



# GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY®

## PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES

### GVSU Physician Assistant Studies Alumni Newsletter



Class of 2018



## WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR



Andrew Booth, DHEd, PA-C  
Chair & Program Director

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

**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2019  
**Time:** 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM  
**Price:** \$10.00 per person  
**RSVP:** RSVP for this event online at [gvsu.edu/pas](http://gvsu.edu/pas) until 3/15/2018 at 6:30 pm  
**Location:** The Centennial Room at Founders, 235 Grandville Ave. SW

Please join us for a reception including local craft beer and a deli spread starting at 6:30 pm at Founders Brewing Co. followed by a presentation at 7:30 pm entitled **"Like Two Peas in a Pod: Antimicrobial Therapy Update and Stewardship"** by Dr. Michael D. Tiberg, Pharm.D.



Michael D. Tiberg, Pharm.D.

Dr. Tiberg is a graduate of Ferris State University College of Pharmacy and the University of Illinois at Chicago where he obtained his B.S. in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees, respectively. He is past Infectious Disease Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at Munson Medical Center. During that time, he established a pharmacy-based infectious disease service, as well as a post graduate year 2 (PGY2) infectious disease pharmacy residency program at Munson Medical Center. Dr. Tiberg is a board-certified pharmacotherapy specialist with added qualifications in infectious diseases. He is chair of the Michigan Society of Healthcare Pharmacists (MSHP) Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee and member of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee. He founded the consulting practice Antimicrobial Stewardship Advisors, LLC in 2016 to assist healthcare facilities with the growing demands in the area of Antimicrobial Stewardship required by the Joint Commission and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Dr. Tiberg is currently a part-time adjunct instructor of Pharmacology at Grand Valley State University in Traverse City.

*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 [tomekc@gvsu.edu](mailto:tomekc@gvsu.edu) or 616-331-5630.

## PAS Faculty

Theresa Bacon-Baguley, Ph.D.  
 Professor, Assistant Dean of Research  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Andrew Booth, DHEd, PA-C  
 Assistant Professor, Program Director  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Paul Christensen, M.D.  
 Department Chair  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Jill Ellis, DHSC, PA-C  
 Assistant Professor  
 \*\*\*\*\*

David Geenen, Ph.D.  
 Assistant Professor  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Steffen Genthe, M.D.  
 Medical Director  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Mandy German, PA-C  
 Clinical Affiliate Faculty  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Nicholus Kopacki, PA-C  
 Clinical Affiliate Faculty  
 \*\*\*\*\*

M. Lisa Pagnucco PharmD  
 Associate Professor  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Molly Paulson, DHSC, PA-C  
 Assistant Professor  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Susan Raaymakers, DHSC, PA-C  
 Assistant Professor  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Amanda Reddy, PA-C  
 Clinical Affiliate Faculty  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Martina Reinhold, Ph.D.  
 Assistant Professor  
 \*\*\*\*\*



# Paul J. Christensen, M.D. PAS Department Chair

Paul Christensen, MD, PAS Department Chair. Dr. Christensen obtained his medical degree at the University of Minnesota before completing a residency in Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and a fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He then joined the faculty in the Department of Medicine at the University of Michigan rising to the rank of Associate Professor. He held a joint appointment at the University of Michigan and as a Staff Physician at Veterans Administration Hospital in Ann Arbor for the next 23 years. During his time, he maintained an active research laboratory, taught extensively in the medical school, and provided clinical care primarily at the VA hospital in Ann Arbor. In 2014, he accepted an offer to join the faculty at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. Here he continued academic pursuits while juggling a heavy clinical load in the intensive care unit, pulmonary consult services, and outpatient clinics.



Q: What attracted you to the GVSU PAS program? The position at GVSU was a big shift from what I was doing, but represented a new challenge and an opportunity to focus my efforts on teaching and scholarship. I felt that my experience as a clinician, teacher, and researcher were well suited to this work. My wife Mary and I had purchased a condominium in Holland, MI a few years back and fell in love with the easy lifestyle and outdoor activities. It started to feel like home. All things came together for us to live and work on the 'west side'.

