

THE PAS TIMES

MSU Department of Physician Assistant Studies-Promoting Excellence in Healthcare



PAS Faculty attending the Fall 2018 Commencement Ceremony

Welcoming New Faculty

Two new faculty members are making a positive impact on student learning. The PAS program welcomed new faculty and alumni Andrea Applegate MS PA-C and Nathan Miracle MS PA-C in the summer and fall semesters of 2018.

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MSU Care Clinic Celebrates Third Anniversary

In its three years of operation the [MSU Care](#) clinic has helped almost 2,000 different low-income, uninsured patients through over 12,000 completed office appointments and provided learning opportunities for hundreds of MSU healthcare students in nursing, PA, PT, OT and dietetics. Missouri State News recently released an [article](#) about the interdisciplinary clinic.

missouristate.edu/pas/

Welcome to the latest edition of our Year in Review newsletter.

Articles in this issue reflect back on our program's accomplishments in teaching and learning during the 2018 year.

Fulfilling Missouri State's public affairs mission through the pillars of ethical leadership, community engagement and cultural competence, the Department of Physician Assistant Studies strives to prepare highly competent PAs to practice primary care medicine in the context of team-delivered care in a rapidly evolving health care arena.



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YEAR IN REVIEW

The Department of Physician Assistant Studies had another successful year! As we look over the past year, we share the initiatives and accomplishments of our valued faculty, staff, students and alumni.



2018 PAEA EOR Exam Summit

PA educators from across the country who are on one of PA Education Association's Exam Development Boards got together on March 22 - March 25, 2018 in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Tracy Cleveland, 2018 Chair of the Surgery and Emergency Exam Development Board and Dr. Canales, 2018 Chair of the Family Medicine and Internal Medicine Exam Development Board helped to lead their perspective Boards through this intense four-day meeting. Other Exam Development Boards include; PACKRAT, Pediatrics, Women's Health, and Psychiatry.

2018 PAEA Leadership Summit

The Physician Assistant Education Association held its Leadership Summit meeting at its headquarters in Washington, DC on April 10 - 13, 2018. As leaders within the organization, Drs. Tracy Cleveland and Roberto Canales joined about 30 other leaders at this meeting. Also in attendance were several commissioners with the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) along with ARC-PA's Executive Director. Issues discussed included, 1) upcoming ARC-PA accreditation standard changes, 2) competencies for new PA graduates, 3) possible changes at the federal level to accreditation agencies, 4) how to assess and measure student learning outcomes, and 5) how to encourage innovative ways to meet student learning outcomes.



PA Students Present at MSU Diversity Conference



Class of 2019 students, Chad Oliver and Frances Theisen, presented a workshop during MSU's 2018 Collaborative Diversity Conference titled "Physician Assistant Leadership Built on Diverse Backgrounds". The event was open to students and members of the community and took place in late April 2018.

Workshop participants gained insight into the origins of the PA profession, listened to personal experiences based on the diverse background of current students, and gained an understanding of how those experiences are strengthening the cohort; ultimately helping them better serve future patients.

Ms. Theisen noted, "The MSU PA Class of 2019 has recognized it's not just the textbooks we need to learn, but we need to enhance our ability to relate to others and work within a variety of situations. Diversity has many definitions and forms; the diversity of our class lies in the broad array of individual experiences each of us has lived through. Our class is capitalizing on our individual diversity and are using our unique backgrounds to expand our education to a new level, beyond the textbooks and the classroom."

MSU's annual Collaborative Diversity Conference (CDC) seeks to provide information, resources and approaches that promote the value of diversity and inclusion. Higher education, the public sector as well as our business and corporate communities, in today's national climate need to not only appreciate the value of diversity, inclusion, cultural consciousness/competency and inclusive excellence, they must lead in minimizing the divisiveness, polarization and hostility directed towards any of our citizens and residents who "live, learn, and earn" in our communities.

The MSU PA program is proud of Mr. Oliver and Ms. Theisen's efforts to educate the campus community on the importance of culturally competent leadership in future healthcare providers.



Dr. Canales and PAS Class of 2019 students in attendance of the Collaborative Diversity Conference

2018 Annual AAPA Conference-New Orleans

Organized by the American Academy of Physicians Assistants, MSU PAS faculty and students attended the annual conference on May 19-23, 2018. Pictured below (clockwise): Dr. Tracy Cleveland and clinical year students (Beni Dang, Carey Darnell, Micah Durbin and Summer Snowden); PAS Alumnae from the classes of 2002, 2010, 2012, 2013 and 2016; and clinical year students who participated in the Pacers for Health 5K Fun Run/Walk.



Faculty Spotlight: Tracy Cleveland, EdD, MS, PA-C

In May 2018, PAS faculty, staff, students and alumni gathered to celebrate Dr. Cleveland's eleven years of service and move home to South Dakota with a farewell reception.

Dr. Cleveland, a 2002 alumna of the MSU PA program, served as a PAS faculty member since 2007. Her most recent positions included Associate Professor and Academic Coordinator. She holds a BS in Biology and Psychology from Northern State University, MS in Physician Assistant Studies from Missouri State University, and EdD in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri.

