The PA Division launched the Stead Campaign in January 2000 to raise over one million dollars for scholarships and postgraduate fellowships, with Dr. Stead’s blessing and support. Thanks to generous gifts from alumni and friends and to a transfer of $300,000 from the PA Division’s reserve account, the overall scholarship fund is near the $700,000 mark. “Although alumni gifts have shown a dramatic turn around in the past two years, up from $7,886 in 1999-2000 to $22,272 in 2000-2001, we still have much to achieve,” says Reginald Carter, Director of Alumni Services and Development. “This past year, alumni gifts of our students who graduated in 2001 was $59,053, up from $57,484 the previous year. The average debt of medical students who spend four rather than two years at Duke was $68,981 in 2001. By comparison, our student’s debt should be $34,500. The major difference is that medical students have access to more scholarship dollars than our students.”

The challenge is to provide enough scholarships while at the same time growing the base of the alumni scholarship fund. Of the 1,200 Duke PA graduates, only 76 contributed to the fund last year, representing only 6% of our graduates. The average amount contributed was $289. If 20% (i.e., 240) of our alumni contributed an equal amount, this would have been $69,360. “It is not the amount that is so important,” Dr. Carter says, “but the number of alumni who participate by pledging and giving on a regular basis to the scholarship fund.” He goes on to say, “I want us to be recognized not only within the University as one of the top PA programs in the country, but also as one of the leading alumni associations with the highest percentage of alumni contributing to our scholarship program. I know our alumni, they can help us.

John McElligott, M.D., FACP, (’74) and wife Lisa are the first to establish a $25,000 unrestricted endowment for the PA Division. They live in Knoxville, Tennessee and have six children: Kim, Jay, Jamey, Katy, Kelly and Jake. John is medical director and owner of Occupation Health Systems, which provides services to local industries to maintain workers’ health and productivity. Lisa, an x-ray technician, owns and manages two companies, a mobile x-ray unit that extend services to homebound and rest home clients and a medical billing company. John says, “Lisa and I wanted to establish the endowment as soon as we heard about it. Everything we have we owe to Duke, its that simple.” John went on to explain. “As a Duke graduate, I’ve never had to compete for...
It was an unremarkable Tuesday. One of those clear, fall days in Durham when you have to admit, just for a minute, that maybe the sky is Carolina blue. The air is clean, not a cloud in the sky, and hot, humid summer seems far in the past, in short, a perfect early autumn day in the Piedmont of North Carolina. The first snippet of news seemed suspect—the BBC Radio News Hour reporting that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center in New York. It had to be a hoax—something about the British delivery of this breaking news event made it seem more absurd. It was troubling, but it couldn’t be real. I went on with business as usual, a scheduled meeting. After the meeting I went down to the classroom and found all the students frozen with their eyes on the amphitheatre screen, watching with horror televised coverage of what still seemed unreal. People from all over Hanes House had found their way to the classroom, and stood in the dark in hushed silence. Someone whispered to me that the first tower had just collapsed. As we all watched, the second tower disintegrated as though planned by demolition experts. How could you wrap your mind around such a thing? Many of us were crying in disbelief. Faculty huddled together quickly and decided to cancel classes for the rest of the day. How could anyone possibly concentrate in the face of such hideous events? Those of us with school age children made sure we were home in time to interpret and explain the unexplainable. The ubiquity of press coverage would make it impossible to shield our children from the realities of inhumanity and terror.

As with all tragedies, for the next several days it seemed incongruous that the sun could be shining, birds singing, and cars driving on the roads as though nothing had happened. Life was changed forever.

Yet if anything good can come of such a thing, it is the strengthened ties we feel to friends, loved ones and community. The reminder that when all is said and done, life is precious, and service to our fellow human beings is all that really matters. The heroism and dedication of rescue personnel, the outpouring of support for those most directly affected, gave us strength to go on. While all of us have been affected by the tragedy of September 11, we have news that no Duke PA alumni were victims of the attack on the World Trade Center or the Pentagon.

Chancellor for Health Affairs Ralph Snyderman, MD, said in his letter recognizing PA Day this year: “I have no doubt that many of your colleagues were amongst the first health care providers on the scene on September 11.” I too have no doubt that PAs mobilized in spontaneous acts of service to community. And so we do the only thing we can do: go forward with renewed resolve, to serve those most in need of health care, to train the next generation of health care providers, and to make a difference, a little bit at a time.
PA Friendships - John McElligott and Charlie Clark (Class ’74)
Reginald Carter, Ph.D., PA

John McElligott (’74) and Charlie Clark (’74) came to Durham recently to attend a Duke football game and to give John’s daughter Katy, an opportunity to see the campus. This gave me the opportunity to talk with John and Charlie about their friendship that began here at Duke in 1970.

