PA Program, but to all four North Carolina programs. The Duke PA Program's partnership with AHEC has enhanced recruitment of students, placement of students in clinical year rotations in rural areas, and has been instrumental in increasing placement of graduates in medically underserved communities in the state.

At AHEC's annual statewide meeting in Winston-Salem March 18th, Justine Strand presented the award to North Carolina AHEC director Tom Bacon, DrPH. Dr. Bacon reiterated how positive the association has been, and the importance of PAs to health care delivery in the state. ■



Justine Strand, MPH, PA-C
with Tom Bacon, DrPH



Spirit Week—

Kristin Rider ('04) and
John Goldfield ('04)

Class of 2004

After spending six months toiling away in Hanes House, the Class of 2004 held Spirit Week in February. Our theme days included Crazy Hat Day and Decorate Your Space Day. The highlight of the week was our Birthday Party. Although no one in the class had a birthday that month, we threw a class party complete with a piñata, pin the tale on the donkey, and birthday cake. Our lecturers that day addressed 44 students in silly hats — and then joined us for cake and coffee. Spirit Week was a great way to break the doldrums of the cold and ice of one of the worst winters in recent memory! ■

Director's Corner

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- ◆ **Apply quality improvement.** Beginning in fall of 2003, the Health Systems Organization and Perspectives on Health courses will be woven into the curriculum throughout the didactic year, rather than added on at the end of the year. These concepts and skills have been taught for many years, but the focus will be sharpened and applied practically through common problem labs and case studies. As part of a departmental grant, students in the clinical year have learned disease management and quality improvement skills through real life projects at the Duke Family Medicine Center.
- ◆ **Utilize informatics.** Clearly, the Duke PA Program has been ahead of this curve. The program was among the first to be fully electronic through the use of laptops in 1997. Students today are issued laptops and palm pilots, and course delivery is fully electronic.

Our ongoing review of curriculum for the coming year will focus on the key points in *Bridge to Quality*, as well as integration of the genetic basis of disease and disease prevention throughout the clinical medicine course. We continue to seek innovation and improvement, as we train the PA leaders of tomorrow. ■



School Outreach

Good Clean Fun!



Physician Assistant Alumni Association



On May 5th, the 2004 Duke PA class participated in a learner to learner project with the students of Burton Elementary, a Durham Magnet school. Thirty-two members of the class traveled to Burton to present an educational skit and instruct small groups about hygiene education. Our skit featured PA students dressed as germs, school children, and a dazzling, new superhero, "Super Soap." After



Elizabeth Riley, Colleen Hogan, Michelle Capron, and 4th Graders at Puzzle Station



Jessica Brandon, Colleen Sullivan and John Goldfield (Super Soap)



Jessica Brandon, Tim Hunter, Colleen Sullivan, Sharon Savoury, Tara Koenig, Kim White and John Goldfield

the skit, we separated the 63 elementary school students into nine small groups. We taught them dental hygiene, proper hand-washing technique, and provided puzzles and games to quiz their knowledge of what they had learned. Also, we gave the students at Burton some useful hygiene products to take home. These products included toothpaste, floss, facial tissue, deodorant, and soap. In addition, the students were able to have their picture taken with the hero of the day, Super Soap! It was a wonderful opportunity to leave the classroom for an afternoon and make a difference in the community. ■



Paula Buice, Jennifer Taylor, Kelda Gardner, and Burton 4th Graders at Handwashing Station

Career Day

ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2002 seventeen prospective PAs from around North Carolina spent the day at Duke to learn more about the Duke PA Program and Duke University Medical Center. Our Regional Clinical Coordinators (PAs Gloria Jordan, Mary Jo Bondy and John Faulkner) and friends of the Duke PA Program and other North Carolina programs identify participants among individuals who contact them for more information about the PA profession and invite them to attend. Career Days are held twice a year, and are designed to be informative not just about the Duke PA Program, but also about the profession itself and other North Carolina PA programs.