Reflecting on her time as a PA student, Dr. Cleveland shared the following:

"I remember walking into PA school orientation as a 23 year old young woman super excited about my future and completely naïve to what the next two years would bring. The program director at the time told us that we would experience a change over the next two years and that we would never be the same. I thought well sure I will be different, but you don't know me and all that I have been through in my life. How could this possibly be any different? [#holdonfortherollercoasterride](#) [#youhavenoidea](#) [#myhusbandthoughthedeservedapsychologydegree](#) [ewhenIbecameaPA](#)"

We asked Dr. Cleveland for her thoughts on the perfect PA student.

"Although, I think that there are a million things that could fall into this category I am going to touch on a few of my favorites because after completing PA school myself and working at the MSU PA program these are the things that have really stood out to me.

HARD WORKING-There is no substitute! I have NEVER seen a PA student coast through the program, NEVER!!! Sure there are some who are less challenged by the rigor than others, but unless you are willing to work hard you are likely not to

succeed. That means making sacrifices and putting in the time to be successful academically. If you don't like to work hard, you will struggle. You may even struggle if you are working hard, but hard work is essential to success.

HUMBLE-Students must be humble enough to recognize that they don't know everything, but confident enough to share their thoughts and stick up for themselves and others. You can learn something from everyone!! Whether it is the classroom or clinic settings, it is likely that there is always someone there who knows more about a certain subject than you.

A GOOD LISTENER-As with humility there is always someone who knows more about a certain subject than you, Listen first, learn from others, then ask questions and by all means go check for yourself!

MOTIVATED-Success in anything takes a lot of intrinsic or self-motivation. You will be guided by your professors, but you will need to be motivated enough to put in a lot of work on your own.



COMPASSIONATE-Be compassionate to others, classmates, patients, faculty, friends, and family. Your classmates are in the same boat you are, your patients seek your care, the faculty want you to succeed (we are vested in you), your friends will struggle to understand why you need to study so much, and your family like your friends will struggle to understand why you can't have family dinner every night, or why you are so stressed, or why you can't stay and talk for hours. They may not understand, but always be compassionate in your response to them.

HONEST-Be honest with yourself, know your limits. Figure out when you need a break from your studies. Be honest in your relationships, have open conversations with family and friends about what the next two years are going to hold for you before

Faculty Spotlight...

Continued from p. 5

you start. Be honest in your studies, prepare, prepare, prepare. Do not go into any sort of assessment having cheated yourself or your future patients, because you failed to prepare.

RESPONSIBLE-Do what you say you are going to do. Be dependable, trustworthy, and someone others can count on. Take personal responsibility for your shortcomings and work hard to correct them. Don't blame others when things go wrong, figure out what you can do to correct them.

RESPECTFUL-Much like compassion, be respectful of others. It is amazing how people will go out of their way to help someone who is respectful. It is easy to be respectful when we agree with others, it is harder to be respectful when you disagree. Practice being respectful to everyone in all situations.

POSITIVE- Stay positive. You have to laugh and make it fun! Nothing is ever as bad as it seems when you are having fun! I love my PA school classmates- I am proud of them, I respect them and although we don't see each other often, we are forever bonded by our PA school experience together. You are a team, encourage each other, stick up for each other, and help each other succeed!!!

READY FOR THE JOURNEY-PA school will be a journey full of ups and downs, but PA students realize that in the end it will all be worth it. What greater honor than to be in a profession where you can care for others!!!

Best of luck!! PA school is an awesome journey!!"

We wish Dr. Cleveland continued success in her position as a PA professor at the University of South Dakota.





Congratulations to Shannon Hauschildt, who became the new Academic Coordinator for the PAS program in June 2018. Mrs. Hauschildt is an Assistant Professor for the MSU Department of Physician Assistant Studies, holding a BS in Exercise Science from Winona State University and an MS in Physician Assistant Studies from Missouri State University. She practices one day a week in an orthopedic setting while coordinating the didactic experience and teaching courses. When asked about the new position, Mrs. Hauschildt stated that she was “excited for this leadership opportunity”. After rigorous summer and fall semesters, didactic students successfully completed their PACKRAT examinations, a standardized summative end of the year exam that measures how our students perform nationally against other PA programs. All didactic students were promoted to the clinical year. Thank you for all of your hard work this year, Mrs. Hauschildt!

2018 MOAPA Conference-Branson

PAS faculty and students attended the MOAPA conference held in Branson July 19-21, 2018.

Students Tiffany Nuno, Molly Doughty, Arielle Campbell, Riley White, and Abbie O'Brien participated in the MOAPA Annual Meeting's inaugural student bowl challenge alongside other PA students from Stephen's College and UMKC. PA students from each school represented were mixed into five groups. The winning group received \$100 in cash.