Like so many of the early graduates, both applied to the PA program the same year and although highly qualified they did not get accepted due to the large number of applications. Paul Toth (’68), a member of the PA program faculty based in the department of surgery, called and offered both jobs in the operating room and on Knott Ward. He couldn’t guarantee them a position in the PA program but felt that being at Duke would improve their chances of acceptance the following year. John says, “I left my student teaching job behind, had $200 in my pocket, and came to Duke to be interviewed for the job in surgery.” Charlie and John met for the first time at the interviews. The moves paid off; both were admitted, became close friends and graduated from the Duke PA Program in 1974.

After graduation, John went to the University of Texas to help establish a PA program and Charlie went to the Medical College of Virginia to work in one of their clinics. During a clinical site visit to Colorado City, Texas, the local doctors asked John to leave academia to come work for them. According to John, “The four doctors that served this rural community were in their 60’s and burnt out. They wanted me to work in the emergency room of the local hospital. They made an offer that I could not refuse. The days and hours were long and hard so I convinced them that I needed help.” John recruited Charlie and they did everything from general surgery to delivering babies. The Medical Board of Texas took the local doctors and John and Charlie to task for distributing medications to patients seen in the emergency room when no other options were available. The community came to their defense and told the Board that if they wanted to bring charges against the doctors and their two PAs then the trial would have to be held in Colorado City. “And by the way,” they told the Board, “one of the PAs in question saved the life of the local judge’s mother this past winter.” The Board bowed out and told John and Charlie that they could continue to distribute medications but they had to do it “outside” the hospital walls, to avoid conflict with then-existing regulations.

From Colorado City, John and Charlie moved to Manteo to work in family practice, establishing one of the first medivac services in eastern North Carolina. Then they went to Oak Ridge, Tennessee working clinically and attending school to obtain MPH degrees. They were asked to “run the ER” of a small hospital in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Tennessee, first on weekends, then every night. They ended up contracting with five other PAs to help them. Because of his wealth of knowledge and seeing the need for more medical help in rural Tennessee, John decided to apply to medical schools. He was placed on the waiting list at a number of schools in the U.S., but because of age, decided to enroll in the St. Lucia Medical School. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Griffin Hospital, an affiliate of Yale University.

After becoming board certified in internal medicine, John returned to Oak Ridge in 1989 to begin a clinical practice that eventually grew to include thirteen physicians. All was well until John became seriously ill and decided that he needed to change his pace of life. The outcome was establishing Occupation Health Systems that he currently manages. Meanwhile, John had talked several other doctors into sponsoring Charlie through medical school. Charlie attended St. Lucia Medical School and completed his internal medicine residency at the East Tennessee State University Medical Center. Charlie currently works with four physicians who are part of a larger network of 120 internist serving eastern Tennessee. John says, “Charlie is recognized as one of the best internists in Knoxville. He takes care of my family.”

John and Charlie joined the Duke University Medical School Davison Club immediately after completing their residencies. They have used their influence to encourage Duke’s top officials to continue meeting the needs of PA students as well as medical students. They speak with pride about their education at Duke, their close friendship and the opportunities they have had to extend health care services to medically underserved communities. Now physicians, both use PAs in their own clinics.
Clara E. Vanderbilt (’71) has officially retired from Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, NY and returned “home” to Durham where she began her PA odyssey over 30 years ago.

Her first job at Duke was in medical records. “I was in the right place at the right time,” says Clara. “I wanted to be a PA and applied to the program at a time when mostly men were being recruited for the profession. In those early years, they were looking for individuals that would be aggressive, self-motivated learners who could stand on their own two feet.”

Duke did not go wrong in enrolling Clara. In 1970 she joined her classmates in forming the Stead Society, the student organization at Duke. As Doug Condit, RPA-C noted in the May 2000 issue of Surgical Physician Assistant, “In the 1970’s, Clara was undoubtedly the most visible surgical PA in the profession.” Clara was the first PA intern in the department of surgery at Montefiore. With Dr. Marvin Gliedman and Richard Rosen, she helped establish the first PA surgical residency in the country becoming the associate director in 1977 and the director in 1980 — a position she held until her recent retirement. Clara won election to the American Academy of Physician Assistant’s Board in 1972 and became the Academy’s first woman vice-president in 1975. In the same year, she became the founding president of the New York State Society of Physician Assistants (NYSSPA), served a second term as president and several times on the board of directors. Soon after the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) was established, Clara was asked to serve as a commissioner where she championed the cause for surgical PAs.

In April 2000, the NYSSPA honored Clara as its “PA of the Millennium” and named the annual presidential dinner after her. During the dinner, the American Association of Surgical PAs presented Clara the John W. Kirklin Award for Professional Excellence. Dr. Kirklin founded the first surgical PA program at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, in 1967.

“When I was in medical records,” Clara says, “I overheard Dr. Stead telling a medical student that he had failed to get a complete medical history on an elderly black female patient with chronic hypertension. It seems he had not asked her who was taking care of her grandchildren, a responsibility that she had been shouldering for many years. As long as she was worried about her grandchildren, Dr. Stead said there would be no way to reduce her blood pressure even with available medications.” Clara said she was so impressed with Dr. Stead’s concern for the patient that she decided to make this the focus of her own clinical practice.
Over one hundred individuals gathered Friday, October 5th at the Searle Center to celebrate PA Day. Justine Strand, Division Chief and Program Director, welcomed participants and introduced Russel Kaufman, Vice Dean for Education and Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, who read a letter from Dr. Ralph Snyderman, Chancellor for Health Affairs, that appeared in *Inside Duke*. Dr. Snyderman wrote, “As clinicians you render valuable services within almost every sector of our hospitals, outpatient and community-based clinics. You play a diverse and vital role in contributing to our nation’s health, and I personally want to commend you for being an essential and valuable member of our health care team.”

