In Memoriam
We bid farewell to two pioneers:
Victor H. Germino ('67)
and James Ross Asher ('71)

Putting PAs into Practice:
Profiles of alumni spanning 50 years of the profession, including an interview with two pioneers and a soon-to-be graduate

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Putting PAs into Practice
Anthony Robinson, MHS, PA-C, Class of 2007
A new look and a tribute to the past

We surveyed, you responded and we listened. This edition of the alumni magazine captures what alumni said they wanted in our magazine — more features on alumni, updates on what former classmates are doing and remembrances of those who have passed away. You said you wanted more photos and we have tried to refresh our layout and look to be bright and engaging. You indicated you wanted information you could use in terms of trends in education and research that impact the PA profession. With that in mind, our research team highlights health workforce trends, patient preferences for primary care provider type, and PA student salary expectations, and our technology staff shares exciting news about a curriculum redesign using various instructional strategies and technology, and the use of 3-D scans and prints of organs for enhanced and realistic visualization for students.

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Creating stronger ties with our veteran alumni

In an effort to create stronger ties with our veteran alumni, the Duke Physician Assistant Program is taking steps to create more communication and opportunities for you to get involved. Starting with the Veterans Corner, a recurring alumni magazine column, we will use this space to keep our veteran alumni abreast of current events, future activities, news items and updates. Plans for a web presence are also in the works, so continue to check pa.duke.edu for veteran alumni updates.

Also to this end, the PA program is building a mentorship program in which veteran alumni will serve as mentors for prospective and current veteran PA students. This program is part of a $2.3 million grant Duke received from the Health Resources and Services Administration focused on primary care training and enhancement.

You may have heard about this grant, which is a collaboration between multiple programs at Duke and led by the PA program, but what you might not know is that a portion of it is focused solely on veterans’ initiatives. I have joined the team to serve as the veteran coordinator for the grant.

Military veterans once comprised 100 percent of the PA profession, and now we make up only 3.8 percent of applicants. The White House has recognized that increasing veteran recruitment to the PA profession would serve two purposes:

- First, it would provide a viable career pathway for military medics who have incredible hands-on experience, but historically have had difficulty translating this experience into meaningful civilian careers.
- Next, by increasing recruitment to the PA profession, it will help fill the growing demand for health care providers.

Through this grant, we will be attempting to identify veteran-specific barriers to entry into PA school, and ways to overcome them. We will accomplish this through field research, creating partnerships with existing veteran programs, as well as local community colleges and military bases. We will also be utilizing our current and former veteran students to aid us in this ambitious endeavor.

In the short time the grant has been active we have completed research on current veteran-to-PA pathways, held our first student veteran meeting, and had our first recruitment activity at Fort Jackson, S.C.

How can you help?

We are looking for Duke PA veteran alumni across the country to mentor current and prospective student veterans. This will be an integral part of the project that will help lay the framework for a model to be used by PA programs across the country. If interested, please email me at michael.steigerwald@duke.edu for more information.

Additionally, if you would like to stay informed about veteran-specific alumni news, contact Alumni Coordinator Jennifer Pennington at PAalumni@duke.edu.

Thank you for your time and your service.
In 1964, Victor H. Germino, Jr., was working at Duke University as a surgical technician and researcher in the Department of Surgery when he received an offer that changed his career. He was working with renowned surgeons William Anlyan, M.D., and Lenox Baker, M.D., and remembers Anlyan approaching him and suggesting he meet with the chair of the Department of Medicine, Eugene A. Stead, Jr., M.D., to talk about a new program to educate physician assistants. Anlyan thought “I fit the bill for this new profession,” Germino recalled in an interview just weeks before his death on March 1.

At about the same time, Navy corpsman Kenneth F. Ferrell, stationed aboard the USS Ashland in the Caribbean, learned about Stead’s new program from a friend living in Durham who thought he fit the bill, as well.

Both Germino and Ferrell met with Stead, and indeed they were asked to be among the first Duke PA program students. Four former Navy corpsmen comprised the first class, and three of these students — Ferrell, Germino and Richard J. Scheele — completed the program and have the distinction of being the first graduates of the program and the first working PAs in the United States.
In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the PA profession this year, I spoke with Germino and Ferrell (Scheele passed away in 1970) about how the profession has evolved since 1967, what they see for the future of PA education, and what special memories they have from those first years.

Germino worked 38 years as a PA, Ferrell worked 40, and they agreed there has been considerable change in the PA profession and also in PA education since its inception in 1965.

“In the beginning, Dr. Stead’s vision was to utilize corpsmen and medics to extend the arms and legs of overworked physicians,” Ferrell said. “Now, with tremendous growth and expansion, the PA profession makes it possible for many more people to receive the health care they need at a more affordable cost.”

“Early PA education was a pilot program,” Ferrell added. “We didn’t know if the concept would survive or not. I thought it would do well but had no idea it would flourish like it has.”

Both Germino and Ferrell said if they were working today, they would prefer to work in primary care, family medicine or internal medicine.

“I worry that PA training has gotten away from what the initial concept was: to train PAs to practice in family medicine or primary care and to practice in underserved and poor communities,” Germino said. “Working in primary care allowed me the opportunity to practice in places such as Kodiak, Alaska, and Uzbekistan.”

“I really enjoyed my work as a PA,” Germino continued. “I got to see such interesting cases and all aspects of illnesses and trauma. I developed relationships with patients, their families and the entire community. I would really encourage graduates to work in primary care or family medicine because it is so rewarding.”

Germino also fondly remembered the early days of PA training. “The guys in the first three classes were very close and really bonded,” he said. “We would meet on the second floor of Baker House – where there was a very large circular couch – to study for tests, eat lunch and talk over problems. The first PA offices were just downstairs.” A plaque commemorating the 40th anniversary of the first graduates was placed in Baker House on Duke’s medical center campus in October 2007.

Ferrell also shared a memory of Stead. “If a student or house officer told Dr. Stead that he or she didn’t have time to do something he thought was important, Dr. Stead would say, ‘If you can’t get it done in 24 hours, you might have to work nights.’ It seemed Dr. Stead never slept,” Ferrell said.

It was wonderful talking with Germino and Ferrell and I encourage each of you to read more about the first graduates and other pioneers of the Duke PA program on the Physician Assistant History Society website at http://pahx.org/. And if you get a chance, the next time you are on campus, look for the plaque in Baker House that honors them.