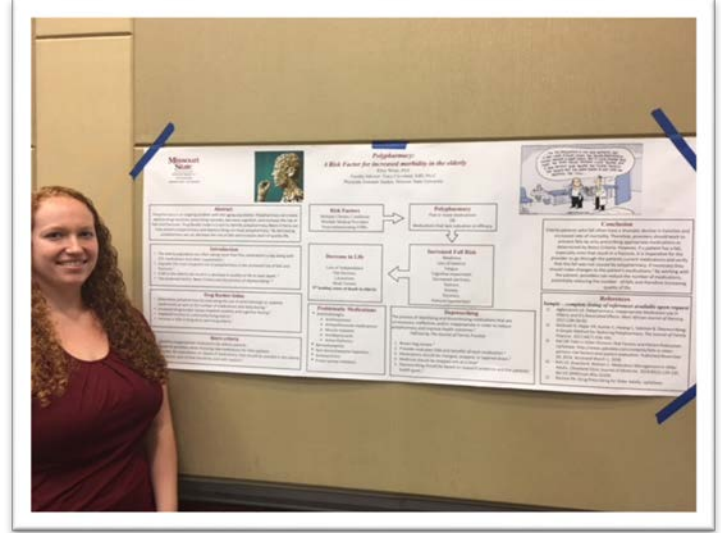
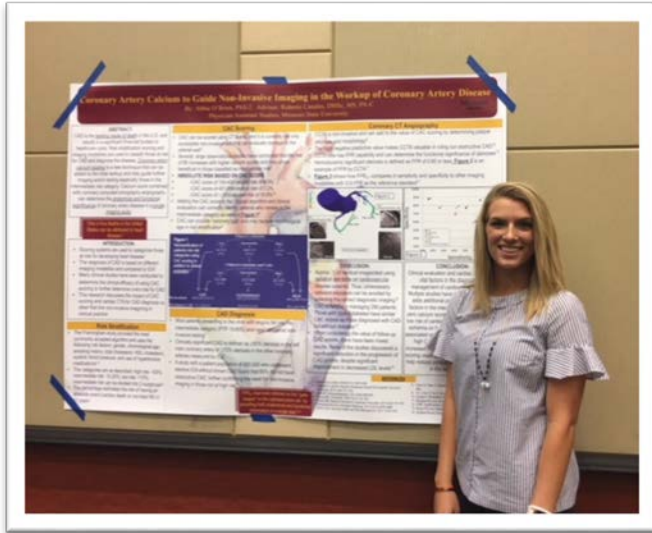
Clinical year students Riley White and Abbie O'Brien presented their capstone research projects alongside other PA students and faculty from Stephen's College. The top two research projects were awarded a cash prize, one of which went to Abbie O'Brien.



MOAPA Conference...

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Pictured below: Abbie O'Brien (left) and Riley White (right) with the research projects they presented at MOAPA.



The MSU Physician Assistant Studies Department is pleased to announce that Dr. Roberto Canales has been appointed as the Associate Dean for Faculty of the College of Health and Human Services.

With his appointment beginning summer 2018, Dr. Canales retains his faculty appointment in the PA Department along with his administrative duties, now with a reduction in his teaching load. This provides him with the release time necessary to take on the administrative duties associated with this appointment. He joins two other associate deans in the college, an Associate Dean for Academic Programs and an Associate Dean for Research.

MSU College of Health and Human Services receives generous donation from McQueary family

In October, Missouri State University announced that the College of Health and Human Services would be renamed in honor of the McQueary family and their “transformational” gift. With the McQueary family’s generous donation, the College will be able to add a large lecture room to the McQueary Family Health Sciences Hall, provide additional student scholarships, and provide additional support for faculty. Thank you to the McQueary family for their continued support!

Read more at <https://news.missouristate.edu/2018/10/02/mcqueary-chhs/>.



2018 Healthcare Symposium

Held every October, the annual Healthcare Symposium was the kickoff event to PA Week 2018. The Symposium, presented by the MSU PA students, offers undergraduate students an opportunity to explore potential careers in healthcare as they hear information from a variety of professions.

We are grateful to our panelists: Ashlea Cardin, Occupational Therapist; McCall Christian, Athletic Trainer; Stephanie Ellis, Respiratory Therapist; Jim