Dr. Eugene Stead, Jr. and Dr. E. Harvey Estes, Jr., former chairs of medicine and community and family medicine spoke briefly about the PA profession and its impact on health care delivery. After students presented Ms. Stead roses, everyone sang happy birthday to Dr. Stead and enjoyed watching him blow out the candles on his cake. Dr. Stead celebrated his 93rd birthday on October 6th.

Students did not wait until October 6th to celebrate PA day. They celebrated “PA Spirit Week” by attending class on consecutive days in their pajamas, tee shirts and caps from their alma maters, gaudy clothing and formal attire. In all, it was a memorable week of activities.
News from Alumni and Friends

Craig C. Bruno ('68) from Greenville, NC, writes: “I have been practicing as a PA for 33 years and continue to enjoy and honor the profession. Any PA students interested in discussing PA concept and opportunities can reach me at Greenville Health Care Center, 3121 Moseley Dr., Greenville, NC 21858; telephone number: 252/758-4455.”

David Schnell ('77) from Jamestown, NY is a practicing cardiologist. David was married last June and was expecting his 1st child May 22nd.

Jeff Thurlow ('85) writes: “I am actively involved in teaching PA students in the Northeastern Program in Boston and really enjoy it. My wife and I are proud parents of twin baby boys, Danny and Ryan. They will be one year old on June 22nd. My practice is extremely busy and gratifying in general surgery. We live in Needham, MA and have just built a nice waterfront cottage in Pine Point.”

Ann (Palmer) Kendall ('89) and Michael are proud parents of “Kristin Maria”, born June 5, 2001 at 8:28 p.m., 7 lbs. 8 oz., (3rd child, 1st girl).

Suzanne Hage ('93) writes: “greetings from DC. I have moved to Washington, DC to take a faculty position at the Medical School at George Washington University. I am looking forward to working with students full time. Hopefully, I too will be a student again soon—working on my Ph.D. in Higher Education at GW for free!!!”

Peter Dolan ('96) and Sherry Wanner (former Admissions Coordinator) were married on August 4, 2001. Mildred Woody was Matron of Honor. Congratulations to the couple!

Shivaun McDonald ('97) of Santa Cruz, CA, presented at the Bureau of Primary Health Care’s Diabetes National Conference in Charlotte, N.C., February 2, 2001. Her classmate, Sarah Walters ’97 proudly listened. Both Sarah and Shivaun have represented their community health centers at this national effort to improve the care model for persons with diabetes.

Leigh Florio ('01) and her husband are proud parents of “Maria Elizabeth” born August 7, 2001 at 11:46 p.m., weighing 6.59 oz, 19.5”.

Blair Maerowitz ('02) and his wife, Rosie, are proud parents of “Amelia Rose Maerowitz McMahan” born October 2, 2001, weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz.

Lauren Martell, Admissions Coordinator, is the proud mother of baby boy, Shawn, born September 23rd at 5:13 a.m., weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz.

Carole Hohl ('80) wrote an article for the “my most memorable patient” feature that appeared in the July/August 2001 issue of Clinician News. The patient, Theodore, was homeless, befriended by a nurse practitioner who referred him to Carole to be tested for HIV. He tested positive and Carole describes the bond that forms between Theodore, herself and the nurse practitioner as they work together to manage not only his infection but also his social isolation. Carole works for Boston Health Care for the Homeless.

According to an article appearing in the April 2, 2001 issue of Inside Duke, physician Richard Krasuski has shown that PAs working in the division of cardiology at Duke, with proper training and supervision of an experienced cardiologist, can successfully perform cardiac catheterizations. The study compared 929 diagnostic catheterizations performed by PAs and 4,521 catheterizations performed by cardiology fellows and showed no significant differences in incidence of major complications (0.54 % for PAs vs 0.58% for cardiology fellows). Krasuski states that “With the involvement of PAs, cardiologists are freed up to perform more complex procedures.”

Rivka Gordon ('79) has been named US program director for Ipsas, an international organization that supports the development of policies that put women’s issues at the center by bringing attention to women’s health in national and international health policy dialogue. Rivka can be reached at (919) 960-5637 or at gordonr@ipas.org. For more information about the mission and goals of Ipsas see their web site at www.ipas.org.

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Alumni and PAs in *The News*

interpret data generated by the catheterization, plan the patient’s follow-up care, and even consult with referring physicians while the case is still going on.”

■ The October 6, 2000 issue of the *Dialogue* features an article entitled, “Research team links gene to Parkinson’s disease.”