As always, many thanks to you, the alumni of the Duke Physician Assistant Program, for representing our profession so honorably and for your generous contributions.
Steven Meltzer, PA, Class of 1977, and his wife, Christy, took a cross-country RV trip to attend the Duke Physician Assistant Program’s 50th anniversary celebration in 2015, where they enjoyed seeing old friends and classmates. Meltzer is enjoying retirement while trying to keep up with his children and grandchildren. Contact him at meltzer@uw.edu.
Steven Meltzer, PA, Class of 1977
Retired in August 2016 from MEDEX Northwest PA Program, University of Washington
Recipient of 2017 MEDEX Pioneer Award

What do you remember most about your time as a student in the Duke Physician Assistant Program?
We had some great times during those two years; our class worked hard but also had lots of fun. Things that stand out: the formal dress code (so we looked better than the medical students!), many wonderful physicians, Ph.D. and PA instructors, great clinical rotations, and my study group of Jim Quick, Randy Stevens and Brooke Martin — they helped me survive!

What were your career goals and aspirations when you graduated?
I already knew I was interested in practicing in a rural area. My wife, Christy, grew up on a wheat farm in eastern Washington and we did a lot of camping and hiking and wanted that lifestyle to raise our family. Although most of my clinical rotations were either at Duke University Medical Center, the Durham VA Hospital or with private practitioners in town, my goal was to take advantage of all those opportunities at a major health care center to be better prepared for rural practice.

How did your goals and plans change through the years?
I had imagined I would work in a family medicine clinical setting for most of my career; I enjoyed working as a solo PA in rural satellite clinics in North Carolina and Washington state for almost 10 years. Roles changed for me in 1984 when I began working with rural communities on recruitment and retention issues and then transitioned to the director of the Eastern Washington Area Health Education Center (EWAHEC) in 1985. This was the start of my transition toward administration and program development. In 2005, I then shifted to teaching.

Tell us about your career at MEDEX Northwest.
I had been faculty at the MEDEX Northwest PA Program — the second-oldest PA program in the nation — since September 2005 and retired in August 2016. MEDEX had multiple campuses and I was the assistant director for eastern Washington, chaired the Professional Role Development course for all sites, was the clinical coordinator for student placements in eastern Washington, taught a class on rural health for first-year students at all the Washington sites, and assisted with any other course that needed help.

For the past five years, I had been the co-chair of the Master’s Track on Rural and Urban Underserved Populations with Eric Larson, Ph.D.

Why did you become a PA?
As a Navy corpsman I spent some time in the Philippines and someone had left a Duke PA program catalog in the barracks. My exposure to medicine in the Navy left me very interested in a field that allowed PAs to practice medicine with only two years of training.
I appreciated the fact that so many PA students came from military backgrounds and could continue to contribute; there were no other medical roles that ex-corpsmen could directly move into from military service.

What do you enjoy most about being a PA?
As I tell the students, it’s the best career in the world. We are privileged to practice medicine and impact individuals and families as well as communities. Nothing takes the place of what happens behind those clinic room doors — we are healer, confessor, counselor and friend. Our impact on health care access is huge, especially in rural and urban underserved communities. We add value to health care systems, communities and health care professions.

What observations do you have about the PA profession, its place in health care and its future?
When I was at Duke, we were the Physician’s Associate program; we still argue over the name and its implications. We still have to fight to be recognized as a profession, to be included in federal and state policies, and accepted by our physician colleagues and mentors; it can be wearying and discouraging at times. Continuing dialogue with physicians and other health care providers will be critical for our future success.

Every federal and professional study in the past few years has indicated the PA profession will need to increase even more in the next two decades. We are needed, we are competent, we are affordable, we are great partners, and we care about what we do and our patients and communities.
Jean McCafferty Stull, PA-C, Class of 1987, recently transitioned to a part-time position at the Orthopaedic & Spine Institute of Abington Memorial Hospital in Abington, Pa. This year, she and her husband are celebrating 30 years of marriage. The couple has two daughters, the older of which is also an orthopedic PA and had the opportunity to train under three of Stull’s classmates from Duke. The couple’s younger daughter lives in Florida and works with autistic children. Contact Stull at jtstull203@yahoo.com.
What do you remember most about your time as a student in the Duke Physician Assistant Program?
I remember that we worked hard and long hours and we were a good group that mostly got along well, and Reggie Carter who was so helpful along the way of my clinical year. I remember my first patient ever in my first rotation at Duke who had malaria, and somehow I figured it out and presented it during rounds my first morning!

What were your career goals and aspirations when you graduated?
My career goals were to work in a surgical field initially and then hope to transition to an office/surgical practice to get the full scope of patient care before, during and after surgery. I was very fortunate to have met those goals and eventually spent 10 years in an orthopedic practice in New Jersey prior to our move back to Pennsylvania.

Where are you currently working?
I am currently working at Abington Memorial Hospital in Pennsylvania, which is now part of Abington-Jefferson Health. My role is to coordinate the care of patients in the Orthopaedic & Spine Institute, a 21-bed unit for elective total joint and spine surgery. I was lucky enough to have been hired for the opening of this unit in 2014. It has been very successful and we are now looking to expand. In February 2016 I transitioned to a part-time position.

How have your career goals changed through the years?
My goals have changed more recently as I’m getting older and I found myself anxious for a new challenge outside of my comfort zone, and wanting to do something a bit different for the later years of my career as a PA. Taking a new role as a non-surgical PA and having to reacquaint myself with medical issues and immediate post-operative care that have long been left to others while I was in the OR has really been an exciting and rewarding change.

Why did you become a PA?
I became a PA because I wanted to help people feel better. I had been an OR tech originally and my father was a general surgeon; I felt more comfortable in the operating room than anywhere else.

What do you enjoy most about being a PA?
What I enjoy most about being a PA is when I’ve made a difference in someone’s day or outcome, or I’ve caught something important that otherwise might have been missed.

What observations do you have about the PA profession, its place in health care and its future?
I think ours is a profession that can always prove vital in health care. Now more than ever health care workers are being pressured to spend less time with patients and get them out of the hospital quickly, so it’s getting more difficult to treat comprehensively. PAs, like all health care personnel, are becoming very specialized. That’s not necessarily a bad thing but I think it’s important to stress the whole patient picture so as not to compromise quality care for our patients.
Cara Gambill, PA-C, Class of 1997, has combined her love of both sports and medicine into a career in orthopedics. She played soccer, basketball and softball in high school, and played on the inaugural Duke women's soccer team in 1988. Gambill also was recently inducted into her high school’s athletic hall of fame. Contact Cara Gambill at cara.gambill@duke.edu.

Cara Gambill heli-hiked on the Franz Josef glacier on the South Island of New Zealand in November 2016, as part of an Active Adventures trip.
Cara Gambill, MHS, PA-C, Class of 1997
Practices at Duke Orthopaedics, Page Road Outpatient Clinic, Durham, N.C.

What do you remember most about your time as a student in the Duke Physician Assistant Program?

My fondest memories of PA school at Duke were the everlasting bond and camaraderie that developed between my classmates and me, as well as our close-knit relationship and positive interactions with the faculty. We still get together for reunions 20 years later.

What were your career goals and aspirations when you graduated?

Prior to entering PA school at Duke, I knew I ultimately wanted to specialize in orthopedics. As a Health Professional Scholarship recipient, I was obligated to work at a VA hospital for two years after graduation. In order to fulfill that commitment, I worked in primary care at a VA hospital in Temple, Texas. Since 2000, I have worked in orthopedic surgery in various capacities including assisting in surgery and also providing inpatient and outpatient care.

Why did you become a PA?

I became a PA not only to help others but also to meld my passion for sports with medicine. During my athletic career, I inevitably suffered injuries requiring treatment by orthopedists. As a teenager, I worked as a transcriptionist for two local orthopedists in New Jersey. They served a key role as my mentors and influenced me to pursue a career in medicine. My interest in orthopedics grew as they taught me procedures in the office and allowed me to observe surgeries in the operating room. Because of their influence and guidance, I currently enjoy a career caring for patients of all ages with hand, wrist and elbow ailments.

What do you enjoy most about being a PA?

As a PA, I love making a difference in people’s lives, improving their quality of life and enabling them to return to activities by treating their acute and chronic injuries and pain with numerous modalities including therapy, injections, medications, immobilization in braces or casts and surgery.

What observations do you have about the PA profession, its place in health care and its future?

I thoroughly enjoy being a PA and highly recommend it to those with aspirations of becoming one. It’s one of the fastest growing professions and I don’t foresee that slowing down in years to come with the aging of the baby-boomer generation and restrictions on resident hours.
Anthony Robinson, PA-C, Class of 2007, has worked at Wake Spine and Pain, an intervention-based chronic pain clinic in Raleigh, N.C., for three years, and recently had the opportunity to be involved in an aspect of the formation of the new physician assistant program at UNC-Chapel Hill, his undergraduate alma mater, by serving on the program director selection committee. He says his biggest honor in life is being Dad to his three little ones — ages 3, 4 and 5 — and husband to his wife, Sonia. Contact Robinson at AMRobinsonPA@hotmail.com.
Anthony Robinson, MHS, PA-C, Class of 2007
Practices at Wake Spine and Pain, Raleigh, N.C.

What do you remember most about your time as a student in the Duke Physician Assistant Program?
What I remember most was how fast paced the program was. I remember going to class all day, taking a quick break and hitting the books all evening with my classmates and study partners.

What were your career goals and aspirations when you graduated from the PA program?
When I graduated from the PA program, my main career goal was to simply put to practice all the skills that I learned at Duke. I didn’t set out to have a particular pathway and I let God take control. I can truly say I have practiced in most settings from the Adult and Pediatric ICU settings to your typical 8 to 5 clinic. I love the ability to be flexible as a physician assistant and to thrive no matter where I am. I think now that I am experienced in patient care, I would love to venture into the administrative/business side of health care.

Why did you become a PA?
I first heard about the PA profession my junior year in college from a family member who worked in a hospital lab. When she described what she saw PAs doing I was intrigued. I immediately did all the research I could about being a PA and reached out to some PAs to shadow. The PAs I shadowed were extremely knowledgeable, but what seemed to set them apart was just how personable and compassionate they were to their patients. When I saw this, I knew I found the correct career path.

What do you enjoy most about being a PA?
I enjoy the flexibility that being a physician assistant provides. I can perform in any clinical setting that I desire, and learn any area of medicine that piques my curiosity. Because of the well-rounded education that the Duke Physician Assistant Program provided, I have a very well-rounded career.

What observations do you have about the PA profession, its place in health care and its future?
I believe there are some very positive and interesting developments that are in the works for the physician assistant profession, especially in regards to the Full Practice Authority and Responsibility policy that the AAPA Joint Task Force is considering.

Nurse practitioners and physician assistants often vie for the same positions. Because of the strong political support/base of nursing associations and unions, I believe NPs have achieved more gains in this regard. We all know that there is absolutely no difference in outcomes in the excellent care that both NPs and PAs provide.

Therefore in order for PAs to stay competitive in the job market, we have to adjust our profession. I believe many younger physicians, who have trained with NPs and PAs, understand just how capable PAs are and would be accepting of Full Practice Authority and Responsibility, especially for the experienced physician assistant. However, I do think that it's extremely important that we continue to have a commitment to team-oriented patient care.
Jennifer Quigley, PA-S, hopes to practice in an underserved community when she graduates, possibly in North Carolina, Colorado, or Washington, D.C.
Jennifer Quigley, PA-S  
Class President, Class of 2017

**What are your career goals and aspirations?**
My passion for the underserved grew through my experience as an AmeriCorps volunteer in Colorado, where I served as a doula (birth coach) and health educator in a network of community clinics that was a medical home for many immigrant and refugee families. I plan to do family medicine and OB, and I would love to be able to encourage and support future learners by teaching on faculty at a PA program down the road, whether in the U.S. or abroad.

**Why did you want to become a PA?**
I knew for a while that I wanted to do something in the health care field. I loved connecting with patients and encouraging them to take charge of their health goals, but I was also attracted to the challenges that came with figuring out a diagnosis and treatment plan and juggling the management of different medical conditions. When I was in Colorado after college, I volunteered and worked with several members of the health care team—medical assistants, nurses, physician assistants, doctors. In those settings, the PAs always stood out to me the most. They loved what they did, and they encouraged me to learn more about the profession. They enjoyed the work-life balance they had, the flexibility to switch between fields, and the fact that they were helping close gaps in health care in underserved communities. Those unique aspects of the PA profession got me hooked, and I realized that being a PA would be the best way for me to achieve those goals.

**What do you enjoy most about being a PA student?**
Right now we’re in our clinical year, and I love being constantly challenged with new opportunities to apply our skills in a wide variety of clinical settings. I started my year in rural North Carolina for a longitudinal rotation, where I enjoyed being able to use my Spanish to connect with many of our patients. A few of my favorite things to do have been listening to fetal heart tones on my women’s health rotation, giving joint injections in primary care, and suturing in the ED.

**What will you remember most about your time as a student in the Duke Physician Assistant Program?**
The community. There’s a unique bond that has formed among our classmates. We come from different backgrounds and thread together various life and health care experiences, but we are here for a shared purpose of becoming the best PAs that we can be. Together, we have gone through the highs and lows of the unrelenting craziness of PA school, from didactic year to clinical year, and we’re still going. I’m excited to see where we all end up in the future, as I know each person’s unique gifts and talents will be utilized well in the communities we serve.

**What observations do you have about the PA profession, its place in health care and its future?**
The PA profession is unique in the fact that the reason it started was to close gaps in the primary care shortage, and it has continued to fill those gaps in health care to this day. Our roots come from being creative and flexible with our skills. Because of this, PAs are critical members of the health care team, one of the key roles helping to solve the puzzle of health care access in today’s political landscape. Their flexibility to switch between specialties and provide high-quality, compassionate, patient-centered care is extremely valuable, especially now when access to health care is continually changing.

PAs are able to act as the glue within health care teams to extend services of physicians and provide excellent care to patients who need it the most. I foresee the PA profession continuing to develop widely throughout all fields and specialties, helping to enhance and expand health care delivery and access in the U.S. and abroad.
1970s

Marcia E. Herman-Giddens ('78) has semi-retired, but is a scientific adviser for the Tick-borne Infections Council of North Carolina, Inc., and continues to work in medical research.

Susan Edgman-Levitan ('77) was presented with the inaugural H. Richard Nesson Award on Nov. 2, 2016. The award was established by the Massachusetts Health Quality Partners (MHQP) to honor an individual for their commitment to using valid and reliable measurement to capture the patient experience and integrate patients into care improvements.

Rick Green ('79) is semi-retired as of December 2016. After graduation he worked for 10 years as a general surgery PA in Asheville, N.C. In 1989, he became an orthopedic distributor for spine implants and total joints. Rick was married in 1984 and has three grown children.

Carl M. Toney ('79) retired from the faculty of the University of New England in 2011, and began working as a Health Care Policy & Planning Consultant. In 2013, he was selected to serve as a consultant to the Intercultural Advisory Council of the Maine Center for Grieving Children, and in 2014 was selected as the namesake of the Boston University School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program Student Society – “Carl M. Toney Student Society.” Toney is currently the chairman of the Health Care Advisory Council, Southern Maine Agency on Aging and the vice-chairman of the Maine State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.
1980s

Dan Vetrosky (‘81) earned a doctorate in 2008 and was an associate professor at the University of South Alabama Department of PA Studies for 21 years. He retired last year from the department but still teaches and works in a urology clinic part time. He was appointed to the American Urological Association NP/PA education committee in 2016.

Claudia (Furr) Cantrell (‘84) worked 28 years as a PA. She married Dr. David Cantrell in 2012 and is now the author of her first book, “Sacred Love: A Journey of Singleness, Belonging, and Finding True Love,” which was released Dec. 5, 2016. Cantrellministries.com

Edwin Cowey (‘86) and Jane Jevons (‘86) are now working part-time as PAs. They recently purchased property in Las Olas, Ecuador, and hope to retire there within the next few years.

Wesley Thompson (‘87) continues his work in serving the HIV/AIDS population. In 2016, Thompson was recognized by POZ magazine in the POZ 100, a list that celebrates people working to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Andrew McCorison (‘88) has worked at the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center (ADATC) in Butner, N.C., for the past five years. He has two grandchildren: Madalyn, born Dec. 4, 2013, and Liam, born Feb. 4, 2016.

1990s

Carla Morey (‘91) has worked for Providence Medical Group in southern Oregon for the past 24 years. She was the first PA to work in primary care at her practice and works with a disadvantaged population.

Rhonda Feldman (‘95) has been selected as the founding director for a new PA program at Franklin College in Franklin, Ind. She previously worked as the PA program director at the University of New England.

Jackie Fitch (‘95) currently resides in Colorado, working in occupational medicine at an Army de-militarization site where her team is in the process of de-energizing munitions and neutralizing mustard agent. Since graduation, she has also been involved in firefighting and EMS.

Heather Yang (‘96) was featured on BuzzFeedVideo in October 2016, speaking about her road to obtaining an education. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tiQsJmPBlZc

Douglas DiRuggiero (‘97) credits the Duke PA program with giving him the tools and passion to accomplish his career goals, most notably the establishment of the Free Clinic of Rome in Rome, Ga., in 2003. He reports that the full-time clinic is completely run by volunteer health care professionals and now sees more than 600 unique patients per month.

2000s

Catherine (Kelso) Sadowski (‘01) was married in 2012 to Andrew Sadowski. She is currently a clinical assistant professor at Mercer University PA program in Atlanta, Ga.

Emily Talley (‘01) works full time in primary care in her hometown of Santa Fe, N.M. Previously, she worked in California, Vermont and Massachusetts.

John Goldfield (‘04) is lead PA at Rex Emergency Department in Raleigh, N.C. He sits on the Advanced Practice Provider Council, the Unit Practice Council and the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Council.

Miguel Pineiro (‘04) and Enid Tallmer (‘05) have opened a bilingual primary care clinic in Raleigh, N.C., that focuses on serving the Latino population in the area. www.famhealthclinic.com. Pineiro has been named a member of the PAEA End-of-Rotation Exam Developers Committee for the Family Medicine/Internal Medicine exams.
Nazila Shagagi ('05) was featured in a cover story entitled, “The robot will see you now,” in the September 2016 issue of PA Professional magazine.

Jamie (Davidson) Canino ('06) was married to Thomas Canino in 2010. She now lives in Boulder, Colo., and has been practicing in an emergency room for the past five years. They have two sons: Alex, 4, and Christian, 2½.

Veronica (McKay) Heath ('06) has been living in Oregon since April 2013. She currently works at Gunder sen Health in the Department of Neurosciences seeing movement disorder patients, and is involved in their deep brain stimulation program for refractory cases.

Babee Angelynne Mitchell ('07) opened her own clinic on Dec. 1, 2016, called Ideal Family Medicine, LLC in Palmer, Alaska.

Eric Guajardo ('08) and his wife, Rachel, celebrated the birth of their third child, Avi Maier Guajardo, on June 22, 2016.

Jennifer (Herlihy) Beatty ('09) and her husband, Gary, have two children: Maeve, 3, and Rory, 16 months. Beatty has been working at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in general surgery since graduation in 2009. In 2016, she was the PA Recognition Award recipient for Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

LaDonna Brown ('09) has a 6-year-old son named Bryson Coats. She was engaged to Andrecious Clark on Oct. 15, 2016, and has a wedding planned for June 2017.

Quante Greenlee ('09) graduated with a master of public health from the University of North Texas Health Science Center in May 2016. In August 2016, he began working toward a doctorate in health studies with focus on population health at Texas Woman’s University.

Kim Howard ('09) and her husband, Christopher Klindt, welcomed baby girl Eleanor June Klindt on Nov. 11, 2016.

Kathryn Stovall ('09) published an article entitled “Current recommendations for treating autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease” in the December 2016 issue of the Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.
Antonia (Soiney) Gragg ('10) and her husband, Ray, welcomed baby girl Julia in August 2016. Gragg is currently working in neurosurgery at Oregon Health and Science University.

Lacee (Leach) Wilkinson ('11) and her husband, Chris, welcomed their first baby, Mari Rose Wilkinson, on Oct. 24, 2016.

Cindy Puckett ('11) was married to Dr. Pavan Chava on March 11, 2017. She is currently a guest lecturer at the LSU New Orleans Physician Assistant Program.

Lisa Langmesser ('13) and her husband, Tom, had a baby girl, Victoria, on Sept. 9, 2016. Langmesser works at Vanderbilt University in the adult urology department.

Terri McGuire ('13) began working as a PA at American University Student Health Center in January 2017. She also works part-time as a research clinician with Whitman-Walker Health in Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth Riddle ('13) and her husband, Scott, are living in Westminster, Colo. She currently works in primary care and internal medicine at the Westminster Kaiser Clinic.

Sydney Townes-Witzel ('13) was married to Chris Harasym on June 26, 2016, in Ottawa, Canada.

Cortney Bax ('14) married Jake Bloom on Oct. 1, 2016. They live in Des Moines, Iowa, where she works in hematology and oncology.


Jason Hoyle ('14) and his wife, Andrea, announced the birth of their first children, twins Benjamin and Alexander, on May 23, 2016.

Jenna Staples ('14) and her husband, Dave, welcomed son Nico Alexander Staples, on Oct. 10, 2016.

Katie (Stern) Thompson ('14) and her husband, JJ, welcomed son Jack on May 25, 2016. They live in Greensboro, N.C., where Thompson works as a PA in cardiology.

Lauren Faidley ('15) was married to Mike Sano on June 18, 2016, at Veritas Vineyard & Winery in Afton, Va. She is currently working at Wake Gastroenterology in Raleigh, N.C.

Carla Longanecker ('15) and Jason Black ('15) were engaged on July 30, 2016, and are planning an October 2017 wedding in Destin, Fla. They both currently work in hospitalist medicine at the University of Colorado.

Dorothy (Ferguson) Scifres ('15) was married to Rob Scifres on Dec. 3, 2016, in Greensboro, N.C.

Kayla Baisch ('16) was married to Colton McKinney on Dec. 15, 2016, in Jamaica.

Julia (Paquette) Parsons ('16) was married to Todd Parsons on Nov. 5, 2016.
Members of the Duke Physician Assistant Program Class of 2016 became our newest class of alumni and your PA colleagues on Aug. 5, 2016, when they received their certificates in a ceremony at the Duke Physician Assistant Program. The Class of 2016 was awarded master of health sciences degrees from Duke University on May 15, 2016, during a diploma and hooding ceremony at the Washington Duke Inn in Durham.

The Class of 2016 included 89 graduates — 63 women and 26 men, ranging in age from 23 to 47 years old. The class represented 27 states, and about 30 graduates resided in North Carolina at the time of enrollment.
newest alums

As of February 2017, 97 percent of the new graduates were employed as PAs in 20 states. Over 50 percent of the class took their first jobs in North Carolina, including 18 who took positions at Duke or Duke-affiliated practices.

Members of the Duke PA Class of 2016 are employed as PAs in the following distribution:

- **34%** Primary Care
  (family medicine, pediatrics, general internal medicine)
- **15%** Emergency Medicine
- **27%** Surgery
- **29%** Internal Medicine subspecialties

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2016 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year

**Maria M. del Valle-Torres, MHS, PA-C**, was honored as the 2016 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year at the Duke PA certificate ceremony on Aug. 5, 2016. Del Valle Torres graduated from the Duke Physician Assistant Program in 2009. Prior to entering the PA program, she earned a bachelor of science in psychology from University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio, in 1982, and a master of science in physiology from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C., in 1989. Del Valle-Torres worked in research and laboratory roles leading up to her PA education.

In 2009, del Valle-Torres began her career as a PA working at Duke’s Division of Neurosurgery. Since 2011 she has worked as a PA with Shepherd’s Care Medical Clinic in Zebulon, N.C., where she provides medical care as a solo practitioner in a community health setting to underserved populations.

Additionally, del Valle-Torres has a passion for global health and has volunteered her time and resources as a leader for the Women’s and Maternal Health Initiative under the 410 Bridge Development organization; as a member of the medical team for the Carolinas Honduras Health Foundation; as a member of the Duke Uganda Neurosurgery Team; and as a board member, medical provider and translator for Hands of Compassion mobile clinics in Ecuador, South America.

She also traveled to Cuba last spring with the Duke PA program as part of the MEDICC people-to-people exchange and believes strongly in the importance of global health experiences. As a result, del Valle-Torres and her husband provided initial funding for and continuing support of a global health scholarship to help provide rich experiences for Duke PA students interested in global work.
In Memoriam

Victor Hugo Germino (’67)

Victor Hugo Germino, a member of the first class of physician assistant students at Duke University and one of the first practicing PAs in the nation, died unexpectedly but peacefully on March 1, 2017, at the age of 78.

Germino, a Durham, N.C., native, was in the inaugural class of PA students at Duke and graduated from the program in 1967. He was widely recognized as a pioneer of PA education and of the profession.

Germino completed his bachelor of arts from Columbia College in Columbia, Mo., and graduate coursework in the MPA program at Golden Gate University in San Francisco, Calif. After serving in the U.S. Navy as a medical corpsman, he began work at Duke University Medical Center in clinical research with William Allyn, M.D., and on renal transplantation with Del Stickel, M.D., which led him to be recruited to the PA program by Eugene A. Stead, Jr., M.D., founder of the profession.

After graduation from the PA program, he remained at Duke to help coordinate the North Carolina Byssinosis Project that focused on lung disease in cotton textile workers. Later he worked as a surgical research coordinator at the Durham VA Medical Center on a research project about rejection after intestinal and liver transplantation. Moving back to clinical practice, he worked in the student and employee health center at UNC-Chapel Hill.

As one of the first PAs commissioned as a warrant officer in the U.S. Coast Guard in 1974, Germino provided primary medical care to Coast Guard personnel and their families at Coast Guard bases in Kodiak, Alaska, Clearwater, Fla., and Seattle. He was based for three years in Seattle, serving as the only medical officer on the icebreaker USCG Polar Sea. During this time he participated in search and rescue operations, administered emergency/trauma care and served as project medical officer for the National Science Foundation International Antarctic Inspection Team in 1980, participating in polar research studies during Arctic and Antarctic Deep Freeze projects.

After leaving active duty in the U.S. Coast Guard, he returned to North Carolina to work on an NIH AIDS clinical trials project, and later as a clinical trials compliance auditor during the 1980s. For the next 25 years, Germino spent most of his time in occupational medicine, working in a variety of roles – everything from medical provider on the Alaskan oil pipeline to chief medical officer for an open-pit gold mine project in Uzbekistan. After working as a physician assistant for a number of pharmaceutical and construction companies in Research Triangle Park, he established PRN Medical Services, a company that provided contract medical services to clinics, hospitals and businesses in North Carolina. He owned and operated this corporation until his retirement in 2005.

Germino was a charter member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and was inducted into the Duke PA Program Alumni Hall of Fame in 2009.