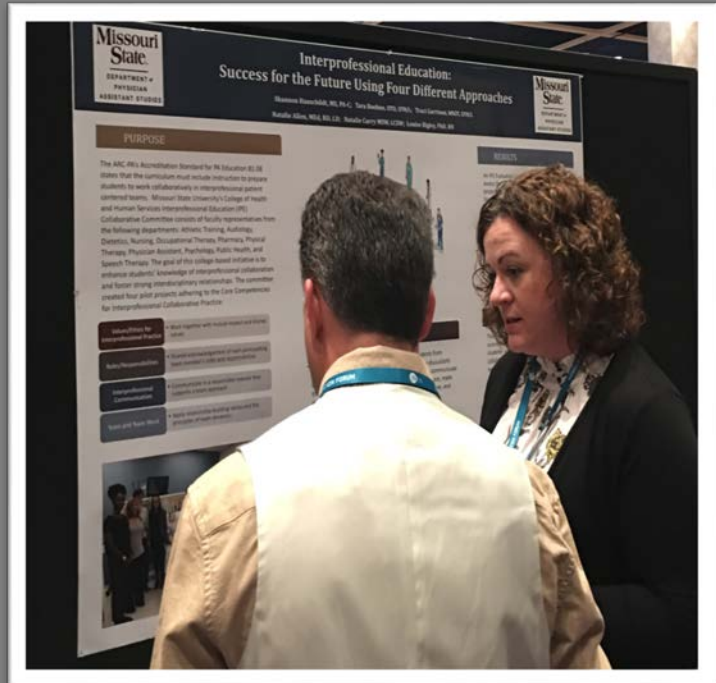
Gilkerson, Orthopedic Physician Assistant; Zach Kram, Clinical Research Specialist; Linda MacGorman, Endocrinologist; Tarci Main, Clinic Radiology Training Coordinator; Taylor Noll, Dietitian; and Melissa Penkalski, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

Special thanks to MSU PA Class of 2019 who organized and participated in a wonderful symposium.



2018 PAEA Education Forum-Anaheim

PAS faculty attended the national conference for PA educators, presented by the Physician Assistant Education Association and held in Anaheim, CA October 22-27, 2018. Faculty participated in a variety of fall workshops with Clinical Coordinator, Kimberly Cook, representing the PAS program during the designated Clinical Coordinator Workshop and Dr. Roberto Canales presiding as Chair of PAEA's Internal Medicine/Family Medicine Exam Development Board. Academic Coordinator, Shannon Hauschildt, presented the results of an IPE research project: Interprofessional Education: Success for the Future Using Four Different Approaches.





Thirty-two new students join the ranks of PAS Alumni

On December 14, 2018, Missouri State University conferred thirty-two new graduates with a Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies. Clinical Coordinator, Kimberly Cook, confirmed a successful year with many students receiving interviews and job offers at the end of the Fall 2018 semester.

Preceptors also submitted positive feedback stating one student was the “most outstanding student that has rotated in my clinic in the past eight years. Excellent and profound knowledge base and outstanding rapport with patients and staff.” Other preceptors commented that students “could join my practice anytime” and were “better prepared than most of the medical students I’ve had.”

Class President, Paige Hemphill, noted that the year had flown by quickly. “This year has been filled with some small victories, challenges and obstacles, however, the resilience of this class is remarkable. I loved seeing the growth in each and every person from the experiences they encountered in their clinical rotations.

It has been fun to come together at the end of each rotation and celebrate the accomplishments we have all had. There is no doubt we are ready to graduate and find our place in the medical field; however, I believe that we are going to miss our MSU PA Class of 2018 family. We have spent a majority of the past two years together, seemingly the most difficult two years many have faced and we have finally made it to the finish line. These couple years have been a combination of good times and bad, but we have had each other every step of the way. I am thankful for this great group of people that were brought together and I couldn’t imagine anyone better to go through this with. I know each and every person will succeed in whatever field they choose and will carry the MSU PA Program legacy with them.”

Congratulations to the MSU PAS Class of 2018! We are incredibly proud of you!

Class of 2019 Celebrates Promotion to Clinical Year at Annual White Coat Ceremony



The MSU PA program celebrated the Class of 2019's successful completion of their didactic year with the annual White Coat Ceremony, held on Saturday, December 8, 2019.

During the ceremony, students received white coats marking their transition from the academic study of medicine to the practice of it in upcoming clinical rotations. The ceremony included words of wisdom from the 2019 Class President Frances Theisen, Vice President Steven Martinez and Keynote Speaker Dr. Steven Dodge.

Students completed the ceremony by reciting the Hippocratic oath before they celebrated with family and friends at a reception.

Reflecting over her journey thus far, Class President Frances Theisen, shared the whirlwind experience of the first year.

"Leaving Wisconsin to attend PA school at Missouri State University, I was determined that I would focus my attention to the studies, make new friends in the classroom, and get to know

the Springfield area. Little did I know how school would shift the perspective of time. If I had to guess, I would think I've been in school for almost two years; at least it definitely feels that way with the amount of information we've learned and how strongly I feel connected to my cohort. But on second thought, the days have been very long, there is still so much to learn, and I am not ready to be split from my classmates for 6 weeks at a time for clinical rotations, it must only be the start of my education. And that's the thing about school, every day lasts a week, but every week is like the blink of an eye.

The first semester laid a strong foundation starting with anatomy, physiology, and assessment basics. Beyond the classroom, we grew stronger as a cohort volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, speaking at MSU's Diversity Conference, and simply bonding during lunch breaks. The following semesters have only added to our knowledge and class cohesion. We excitedly jumped into clinical

Class of 2019...

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medicine classes, finally getting to study what we've been working towards since setting out to become a PA. Presented with a massive amount of information daily, we come in early and stay late studying, create pneumonics to keep up, and often find ourselves relating information learned in class to anything and everything when our families are trying to have normal conversations with us. We make sure to incorporate some fun too, such as acting out arrhythmias or creating study-related cheers to shout at ultimate frisbee games. It's hard work,

but exciting to look back and realize it's paying off.