**Jeffrey Stajich (’81)** is mentioned as one of the team members whose “findings demonstrate for the first time a common genetic basis for the different forms of Parkinson’s disease and holds promise that the ‘Parkin’ gene might eventually be a useful diagnostic tool for the disease.”

■ Jenette Nagy (’01) wrote an article entitled “Si, Doctora” for the Spring 2001 issue of *The Network Practitioner* a journal for primary care providers in community health centers. She writes of her experience as a PA student at Tri-County Community Health Center interacting with Hispanic patients, mostly migrants. Jenette writes, “Working here has reminded me, forcefully, what it means to serve patients. I am here not only to serve as their provider, but also, when needed, to serve as their advocate.”

■ In the June 30, 2001 issue of *AAPA News*, **Mary Ettari (’81)** is shown receiving the AAPA House of Delegates Outstanding Service Award from speaker of the house, Tom Lemley. Lemley presented the award, “with great admiration...for all you have contributed to the progress and accomplishments of AAPA’s policy-making body, the House of Delegates.” Ettari is in family practice in Stuart, Florida. She has been active in the HOD for many years, serving on various committees and as secretary in 1984 and as vice speaker in 1985. In 2000, she was appointed to the AAPA Leadership Advisory Committee and last year to the PA Foundation Board of Trustees.

■ As a medical sociologist at Duke during the 1970s, Eugene S. Schneller, PhD, studied the emerging PA profession. In 1978 he released a book entitled, *The Physician’s Assistant: Innovation in the Medical Division of Labor*, based on a study of PAs who graduated in 1977. Dr. Schneller has followed the careers of these graduates for the past 22 years and was interviewed by *Clinician News* (September 2001 issue) about his findings. Schneller says: “One of the features of the PA is that they are flexible in their careers.” In 1977, 83% of the graduates indicated a preference in primary care and 80% entered primary care practices. But by the year 2000, only 52% preferred primary care with only 50% working in these specialties. Leaders of the profession are quick to point out that the marketplace has changed over the past 30 years for PAs, there are more opportunities to specialize, and the definition of primary care has changed as well. Even so, there is concern that the profession is losing a part of its early goals of extending health care services to medically underserved communities.

First Endowment

continued from page 1

anything. From the first day as a physician assistant, doctors placed their trust in me. I never met some of the physicians whose patients I saw in the emergency room, but they trusted my judgement and were grateful I was there since they were overworked and needed time for rest and family.”

Justine Strand, MPH, PA-C, Division Chief and PA Program Director, states that “John and Lisa’s generous gift comes at a crucial time in the development of our division. As more PA programs develop and offer the master’s degree, the competition for top candidates is increasing and we need scholarship dollars desperately to attract students who are capable of carrying on the great tradition established by our alumni. What a great way to launch Reg’s new role as director of alumni services and development. We hope that other alumni will be inspired by John and Lisa’s generosity and establish similar endowments or make major pledges to our ongoing Stead Campaign.”
Tom Colletti -
Academic Coordinator

Tom grew up in New York City, receiving his BS degree from City College of New York and his PA certificate from the US Public Health Service Hospital in Staten Island, New York. In 1999, he completed the Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) from the University of Nebraska.

Tom has a special interest in exercise medicine. “Most people call it sports medicine,” he says, “but I’m more interested in promoting the health benefits of exercise for the non-athlete than sports.” After 20 years of clinical practice, Tom felt he needed a new challenge and accepted a position at Methodist College in Fayetteville, North Carolina as their Assistant Director and Academic Coordinator. He taught there for a year and a half before coming to Duke. “The position at Duke was a dream come true,” says Tom. “To work at a prestigious institution, and at the birthplace of the PA profession is very exciting.” He elaborates, “The opportunities to work on interesting projects and to help guide the PA Profession at Duke was a simple decision. The ambience and the people here are great. I feel like I have finally found my new home.”

Tom lives in Chapel Hill with his wife, an x-ray tech at a Duke affiliated family medicine practice, two teen age boys attending high school, and also a daughter who is a junior at UNC in Wilmington.

Cathy King -
Administrative Coordinator

Cathy King, MEd joined the PA Division in August as Administrative Coordinator. Cathy received her Master of Education degree from the University of Missouri in 1993, specializing in educational administration. Her background includes managing a student-housing program at DeVry Institute of Technology and at the Kansas City Art Institute. She also worked as the Director of Student Resources at the University of Kansas Medical Center, and during the last two years at KUMC was Associate Registrar in the Records and Registration Department. Last year, she moved to North Carolina after accepting the position of Assistant Registrar at Duke University.

“My preference is to manage small academic programs,” she says, “because I like the student contact and diverse work experience they offer. I also enjoy working with professional students. I was especially attracted to the Physician Assistant Program because of it excellent reputation in academia and student affairs.”

Karen Hills –
New Pfizer PA Teaching Fellow

We are pleased to welcome Karen J. Hills, MS, PA-C to the PA Program as the 2001-2002 Pfizer PA Teaching Fellow. Karen is a graduate of the Wake Forest University PA Program and also holds an MS in Health Fitness Management from American University.