The participants were welcomed by Pat Dieter, Associate Program Director, and given an overview of the admissions process at Duke. The candidates attended class and had lunch with first year PA students. After lunch, Lovest Alexander, Jr., Director of Recruitment, took them on a tour of the Operating Room, Life Flight and Hyperbaric Unit in the Medical Center. Lovest also conducted a Wrap-Up Session to assure that all participants' questions were answered. The feedback was very positive and the event allowed each participant to ask questions about the application process and to interact with Duke students and faculty. Many participants in past Career Days have applied, and several have been accepted to Duke as well as other North Carolina programs. ■

Thao Doan, Tim Hunter, Tami Lee, Ms. Conley, and 4th Grade Teacher



Meghan Kelly, Jamie Carter, Tara Koenig, Sharon Savoury, and Burton 4th Graders at Handwashing Station

Duke PA Career Day Program



Lovest Alexander, MAS, PA-C and prospective PAs



The Class of 2003 is busy demonstrating their finely honed clinical skills for faculty this spring. Once again, each clinical year student is taking common clinical problems and performing appropriate physical exams in front of a faculty proctor. Clinical year

Clinical Skills Problems and Clinical Problem Exams Are Back!

students are given three clinical scenarios or problems and (thanks to the willingness of the Class of 2004 who serve as the "patients") showing a faculty member what physical exam is required. The students have two ten-minute problems and one twenty-minute problem.

Additionally, with the success of the Clinical Problem Exams (CPX) of last year, the clinical students also will have

six standardized patient cases in the clinical skills lab. Here, the student is required to not only demonstrate appropriate physical exam techniques but also take problem focused histories, counsel patients, order and interpret labs and other diagnostic studies as well as provide patient education. The encounters are videotaped and test responses analyzed. A student must successfully perform these summative exams in order to receive the certificate of completion. ■

New Date for Occupational and Environmental Medicine Certificate Program

The fourth annual Occupational and Environmental Medicine Certificate Program has been scheduled this year for October 5-10. Spend PA Day at Duke! This popular full-time, one-week program includes traditional lecture presentations, seminars, patient cases, work site visits, and computer analysis. The program is designed to meet the educational needs of PAs, NPs and physicians who are currently employed in occupational medicine or in positions with a substantial occupational medicine component, or who wish to transition into OEM employment or deepen their knowledge in this area.

For more information on this program, which offers CME, a certificate, and graduate credit, please view the web site at pa.mc.duke.edu (click on postgrad programs, click on OCCMED program), or contact the program director, Pat Dieter, at patricia.dieter@duke.edu or 919/681-3259. ■

SELF STUDY SURVEY 2002—2003

As part of the PA Program re-accreditation and self-study process leading up to a site visit in April, 2003, an extensive anonymous survey process was conducted with input by faculty, three years of alumni, and 1st and 2nd year students. The Graduate Program Self-Assessment System (GPAS) of the Educational Testing Service (ETS) was used and aggregate data were analyzed and returned to the program. The maximum positive score for each element was 4. Key findings of this survey included (mean values shown):

Environment for learning	3.73
Scholarly excellence	3.81
Quality of teaching	3.72
Faculty concern for students	3.72
Curriculum	3.48
Available resources	3.56
Student satisfaction with program	3.95
Rotation experiences	3.79

Additional strongly positive responses were related to:

- Effectiveness of the PA Program curriculum in providing alumni with stated goals and objectives of the curriculum
- Satisfaction with and confidence gained from the clinical year
- Facilities
- Technology equipment and support
- University resources to include both departmental and school level support
- CSP exams and CPX exams/facilities/exercises
- Extent to which small group activities are utilized in the curriculum
- Quality of faculty
- Quality of applicant pool and enrolled students
- Extremely low attrition rate of enrolled students
- Student satisfaction with their experiences
- Employer satisfaction with employed graduates
- PANCE first time exam outcomes
- Strength of the curriculum
- Program website
- Alumni website
- Institution of "call back days to campus" for 2nd year students

White Coat

White Coat Ceremony



On January 6, 2003 the Duke University PA Program held a "White Coat Ceremony" for first year PA students. The white coat ceremony has become a rite of passage at many PA and medical schools throughout the country. Donning the white coat signifies the student's initiation into the role of health care provider. It is an important milestone in a clinician's career.