Despite the time warp that exists in school, one semester follows another, and change comes with each. Some days I am surprised when I can recall previously learned information and apply my knowledge, and then the next day I am humbled by the lack of ideas I have to put toward a differential diagnosis. Most importantly, regardless of what challenges I face each semester, I have 28 friends who are forging their way through school with me and together we support each other to be successful as a whole. I cannot wait to see what we accomplish and what new adventures we'll encounter in the clinical year."



Welcome PAS Class of 2020

The MSU PA program welcomed its newest class of students on January 11, 2019. After a highly selective admission process that including 406 applicants, twenty-eight students were selected. These students hail from nine states including California, Nebraska, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri. Averaging over 6,000 hours of paid, direct patient care experience prior to admission, they bring a variety of experience to the program. These students have an average overall GPA of 3.6 and an average GRE score of 306.

The new admissions cycle opens April 25, 2019 and closes July 15, 2019, for individuals interested in applying for the class beginning in January 2020. Prospective students should contact LeAnne Snow with any questions regarding admission or review of transcripts: LSnow@MissouriState.edu, (417) 836-4479.

Meet our New Faculty: Andrea Applegate, MS, PA-C



The MSU PA program welcomed new faculty member Andrea Applegate in May 2018.

Andrea holds three bachelor's degrees: Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Bachelor of Science in Biology, and Bachelor of Science in Science and Christian Faith from Southwest Baptist University in 2006. She also completed the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from Missouri State University 2010 and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Professional and Technical Writing.

Andrea's department responsibilities include teaching EKG/ACLS, Pulmonology, Cardiology, Emergency Medicine sections of Clinical Medicine, helping with Clinical Assessment I and II, Clinical Lab and Procedures, and anywhere else she is needed. She also advises students throughout their PA education.

"I am working on technological innovations for the department, including an iPad initiative and incorporating Exam Soft into our didactic year testing program.

I have spent the last four years in cardiothoracic surgery, and before that, I had spent four years in cardiology at Mercy Springfield and in Branson. I have continued to PRN in Emergency Medicine and Urgent Care since graduation, as my "prior to PA experience" was as an EMT and I enjoy the variety those specialties provide. I have practiced both inpatient and clinic, and my practice style has always been to treat each patient as if they could be a family member or a friend's family member and to explain what you are doing and why. My biggest motivator is to work hard and be kind. As a PA, we don't always have great news to share with our patients, but we can always be kind in the way we share it.

I have been taking clinical year students since 2013 and I have also returned to the program as a guest lecturer since that time on a yearly basis. I found my love for teaching as a tutor in undergraduate education and I have carried that through a grad assistantship and now with a return to full-time academia. After graduation, I had made that statement that I was through with school (as in I was never going to go on to medical school) but of course, I was wrong. As my interest in advanced heart failure and mechanical circulation lead me to my job in cardiothoracic surgery, my interest in students and the advancement of the physician assistant profession lead me to return to my alma mater when I was looking for a job change. Now, I am back at school and even working toward a second degree in writing while researching the role of professional writing in medical education curriculum.

I very much enjoy the model of physician assistant education and have encouraged quite a few friends, along with my talented sister, to follow me through the program. Missouri State's PA program is unique in our collaboration within the department, our communication with faculty and students, and our desire to train the best providers we can. If I could tell current PA students anything, it would be to remember that you are the spokesperson for your profession to whomever you meet; work hard and be kind."

Meet our New Faculty: Nathan Miracle, MS, PA-C



Nathan Miracle joined the faculty at MSU in August of 2018. Nathan holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Radiography and a Master of Science degree in Physician Assistant Studies, both from Missouri State University.

Prior to joining the faculty, he practiced clinically for nearly six years in both Orthopedics and Family Practice. Both of these positions were in rural settings which Nathan states “gave him a different perspective on the needs of patients in underserved areas and how we as clinicians can better meet those needs.” While working in Family Practice he was an active clinical preceptor for the MSU PA program clinical year students. He stated that his experience as a clinical preceptor is one of things that solidified his desire to pursue a full-time position in academia. “Ever since I completed my PA education I had an idea that I might someday want to work in PA education, and my time spent as a clinical preceptor further fostered this idea. I am very

excited to bring my clinical experiences to the classroom and I am looking forward to working with all the students in their education.”

On a personal note, Nathan recently moved back to the Springfield area with his wife, Niki, and two daughters. “My wife and I were both excited about the opportunity to move back to the Springfield area. Since we spent so much of our early married years together here it just feels like we are coming back home and we get to show our girls all the places that we used to spend time at. As a homeschooling family we are excited about the opportunities that living in a bigger city will afford our girls in their education.”

He was asked to answer the following question: What advice would you give current PA students?

“My advice for current PA students is fairly simple, “Stay the course.” What I mean by this is that when times get rough; like when you don’t do as well on a test as you expected, or don’t understand a word the lecturer is saying, and during all those times you feel like you are in way over your head, try to remember that you were chosen to be a part of this program for a reason. You have the skills to be successful not only in this program but on in to your professional career. There have been hundreds who have went before you, who went through exactly what you are going through and have persevered and succeeded and you can too! Don’t give up and don’t be afraid to ask for help from your peers and from the faculty.”

Alumni Spotlight: Scott Kenslow, MS, PA-C

Scott Kenslow is a practicing clinician in West Plains, MO. Born and raised in West Plains, Scott graduated from West Plains High School in 1992. He received an associate's degree from Missouri State University's West Plains campus (then Southwest Missouri State University-West Plains) in 1995; completing a BS in Finance in 2002 and an MS in Physician Assistant Studies in 2016 from Missouri State University's Springfield campus.

Scott began working at Jones Eye Center in 2008 as a surgical first assist and scribe. In 2017, he returned to work at Jones Eye Center as a PA and in the summer of 2017 began working a few days a month at Ozarks Family Care.

Scott and Mary Ann, his wife of 22 years, have a daughter, Avery (18), who is attending college this fall at MSU-WP; and a son, Connor (11), who is in sixth grade. Scott enjoys fishing, hunting, vacationing with his family and going on medical mission trips.

Describe your career path from graduation to your current position:

"Graduated PA school in December 2016. I returned to West Plains and went to work for Jones Eye Center, the ophthalmology clinic where I worked as a surgical assistant and scribe prior to PA school. I also work a couple days each month in family medicine at Ozarks Family Care in West Plains."

What does a typical day look like for you?

"In the ophthalmology clinic I usually see 15-25 patients each day. I see established patients for routine exams, as well as new patients for acute visits. I follow patients post operatively and manage

glaucoma, perform minor surgical procedures, foreign body removal, etc. In the family medicine clinic I see acute patients and participate in the management of chronic conditions."

How has your MSU PAS experience helped shape your success?

"It provided me with a core knowledge and training that allowed me to transition into the role of a provider."

What is the most significant thing that has happened to you since graduating?

"To my knowledge, I am the first and only PA to work in ophthalmology in the state of Missouri."

What is your favorite MSU PAS memory?

"The white coat ceremony was my biggest sense of accomplishment. I am

thankful for the lifelong friendships that were made with my classmates."

What advice would you give those who are considering an education in healthcare?

"I was 40 when I started PA school, so I would advise them that you're never too old and it's never too late to start working toward your dreams."

Would you share a memorable experience from your medical mission trips?

"I have been on three medical mission trips to Jamaica, two since graduating in 2016. These are life changing experiences. In 2013, while on my first mission trip, I met an elderly man in his eighties. He had walked to the rural clinic barefooted that day to see the doctors. He could only walk a few steps without having to stop and rest. He had cataracts so thick that he could only see your fingers three feet in front of his face. His only request that day was for



Alumni Spotlight...

Continued from p. 16

Tylenol for his back pain. Not shoes, not glasses or cataract surgery, not narcotics, only Tylenol. We were able to find a family member who drove him home that day with a small Ziploc bag with the equivalent of maybe a half bottle of over the counter pain relievers and he was so appreciative. To this day I have his picture on my phone and I look at it

from time to time just to remind myself how easy we have it and how what seems like a simple gesture to us, may make a huge impact on someone's life. Meeting this gentleman solidified my desire to become a medical provider and I applied to MSU PA school in 2014. In 2017 I returned to Jamaica and that is the first place I practiced medicine. These are memories that will stay with me forever and I urge anyone who has the desire to be a part of a mission trip to go and experience it firsthand.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

This summer three PAS alumni were recognized for earning a Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). Congratulations to Greta Melton, Bob Sobule and Heather Wood!



Greta Melton, Class of 2006,
CAQ in Hospital Medicine



Bob Sobule, Class of 2016,
CAQ in Psychiatry



Heather Wood, Class of 2014
CAQ in Emergency Medicine

Share Your Knowledge-Be a Preceptor!

Clinical preceptors are a vital component in the education of future physician assistants. Practitioners who welcome students into their practices and share their clinical knowledge and model appropriate care of patients can be assured that their contribution is recognized and valued both by the students they precept and by the PA program faculty. We urge all practicing clinicians to consider becoming a preceptor to a PA student.

For more information, please visit our website (<https://www.missouristate.edu/pas/preceptor.htm>) or contact Kimberly Cook, MS, PA-C: KimCook@MissouriState.edu or 417-836-4477.



Stay connected with the MSU PA program by sending us your updated contact information:
PhysicianAsstStudies@missouristate.edu

Connect with other MSU PA alumni by joining the Facebook group:
Missouri State University PA Alumni/Students

2019 Open House Information Sessions



Do you know someone considering a career as a PA? Invite them to the MSU 2019 Open House information sessions!

This spring the PAS program is hosting three open house sessions. Prospective students will learn about the MSU PAS program, meet PAS faculty and staff, participate in Q&A session with current PA students and take a brief tour of the O'Reilly Clinical Health Sciences Center.