She has worked as a PA in cardiology and family medicine, and before becoming a PA was Executive Director of the Wellness Council of NC as well as a community health educator.

With the addition of partial grant funding for this position, the Pfizer PA Teaching Fellowship is now a full-time, one-year position in the PA Program. The PA Teaching Fellow participates in all phases of PA education, including administration and the admissions process, small group and lecture teaching during the didactic phase, and evaluation of students during the clinical phase. Additionally, the Teaching Fellow attends national PA meetings and participates in the Duke Family Medicine faculty development program with other clinicians from throughout the Health System.

Deadline for application for the 2002-2003 teaching fellowship is April 1, 2002. Visit the PA Program’s Web site at pa.mc.duke.edu (click on Postgraduate Programs, then Teaching Fellowship) for more information about this position.

Lauren Martell -
Staff Assistant/Admissions Coordinator

Lauren Martell is our new Admissions Coordinator, and has been with the Division for nearly a year. Lauren has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Miami University in Ohio. “I would like to make the admission process as friendly and accessible as possible for applicants interested in PA studies in spite of the competitive nature of entry into our program. I want the applicants whether they are accepted or not to have had a good experience with Duke.”

Karen Hills
We are pleased to announce that John Faulkner, MPH, PA-C has been selected as the new Regional Clinical Coordinator for the Area L AHEC (Area Health Education Center) region of North Carolina. He will be working collaboratively with Elaine Owens, who directs the Office of Regional Primary Care Education for Area L.

The objectives of the Regional Clinical Coordinator project are: (1) to improve access to primary health care services in the 34 counties represented by the targeted AHEC regions; (2) to provide career advancement opportunities for minorities and disadvantaged persons living in these communities; and (3) to continue developing and providing PA students opportunities to complete two clinical rotations in community-based, medically underserved communities in NC.

John graduated from the University of Kentucky’s Physician Assistant program in 1977. He had previously been awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from Randolph-Macon College in 1971 and received the Master of Public Health Degree in Health Policy and Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1989. He has spent his entire career working in underserved rural areas, in Kentucky, Virginia and North Carolina.

Carter Receives AAPA President’s Award

At the 29th Annual PA Conference held in Anaheim, California in May, Reginald Carter (’78) was awarded the AAPA President’s award by outgoing president Glen Combs. Presenting the award to Carter during the General Session, Mr. Combs called Carter an example of enduring commitment to the PA profession.

Reggie’s efforts over the years have been met with a multitude of successes. He has demonstrated his commitment to the future of the PA profession through his work with students and physicians. He is also dedicated to preserving the past," Comb's said, “as he assumes the new role as director of the PA History Center in July.”

In closing, Carter offered his own advice to the audience. “First, surround yourself with loving, highly motivated, and talented people and you will be successful. Second, enjoy what you do; have a passion for it. And third… never take yourself too seriously.

New challenges for Reggie Carter and Mildred Woody

Receptions were held at Duke in June for Reginald Carter and Mildred Woody to celebrate their years of service to the PA Division and the Department of Community and Family Medicine. Over 30 people from the department attended a luncheon in Mildred’s honor on June 18.

Over 150 individuals attended a reception for Dr. Carter held at the Searle Conference Center at Duke on June 28.

In his new role, as Director of Alumni Affairs and Development, Reggie’s goal is to unite alumni and students in an enhanced network. He hopes to see alumni gifts double each year for the next three years. As director of the PA History office, Reggie will coordinate efforts to study, preserve and present the history of the PA profession. Mildred coordinates both projects. Contact the alumni or the history office by emailing or phoning: pahx@mc.duke.edu, (919) 681-3100.

Dieter and Scott Receive Faculty Promotions

Associate Program Director Patricia M. Dieter, MPA, PA-C and Director of Preclinical Education Victoria Scott, MHS, PA-C, were recently promoted to the rank of Associate Clinical Professor. This achievement recognizes their many years of service to the Duke PA Division, the Department of Community and Family Medicine, and the School of Medicine. Both have an impressive record of scholarship, leadership and service to the profession, and are nationally recognized PA educators. Department Chair J. Lloyd Michener, MD remarked, “Pat and Vicki are outstanding members of our faculty and their recognition as Associate Clinical Professor is well deserved. Their contributions are highly valued by the Department and by the Medical School.”
First Year Curriculum Moves Onto The Internet

Anyone who finished school more than a few years ago is likely to have relied heavily on books, paper handouts and hastily scribbled, in-class notes. Well, times have changed. This year, students in the preclinical year go to a Web site to access their courses. Using a program called Blackboard by CourseInfo, students can get to all of their course syllabi, handouts, schedules and electronically delivered lectures. Lecture slides are displayed on students’ laptop screens, where notes can be easily typed as the lecturer speaks. Quizzes as well as course evaluations are also administered through Blackboard.

Students no longer leave the preclinical year with a mountain of accumulated paper. Much of what they have learned is contained on CD-ROMs, a much more portable option.