The ceremony was held in the PA program's Hanes House classroom. The occasion marked the beginning of the Spring Semester, and served as a welcome reception for students returning from break. The festivities also seemed to energize the participants as they began their first patient encounters.

A program of distinguished speakers presented moving testimony to the importance of tradition in the medical field as well as highlighting the role of PAs in medicine and at Duke. Dr. Edward Halperin, Vice-Dean for Medical Education, welcomed the students, faculty, and audience. Dr. Caroline Haynes, Associate Dean for Medical Education, related the history of the white coat and its significance. Peggy Robinson, MHS, PA-C, a member of the PA faculty, spoke on the issue

of professionalism. Earl Echard, PA-C ('73) shared the importance of the PA heritage. Students were coated by their respective faculty advisors, in a solemn but joyful procession. A copy of Dr. Eugene Stead's book *Just Say for Me* was presented to each of the students. Closing remarks were made by Justine Strand, MPH, PA-C, Program Director and Division Chief.

Following completion of the ceremony an informal reception was held for students, faculty, and family members in the Hanes House. ■



Tom Colletti, MPAS, PA-C and Seth Goldberg ('04)



Peggy Robinson, MHS, PA-C and Thao Doan ('04)



Class of 2004 with White Coats



Earl Echard, PA-C ('73), Lovest Alexander, MHS, PA-C and Justine Strand, MPH, PA-C

Faculty Update: Scholarly Pursuits

Faculty members remain active in their contributions to the profession. A number of the faculty attended the AAPA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Tom Colletti lectured on the topic of *Pediatric Infectious Disease* at the national meeting. Justine Strand presented a poster at the Scientific Affairs Committee poster session at the AAPA meeting. The subject of the poster was *Genetics Interdisciplinary Faculty Training (GIFT)*. Karen Hills has an article in-press with **Perspective on Physician Assistant Education**, titled *Focused Teaching for Focused Learning: An Approach to Teaching Clinical Medicine Using Standardized Patients*. Tom Colletti has recently had an article titled *Urinary Tract Infections in Children: An Evidence-Based Approach* published in the on-line version of the **Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (JAAPA)**. Justine Strand's article, *Anticipating the Profession's Future* was published in the October, 2002 special issue of JAAPA. Her article *Physician Assistants: last bastion of primary care—or will they follow physicians into specialized practice?* appeared in the July/August 2002 issue of **North Carolina Medical Journal**, and the Cultural Perspectives section of **Perspective on Physician Assistant Education** featured her article, *Health Belief Models*. Reg Carter also published in **Perspective**: with M. Holt, *The Day NBC Came to the Hills of West Virginia* (winter/fall 2002). ■

Faculty Items

- Paul Hendrix and Justine Strand have been reappointed to the Physician Assistant Advisory Council of the North Carolina Medical Board.
- Paul Hendrix was named to the Editorial Board of the North Carolina Medical Journal.
- Justine Strand was reappointed to the North Carolina Medical Society Foundation Board of Trustees.
- Justine Strand was featured in Health Leaders magazine, September 2002, in a feature about the growth of the PA profession.
- CeCe Schmidt received several honors in the laboratory science field. She was appointed National Chair, Abstracts Review Committee, American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), elected to Board of Directors, Alpha Mu Tau Honorary Fraternity of ASCLS and the National Judicial Committee. She also received National Omicron Sigma Award for outstanding service to ASCLS in 2002.
- Joyce Copeland was named to the North Carolina Institute of Medicine's Task Force on the Nursing Shortage.