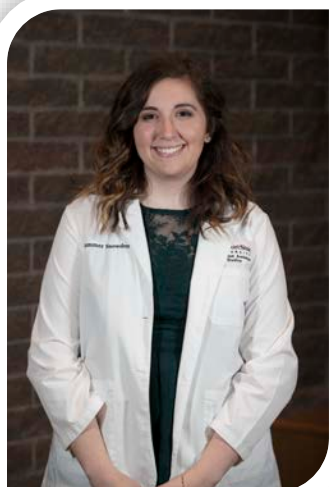
Open House sessions will be held on the following Friday afternoons from 1-3:30pm:

March 1, 2019 **April 12, 2019** **May 10, 2019**

Additional information and **RSVP** form can be found here:
<https://www.missouristate.edu/pas/OpenHouse.htm>

2018 Student Spotlights

Visit our Facebook page to view the complete spotlights: facebook.com/MissouriStatePAProgram



Summer Snowden, Class of 2018 Secretary

"I've always had such a strong interest in the sciences growing up, and eventually that turned into an interest in medicine and healthcare. So, I began volunteering at the hospital in my hometown and earning my CNA license. Throughout college I learned about the PA profession, and I found through working in different areas of healthcare--it cemented my love of building a relationship with patients and finding what works best for them. In particular, my time spent with families in home healthcare was truly impactful. I learned about the process of aging and often spent weekends/holidays assisting them in their ADLs, cooking, and cleaning. I enjoyed learning about their lives and getting to know them. Eventually, I was able to provide end-of-life care for several patients I grew close to. It was, of course, very sad, but I also felt honored to be allowed to care for them."

Frances Theisen, Class of 2019 President

"I have always had an innate curiosity for the life sciences and a passion to connect with the lives of others. For a while, I questioned my path forwards, knowing medicine was an ideal realm that combined the spirit of service, excellence and human connection to my interest in biology and chemistry, but I was not sure which profession I should pursue. After spending a few years exploring my options, I stumbled upon the career of the physician assistant and it felt like the perfect match, the ultimate way that I may impact the world around me."



Steven Martinez, Class of 2019 Vice President

"I've always wanted to practice medicine. Growing up, I wanted to be a physician, but it was intimidating committing so much time and money to a career. When I found out about the Physician Assistant profession, it suited my personality and goals much better."



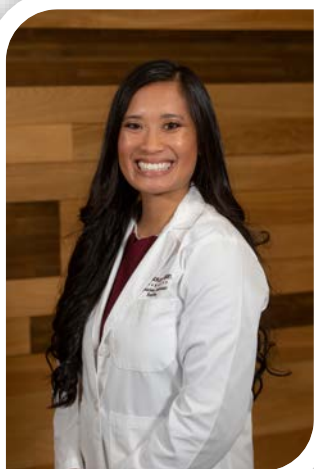
Arielle Campbell, Class of 2018 Outreach Chair

"Never tell yourself that you are not capable. Don't even entertain the thought. You will waste a lot of time when you don't fight for the biggest dream you have. Also, it's a journey, and with that there are a lot of ups and downs. Getting accepted into PA school is challenging, getting through PA school seems even more challenging! But it's important to remember that the process is molding you in a way that books cannot, and will only add to your skill and competence as a practitioner of medicine."



Student Spotlights...

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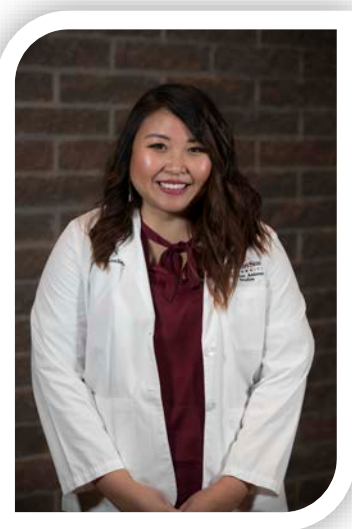


Destinee Salyer, Class of 2019 Treasurer

"I chose the PA route because I want to be able to have that personal-level relationship and trust with my patients on a daily basis. I want to get to know my patients on a first-name basis and be an impacting part of their lives. As a PA I will be fortunate enough to be a part of their healthcare team and hopefully a part of their team for success in life however he/she defines success. I want to help bring out the best in people and give them the tools to have the best quality of life. I love people and I love to see people succeed. I also love to teach people and I feel that as a PA it is my job to empower every one of my patients to have the maximum amount of knowledge about his/her healthcare to give the best tools possible to set him/her up for success. So, if I can continuously teach, make new, lasting relationships, and tie that into my passion of medicine, that will give me the most satisfaction out of life."