A celebration of Vic’s life was held March 8, 2017, at the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants (The Stead Center) in Durham.

James Ross Asher (’71), of Dayton, Ohio, died on Sept. 19, 2016, at the age of 87. He was one of the first PAs to practice in the state of Ohio and a “pioneer” of the Duke PA program. A service was held on Oct. 13, 2016, at the Dayton National Cemetery.

Captain Emmett Noll (’72), of Millerstown, Pa., died on June 11, 2016, at the age of 73. Noll was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for his service as a U.S. Navy corpsman in Vietnam. After completing the Duke PA program, he earned a master’s degree in health administration from the University of North Carolina and became a career officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, achieving the rank of captain. A service was held on June 18, 2016, at Riverview Cemetery in Millerstown.
Carroll Poppen (’72), of De Smet, S.D., died on Dec. 21, 2015. He was 68. Prior to coming to Duke, he was a U.S. Navy corpsman. He worked for 38 years as a PA at Mayo Clinic in otorhinolaryngology. He gave lectures, participated in writing professional publications, and taught as an assistant professor at Mayo. Poppen also served as president of the Minnesota Academy of Physician Assistants in 1975 and 1995. A memorial service was held on Dec. 28, 2015, at American Lutheran Church in De Smet.

Kenneth Ryther (’72), of Delta Junction, Alaska, died on April 6, 2016, at the age of 70. Prior to coming to Duke, he was a U.S. Navy corpsman. Ryther was the first care provider when the Delta Junction Medical Clinic opened in 1972 and practiced there until 1984, when he opened Jarvis Medical Clinic. Ryther served as a volunteer fireman, an EMT, and was mayor of Delta Junction in 1975. He was the first president of the Alaska Academy of Physician Assistants. A memorial service was held on May 23, 2016 in Delta Junction.

Kenneth Alois Kozbiel (’73), of Saint Augustine, Fla., died on Sept. 29, 2016, at the age of 81. Kozbiel served 24 years in the United States Coast Guard prior to enrolling in the Duke PA program. After earning his bachelor’s degree at Duke, he earned a master of science in psychology and counseling from Troy University, a bachelor of arts in theology from Saint Leo University, and a master of arts in divinity from Springhill College. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Oct. 15, 2016.

Harry Alexander Newman, Jr. (’73) of Mt. Pleasant, S.C., died on July 28, 2015. He was 86. Prior to completing the Duke PA program, he was a graduate of the University of Florida with degrees in business administration and health sciences. After completing the PA program, he moved to Caranavi, Bolivia, for four years to offer medical services. He also worked as a family practice PA in Lawndale, N.C., and then moved to Atlanta to work as a field representative of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries for the Southeastern Jurisdiction. A celebration of his life was held at Point Hope United Methodist Church in Mt. Pleasant on Aug. 1, 2015.

John Patrick Hawley (’77), of Hubert, N.C., died on May 21, 2014. He was 68. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force prior to working as a PA. Funeral services were held on May 28, 2014, in Swansboro, N.C.

Shelby Lee Todd (’77), of Durham, N.C., died on Nov. 23, 2015, at the age of 72. He was a member of the U.S. Air Force and served during the Vietnam War. At the time of his death, he was employed by Measurements Incorporated. A funeral service was held on Nov. 29, 2015, in Durham.

David A. Lieberman (’82), of Koshkonong, Mo., died on June 6, 2016, at the age of 62. Prior to coming to Duke, he completed his bachelor of arts degree at St. Cloud State and then earned a bachelor of health sciences at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. His practice took him and his family to Alaska, Maine, Washington, Minnesota and several Midwestern Indian reservations. While working full-time for an HMO in Olympia, Wash., he earned a law degree from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Wash.

Bruce Wayne Wood (’85), of Benson, N.C., died on May 28, 2015, at age 62. Prior to coming to Duke, he worked as an EMT, a firefighter, and a police officer in Fayetteville, N.C. After graduating from the PA program, he became a family medicine PA. A memorial service was held on June 7, 2015, in Benson.

Lanny Mark Beaty (’91), of West End, N.C., died July 26, 2016, at the age of 60. He worked at Duke University Medical Center for 20 years, first as a lead respiratory therapist and then as a physician assistant. He relocated to the Sandhills, where he worked at Pinehurst Surgical Clinic as a cardiothoracic PA, and then worked as a cardiology PA at WakeMed. A memorial service was held on Aug. 1, 2016, in Southern Pines, N.C.

Jennifer Lynn Brusa (’09), of Raleigh, N.C., died on Aug. 11, 2016. She was 35. After completing the Duke PA program, she practiced as a hospitalist at Nash General Hospital in Rocky Mount, N.C. Memorial gatherings were held in Durham, N.C., on Aug. 21, 2016, and in Barre, V.T., on Sept. 25, 2016.
Justine Strand de Oliveira
retires from Duke

Justine Strand de Oliveira, DrPH, PA-C, DFAAPA (‘81), former division chief and program director of the Duke Physician Assistant Program and the 2014 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, has stepped down from her role as vice chair for education in the Department of Community and Family Medicine and retired from Duke effective Feb. 1, 2017. Strand de Oliveira has accepted a faculty position as professor of physician associate studies, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry/Institute of Health Sciences Education, and continues to work part-time with the Duke PA program in admissions, preclinical teaching and research activities.

After graduating from the Duke PA program in 1981, Strand de Oliveira began her career as a PA at the Sunrise Community Health Center in Greeley, Colo. From 1982 to 1984, she worked in Mambucaba, Brazil, where she holds permanent residency status, as a medical liaison. Upon her return to the United States in 1984, Strand de Oliveira moved to Austin, Texas, where she worked for 10 years at Austin Regional Clinic.

Strand de Oliveira moved back to Durham, N.C., in 1994, where she worked as a PA and served as the director of general health services at the Durham County Health Department for three years. She earned her master of public health in 1998 and her doctor of public health in 2008, both from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Strand de Oliveira served as the Duke PA division chief from 1999 to 2012 and as program director from 2001 to 2003. In 2012, she became the first PA to serve as a departmental vice chair at Duke. She most recently worked clinically as an OB provider for a CenteringPregnancy® prenatal care group at the Duke Family Medicine Center in Durham, N.C.

Strand de Oliveira is a past president of the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), is an emerita member of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine, and is a past president of the North Carolina Medical Society Foundation. She is a distinguished fellow of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (DFAAAPA) and a member of Pi Alpha, the national physician assistant honor society. She was recognized as the Outstanding PA of the Year by the American Academy of Physician Assistants in 2005.

New Staff

Timothy Fields joined the Duke Physician Assistant Program in October 2016 as the preclinical year staff specialist. Prior to joining the PA staff, he worked at Duke Counseling and Psychological Services with the Psychology Internship Program.