The Academic Year Curriculum

The recent effort made by the Program to prepare the application for reaccreditation submitted to the ARC-PA included a multidisciplinary review of the academic year curriculum. This afforded the faculty an opportunity to review each course for appropriateness of required reading, adequate and relevant learning objectives and didactic material. As a result we continue to refine the curriculum with emphasis on a primary care foundation. The core curriculum is taught over three semesters, with students beginning to have patient contact in the second semester. Individual courses are coordinated by PA Program faculty, with instruction by PA Program faculty and guests from the Duke medical community and the community at-large. All faculty continue to be actively involved in the development, implementation and evaluation of the curriculum. All serve as course and unit coordinators, lecturers and small group leaders. The newly created Curriculum Committee is made up of course coordinators, program director, associate program director and medical director. The Committee meets monthly and reviews a course or unit in both the didactic and clinical years. Task forces and subcommittees work on curriculum issues that require special focus, or to develop curriculum to respond to emerging issues in medicine or the health system. For example, medical director Dr. Joyce Copeland is heading up the effort to develop a long term care clinical experience for the first year. A special task force will convene in the summer to review the curriculum with respect to prevention and health promotion, genetics, quality and medical errors. ■



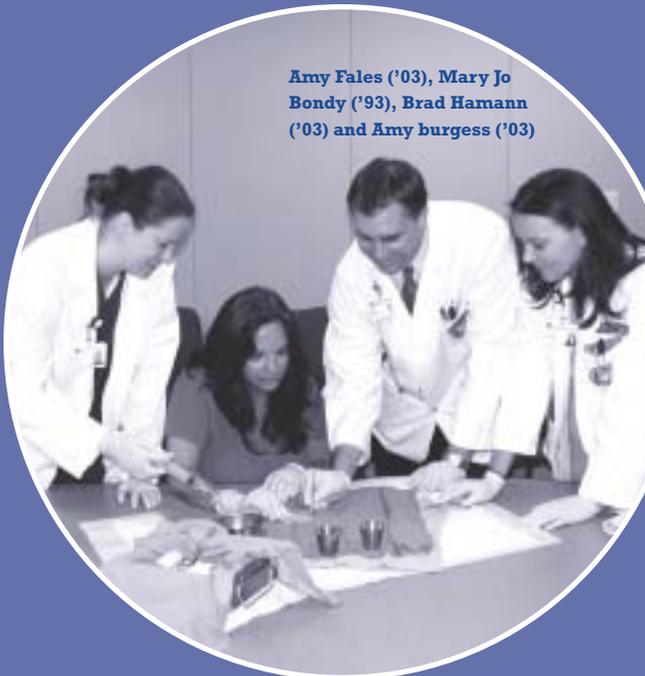
ROTATION Spotlight

Do you remember the first time you sutured on a human? For most alumni it was on the Duke Emergency Medicine rotation as a PA student. That trend continues as all second year Duke PA students rotate through the Duke Emergency Department for four weeks at some point in their clinical year. Mary Jo Bondy ('93) is coordinator for this student experience. In addition, Memory Dossenbach ('95), Scott Gibson ('99), Veronica Dziminski ('99) and Rich Sepka ('83) are among the Duke alumni who are on staff in the ED and precept Duke PA students.

Second year students have a variety of emergency medicine patient care experiences as they rotate through the Clinical Evaluation Unit (CEU), Fast Track and Side One (trauma). PA students get hands-on experience with splinting, casting and suturing, as well as honing skills like reading X-rays and EKGs. This is just one of the eight required rotations for the clinical year. Students also choose two electives and one preceptorship, and may have experiences out of state while completing some of their elective rotations.

If you are currently practicing as a PA and would like to precept a Duke PA student, or would like to find out more information about what is involved in clinical rotations, please contact clinical coordinators Karen Hills and Betsy Rothschild at (919) 681-3161. ■

Amy Fales ('03), Mary Jo Bondy ('93), Brad Hamann ('03) and Amy Burgess ('03)



Master of Health Sciences in Clinical Leadership Program from Duke University



The Clinical Leadership Program is an interdisciplinary program that prepares clinicians to meet the complexities of change with innovative solutions for shaping the future of health care. By attending the Program, participants prepare to become section chiefs, leaders of healthcare systems, directors of health plans and heads of large-group practices.

Five schools at Duke University have joined together to offer this comprehensive, in-depth Program: The School of Medicine, School of Nursing, Fuqua School of Business, School of Law and the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy.

Applications are being accepted now for the class that begins in August, 2003.

To request an information packet:

Michelle J. Lyn, MBA, MHA
Master of Health Sciences in
Clinical Leadership Program
Department of Community and Family Medicine,
Duke University Medical Center
DUMC Box 2914, 307 Hanes House
Durham, NC 27710
Phone: (919) 681-3192, Fax: (919) 681-3371
e-mail: michelle.lyn@duke.edu
[http:// clinical-leadership.mc.duke.edu](http://clinical-leadership.mc.duke.edu)

Help us inform your colleagues about this Program. Identify colleagues who would be excellent candidates and suggest that they contact us.



#1

#1 RANKING

US News &

World Report

has again ranked

the Duke PA

Program first among

Master's degree

granting programs.

The ranking was

based on a new

survey conducted

in fall 2002 and

appeared

in America's Best

Graduate

Schools 2003.

Class of 2003 News

Megan Webb ('03)

It is hard to believe that graduation is upon us! We are all so excited to have made it this far, and enjoyed a huge celebration together during graduation weekend. A party at the Durham Arts Council put on by the Stead Society welcomed students, their loved ones, and the



Ginger Hawks ('03), Amy Prensky ('03), and Jacqueline Gibson ('03)

faculty before graduation. This will be one of the last times our class is together as one unit. It is definitely a bittersweet time. We were filled with relief, disbelief, and complete joy as we walked across that stage to receive a diploma that we have worked so hard for during the past two years.

As we reach the final months of our time in the Duke PA Program, some have already received job offers, some are finishing up their resumes, and some are just trying

to reach the end and figure out what the next step for the future will be. Regardless, we are all very excited, even with the looming "PANCE" certification exam coming on fast.

Clinical rotations have continued to be a wonderful learning experience for us. We have enjoyed returning to Duke for "callback" days where we can share stories of our triumphs, failures, thrills, and fears.

Whenever possible, classmates have tried to get together for some social outings when in Durham. It has been fantastic to get together for support and to laugh about some of the experiences we have had.

As our days in the Duke PA Program draw to a close, each of us can look back and recall all of those days we spent with CeCe in Laboratory Medicine, with our teachers in Physical Diagnosis wondering what in the world the Rinne test was actually looking for, with our study groups trying to understand EKG's in Clinical Medicine, and our "endless summer" studying epidemiology via the web. With all of the MANY hurdles that we have managed to cross, we can look at each other, and finally say, "WE DID IT!" ■

we did it!

As we prepare to enter the world of clinical rotations in July, the class of 2004 has been preparing for “real” patients. We participated in the second annual White Coat Ceremony in January. It was a way to instill the privilege and importance of the white coat to the medical professional.

As a way of fostering continued professional relations among health care providers, Ulgen Fideli organized a social mixer with the first year medical students and students in the doctor of physical therapy program. Over 75 students from all three programs attended.

The Class of 2004 has survived the 1st year by supplementing our didactic year with several community projects. Tara Koenig coordinated a class project of helping the Durham community through the SEEDS (Southeastern Efforts Developing Sustainable Spaces) Program. The SEEDS goal is a community redevelopment project and students from the PA program helped out in the gardens by weeding, mulching, and planting flowers and vegetables.

Christine Chang directed our efforts to liven up the Pediatric wards for Halloween. We decorated the activity rooms and provided some healthy treats for the kids.