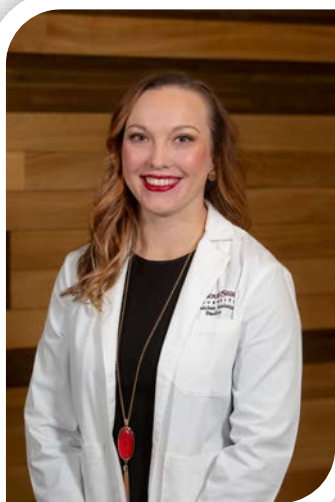
Laura Loebel, Class of 2018

"One of the benefits of MSU's PA program is its focus on family and rural medicine. I hope to do medical missions in the future and this program allows students opportunities to work with underserved populations and give back to the community."



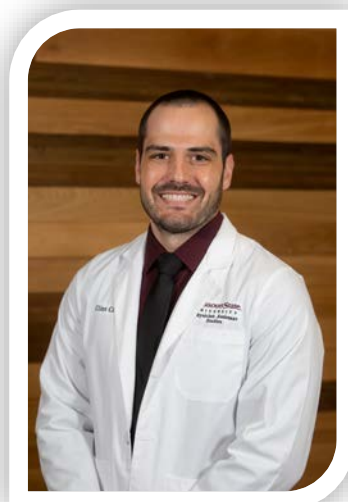
Molly Doughty, Class of 2019 Secretary

"I am open to all areas of medicine. I am excited to gain experience in multiple areas during clinical rotations. If I had to narrow down my interests right now, it would be in the areas of Emergency Medicine, Cardio-Thoracic Surgery, GI, Family Medicine, and Pediatrics. I am really interested working in underserved areas as well as rural settings. I am a country girl at heart."



Clint Cloud, Class of 2019

"Never stop trying to improve your application. There is always something that you can be working on. Get more shadowing hours, try and get better healthcare experience, take that extra class, and lastly be persistent. If you don't get in, that's ok, keep striving for improvement and things will work out eventually."



Student Spotlights...

Continued from p. 20

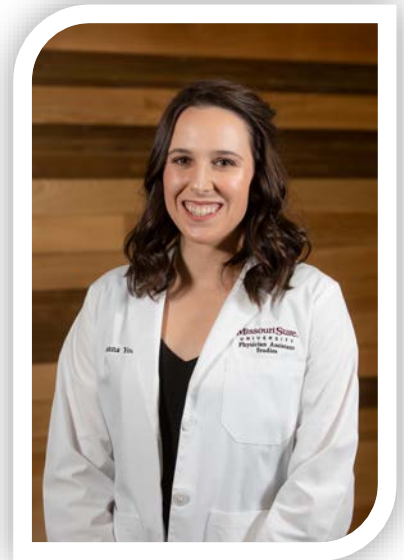


Abbie O'Brien, Class of 2018 Wellness Chair

"The best advice I received from all of the professors was BALANCE. Physician Assistant school is a challenging two years, and you must have balance in your life to not get burned out. Keep doing the things that you enjoy. These things, whatever they may be, have helped shape you into the person you are today, and they should continue to be a part of your life as you grow as a physician assistant. If we, as students, are not able to balance both academic and personal life, then it could possibly hinder our academic performance. Without being able to enjoy the process, it is easy to lose sight of the end goal and forget that the tough times are worth it."

Brianna Young, Class of 2019 Green Chair & Wellness Chair

"Trust the process. PA school can be very daunting and overwhelming, but it really helped me to stay focused on the task at hand. Thinking in terms of a process allowed me to not get too bogged down in tiny details and learn the important information."



Mandolin Smith, Class of 2018 Historian

"My first healthcare experience was as a home-health nurse assistant. It was an interesting job, because I got to be with patients in their homes and see what their environments were like. In some cases, it made me appreciate exactly why it might be harder for some people to be compliant with provider recommendations and gave me a bigger heart for the underserved. I was also able to really get to know patients, because I worked with them on a daily basis. I later started a second job as a Medical Scribe. I fell in love with the Emergency Department and decided to quit working in home health and started working as a tech in the Emergency Department, along with scribing. It was hard to leave the patients I had formed relationships with in home health, but I'm so glad I had the opportunity to learn from the great nurses, doctors, and mid-levels that I worked with in the ER."



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Giving

Donations to the Department of Physician Assistant Studies enable us to continue meeting our mission of educating highly competent physician assistant graduates to practice primary care medicine in the context of team-delivered health care in a rapidly evolving health care arena. Contribute in a way that fits your needs and helps shape the future of Missouri State. Your gift - no matter its size - supports our program.

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<https://webapps.missouristate.edu/giving/pledge2.aspx?major=CHHS&sub=PN>

Alumni

The MSU Department of Physician Assistant Studies' proudest assets are our 456 graduates. The most recent alumni survey revealed that most MSU PA alumni are employed on a full-time basis in clinical practice. They work in a variety of office and hospital based settings, practicing in 20 states. **The largest** percentage (31%) of MSU graduate PAs work in surgery. **Thirty-four** percent of MSU PA graduates work in rural areas.

Nationally, 21% of PAs are employed in surgery and its subspecialties and 16% of PAs work in rural areas. *

*Data from the NCCPA 2017 Statistical Profile of Certified Physician Assistants and AAPA report PAs in Rural Locations Re Primary Care Needs, 2018.