New Faculty

Lorraine Anglin, MHS, PA-C (’08), joined the faculty of the Duke Physician Assistant Program in July 2016 as an academic coordinator. In her faculty role, she participates in the planning, development and evaluation of the preclinical year curriculum. She lectures and coordinates laboratory sessions within the Diagnostic Methods course and actively participates in other educational sessions throughout the first and second years of the program.

Prior to joining the faculty, Anglin practiced clinically in primary care where she enjoyed providing whole-person care to people of all ages. She completed the Clinical Education and Faculty Development fellowship
in 2013-2014 and is invested in the education of future physician assistants. Her areas of clinical and educational interest include active learning, cultural competence, shared decision making, and chronic disease prevention and management. Her research interests include the primary care PA workforce and factors that influence specialty choice.

Anglin received her master of health sciences degree and physician assistant certificate in 2009 from the Duke PA program. Prior to that, she earned a bachelor of science in microbiology from Colorado State University.

Susan T. Hibbard, Ph.D., MS, joined the Duke Physician Assistant Program in January 2017 as the Director of Assessment & Evaluation. She will work with faculty and staff to develop evaluation and assessment tools for the PA program and conduct education research on teaching and learning in PA education and the medical and health professions.

Before arriving at Duke, Hibbard worked as the director of effectiveness and accountability at Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers, Fla., and as assistant professor of research and evaluation at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Fla., teaching undergraduate and graduate courses. She is a mixed methods researcher and has worked on numerous educational evaluations, research and accreditation projects.

Hibbard earned a doctorate in educational measurement and evaluation from the University of South Florida, specializing in research on evaluation and the practice of evaluation. Prior to becoming an evaluator Hibbard earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and a master’s degree in science education. Hibbard also worked at Perry’s Ice Cream in Upstate New York as a laboratory technician where she was required to test and taste ice cream.

Faculty News

Lovest Alexander, Jr., MHS, PA-C (’78), assistant professor of community and family medicine and director of diversity and inclusion for the Duke Physician Assistant Program, received a Duke Diversity Award on Nov. 1, 2016, during a luncheon at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens’ Doris Duke Center. The award recognizes a Duke employee who demonstrates a respect and value for differing backgrounds and points of view.

Karen J. Hills, MS, PA-C, director of the Duke PA program, was promoted to professor of community and family medicine.

PA Alumni Coordinator Jennifer Pennington and PA Division Chief Pat Dieter, MPA, PA-C, work together closely to meet the needs of alumni. Pennington heads the coordination for this magazine, organizes all of the alumni events, including those at the PA annual conferences, and ensures that alumni requests for credentialing documentation are met quickly. Kudos to Pennington for her steadfast work in these areas! She is also a major player in preceptor relations for our clinical rotations. She and Pat Dieter meet regularly to review alumni communication, ensure that PA scholarship donations are recorded and acknowledged, and plan how best to keep alumni involved in the ongoing development of the PA program. As the first PA program in the country, we value our history and our relationship with our over 2,500 alumni!
Last April, Duke Physician Assistant Program students enrolled in the course “Public Health and Healthcare in Cuba,” along with faculty and some practicing PAs, took a week-long trip to Cuba to explore the country’s universal health care system.

Cuba’s health care system is much different from the United States, which is what made the trip so beneficial for PA students, says Perri Morgan, Ph.D., PA-C, one of the faculty advisers on the trip and lead professor of the course.

“In the U.S. we think of public health and health care as being separate,” Morgan says. “Cuba has no distinction between the two.”

Second-year PA students in the elective course gained knowledge on the structure and implementation of Cuba’s health care system, which is designed for every person to have a doctor and a clinic that provides care to their specific address. The trip allowed the group to interact and learn from the doctors and nurses working in these clinics.

Each day of the seven-day trip, the group was guided by two Cuban physicians and participated in sessions that involved lectures and exploring health care facilities like the “Grandparents’ Home,” a day program for the elderly. Evening hours were left open for the students to explore Cuba and soak up Cuban culture.

According to Morgan, professor of community and family medicine and director of the PA Research Group, the trip and the course were designed to give PA students a broader idea of what health care on a community level could look like.

“I hope that they [the students] will define their roles more broadly because of this experience and will have a stronger vision of how they can impact health at the community level, and that they might better implement the public health aspects of the health care provider role,” Morgan says.

The trip provided students with evidence that the American way of providing medicine is not the only way that works, says Lucy Angle, a 2016 Duke PA program graduate.

“It was amazing to see a system in a country less wealthy than ours that was offering these services to all who needed them, when I had seen patients in the U.S. who, for lack of funds, simply went without,” Angle says.

The trip to Cuba was the first for Duke PA but Morgan is hopeful that more classes will be able to have a similar experience in the future. The Duke PA program worked with the nonprofit organization Medicc, which organizes educational health care exchanges to Cuba.

Follow us on Facebook for updates on student news and activities: www.facebook.com/DukePhysicianAssistantProgram
We celebrate 50 years of the PA profession with this issue. As part of that tribute, we check in with alumni from the past five decades, including Steven Meltzer ('77), Jean McCafferty Stull ('87), Cara Gambill ('97) and Anthony Robinson ('07), and give a nod to future graduates as Class of 2017 president Jennifer Quigley shares her hopes for her future in the profession.

The issue also includes an interview with two graduates from our inaugural Class of 1967 — Victor H. Germino and Kenneth F. Ferrell — who give their perspectives on how the PA profession has changed in 50 years. Germino has since passed and we are so grateful for his pioneering spirit and his service to the PA profession.

The Duke PA program is always striving to provide leadership and excellence in PA education. In 2017, we will graduate the Class of 2017, send the Class of 2018 out on clinical rotations, welcome the Class of 2019 to the program, have our continuing accreditation site visit and begin the admissions process for the Class of 2020. Our community of students, faculty, staff and alumni are what makes being part of this historic program so special.
The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has awarded Duke University an approximate $2.3 million grant for primary care training and enhancement.

Led by the Duke Physician Assistant Program, the project will be a collaboration between the Department of Community and Family Medicine, Department of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Duke University School of Nursing and Duke University School of Medicine MD program.

Karen J. Hills, MS, PA-C, professor of community and family medicine and director of the Duke PA program, is project director and Sandro Pinheiro, Ph.D., associate professor of medicine and senior education specialist for the Duke PA program, is co-project director.

The five-year project, “Transforming Health Care through Enhanced Clinical Team Training (THCECTT),” aims to “engage learners and faculty in collaborative projects to improve population health through practice- and community-based interprofessional quality improvement (QI). Medical doctor (MD), nurse practitioner (NP), and physician assistant (PA) student triads will work with clinical preceptors and program faculty on QI projects, in an innovative team-based clinical learning model that addresses the crisis in access to clinical learning. Didactic curricula will address population health, QI, cultural competence, health information technology and community engagement. A veterans’ liaison will enhance military veterans’ entry to the program and coordinate support to improve veterans’ experience and success as PA students and graduates.”

Key personnel include:
Karen J. Hills, MS, PA-C, project director
Sandro Pinheiro, Ph.D., co-project director
Justine Strand de Oliveira, DrPH, PA-C, professor emeritus, Department of Community and Family Medicine, member, executive committee
Jacqueline S. Barnett, DHSc, MSHS, PA-C, assistant professor, Department Community and Family Medicine, and associate director for the Duke PA Program, member, executive committee
Sharron Rushton, MSN, MS, RN, CCM, assistant professor, Duke University School of Nursing, member, executive committee
Heather S. McLean, M.D., associate professor and vice chair for quality, Department of Pediatrics, member, executive committee

Working Group personnel include:
Kathleen (Katy) W. Bartlett, M.D., associate professor and associate residency director, Department of Pediatrics

Administrative and technical support:
Kate Holeman, Department of Community and Family Medicine
Andrea Martin, senior public relations specialist, Department of Community and Family Medicine
Amanda Gunter, MS, educational technologist, Department of Community and Family Medicine

Other significant contributors include:
Melinda Blazar, MHS, PA-C, assistant professor and clinical coordinator, Duke Physician Assistant Program
Sharon Hull, M.D., MPH, professor, Department of Community and Family Medicine
Barbara Sheline, M.D., MPH, professor, Department of Community and Family Medicine
The Duke Physician Assistant Program Research Group finished 2016 on a high note, with the publication of a number of groundbreaking studies, a sweep of the research awards at the Physician Assistant Education Association annual conference, and a historic grant award from the National Institutes of Health.

Highlights include:

**National job posting study.** The group is among the first researchers to use job postings data to examine health workforce trends. A national analysis of 2014 online job postings for PAs, published in *Medical Care Research and Review* and presented at several conferences, showed that the job market for PAs is stronger in specialties than in primary care. These findings suggest that, in addition to lower salaries for PAs in primary care, job availability may be a barrier to attaining policy goals of increasing the proportion of PAs choosing primary care. Additional analyses on this topic are ongoing.

**Patient preferences for primary care provider type.** This project analyzed patients’ reasons for preferring a physician or an NP or PA as their primary care provider, finding that although both groups of patients most frequently mentioned providers’ qualifications as their top reason, those preferring NPs or PAs were more likely to highlight the provider’s interpersonal skills.

**PA student salary expectations vary by gender.** Using data from a national survey of matriculating PA students, the research group found that women PA students expect lower salaries than their male classmates, even after adjustment for other factors, including specialty intent and socioeconomic background. Implications of this work are that one way to address gender salary discrepancies may be to educate students about realistic earnings potential.

**Duke sweeps PAEA research awards.** Two Duke Physician Assistant Program faculty received awards at the Physician Assistant Education Association Conference in October. Perri Morgan, Ph.D., PA-C, professor of community and family medicine and director of research for the Duke PA program, and Christine Everett, Ph.D., MPH, PA-C, assistant professor of community and family medicine, were honored for having made noteworthy contributions to PA education and the PA profession. Morgan, with Everett and Esther Hing, MPH, received Article of the Year Award for the Healthcare article “Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, and Physicians in Community Health Centers, 2006-2010.” Everett received the Research Achievement Award for her commitment to innovative, precise methodology and her ability to collaborate on impactful research with colleagues across the spectrum of health care.

**Historic award.** Christine Everett, Ph.D., MPH, PA-C, assistant professor of community and family medicine at the Duke Physician Assistant Program, is the first physician assistant faculty member in the United States to receive a National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant. She is the recipient of a K01 grant awarded by the National Institute of Aging to study “Impact of Primary Care Clinician Interdependence and Coordination on Quality of Care Delivered to Complex Older Patients with Diabetes.” The project is funded from Aug. 1, 2016, to April 30, 2021. Everett’s long-term goal with the project is to improve chronic illness care for older complex patients through identification and implementation of effective primary care teams, including physician assistants (PAs) and nurse practitioners (NPs).

Ongoing work in 2017 includes completion of a study examining medical records of more than 400,000 veterans with diabetes to compare quality and cost of care depending on whether the primary care provider is a PA, NP or physician.

For more information about the research group, visit https://cfm.duke.edu/duke-physician-assistant-program/research.
For over 50 years, the Duke Physician Assistant Program has provided an exceptional education. Attending Duke means learning from leading professionals through a curriculum that is tried and tested, producing graduates with excellent PANCE pass rates and job placement. As we plan for the next 50 years of PA education, we want to continue leading as educators. To this end, faculty and staff are blending technological innovation into our instruction and culture to improve student engagement across a diverse spectrum of learning styles.

Some examples of this innovation include:

**Curriculum Redesign**
Educational Technologist Amanda Gunter, MS, works directly with faculty to redesign existing curriculum using various instructional strategies and technology. Most recently, Gunter worked with Clinical Coordinator Melinda Blazar, MHS, PA-C, and Instructional Media Designer Haley Schomburg, MTS, to develop an e-learning module on Routine Obstetrics Care. And through various collaborations with faculty, Schomburg has more than 30 instructional videos in progress for 2017.

**3-D Scanning and Printing**
Instructor Megan Holmes, Ph.D., is working with Justin Gladman, microCT engineer at Duke’s Shared Materials Instrumentation Facility, to create high-quality 3-D scans of various organs as part of her 2017 Anatomy course redesign. These scans will be turned into digital models to provide enhanced, realistic visualization for students. Then Schomburg, utilizing Duke’s new Innovation Co-Lab, will 3-D print various organs from these scans for hands-on study.

**Research and Technology Consultations**
Brandi Tuttle, research and education librarian for the Duke University Medical Center Library & Archives and liaison to the Duke PA program, teaches classes within the Duke PA curriculum and provides research and technology consultations. She provides instructional multimedia, teaches students and faculty how to efficiently generate bibliographies for papers and research projects, and provides guidance on a number of clinical tools and mobile apps.

**Classroom Technology Upgrades**
Students are benefiting from a recent classroom upgrade, headed by Information Services Specialists Mike Connery and Donna Davis, AAS. Next, Connery and Davis will update all faculty and staff computers to Windows 10, as well as upgrade technology in the conference and breakout rooms throughout the building.
Contributions to the Alumni Scholarship Fund

We thank all of our donors who have given to the PA scholarship fund and gifts at any level make a difference. Below we recognize our donors giving at the Member level and higher.

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

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**NAME, YEAR OF GRADUATION:**

**ADDRESS:**

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**NEWS I WOULD LIKE PRINTED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER:**

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Adele Claire Herrmann, daughter of Valerie Schaffer (’00) and Tara Herrmann (’10), cheers for the Lady Blue Devils at a recent game.