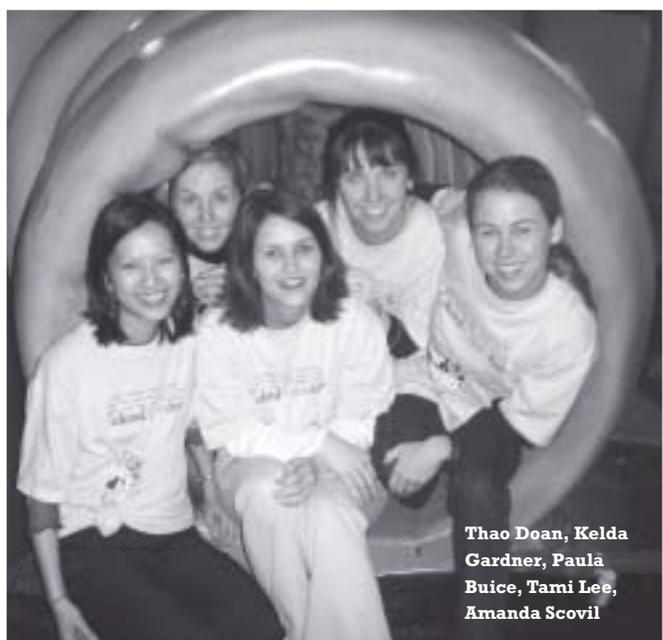
Ennis Turrentine led our class in “adopting” a local family in need for the holidays and provided them with new clothes and a few toys for the children. Tami Lee coordinated our efforts as we assisted an orphanage by supplying them with a variety of personal care items they requested to make their residents’ lives a little better.

Colleen Sullivan coordinated 22 classmates to volunteer for the Colossal Colon Tour, which was sponsored by the Cancer Research Foundation of America. We guided visitors through the exhibit and passed out literature and learned more about colon cancer ourselves.



**Paula Buice,
Jennifer
Flannery, and
Colleen Sullivan**

Our class sent 34 students to represent Duke at the AAPA National Conference. Fundraising took many forms, but our most successful effort was Krispy Kreme sales coordinated by Ulgen Fideli. We prepared for the PA Challenge Bowl, fine-tuning our quick thinking and buzzer-pressing skills by holding a series of practices. Our team of Jennifer Whalen, Jenny Queen, Colleen Hogan and Coach Colleen Sullivan represented Duke well at the AAPA conference. ■



**Thao Doan, Kelda
Gardner, Paula
Buice, Tami Lee,
Amanda Scovil**



Barry Cassidy

Barry Cassidy, PhD, PA-C, Executive Director of the Arizona Medical Board and the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants, was interviewed by Justine Strand, MPH, PA-C on May 2, 2003.

Barry Cassidy *continued from page 1*

in most states, so the legal situation was murky. Nevertheless, the complaining physician alleged that the physician's delegation of tasks to a PA represented the illegal practice of medicine. Recognizing this was uncharted territory, the medical board declined to make any arrests, and after much advocacy and education of key decision makers in state and local government, the late Chicago Mayor Richard Daley intervened and defused the situation. Cassidy worked to achieve enabling legislation until he left the state a few years later, but despite two bills filed in the legislature success was not to come until years later.

Cassidy then moved to Washington, DC where he served as academic coordinator at the new George Washington University PA Program, recently started by another Duke PA, Jarrett Wise. He subsequently joined forces in Virginia with a physician attorney and did consulting in the medical/legal arena for five years. From there he returned to North Carolina, and began the first occupational medicine clinic in Research Triangle Park, along the way working with the RTP fire department to establish emergency medical services for the community. Several years later an opportunity to practice in cardiology at the Arizona Heart Institute and then in cardiothoracic surgery at the new Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona led to a move west. When his supervising physician at Mayo Clinic was close to retirement, he went back to college and earned a PhD in medical ethics, and later established the Midwestern PA Program in Glendale, Arizona.

Throughout his career, he has been active in state PA associations and the AAPA, as well as serving on the PA regulatory board in Arizona and later becoming chair of the PA committee. When the Executive Director of the Arizona Medical Board, who also serves as ED of the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants, announced plans to step down, Cassidy applied for the position. Given his legal expertise, his doctorate in medical ethics, and his years of experience with the PA profession and PA education, the position was a natural fit. After several months of interviews and a competitive national search process, he was appointed to the position.

Cassidy looks at his career with amazement. "I had the likelihood of being a police officer my entire career, as opposed to getting involved in the ability to learn, to strive, to enjoy the privilege of being a health care provider. There are very few people on earth who are allowed to touch as many lives as I have been allowed to touch in my years of CT and CV surgery and family practice. All of that happened because of Duke, because of the people who believed they could teach us. It's a blessing that I can never ever forget." ■

Contributions to the Alumni Scholarship Fund

Special Gifts

Lisa and John McElligott ('74)

Stead Club

**pledged \$5,000
over 5-year period**

Sherry and Reginald Carter ('78)

Pat and Bob Dieter

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Carl Toney ('79) and

Anne Summer ('82)

Clara Vanderbilt ('71)

Margaret & James Schmidt ('74)

Vicki Scott ('81)

Kathleen Shuman ('81)

Arthur Smith ('72)

David B. Smith ('76)

Kate Stephens ('81)

Van Tanner ('00)

William Tozier ('76)

Lemuel Yerby, III ('75)

Silver and Bronze

**contributed or pledged
\$100 to \$999 over 5 year period**

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Malcolm Anderson ('75)

Wayne Anderson ('74)

James Bartow ('71)

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Marylou Bembe ('86)

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Jill Eggers-Knight ('85)

Kenneth Ferrell ('67)

Paula K. Figgs ('88)

Elaine Fuller ('81)

Erin Glasheen ('98)

Margaret (Betsy) Glennon ('79)

Thomas Godkins ('69)

Margaret Donnelly ('87) and Sam
Grossinger ('88)

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Dennison Kerlee ('75)

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Charles Lewis ('71)

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Peter and Margarita Lyons ('96)

Varnell McDonald-Fletcher ('94)

Belle McDougall ('89)

Mary Beth McGranaghan ('97)

Carol McMorrow ('85)

Carla Morey ('91)

Joyce Nichols ('70)

Vince Palese ('88)

Abigail Palmer ('81)

Dixie Patterson ('97)

Katherine Poese ('83)

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Deborah Turner ('92)

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Craig Wallace ('88)

Sarah Walters ('97)

Sherry Wanner-Dolan

Royce Weeks ('87)

Jennifer Williams ('74)

Edmund Wise, Jr. ('74)

Phillip Wunder ('75)

Cary Zakrzewski ('73)

Other Contributions

James Blacksher ('83)

Bruce Bowman ('83)

Theresa Boggs ('93)

Shannon Briggs ('95)

Ina Cushman

Daniel Davis

Linda Decker ('81)

Mary Driebeek ('84)

George Engstom

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Howard Lee, Jr. ('78)

Dean Little ('78)

Abraham McCoy ('90)

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Niall McGinnis ('82)

Karen Millstein ('92)

Kelly Parker ('94)

Mary and Robert Peoples ('77)

Dene Reich

Catherine Santoro ('84)

Laurie Scott

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Jeffrey Stajich ('81)

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Richard Tenczar ('94)

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Wallace (Ed) Wilson ('88)

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Mary Passannante ('89)

Mary Beth Petrask ('87)

Philip Price ('82)

Michael Quirk ('70)

Peggy Robinson ('92)

Lisa Sand ('91)

The record above includes individuals who responded to our first and second Stead Campaign conducted by telephone in November 2001, March 26 & 27, 2002 and those who have contributed since April, 2003. Please forgive us if your name has been inadvertently left off the list.

Let Us Hear From You!

Alumni are interested in hearing from you!

Send us a note about your professional activities, any "demographic" changes (e.g., marriage, children, moves), honors, newspaper articles or anything else you would like to share with your classmates and other alumni.

Please send your note to:

Mildred Woody, Alumni Coordinator

Dept. of CFM - DUMC 3848

Durham, North Carolina 27710

PAalumni@mc.duke.edu



Duke Garden Bridge

NAME, YEAR OF GRADUATION

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