Following a national trend in the use of Web-based courseware, the Duke PA Program was fortunate to find that Blackboard was used by other learners at Duke and well supported by a campus-wide Center for Instructional Technology. The transition from local server-based storage of curricular materials to Blackboard was further facilitated by the class of 2002, who graciously served as our “guinea pigs” for two of their summer term courses.

The use of Blackboard makes it possible for students to work within their courses while in the classroom or at home. A home page for each student, which is password protected, displays a menu of all the courses for which the student is registered along with current announcements from instructors. A single mouse click gives access to course information and documents. Links to other relevant Web sites can be easily incorporated. Blackboard lends a uniform structure and appearance to courses, facilitating access to information.

The Medical Center Library provides additional Internet resources including access to many current standard textbooks and full-text journal articles. Since many texts and articles can be displayed electronically, copy costs are kept to a minimum.

The learning curve for PA Program faculty and staff often parallels that of our students as we adapt to a more technology-dependent curriculum. A recent survey of PA programs revealed that all are incorporating educational technology. It can be seen everywhere from the admissions process through the clinical year. We can only guess what the learning environment for PA students will be like in another 5 years.
PA Program Awarded Training Grant

The PA Program was recently awarded a three-year federal training grant under Title VII, Section 747 of the Public Health Service Act. These are the only federal funds for primary care education. The grants are administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Health Professions. In partnership with targeted North Carolina Area Health Education Centers (AHECs), the Duke Center for Human Genetics and the UNC School of Dentistry, the PA Program has committed to several projects. They include a continuing effort to increase the number of underrepresented minority and disadvantaged students who enter the Duke PA Program and other North Carolina PA Programs. Duke’s efforts in this regard have been successful in the last two years, with 34% minority students in both the first and second year classes. Further, the program is committed to placing more of our graduates in primary care in medically underserved communities.

Two curriculum development projects are under way, to develop curricula in oral health and genetics in primary care. Both of these curricula will be made available nationally to other PA programs. Finally, the Pfizer PA Teaching Fellowship has been expanded to a full time position (previously half time) with federal support. Principal Investigator for the grant is Division Chief and Program Director Justine Strand.

New PA Division Web Site

The PA Division’s new web site debuted June 1, 2001. Featuring a whole new look, the web site is now the major resource for information about the PA Program and Division. Candidates for the program will find all the information they need about prerequisites, the admissions process, student life and much more — and the application process is now entirely web-based. Features in development include interactive alumni pages with job listings, class message boards, and a web “Hall of Fame” featuring distinguished Duke alumni who have made significant contributions to the profession and practice. Look for the new features next spring. Check out the web site at pa.mc.duke.edu, and drop us a line to tell us what you think!

Faculty Development Project in Genetics for PAs, NPs and CNMs Awarded to Duke

Advances in genetics are increasing at such a rapid pace that new diagnostic tests, treatment options and educational advances make it difficult for mid-level providers to keep pace. To address the need for increased genetics content in graduate school curricula, Duke University Medical Center has been selected by the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to develop an innovative program that brings graduate faculty teams from physician assistant, nurse practitioner and nurse midwifery programs throughout the United States to Duke University Medical Center to learn about advances in genetics. The cooperative agreement is a collaborative effort of the School of Nursing, the Physician Assistant Division of the Department of Community and Family Medicine, and the Center for Human Genetics. This national project is the result of a competitive application process, and only one award was made.

The course purpose is to assist in the incorporation of genetics as a recurring theme throughout graduate schools’ curricula. This innovative $1.5 million grant will allow up to 25 faculty teams to participate in the educational program over the next three years. The educational program consists of three parts; an on-line genetics primer that prepares the faculty teams for their time at Duke University; an on campus intensive week of classes addressing genetics, and the related social, political, cultural, ethical, religious, and legal ramifications. Additional content includes faculty development, management of organizational change, curriculum redesign, case scenarios, and standardized patients. At the completion of the second phase, faculty teams will be awarded up to $7,000 to use at their home institutions to assist with costs associated with integrating genetics content in their curriculum. Faculty teams will continue through a third phase in which they will be offered on-line resources, on line faculty forums with a moderator for shared problem solving and an on line “ask the expert” forum. The costs for faculty teams’ attendance, travel, room and board will be paid by the grant.
What do a retired Army Special Forces Sergeant, a snowboard instructor, a professional dancer from New York City, and a high school science teacher have in common? Just come sit in on a class in room 131 Hanes House and you’ll find out — they are all part of the Physician Assistant class of 2003!

We started our year on August 9th to allow us an entire day to become oriented to our laptop computers. Little did we know that this instrument would provide us most of our learning materials. Slowly but surely, we have become acclimated to this new way of learning (some of us have become “one” with our computers, giving them names and petting them daily, in hopes that they will cooperate if we treat them well).

