



**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY®**
**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT
STUDIES**

GVSU Physician Assistant Studies Alumni Newsletter



WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR



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Susan Raaymakers, MPAS, PA-C
Assistant Professor

Martina Reinhold, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Amanda Ross, PA-C
Clinical Affiliate Faculty

As I sit writing this note, I am looking out across the Grand River to downtown Grand Rapids on a beautiful late summer afternoon. My thoughts wander to the past and I begin to reflect on the number of lives influenced by the GVSU PAS program over the course of the last 21 years. Putting this in perspective, the number totals millions of people! In the early 1990's, current faculty, staff, and administration had a vision to start this program. Since then we have had dozens of faculty, even more adjunct and guest lecturers, and hundreds of clinical preceptors that we counted on each and every month to take a GVSU PAS student. And of course all the great students that have come through this program. In December

I could not have been more proud of the service work that our faculty did this past July in Cadillac, when we worked with Habitat for Humanity of Wexford County to help a resident of that town who had some medical issues arise and could not do even basic work around her house. Our faculty and staff, showing a great example of giving back, volunteered over 4 hours of work, cleaning windows, painting, pulling bushes, trimming trees, raking, and even carpeting a porch. What a valuable time for us all to work together outside our "offices", providing support for those in need, and even working with one of our alumni Tricia McGillis! Thanks so much for coming and helping Tricia, your support was greatly appreciated! It is times like

Look for ways to become involved in the GVSU PAS program coming in the future!

of 2016, we will graduate our 616th PA from the program! Now, let's look at the impact that these graduates are making. Imagine if you will, that if just 500 of our 616 graduate are still practicing clinically (very conservative number), and they average 20 patients a day, 4 days a week, 45 weeks a year, our graduates are seeing nearly 2 million patients per year! What an effect the GVSU PA Program is having on the health of our state and nation! This effect is not only in the delivery of health care, but also in being outstanding members of our communities.

these that I reflect on what a great program we have, the impact we have not only on our students and the next 2 million patients that will be seen by GVSU alumni, but for those less fortunate than us. And that is the heart of a PA: Giving back.

So, as I look out across the Grand River on this beautiful sunny day in August, I am reminded of the tremendous work we have done, the impact we make on society, and the opportunities for the future. I hope that you will be an intricate part of that future!

Andrew Booth, DHEd, PA-C

GVSU PAS Alumni and Preceptor Event

Updates on Sepsis

Date: Thursday, March 23, 2017

Time: 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Price: \$10.00 per person

RSVP: RSVP for this event online at gvsu.edu/pas until 3/23/2017 at 6:30 pm

Location: The Centennial Room at Founders, 235 Grandville Ave. SW

The GVSU PAS Program would like to show our appreciation for our alumni and preceptors. Please join us for a reception including craft beer and hors d'oeuvres starting at 6:30 pm followed by a presentation entitled "Updates on Sepsis" by Nicholus Kopacki, PA-C, a GVSU MPAS Alumni, practicing emergency medicine PA, and current GVSU MPAS faculty starting at 7:30 pm. This presentation will discuss the newest update in sepsis.

This program is not yet approved for CME credit. Conference organizers plan to request 1 AAPA Category 1 CME credit from the Physician Assistant Review Panel. Total number of approved credits yet to be determined.

Contact

For further information about the event, please contact Cathy Tomek at tomekcc@gvsu.edu or 616-331-5577.



Nicholus Kopacki, PA-C

PAS Faculty Continuing Education

The faculty at Grand Valley State University take life-long learning very seriously. Several of the faculty are currently seeking advanced degrees. Professor Booth completed his Doctorate of Health Education degree at A.T. Still University June, 2016. He examined interprofessional education for his dissertation, which was titled "An Interprofessional Education Curriculum: A Comparison of Pedagogical Methods for PA Students." Professor Paulson, Professor Raaymakers, and Professor Ellis continue to actively pursue a Doctor of Health Science degree with education emphases from A.T. Still University.

Professor Paulson will complete her degree this December. Her advanced research project focuses on interprofessional practice and is titled "Parameters of Professional Practice: Perceptions and Understanding of PA and PT Students." Professor Raaymakers and Professor Ellis will complete their degree December 2017. Professor Ellis is evaluating the relationship between preadmission factors and academic success in physician assistant students for her advanced research project. Professor Raaymakers will begin her research this fall.

Munson Medical Center: Trauma Acute Care Surgery Team

The Trauma Acute Care Services (TACS) team is a relatively new addition to Munson Medical Center's Services. Implemented February 2015 the service has been a great value to the services offered at Munson and currently employs 10 PAs/NPs. The TACS team at Munson Medical Center treats patients who require consultation with general surgery or who have been diagnosed with a traumatic injury. Elizabeth Erickson PA-C has been the lead PA for the TACS team at Munson Medical Center and describes how the addition of the TACS team has been a valuable addition to their services. Erickson explains that with the increasing patient volume the implementation of the TACS Team Service has allowed 24/7 coverage for trauma and surgical services and has helped improved consistency and continuity of care for patients. Not only does the TACS team benefit patients but Erickson states

that it has been helpful for the providers as well. The service allows patients to be cared for in a timely manner and increases the time physicians have to be in the operating room caring for patients. PA/NPs who work on the TACS Team have a great variety in their work day. A typical day as a TACS team provider varies from outpatient services, routine hospital care, surgical procedures, to assisting in the operating room. With the busy schedule the providers make times to educate students Erickson explains. The variation in the work day is part of what makes working for the TACS team so great, "*I wake up every day excited to go to work. I love my job!*" Erickson beams. The GVSU MPAS Program wants to thank the TACS team for their as their love for the profession and education, making it an excellent learning environment for our students!



Back: Kathryn Aurand, PA-C, ATC; Matthew Ross, PA-C; Larry Alexander, PA-C; Kevin Coles, PA-C, MPH; Elizabeth Erickson, PA-C
Front: Haley McLeod, ACNP; Heather Frankle, ACNP; Shamarie Regenold, FNP-BC; Shannon Moeggenborg, FNP-C; Meredith McDonald, PA-C



Tricia McGillis

Meeting the Need in Mid-Michigan

Grand Valley State University PA program alumnus, Tricia McGillis (Class of 2001), has been meeting the health care needs of about 3,000 patients at her Artesian Springs clinic in Marion, Michigan for the past 9 years. The endeavor started as a part-time clinic at the request of a few community members. At the time, Tricia was a provider in an Emergency Room, and her supervising physician was *"inspiring."* A couple of women in the community worked with Tricia to establish the financial means and community support for the clinic.

Learning how to be a business owner, in addition to managing caring for her patients, was one of the challenges Tricia faced as her clinic grew. Serving in a rural area also has its challenges, one of which is the limited availability of specialty providers nearby. Patient compliance decreases when the provider location is at some distance, though Tricia has developed a relationship with a handful of providers who have increased their accessibility. A welcome challenge is never knowing what is going to come through the door of the clinic. *"It keeps my diversity of skills high,"* says Tricia, who enjoys her strength area of performing procedures.

Reading regularly on medical topics, new research, and new pharmacotherapeutics keeps Tricia current and up-to-date in treatment modalities. She also volunteers as a preceptor for GVSU PA students, and inspires students to learn by pushing them to do things that are uncomfortable, make rapid decisions, and complete all their work from the encounter to documentation to follow-up. *"Wear sneakers because you'll be busy,"* she tells them on their first day.

When asked what she likes best about being a PA, Tricia values the relationships that she develops with people and how she is able to use medical knowledge in a scientific way

to help them. *"I love to see patients succeed."* A patient arrived at the clinic one day and was quickly assessed as actively experiencing a cerebrovascular accident, but was 1 hour away from a tertiary care center. Tricia and her staff were able to successfully manage the patient until transfer to the hospital, and the patient ultimately did well.

Outside of work, Tricia keeps herself going by investing in the lives of her husband and 3 children. She helps coach her daughter's travelling softball team using her skills from playing softball for a Division I team in college, and the family enjoys a small farm with horses, chickens, and a garden.

Looking back on her time in the PA program, she recalls what a great class she had as they supported one another and got through the program together. *"PA school prepared me for other tough life experiences,"* says Tricia. She also fondly remembers Dr. Bacon-Baguley because she was so dedicated and made the students think. Looking back, Tricia notes that even though students complain, *"Thank God we have professors like that."*

Charlene Dubois, MPA, RD



PA CLASS OF 2016 NEWS

The half way point of clinical rotations has already passed. After hearing time and time again from our professors about how fast PA school would go by, sure enough, time has crept up on us. To be able to count on one hand the number of exams we have left to take in the program is exciting; yet as the end approaches trepidation grows as the PANCE nears, along with the realization that we no longer will be students. Clinical rotations have been a whirlwind of excitement and filled with challenges. We would all agree that rotations have provided us

a much more stimulating environment than the classroom. Often golfers have that one great shot each round which motivates and encourages them to return for another. In rotations, it is those "Ah ha" moments when our brains make the connection of disease processes learned in the classroom to real life patients. It is in those moments of understanding and treating a sick person that motivates and encourages us to continue journeying down the path of becoming physician assistants.

The annual Swings for Stephanie Golf Outing took place this fall. This was the third annual event in honor of a student, Stephanie Urbanawiz, who passed away from cancer while in PA school. Stephanie would have graduated with the class of 2015, and she continues to inspire us by how diligently she battled her illness while managing PA school. Some of our classmates have helped develop a scholarship in her honor, which goes towards future PA students who will attend GVSU (information can be found on GVSU's website).

The final months of PA school will be some of the most important months of school thus far. We will be honing our skills of critical thinking and patient examination as school comes to an end. There have been a few times (who are we kidding, many times!) throughout school where it has been a challenge to maintain motivation. However, at this moment, our level of motivation has never been higher. In such short time we will be prescribing medications to our own patients, treating illnesses, and being ears for those who simply need someone to listen. For some, careers will begin in family practice, others in cardiology, some in dermatology and many others in different branches of medicine. Our dream of becoming physician assistants is very close to becoming reality, and it is this thought which propels us full speed towards graduation with hopes of one day being exceptional providers.

Spencer Riva, PA-S Class of 2016



PA CLASS OF 2017 NEWS

We are now at the end of the didactic phase of this wonderful program and are able to see all the different disease processes fit together as we learn how to treat the patient as a whole. Clinical Applications lab has started to teach us some very interesting procedures including blood drawing, injections, and suturing along with many more.

We have had the opportunity to hear from multiple members of the community to enhance our education, as well as make us more culturally and socially competent. Some highlight speakers were a child life specialist from Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, members of the deaf and hard of hearing services, and an individual from Network 180 speaking about drug abuse.

As a group, we are giving back to the community through volunteering our time to Kids Food Baskets, DA Blodgett, Great Lakes Children's Museum, and several programs encouraging students to pursue careers in the medical field.

We have also created a Health and Wellness chair as member of RPC who has brought in a health and wellness instructor teaching us how to relax and stay mentally healthy. She has also planned successful events such as, Monday group runs, a trip to sky zone and Millennium Park for a picnic, and our upcoming bubble soccer. We have also successfully finished a season of Softball.

We are thoroughly enjoying our Wednesday morning simulations to practice our skills and observations as a way to get to spend time in the community. As a personal example, while observing, I was able to correctly identify and "treat" venous stasis. Maybe it shows how cabin fever of being in our classroom all day, every day is getting to me, but it was very exciting to see even a common thing actually come to life opposed to just being in our books.

We also sent 4 students to San Antonio to the AAPA conference in May. The personal excitement the students gained from attending the conference was priceless. They were able to attend speakers on a multitude of topics, observe parliamentary proce-

dure as big decisions were made, and network with other students and members of our wonderful profession. The attending students were also able to find some time to tour the beautiful city of San Antonio and bond with several of our professors who also attended the conference.

It is still amazing to me to think all our hard work during our life long education finally seems to have a light at the end of the tunnel. I feel we will be able to move in to our careers with confidence knowing we have a great foundation to become excellent PA's!

Jackie Lewis, PA-S Class of 2017



Blake Geschke

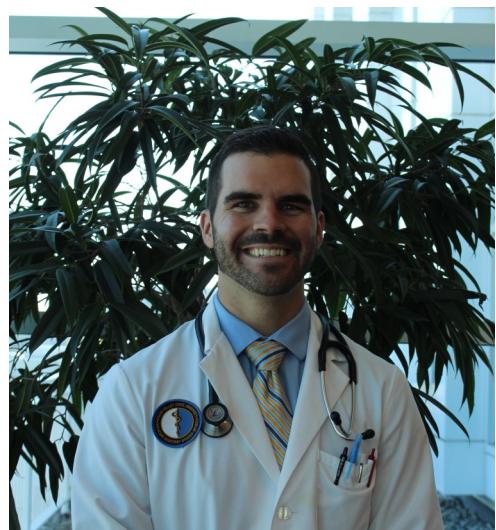
Class of 2016

Experiences Prior to the GVSU PAS Program

Like his classmates, the hard work and drive to contribute as a valuable part of a team started before the GVSU PAS program. Blake demonstrated his athletic abilities by catching for the Central Michigan University varsity baseball team while focusing on his studies in exercise science and a double minor in psychology and leadership. He then gained experience in stress testing, cardiac rehabilitation, and orthopedics in preparation of rigorous didactic phase of physician assistant studies in the fall of 2013.

Accomplishments During the GVSU PAS Program

In 2015, Blake's hard work and dedication was recognized on multiple fronts. As President of the RPC Student Society for GVSU PA students, he collaborated to organize the 2015 Heels to Heal 5K where over \$5,000 was raised for Oasis for Hope in Grand Rapids. He was also the recipient of the first GVSU Physician Assistant Studies Christos T. and Joan A. Panopoulos Physician Assistant Studies Scholarship. Nationally, he was elected by the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) to serve on the Board of Directors for the Student Academy of AAPA (SAAAPA) as Director of Student Communications.



How did your prerequisites prepare you for PAS didactics?

My prerequisites at CMU were extremely helpful in preparing for the didactic phase of PA school. Undergraduate classes such as human anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, and biochemistry prepared me for the in-depth concepts taught during the didactic phase.

How did didactic education prepare you for clinical education?

Didactic provided a knowledge base to draw upon in clinical. We learned every kind of disease in every different system which prepared us to see the real thing in clinical. I have found myself having frequent "a-ha!" moments where I will recognize a rare disease I remember studying the previous year. I learn best on the job, but having that knowledge base from didactic was very helpful in being prepared for the real world medicine we experience in clinical.

What would you say is the biggest difference in your experience between the PAS clinical and didactic education?

Lifestyle is the biggest difference between clinical and didactic. In didactic phase we were processing immense amounts of information and studying late into the night every day for the next test. In clinical phase we are able to relax a little more. Each site is like its own job with regular hours and days off. There is only one end of rotation exam to study for at the end of the month in one subject in contrast to didactic where there may be multiple exams per week in different subjects. We still study regularly, but it's less stressful and more enjoyable to learn in a hands-on environment instead of textbooks and lecture slides.

Can you discuss your role and experiences with SAAAPA?

As Director of Student Communications for the Student Academy of AAPA I run the social media for our entire organization and co-chair the Communication & Outreach Volunteer group. My goal is to reach as many PA students as possible through our content which can be both informative, humorous, and educational. Our current platforms are Facebook, Twitter, and a blog; but we are exploring more options such as Instagram. I am also on the Board of Directors for SAAAPA where I provide advice for other Board members and work with AAPA on their projects. In May of 2015, I was elected to this position at the AAPA conference in San Francisco, and I was re-elected to the same role in May of 2016 at the same annual conference in San Antonio.

What advice do you have for future students?

Keep your cool. Understand that PA school is hard, it's going to be stressful, and it's going to be one of the most difficult things you ever do. But you've worked towards this and been accepted for a reason! You can do it! It's far too easy to lose your cool and focus on how much you have to learn for school, but if you can keep calm and accomplish one task at a time you will get much more out of your education than if you freak out and worry about all you have to do. You're going to do great!

Suzy Raaymakers, PA-C, RDCS

Preparing PA Students for the Future: Incorporation of Telemedicine into PA Curriculum

Over the past twelve months, Munson Medical Center in Traverse City along with the Grand Valley State University Physician Assistant Studies (PAS) Program have collaborated on the submission, and were subsequent recipients, of a Rural Utilities Service (RUS) grant. The RUS grant will facilitate the incorporation of telemedicine into the PAS curriculum. The collaborative project titled, Rural Education and Access to Community Health (REACH), is an innovative project that is focused on meeting critical medical needs in the rural communities through telemedicine. The RUS grant supports the purchase of telemedicine equipment for the PAS program.

Telemedicine has the potential to be an important tool in health care, and this technology can help rural areas take advantage of the focus on improving access to care, enhancing quality and potentially reducing health care costs. Currently, more than half of the hospitals in the U.S. use some form of telemedicine to engage with patients remotely. With the evolving use of telemedicine, it is imperative that the PAS program educate its students in the use of the equipment, billing for services, and legal aspects of telemedicine.

During the 2016-17 academic year, the telemedicine equipment will be purchased, and the program will plan for implementation of telemedicine into the curriculum during the 2017-18 academic year. Incorporation into the curriculum will take a three phase approach during the didactic phase of the PAS program: **education** on telemedicine, **application** of telemedicine through sim-

ulation, and **exposure** to telemedicine through partnering with institutions utilizing telemedicine in the delivery of medical care. **Education** on the use of telemedicine will include the development of online introductory courses on telemedicine, and introductory laboratory exercises involving the telemedicine cart. **Application** of telemedicine in simulation will occur at both the Grand Rapids Campus and the Traverse City campus with each student playing the role of caregiver and consultant.

Exposure of telemedicine will occur in collaboration with Munson Medical Healthcare in Traverse City, and with Emergency Medical Services in Grand Rapids. All students at both campuses, Grand Rapids and Traverse City, will shadow providers at point of care and at point of consultation. The PAS program will monitor the students' progress through each of the three phases, as well as after graduation to assure that the program is providing them with the current tools to be an effective medical provider.

The PAS program is committed to addressing the shortage of health care providers in the underserved areas of Michigan as evident by the program's requirement of a rural/underserved clinical rotation, as well as the future incorporation of telemedicine into the curriculum. The PAS program is excited to be a recipient of this RUS grant as the grant will assist the program in fulfilling its commitment to rural/underserved medicine.

Theresa Bacon-Bagley, Ph.D.

2016 Admissions Update

Fall is a busy time for the PA program admission committee! The application deadline was September 15, 2016. We received over 400 applicants for 48 positions. The admission committee will review applicant files and invite over 100 of these applicants for interviews at the Cook-DeVos Health Science Center on Friday, October 28 and Friday, November 4. We currently have many alumni and clinical preceptors participating in the interview process. If this is something that you would like to participate with in future years, please contact Jill Ellis at ellisji@gvsu.edu for further information. The PA admission committee plans to make final admission decisions for the Class of 2019 prior to the end of the fall semester.

PROGRAM UPDATES

EBM Update

Our Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) course incorporates clinical expertise, patient values, and the best research evidence into the decision making process for patient care. EBM requires new skills and new ways of thinking for the clinician, including comprehensive literature searching, and the application of guiding principles of evidence in evaluating the clinical literature.

During this past Spring/Summer, we have had several interesting seminars from outside speakers that were also televised to the Traverse City PA cohort during the presentation in Grand Rapids. One of the speakers was from GVSU's Cell and Molecular Biology Department,

Dr. Sok Khoo, and the presentation was entitled "Blood Based Biomarkers for Parkinson's Disease". A second June seminar was from a Clinical Trials Group that exposed the students to the opportunities available to patients here in Western Michigan. One of our PA students came away from the seminar with this to say: *"This seminar was very insightful, and it was exciting to hear about research being done right here in Grand Rapids. I was shocked at the statistics in the video we watched about the number of clinical trials available and the number of people that don't even know about them. I think the seminar made me more aware of all*

the research and clinical trial options available to offer to my future patients. I think that research and clinical trials have changed so many lives, and it is critical to continue to fund these programs for patients."

We look forward to the third EBM class in the series this Fall for the Class of 2017. The students will be incorporating all of the principles they have learned in the first two semesters and this class will culminate in grand round presentations by the students demonstrating their ability to critically evaluate the literature around a case study and clinical question.

David Geenen, Ph.D.

Enhanced Learning Update

As many of you may know, we were unable to continue having a core pediatric rotation due to the increased number of medical learners in our community and the limited number of available pediatric learning sites. This left us with an insufficient amount of placements for our class. Pediatrics is now a popular elective for students, but we still want to make sure our students are learning a sufficient amount of pediatrics if they choose alternative electives. One way we have been able to enhance their clinical experience is by adding a newborn simulation in the winter semester. Grand Valley continues to expand their simulation opportunities which has created a fun yet realistic way for students to be able to examine healthy as well as ill "patients". Clinical students were able to work with an instructor on a one on one basis with small groups of no more

than two students at a time. The simulation newborn has the ability to exhibit cyanosis, move its limbs, and has a variety of murmurs and lung sounds available for the instructor to program for the event. Students were asked to perform a newborn physical exam as well as assessing APGAR scores. Abnormal findings were also reported by students. This allowed them to auscultate abnormal heart and lung sounds that they may never encounter in their limited time of clinical rotations. Our hope is to fill some of the gaps that may be left with a decrease in pediatric exposure in the clinical year. Students enjoyed the simulation and were feeling much more confident with their exami-

nation skills after the experience. We look forward to additional uses for simulation to enhance our students learning throughout their PA education here at Grand Valley.



PROGRAM UPDATES

In 2011, the program revised its curriculum to include a comprehensive Interprofessional Education course series to promote interprofessionalism in both education and practice of PAs. This new curriculum is centered on a year-long Hospital Community Experience (HCE) course sequence that focuses on the interprofessional experience outside of the classroom. Each week students observe different health care professionals and engage in observation-based learning. Every Wednesday morning each student in the course visits a different site. Over the years the range of health care professionals observed by the PA students has increased and now include: physical therapist (PT), respiratory therapist (RT), occupational ther-

apist (OT), dietitian, pharmacist, primary care physician, physician assistant, nurse, nurse practitioner (NP), cardiologist, surgeon, endoscopist, foot specialist, Hospice caregiver, and medical laboratory scientist (MLS).

In addition, the students go to an advanced technology laboratory, which includes a flow cytometry, cytogenetics and molecular diagnostics department, as well as the regional laboratories, which comprises the clinical laboratories including blood bank, clinical microbiology, gross pathology room, and histology. Furthermore, students are assigned to a client in a Long Term Care (LTC) facility, whom they visit three times each semester for the entire three-course sequence. Each visit to

the LTC is centered on a specific assignment that facilitates application of knowledge learned in the program, as well as provides opportunities for students to interact with and assess specific health care needs of a geriatric patient, which includes how different health care providers meet those needs.

Students overall enjoy this course, as indicated by comments such as "*this is a great class*", "*unique topics allowed me to stretch my thinking*", "*seeing things that I learned in class was beneficial*", and "*going to each site was great*."

Martina Reinhold, Ph.D.

HCE Update

The Traverse City campus is off to a busy start of the academic year. This fall semester marks the first semester the distant campus will have two cohorts attending class simultaneously. The campus continues to expand every year and since the program began accepting applications in the fall of 2014, the applicant pool has almost tripled!

The inaugural Traverse City class is doing very well and are completing their final didactic phase of the program. Throughout their didactic phase they have had the opportunity to make a lot of great connections within the community during their Hospital Community Experience course. "*It has been a great experience to go out and*

observe different medical professions each week- from PAs in family practice to PAs in the ER and OR, then going out and following EMS, PT, OT, and working with residents of the Pavilion's. It has been a great learning experience that will enhance my future practice as a PA after graduation." (Lindsey Pettit PA-S2). They are very excited to begin their

clinical rotations and we are excited to have the Laker Effect in full effect in the northern Michigan communities.

With the addition of the Traverse City campus, our program relies heavily on our Interactive Television (ITV) system to deliver lecture material. Every semester we send out a survey to the students

to evaluate their educational experience through ITV. Overwhelmingly the students in both Traverse City and Grand Rapids have been very impressed with the technology and report that their learning experience is great through the ITV system. To date we are happy to report that there has been no lecture time lost due to any technology issues!

Nicholus Kopacki, PA-C

Traverse City Update

PAS Program Participates in sHaPe Camp

The PAS department participated in the 7th annual sHaPe (Summer Health Activities and Professions Exploration) Camp held July 11 – 14. sHaPe Camp is an ongoing research project sponsored by Grand Valley's College of Health Professions and Regional Math and Science Center (RMSC) that investigates if exposure to health career opportunities during middle school will increase the number of students that enter college to pursue a career in health professions. Funding for the camp was provided by several government and locally funded grants.

sHaPe Camp is designed for primarily underserved students in middle school. To enroll, students must be entering 8th or 9th grade, live in Michigan, and be between the ages of 12-15. The camp is free to the students, with transportation and lunch provided daily. This year, over 40 students spent four days in health-related activities and explored a variety of health professions. The students studied anatomy, physiology, epidemiology, and personal health and fitness. They explored the professions of clinical lab science, nursing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, physician assistant, radiation therapy, sonography, sports medicine, and therapeutic recreation. Student also toured the Mercy Health Saint Mary's campus. In a July 20 GVNow article, Ranelle Brew, Department of Public Health chair and program director, said, "*sHaPe Camp enables students to explore professions in fields they may not otherwise have access to through interactive sessions on our GVSU campus.*"



Physician Assistant Studies (PAS) faculty, along with PAS student volunteers, provided students a chance to learn about the PA profession. The campers were taught foundational knowledge and techniques used in patient care. The students learned about circulation and the various techniques used to assess blood flow. Besides feeling pulses and doing Allen's test, the campers mapped out the circulation of the hand on themselves using red and blue markers. They also learned about the various aspects of neurological exams, including the cranial nerves, basic sensation, balance and gait. The DTRs were also a big hit (ouch)! The third planned activity included basic wound care and taping techniques for sprains. The students left with a new appreciation of what PAs can do and, also, a first aid kit.

Campers' reactions about the PA experience: "*I enjoyed all of the hands on work;*" "*It was cool to look in the ear, eye and throat;*" "*I enjoyed using different equipment and the wounds were very exciting.*"

The PAS students and faculty also enjoyed the opportunity to interact with the students and share the profession. Most importantly, as one of the counselors commented: "*At first they didn't know what a PA did, but by the end they were well educated.*"

Molly Paulson, PA-C, MT (ASCP)



A Thank You to our Donors

We would like to thank all of the donors who have contributed to the PAS Program and Scholarship Funds. We currently have five funds: the Steven and Kathryn '83 Bandstra Clinical Placement Scholarship, the Steven and Kathryn '83 Bandstra Health Sciences Scholarship, the Christos T. and Joan A. Panopoulos Physician Assistant Studies Endowed Scholarship, the Stephanie Urbanawiz Physician Assistant Endowed Scholarship, and the Physician Assistant Development Fund. Every donation makes a difference and your generosity has helped students accomplish their dream of becoming a physician assistant.

**Please note that this list includes donors who gave between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016.

Elizabeth J. Anderson '02, '06	Christine Khamis '12
Anonymous	Diana '05 & George Lightfoot
Anonymous	Mercy Health Imaging Department Staff
Theresa A. Bacon-Baguley* & James Baguley	Chris & Joan Panopoulos
Steven & Kathryn '83 Bandstra	David Patel '11
Hannah Benda '15 & Collin Russell	Stacey '93, '06, '09 & Michael Pniewski
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Kristi Dzingle '10, '12	Joanna Springman
Molly Flack '15	Brett '08, '12 & Elizabeth '09, '11 Suing
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Sandra Greenspan	Holly '06, '15 & Bryan White
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Sarah '11, '13 & Derek Hirschman	Stephany C. Zahl '15
Daniel* & Stephanie Hurwitz	
Ashley '98, '01 & Kyle Kepler	

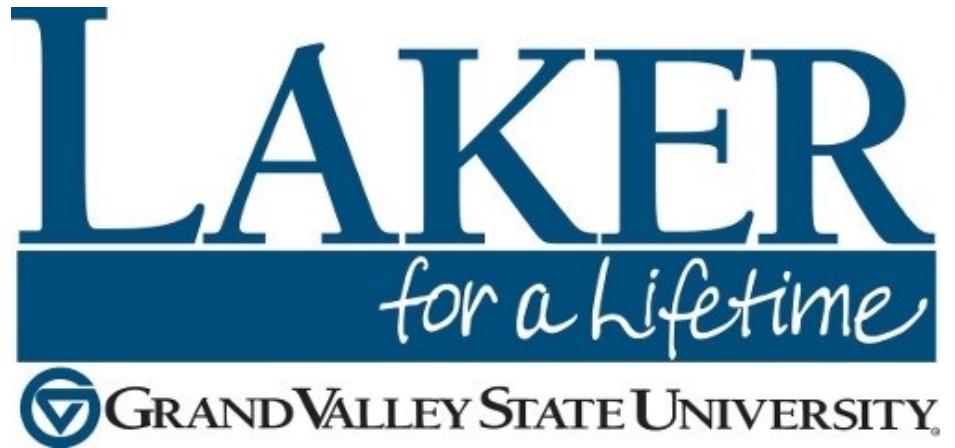
* Grand Valley State University faculty/staff



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*The mission of the program is to educate individuals to become competent
Physician Assistants*

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