

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES



This is who we are...

April Adado, DMSc, MPAS, PA-C
Assistant Professor

Theresa Bacon-Baguley, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Research, Professor

Andrew Booth, DHEd, PA-C
Department Chair, Assistant Professor

Paul Christensen, M.D.
Associate Professor

Jill Ellis, DHSC, PA-C
Program Director, Associate Professor

David Geenen, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

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Mandy German, PA-C
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Nicholus Kopacki, DMSC, PA-C
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Amanda Reddy, PA-C
Co-Chair of Clinical Education,
Senior Clinical Affiliate Faculty

Martina Reinhold, Ph.D.
Director of PA Assessment,
Associate Professor

Michelle Strange, DMSC, PA-C
Visiting Faculty

Cathy Tomek
PAS Academic Coordinator

WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR



Paul Christensen, M.D.

When I accepted the position of Program Director and Department Chair of the GVSU Physician Assistant Program in the fall of 2018, several things became immediately apparent. We were blessed with amazing facilities (which got even better with the addition of the new Devos Center for Interprofessional Health), incredible faculty, and fantastic students. But there were also challenges (clinical rotations, staffing and resources for the Traverse City Campus, recredentiaing, and budget constraints, to name a few). To meet these challenges, I felt strongly that a new administrative structure was necessary. We have decided to split the current combined Program Director/Department Chair role into two positions. To facilitate that change, I have stepped down from my role and am pleased to announce that Dr. Ellis will serve as Program Director and Dr. Booth will serve as GVSU PAS Department Chair. These two, along with Dr. Martina Reinhold, Director of Assessment and Dr. Nicholus Kopacki, Assistant Department Chair for the Traverse City campus, will lead the entire faculty team in preparing our upcoming recredentiaing report and site visit.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Program Director/Department Chair for the past 4 years. I have been blessed to work with such a dedicated group of faculty and students. The most rewarding thing for an educator is to watch students grow and learn. In my new role, I will focus on teaching and look forward to seeing our students become successful PAs.



Andrew Booth, DHEd, PA-C



Jill Ellis, DHSc, PA-C



Martina Reinhold, Ph.D.



Nicholus Kopacki, DMSc, PA-C

ADMISSIONS UPDATE

The admission committee for the PAS program is always excited for fall when we can review the applications of hundreds of qualified applicants eager to enter the PA profession! The admission committee spent many hours revising and clarifying the application review process for applicants this past winter semester, which has been very helpful this fall. The committee added more specific information for applicants about the interview and admission selection process to the website (<https://www.gvsu.edu/pas/admissions-criteria-91.htm>). We have received positive feedback thus far and are always eager for more input, so if you have any suggestions, please contact the admission committee (ellisji@gvsu.edu). Interview day for the Grand Rapids campus is Friday, October 28, and interview day for the Traverse City campus is Friday, November 5. The interview day will be slightly different this fall because we decided to add a faculty panel to the interview day based on feedback from applicants. This will allow each applicant to spend more time with the GVSU PAS program faculty so they can make the most informed decision regarding their PA education. If you are interested in helping during current or future interview days, please reach out (ellisji@gvsu.edu)!

SAMARATIS

Kayla Gacioch started PA school at GVSU with 47 other students this August. Her school day is typical. She has been studying anatomy, immunology, and getting use to life as a PA student. When Kayla heads to her apartment her life looks a little different from her classmates, as she is the youngest person in her building by approximately 40 years. Kayla is the first student to live at Samaritis Senior Living in Grand Rapids. Kayla worked as a certified nurse assistant (CNA) at a long-term care facility prior to starting PA school. When she learned about the living opportunity with Samaritis she was excited as she enjoyed her time working in senior care. Housing is provided free of charge, but she has found she enjoys the connections with the residents most of all. Kayla explained it is like having “extended grandparents”. Dinners are served restaurant style over casual conversation about past experiences and shared interests. Kayla believes the residents enjoy reminiscing and they have told her having her around makes them feel younger. Wednesdays are bingo nights. Fridays there is a cocktail hour where residents have hors d'oeuvre and drinks to unwind from the week. Kayla enjoys spending her down time with the residents. She

explains, “When we are playing cards or having dinner our conversations are different than they would be with my classmates and friends.” She enjoys talking about past experiences and topics that are not related to medicine or PA school. It is easy to eat, breathe, and sleep PA school. Kayla elaborates how living at the Samaritis allows her to have a break from the rigors of her studies and think about the world a little different than if she didn't have this experience.



Michigan Academy of PAs Annual Fall Conference

The GVSU PA program is back on top! The GVSU PA program quiz bowl team brought the trophy home in dominating fashion. The team consisted of Lydia Fales ('22 GR), Anne-Marie Deming ('23 TC), Jenna Kesh ('23 GR) and Brooklynne Watkins ('23 GR). They defeated the competition so well in both rounds, they were able to get in the "V" formation and "take a knee", clinching victory! Well done students!

Not only did the GVSU PA students represent the program in *Grand* fashion, we also had 2 faculty members, Dr. Nick Kopacki and Dr. Michelle Strange, and numerous alumni deliver high quality educational lectures! Thank you all for supporting MAPA and providing these sessions for your peers!



PA WEEK (OCTOBER 6-12)

Every year GVSU PA students at both the Grand Rapids and Traverse City campuses participate in PA Week activities and this year the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee, and students, worked to ensure that the week would be well represented. This year's theme, "PAs Go Beyond" will be celebrated from October 6-12 which are the traditional PA Week dates and commemorate not only the first graduating class of physician assistants back on October 6, 1967 (55 years ago!), but also the birthday of Dr. Eugene Stead recognized as the founder of the PA profession.

Throughout the week, there will be various activities planned, including a social media challenge and faculty/student luncheon, a lecture on DEI topics, participation in MAPA's Fall Convention and Quiz bowl competition, and outreach and advocacy events chosen by each cohort to promote the many ways that PAs make communities better.

In Grand Rapids, students are promoting awareness of the PA profession by partnering with Grand Rapids Public schools and Kent ISD. Additionally, they are facilitating health and wellness tables at several locations. In Traverse City, students will be presenting information about the PA profession to high schools in the local area, as well as students attending Northwestern Michigan College. They are also planning a health and wellness event involving the Boardman Lake walking trail that borders the Northern Michigan campus.

While PA week is always a time of fun and education, the diligence of the GVSU PA students has continued the tradition of promoting the profession to our Western and Northern Michigan communities. Alumni can be proud of the program's current students as they "Go Beyond" and represent GVSU around the state!

GVSU PA FUNDRAISING EVENT

GRIFFINS NIGHT



FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 11TH | 7:00PM
VAN ANDEL ARENA
\$2 HOT DOGS & BEERS FROM 6-8PM

\$22 PER TICKET
VENMO TO @RPC-STUDENTSOCIETY
CONTACT MEG KERN & KRISTEN PIKE IF INTERESTED:
kernme@mail.gvsu.edu | pikekr@mail.gvsu.edu

RPC FUNDRAISER

Come join the fun with students, alumni, faculty/staff, friends and family.

Hope to see you there!

PA CLASS OF 2022

“Class of 2022 is slowly approaching graduation in December! In the meantime, we have been continuing our clinical rotations – all spread throughout the state & beyond. Outside of core rotations, some favorite electives this year have been dermatology, cardiology, pediatric ER, urgent care, pediatric endocrinology, cardiothoracic surgery, critical care, neurology, palliative care, oncology, and urology.

Reflecting on the past two years is both overwhelming & rewarding to see how far we have come in medical knowledge, clinical practice, and personal growth. Thank you to all the Laker alumni who have impacted our clinical year as both preceptors & mentors. We will be taking your feedback, clinical pearls, and encouragement with us as we continue our journey as new practicing PAs. Your impact on our practice will improve the care we provide to our patients. Here is to the job search and conquering the work force!

All the best,

Zoie Hulst
RPC President
GVSU PA Class of 2022



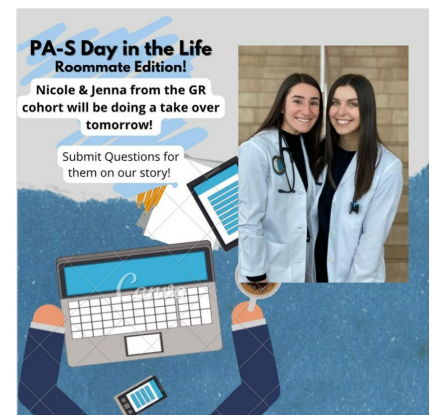
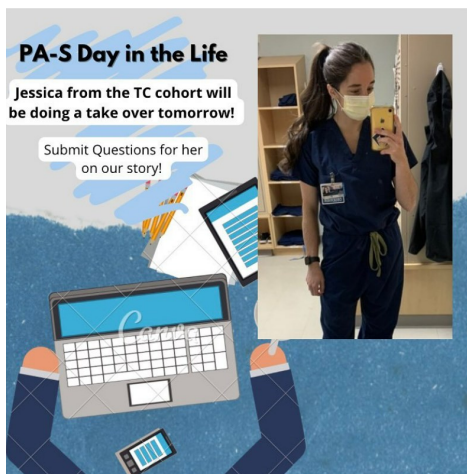
PA CLASS OF 2023

As the Class of 2023 begins our fourth and final semester of didactic, I have taken a moment to reflect on our journey thus far. It has built us into strong, wise, and compassionate providers. I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude to be where I am today with a cohort of spectacular individuals. We have grown immensely in our knowledge and our passion for this profession and future patients. Fall semester is now in full swing, and we have hit the ground running. Our first round of exams has come and gone, and we are eager to continue to learn and grow further.

We have been busy here in Traverse City and Grand Rapids and have had new opportunities to prepare for our upcoming clinicals. We were able to learn and perform female genitourinary and male genitourinary exams with specialists trained at Michigan State University. This seminar instilled in us competence but also an understanding of how to accommodate a diverse spectrum of patients for which we are extremely grateful.

The semester will continue to challenge us as we complete practicums, exams, the packrat, boot camp, and finish off with our sensational Black Tie celebration. Above all else, we will find moments to appreciate each other and the education we are receiving here at Grand Valley State University. We are one step closer to utilizing our knowledge to serve patients who deserve outstanding care as providers who are willing to listen and learn with them. - Elizabeth Lozen

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead



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Physician Assistant Studies

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Visit us at [Instagram.com/gvsupa](https://www.instagram.com/gvsupa)

The mission of the program is to prepare highly competent physician assistants who embrace diversity, equity and inclusion; lead and advance the profession; and provide quality patient-centered healthcare in all communities and settings.

PAS Faculty/Staff

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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, Senior Clinical Affiliate Faculty and Co-Chair of Clinical Education
(616-460-7080) or germanm@gvsu.edu

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