The first eight weeks have been a roller-coaster ride for many of us. We have been thrust into “drinking from the fire-hose” of information and materials, sometimes causing us to close our eyes in fear, and sometimes raising our hands in exhilaration. Members of our class come from all kinds of different backgrounds, and yet early on, we seemed to meld together. We have had parties, gone to Durham Bulls games, dined out, escaped to Chapel Hill, attended the graduate student campout for basketball tickets, and cried together on September 11th as we watched in horror as events unfolded on TV on the large screen in our classroom.

Several members of our class are very interested in studying or practicing abroad. We already have plans for fundraisers for charities, community service, and for our annual trip to next year’s AAPA Annual Conference in Boston. The Stead Society is in full swing, with new officers and ideas. Our goal this year is to come together as a unit for the purpose of learning, giving, and participating in community. We hope to raise $20,000 dollars this year for charities, and to help provide a way for all of us to attend the National Conference.

All in all, this has been a fantastic beginning for us all. Even though each of us gets a bit overwhelmed at times, there is always someone by our side to pick us up and encourage us. We have made the move from classmates to friends, and we are all looking forward to two years full of great memories to come!
Christine Hsu Awarded Millionth-Dollar Scholarship by PAF

Christine R. Hsu ’02 was named the recipient of the millionth dollar scholarship by the Physician Assistant Foundation (PAF) at the AAPA 29th Annual Conference in Anaheim in May. The $2,000 scholarship award from the Bristol Myers Squibb Endowment is based on financial need, academic record as a PA student, extracurricular activities, and future goals as a physician assistant. To recognize this milestone in PAF history, Christine and Program Director Justine Strand were invited to attend the annual PAF Recognition Luncheon.

Some members of the PA Class of 2002 in Anaheim, California

Students Attend National Conference

Karl Kruszynski and Kate McKittrick

After several months of selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts, World’s Finest Chocolate Bars, and t-shirts, the Class of 2002 sent a record 29 students to Anaheim for the national conference in May.

Kelli Sheffield and Alex Steele represented our interests in the student assembly as the AOR and HOD. Early Sunday morning Mark Holbert and Melissa Beckman placed in the AAPA Annual 5K Fun Run. Melissa was first among women in her age group and Mark placed third overall.

A number of classmates volunteered their services at the conference by staffing the information booth, setting up the silent auction, and escorting VIPs. Karl Kruszynski accepted the 2001 Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Physician Assistant Caucus student leadership award and attended the Gateways Leadership Programs sponsored by the Physician Assistant Foundation.

Some of the most exciting moments of the conference were created by the performances of the 2001 Duke Challenge Bowl team, the “Steadheads”: Gail Albergo, Keith Herron, and Kelly Wallington. After months of preparation, this trio of first-year students made it into the final round of competition, further than any team in Duke’s history.

We enjoyed meeting graduates of the Duke PA Program at the Duke Alumni reception on our last evening at the conference.

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Stead Campaign continued from page 1

Meet our goals. I hope many of our alumni will follow John and Lisa McElligott’s example and consider establishing an unrestricted named endowment [see related story]. Whatever the case and whatever the amount, I want alumni to take this challenge seriously and to give what ever they feel comfortable in doing.”

Because of the events of September 11th, Dr. Carter and Mildred Woody delayed phoning graduates to encourage them to give. However, the Campaign will be back in full motion by November. Please join with your fellow alumni to help us meet our goal. The PA alumni office can be contacted by calling (919) 681-3400 or send email to paalumni@mc.duke.edu. Pledge forms are on the back inside page of this newsletter.
Second Year Students awarded Scholarships

Through the generosity of alumni, the following second year students received $3,000 alumni-sponsored scholarships at the beginning of the fall term. They are:

Gail Albergo is from Durham, NC and earned a BA in Russian from Rutgers University and a MA in Russian Area Studies from Georgetown University. She has over 13 months of health care experience as a clinical research assistant.

Melissa Beckman is from Shakopee, MN and received a BA in psychology from Marquette University. She has over 2 years of health care experience as a rehab aide, rehab care technician, and emergency room services coordinator.

Michael Fournier is from Palmer, MA and received a BA in biology and psychology from Boston University. He has over five years of health care experience as a medical assistant, phlebotomist, care partner and clinical laboratory assistant.

Erika Harris is from Cedar Grove, NC and received a BS in laboratory animal science from North Carolina A&T. She has over one year of health care experience as a certified nurse assistant, home health aide and patient care attendant.

Nassoma King is from Mobile, AL and earned a BS in cardiorespiratory science from the University of South Alabama. She has over two years of health care experience as a respiratory therapy technologist.

Dorothy Knapp is from San Diego, CA and received a BA in political science from the University of CA in San Diego. She has over two years of health care experience as a clinical volunteer, certified nurse assistant, ER volunteer, post-anesthesia volunteer and cancer volunteer.

Kevin Lauck is from Bloomfield, NE and received a BA in chemistry and biology from Mount Marty College. He has over eight years of health care experience as an EMT and three years as an EMT instructor.

Robert Tumey is from Efland, NC and received a BA in interdisciplinary studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has over six years of health care experience as a registered nurse.

Robert Vega is from West Covina, CA and earned a BS in psychobiology from the University of California-Los Angeles. He has over three years of health care experience as an ER assistant, hospital corpsman and nursing assistant.