Q: What do you see as the biggest challenge for the PAS program? Healthcare needs providers that are well trained in both the science and the art of medicine. Medical education has traditionally been considered an apprenticeship. It starts from admission to the program. Second year students mentor first year students. Those in clinical rotations download knowledge to those in the didactic years. Preceptors impart wisdom on clinical rotations. Graduates master their profession and eventually become preceptors. PA training is rigorous but produces the kind of providers the Healthcare system needs. We need engagement at every level for the program to continue to be successful and grow.

Q: Has anything surprised you so far? I was struck by the commitment of the GVSU PAS faculty to train the next generation of PAs. This was especially evident during the most recent preparation for the ARC-PA accreditation site visit.

Welcome to the Team

### Nathan Kamp Class of 2019

The GVSU PAS program and faculty is focused on student success. As part of this process, I was tasked with asking a successful student what strategies were most helpful in achieving success. I chose to interview Nate Kamp, a fourth semester student who exemplifies the successful adaptation of a nontraditional student to the rigors of PA school. In addition to success in the classroom, faculty have observed Nate's mentorship of his classmates. He is often sought out by others because of his calm, professional demeanor and his friendly, helpful attitude. When asked what the secrets to his success are, here is what Nate said:

*"As a parent of 3 children under the age of 6 while pursuing a Masters in Physician Assistant Studies at GVSU I often get the question, "How do you do that?" or "I can't imagine how busy you must be". Often my answer is a mere acknowledgement of that reality. However, for those that are considering undertaking a similar endeavor I propose my success is due to minimizing non-school stressors with three key components: support system, planning, and adaptability.*

*The most significant contributor to success in handling the challenges of PA school is a strong support system. My biggest source of support has been my family. My wife has assumed most of the extra responsibilities when I'm unavailable. In addition to caring for our children, she manages the household responsibilities, as well as working two days a week. The rest of our family have been stepped in whenever needed so I can focus on my studies. Another strong system of support for me is my church. Going to church gives me one day to recharge and spend time with my family at the same time.*

*Pursuing a graduate degree and supporting a family requires a clear and purposeful plan to avoid as much extra stress as possible. Financially, we decided to sell our home, pay off all our undergraduate debt, and be debt free before taking on graduate school debt. I strongly advise talking with a financial aid advisor well in advance of starting PA school. That, and establishing a reasonable budget, will prevent stressful financial crises while in the midst of the rigorous course load of a PA program. I've also experienced the value of developing good habits for diet, sleep and exercise. No one can study around the clock, and healthy habits optimize my study time.*

*Finally, adaptability is a core component of my success. Understanding how to transform myself to fit the ever-changing needs of being a family man and a student has allowed me to maintain a proper balance in my life. When you have 4 exams in one week, I've had to rely on others to take care of my family while I focus on school more. However, when the last exam is done, I need a mental break from school and my family needs my attention so I shift my focus. This is an example of how my goals of raising a family and pursuing my education are not competing but complimentary. This is a skill that I believe will be essential in my future as a provider and establishing a healthy work-life balance."*



# PA CLASS OF 2019 NEWS

With less than 1 month until we reach the finish line of our didactic year together, one could say the class of 2019 looks a little different than this time just one year ago.

When this cohort of students started in the GVSU PAS program in the fall of 2017, you would have seen many different things written on our faces – nerves, excitement, and anxiety being just a few of the more prominent emotions that stood out in our class full of newbies. We were all so honored to be in Grand Valley's program, and we were eager to prove ourselves.

Throughout this last year, it was amazing to see how those feelings of nervousness, excitement, and anxiety fueled the 2019 class as we tackled the first semester, then second, then third, and finally made it to where we are now, just shy of our clinical year. In the last 12 months, we've tackled over 50 exams and quizzes, made at least 40+ new friends, had 6 members of our cohort get married, and drank more cups of coffee than we can even count. We have racked up hours note-taking, studying, practicing, and learning. Truthfully, it's not the quantity of what we've done in this last year that I'm proud of; it's the quality of what we've accomplished that I think really matters. As I sit here and reflect on what makes the class of 2019 unique, an entire year's worth of memories floods forward. I've watched my classmates fail, brush themselves off, dive in harder, and come out victorious and more resilient than ever. I've watched people work through tears of their own stress, only to turn around five minutes later to selflessly help someone else get through a tough spot. I've seen my classmates remain committed to their friends and families, striving not only for excellence in the classroom, but also out in their shadowing experiences, in their communities, and in their own homes.

I think I speak for all of us when I say we are anxiously awaiting the new changes clinical year will bring. However, I also know there will be a tinge of sadness to the end of this year, because we won't get to see each other every day like we're used to. I think that in and of itself tells more about our class than my words can really communicate.

Thinking about what lies ahead of us, I will share with you a little bit of the heart behind what we are learning to do.

In this last year, we have been taught that medicine is part science, and part art. We have learned that the purpose of attending PA school is not just to expand your knowledge, but also to have your mental and emotional capacity expanded to make you a better PA. That's why, looking back, I don't think any of us would change any of our hours spent studying, or the tears of frustration we may have let out. We wouldn't change the late nights, or the early mornings. Because at the end of the day, we want to be the kind of PAs whose patients leave our offices, saying to themselves, "I am glad I came here today".

I'm proud to be a part of the GVSU PA graduating class of 2019, but more importantly, I am privileged to have been a part of the crazy, wonderful, life-giving process that led me to such an honor—and the people with whom I share it.

**Olivia Presnell, PA-S Class of 2019**





# PA CLASS OF 2020 NEWS

It is hard to believe we are finally in PA school. After three months of studying and exams, reality is finally setting in. We are all still adjusting and finding new and more efficient ways to study. We have already had several exams, including our first lab practicum with standardized patients. That was the first time most of us really started to feel like real PA students. What a great experience! We have been working toward this goal for years now, and here we are, officially PA students.

In October, the Grand Rapids cohort went to Helen Devos Childrens' Hospital to volunteer for project night lights. Everyone has a lot of great ideas for volunteering in our communities and we have several more volunteer activities planned this semester both in Traverse City and Grand Rapids. Other events we have planned include volunteering for blood drives, The Salvation Army, Paper Angels, Meals on Wheels, and Buddy up Tennis. Our class is excited to begin giving back as part of the GVSU PA class of 2020!



This fall, the MAPA conference was in Traverse City. A few members of our class were able to attend this event and watched the class of 2019 represent the GVSU PA program at the quiz bowl as they competed against other schools. They took 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall which makes us proud to be part of this program. Next year it will be our turn to carry the torch and I am sure our education here will have us well prepared. Some of our faculty even presented at the conference which is a

huge statement to the type of educators they are. We are excited to be able to partake in this conference and all of us look forward to attending next year!

Upcoming next, we have elections for RPC (Richard Paul Clodfelder- our PA student society). Then some of us will be helping with the class on 2021 interviews! We all know what an exciting and uneasy time that was for us last year and how helpful it was to meet the students who helped with interviews last year.



As a class, we are already forming our identity and becoming close friends. With the intensity of PA school, it is difficult to keep up with friends and maintain a social life in addition to our studies and other obligations. It is so nice to have classmates that we can socialize with in free seconds between classes and studying. We are also attempting to do social events together outside of school. The Traverse City cohort went to a corn maze and carved pumpkins. The Grand Rapids cohort made it to Art Prize together earlier this semester. We have already hosted two group potlucks at school and I am sure there will be many more of those to come. So far it has been a joy to get to know our classmates and a comfort to have people there that share our struggles. We celebrated PA week and we are proud to be joining this wonderful profession. We want to thank everyone that helped us get here and everyone that will help us through this amazing journey. We are all so excited to be starting this journey into the PA profession together.

**Hannah Wilson, PA-S Class of 2020**

## Blake Geschke

### Class of 2016

Blake received his undergraduate degree from Central Michigan University. While at Central, in addition to his studies, he played varsity baseball for two seasons. It was during this time, he states, that his interest in health and fitness developed and he ultimately decided to pursue a career as a PA. To our delight, Blake accepted our invitation to join the GVSU PAS class of 2016.

While at GVSU, in addition to his studies, he served as President of the RPC Student Society. This role allowed him to attend the AAPA national conference in San Francisco as a student where he learned of the Student Academy of AAPA. He subsequently ran for, and was elected to, the SAAAPA Board of Directors and became active at the national level. For the following two years, as the Director of Student Communications, he ran the social media sites of SAAAPA, participated in board meetings, and helped determine areas of focus for PA student outreach. He also traveled to Washington D.C., San Antonio, and Las Vegas for meetings and conferences. He states the experiences were “beyond my wildest expectations, and also taught me the importance of activism for our profession.”

After graduation, he took a job with Spectrum Health at a walk-in clinic to expand his knowledge base and to become “comfortable treating whatever walks in the door”. He continues to work there and finds great satisfaction in being a PA. In addition to his full time job, Blake has also made time to continue his advocacy for the profession. Last spring he ran for and was elected as the Region 4 representative and now serves as a conduit between MAPA and all of West Michigan.



When asked about his focus as a PA, he states he tries to “help people live healthy and productive lives” but he also feels strongly about the need to advocate for the profession. Blake feels that strongly and continues to encourage students and other PAs to volunteer. “There is no better advocate for our profession than a PA, or a PA student. Make sure to spend some time volunteering with MAPA, SAAAPA, or AAPA. You’ll get to know more about your profession, meet some amazing people, and have a good time along the way.”



## Class of 2018 Update—Graduation: December 8, 2018

As we quickly approach the finish line of academia and prepare to sit for our boards in less than two months, it's needless to say these two years of PA school have gone by *fast*. Each one of us can reflect on this day two years ago, when we were all freaking out about the next anatomy exam and thinking how on earth we were going to make it through PA school without developing a DVT from hours on end of sitting in a classroom. The didactic days where we got excited when a classmate suffering from strep throat had a visibly erythematous posterior oropharynx have been replaced by high-fiving ourselves after nailing a diagnosis and treatment plan when asked by a preceptor. The synthesis of putting a real patient's symptoms to a disease state learned long ago in clin med has finally clicked, and for many of us we are beginning to develop the "gestalt" of clinical wisdom that we admire to in each one of our preceptors.

This year of clinicals has been bittersweet. The transition of seeing your best friends every single day to the point of nausea, to now throwing a reunion party each month we get to see each other has been one of the most incredible things to walk away from PA school with; lifelong friendships. Sharing stories each month of how we broke sterile field three times in one surgery alone will be missed, as will the days of ordering the same lucky tunafish Subway sandwich before every

pharm exam. Uniting the the two campuses together through RPC events, tubing down the Platte River, bowling, pool parties, and Black Tie has brought the class of 2018 together as one cohesive unit of friends and colleagues.

While not working or studying, our class has managed to attend the annual AAPA conference in New Orleans to showcase our continued leadership and interest in bettering the PA profession. This year's MAPA conference held in Traverse City will be another opportunity for all of us to come together again, network, attend lectures, and cheer on our fellow classmates at the beloved QuizBowl.

I'm sure many of us can say, that we all have grown so much both personally and professionally over these past two years. The mentorship and lasting professional relationships we've gained throughout clinical year will propel us forward into our exciting young careers in primary care, critical care, surgery, and OBGYN, just to name a few. I'm proud to say that in no time at all, the security blanket of being a student will be lifted and we will all venture out as the next generation of compassionate, bright, and eager healthcare providers.

Cheers to the class of 2018!

## 2018 Admissions Update

The GVSU PAS admission committee has been very busy over the past few months! As many of you already know, GVSU transitioned the application process from an internal application system to a national system (CASPA). The application deadline was September 1, and we are pleased to report that we have an exceptional group of applicants who would like to be a member of the GVSU PAS Class of 2021! The admission committee reviewed applicant files in order to select the most highly qualified applicants for an on-site interview. The Traverse City interview day was on Friday, November 2 and the Grand Rapids interview day was on Friday, November 9. A huge thanks to all of you who volunteered to assist in making these interview days a success! If you did not volunteer this year, but would like to take part in future application cycles, please contact Jill Ellis ([ellisji@gvsu.edu](mailto:ellisji@gvsu.edu)) for details.

If you know of anyone who is considering applying to the GVSU PAS program for future application cycles, please direct them to the GVSU PAS program website ([www.gvsu.edu/pas](http://www.gvsu.edu/pas)). There is a wealth of information located there regarding admission requirements, important dates, etc.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Accreditation Update

As some of you know, the program had another Accreditation site visit this past August. This visit was focused on our revised program assessment process. Prior to the visit, the Program Review Committee, lead by Dr. Martina Reinhold, the PAS Assistant Department Chair for Assessment, implemented a new and improved assessment process. This data, analysis, and action plans based on this new assessment process were gathered and put into a report for our accreditors. This report was the guiding document at the site visit in August. Because the report and our assessment process was so outstanding, the site visit went exceptionally well.

We are happy to report that the Program is now off Accreditation-Probation status and on Accreditation- Continued status. While this bump in the road was unpleasant to go through, the program is much better off because of it!

Thank you to Martina and the entire PAS faculty and staff that worked endlessly to make this visit so successful!

### Donors Update

On October 23, Grand Valley State University broke ground on the Daniel and Pamella DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health in Grand Rapids. This five-story building located beside the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences will provide much needed lab and classroom space for our 20+ health sciences programs. This is exciting news for the PAS program. Previously, we shared laboratory space with physical therapy but now a dedicated laboratory space for our program is planned for the new building. This will be immensely beneficial to future PA students. You can learn more about the Daniel and Pamella DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health at [www.gvsu.edu/giving/healthcampus](http://www.gvsu.edu/giving/healthcampus) or you may support it at [www.gvsu.edu/giving/cih](http://www.gvsu.edu/giving/cih).



## PROGRAM UPDATES

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the PAS program along with the Midwest Interprofessional Education and Research Center presented Dr. Sue West, OB/GYN and the Spectrum Health Medical Group OB/GYN group on Lake Michigan Drive with Preceptor of the year honors! Dr. West and her team of physicians, NP's, and PA, provide GVSU PAS students an outstanding Women's health rotation! Student typically get an opportunity to see patients in the office, perform surgery, and assist with c-sections! Student rate this rotation as one of the best, with scores consistently in the excellent range.

All the providers in this clinical provide outstanding guidance to our students. They are avid about teaching and about providing students the needed experiences needed to become competent in many aspects of women's health care.

The GVSU PAS program thanks Dr. West and all the provides at the Spectrum Health Medical Group OB/GYN Lake Michigan Drive for their dedication to GVSU PAS students!

Preceptor Award

In August of this year, the PA profession lost one of its great leaders. Ricardo Rios, PA, lost his long-fought battle with Alzheimer's dementia on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Rico was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and moved to the United States to attend Westminster College in Pennsylvania. He graduated and became a high school science teacher, but his love of learning and medicine drew him to further his education and become a Physician Assistant.



Rico attended and graduated from the PA program at Kettering College in Ohio in the late 1980s. His first job in Ohio was in ophthalmology and he never left that specialty, working for many years at Grand Rapids Ophthalmology. He taught at Western Michigan University's PA program and also at GVSU as lecturer and clinical coordinator. He was a valued member of the faculty. For those of us that knew

Rico, we remember his incredible knowledge of and love for ophthalmology.

Rico was active in the profession, being an active member of both the AAPA and the MAPA. It was not uncommon to see Rico at MAPA board meetings and regional meetings.

Rico is survived by two sons, Jordan and Lucas, and their mother, Debra Brooks.

In Memory



## AAPA 2018 HOUSE OF DELEGATES

I was one of eight Michigan PAs elected to represent Michigan PAs at the 2018 House of Delegates (HOD) that was held from 5/19/18 to 5/21/18 In New Orleans, LA during the 2018 AAPA Annual Conference. HOD opened with reports from the AAPA board of directors. Here are some of the topics that I believe are of significant importance to Michigan PAs:

### AAPA Learning Opportunities:

- AAPA has increased CME opportunities with a new learning platform launched in July this year.
- AAPA now has expanded leadership training opportunities and announced a Masters of Leadership training in conjunction with Northeastern University
- Opportunities to obtain 50 CMEs about opioid addiction, including training on the use of Narcan

### AAPA Practice Initiatives:

- AAPA continues to support state efforts to improve and expand practice parameters for PAs.
- AAPA National initiatives to position PAs as thought leaders and empower PAs to tackle critical societal problems:
  - \* Obesity
  - \* Diabetes
  - \* Opioid Epidemic: Legislation passed to allow trained PAs to prescribe Narcan

### AAPA Research initiatives:

- JAAPA
- Salary Survey
- RAND corporation: research on recertification

### PA Foundation initiatives:

- Scholarships for students
- 2018 Grants: Mental Health Training
  - \* Mental Health First Aid instructors training
    - ⇒ Recognition of emerging mental health disease
  - \* Opioid Crisis
  - \* Flu Campaign: focus on 65+ immunizations
  - \* Vital Minds Podcast

### Political Action Committee Report (Debra Munsell, Chair of PAC board of trustees):

- Dedicated to advancing the PA profession
- Enhances AAPA's advocacy efforts by providing greater visibility and increased opportunity to meet with and educate congressional candidates and legislators.
- Expands opportunities to meet with legislators
- Less than 4% AAPA members supported PAC but donated > \$100,000 for the first time
  - \* By comparison, nurse practitioners gave > 200,000 to their PAC, and physicians gave >\$400,00 to their PAC

### PA Historical Society Report:

According to Maryann Ramos, president, part of the PA Historical Society mission "is to illustrate how PAs have and continue to make a difference in the delivery of accessible, affordable and high-quality health care services." She stated "We have to know where we have come to know where we are going." She encourages all PAs to become advocates and educators about the profession. The Society will provide education and historian "toolkits" as well as a two-day Historian Boot Camp for interested persons. The website for information is [www.pahx.org](http://www.pahx.org)

**Physician Assistant Educators Association (PAEA) report:**

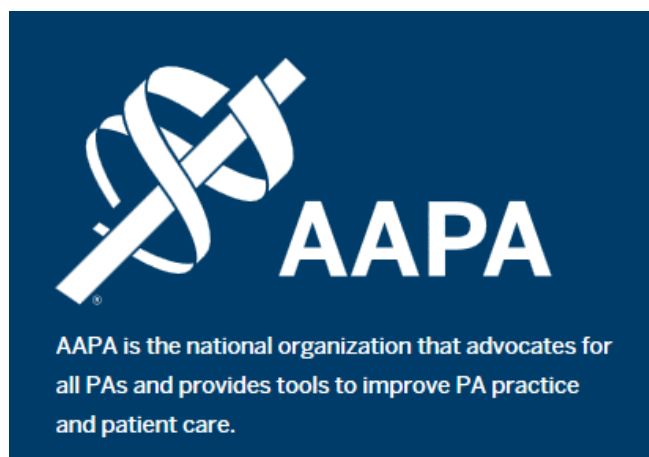
Lisa Alexander, president of the PAEA, reported that the PAEA are the “gatekeepers of the profession” and are charged with both the admissions process and educational standards of the 235 accredited PA programs in the United States. Over the last two years, the PAEA has worked in collaboration with all stake holders (AAPA, ARC-PA, AMA, NCCPA, insurers, legislatures, the public, and others) to align PA education with PA practice in the following core competencies: medical knowledge, technical knowledge, empathy, and communication. The PAEA, along with the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) are committed to developing an outcome-based system of holding programs accountable to provide evidence of student outcomes in these competencies. These competencies are aligned with what is expected of PA graduates.

**NCCPA Report:**

- “New era of collaboration of four organizations: AAPA, ARC-PA, PAEA, and NCCPA”
- NCCPA supports several scholarships through the AAPA Foundation
- The NCCPA board now contains a large portion of practicing PAs as compared to the past.
- PAs is one of our Main constituencies:
  - \* 2 public members on the board
  - \* Patients “ARE our business”
  - \* Payers & employers are also members of the board
- NCCPA states they are listening to and welcome constructive feedback
- “We agree on the modernization of” certification process

Finally, the HOD tasked the AAPA to hire an outside agency to look into the cost of changing the name of our profession to something that better reflects our level and rigor of education, and the broad scope of practice that PAs are trained for. Since this issue has been presented to HOD over many years as a hotly contested topic, the House felt an outside opinion on the cost and consequences of a potential name change was best explored by outside experts. A report from this agency will be presented at the next HOD meeting in May, 2019 in Denver, Colorado.

Report respectfully submitted,  
Molly Paulson,



## 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 Budden Family Pathway Scholarship. 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, 2017 and June 30, 2018.**

Elizabeth J. Anderson '02, '06  
Theresa A. Bacon-Baguley\* & James Baguley  
Steven & Kathryn '83 Bandstra  
Kristy '00 and Andrew Booth\*  
Molly '95 '00 & Brett Duiven  
Kailene L. DeVries '16  
Alyssa M. Fraser '13  
Tim '00, '03 & Thea '02, '04 Gawronski  
Chelsea M. Guzikowski '16  
Steven '99, '02 & Kristen '00, '02 Myers  
Muskegon Lakers Soccer Club  
Chris & Joan Panopoulos  
Benjamin & Katie Rhodes

\* Grand Valley State University faculty/staff







Grand Valley State University  
Physician Assistant Studies

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Phone: (616) 331-5700  
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Traverse City Campus  
2200 Dendrinos Drive  
Suite 15  
Traverse City, Michigan 49684  
Phone: (231) 995-1785  
Fax: (231) 995-1786



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

The Physician Assistant Program at Grand Valley State University is one of the most rigorous in the country. To continue to attract and retain the best and brightest students, and graduate them with the best preparation for clinical practice, private funds are increasingly needed. You can help by giving today to the Physician Assistant Development Fund. Your gift of any size counts and builds this fund to help our students continue our tradition of excellence.

Please consider giving online ([www.gvsu.edu/give](http://www.gvsu.edu/give)), by phone 616-331-6000, or via mail.

MAIL

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P.O. Box 2005  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-2005

The background image for the bottom section is a photograph of the Cook-Devos Center for Health Sciences building. The building is a modern, multi-story structure with a curved facade and large glass windows. The name "COOK-DEVOS CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES" is visible on the building's facade. The foreground shows a paved plaza with some greenery and a few people walking.

## We Want To Hear From You!

Please update the GVSU PAS Program with your contact information so we can stay in touch with you! Send us professional activities, honors, newspaper articles, or any accomplishment you would like posted in the next newsletter!

Contact Mandy German PA-C Clinical Affiliate Faculty and Co-Director of Clinical Education  
(616-460-7080) or [germanm@gvsu.edu](mailto:germanm@gvsu.edu)

You can update your email online at the following link:  
<http://www.gvsu.edu/alumni/update-your-information-88.htm>