PA Class of 2001 Graduates

The PA Program’s diploma and hooding awards ceremony was held Sunday, May 13th at the Durham Marriott. The program presented master of health sciences (MHS) degrees to 43 students from the class of 2001. In addition, 14 East Carolina University PA students received their master’s degrees at an earlier ceremony, as part of the joint MHS degree option program established between the two institutions in 1997.

“Thank you so much for selecting me to receive this generous scholarship. My father has always told me that a good education is worth every penny. The Duke PA Program has definitely proved his theory to be true. However, this scholarship will definitely help defray the costs. I am so grateful to the alumni association and the friends of the Duke PA Program.”

Melissa Beckman ('02)
Contributions to the Alumni Scholarship Fund

Stead Club
pledged $5,000 over 5-year period
Reginald and Sherry Carter ('78)
Patricia and Bob Dieter (faculty)
Mary Ettari ('81)
Carl Fasser ('69)
Ed Gaile ('78)
Holly Hausman ('81)
Darlene Haviland ('89)
Paul Hendrix ('75)
Andrew and Stacey McCorison ('88)
Cecile and Marc Noel ('94)
Gayle Patterson ('74)
Vicki Scott ('81)
Justine Strand ('81)
Carl Toney ('79) and Anne Summer ('82)
Clara Vanderbilt ('71)

Platinum and Gold
pledged $1,000 to $4,999 over 5-year period
Lovest Alexander, Jr. ('78)
Janet Boswell ('84)
Rebecca Estes Dunn ('78)
Marcia Herman-Giddens ('78)
Carole Hohl ('80)
Andrew Ilobre ('87)
Georgia and Michael Keene ('91)
Jack Lord ('81)
Anna Mair ('93)
Kristen Monahan ('85)
Philip Price ('82)
Michael Quirk ('70)
Peggy Robinson ('92)
Lisa Sand ('91)
Arthur Smith ('72)
Van Tanner ('00)

Silver and Bronze
contributed or pledged $100 to $999 over 5-year period
Wayne Anderson ('74)
James Bartow ('71)
Vaughn Begick ('75)
William Bosley ('88)
James Byrd, Jr. ('78)
James Carter, Jr. ('86)
Leonard DeLorenzo ('85)
Sherry Wanner-Dolan Erin Glasheen ('98)
Margaret (Betsy) Glennon ('79)
Michael Hamilton Daniel Harshbarger ('78)
Jeffrey Heinrich ('73)
James Hill, Jr. ('76)
Susan Horlick ('91)
John Horn ('78)
Nancy Joyce ('78)
Barbara Jones ('85)
Belle McDougall ('89)
Mary Beth McGranaghan ('97)
Joyce Nichols ('70)
Vince Palese ('88)
Dixie Patterson ('97)
Elmira Powell ('86)
Sarah Roberson ('98)
William Schultz ('81)
Delmer (Bud) Shelton ('74)
Deborah Turner ('92)
William Vaassen ('74)
Sarah Walters ('97)
Jennifer Williams ('74)
Peggi Wunder ('75)
Cary Zakrzewski ('73)

Other Contributions
James Blacksher ('83)
Shannon Briggs ('95)
Inna Cushman
Daniel Davis
Mary Driebeck ('84)
George Engstom
Francis Hannah ('95)
Gordon Hixson
Gloria Jordan ('88)
Russel Kaufman
Howard Lee, Jr. ('78)
Dean Little ('78)
Niall McGinniss ('82)
Kelly Parker ('94)
Mary and Robert Peoples ('77)
Dene Reich
Laurie Scott
Mariorie Shirosky ('86)
Jeffrey Stajich ('81)
Beverly Tashe
Wallace (Ed) Wilson ('88)

The record above includes individuals who responded to our first Stead Campaign conducted by telephone in April 2000 and to those who have contributed since July 1, 2000. Please forgive us if your name has been inadvertently left of the list.

Please remove and complete the following pledge form and mail or fax to the address or telephone number shown below. We will mail information to you immediately about how you can make your pledge payments by credit card, checking account/automatic deduction or by check. Thank you for your support.

The Stead Campaign
Physician Assistant Division
DUMC 3848, Durham, NC 27710
FAX (919) 681-3371

I would like to pledge the following amount over the next five years to the Stead Campaign:

☐ Stead Club ($5,000)  ☐ Platinum ($2,500 - $4,999)
☐ Gold ($1,000 - $2,499)  ☐ Silver ($500 - $999)
☐ Bronze ($100 - $499)  ☐ Pledge Amount $ __________

I can not pledge at this time but here is a check for $ __________ for Scholarships.

(Please Print)

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE  YEAR OF GRADUATION

398-6427-3252-73862  Tech.Code PA01
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, PA Alumni Office
Dept. of CFM - DUMC 3848
Durham, North Carolina 27710
paalumni@mc.duke.edu

NAME, YEAR OF GRADUATION

ADDRESS

NEWS I WOULD LIKE PRINTED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER