

**Missouri
State.**

DEPARTMENT of
PHYSICIAN
ASSISTANT STUDIES

Newsletter

PA PROGRAM DIRECTOR
FACULTY HAPPENINGS
ALUMNI & PRECEPTOR
DEPARTMENT & PROGRAM
DIDACTIC UPDATES
CLINICAL UPDATES
OTHER NEWS

December 2021

PROGRAM UPDATES

PA Program Director, Roberto Canales

The saying *what a difference a year makes* certainly applies to this year. We held graduation ceremonies December 2020, but due to COVID rotation delays, all graduating students still had one more rotation to complete. As a result, they did not complete degree requirements until January 2021. This resulted in 58 students needing a clinical rotation in January 2021, what a challenge that was! However, clinical students and preceptors were all understanding since most PA students around the country had either delayed graduation or a delayed start to their clinical training.

As the pandemic progressed into 2021, I suspect that many healthcare facilities began to realize that utilizing a well-trained PA student could be of assistance in helping to manage routine patient encounters. In turn, patients who required more specialized care could get the full attention from medical providers. In January 2021, the program welcomed a new class which while exciting added to a very busy start to the year. And, after almost 9 years of service to the PA program, Beth Elliott (clinical year support staff) was getting ready to retire a month later. There was more, but this news was welcomed. For all of 2020, the program had managed with one less faculty member. However, we were very grateful when Katelyn Maben (2014 alumni) joined the program on February 1, 2021. She is working out fabulously and is a gifted and natural educator. So, as hectic as this December seems (i.e., Class of 2021 graduating, Class of 2022 completing the semester and getting oriented to the clinical phase of training, preparing to welcome Class of 2023, and preparing for spring courses), we are all so grateful to be back to a normal hectic December.

On Saturday, December 11th the program held the Class of 2022 White Coat Ceremony celebration. I shared with the class some memories from my own PA training. For the first twelve months, my life consisted of studying, taking tests, and wondering if I was even capable of becoming a PA. The next twelve months brought on new challenges and doubts. My surgery rotation was particularly challenging, but not academically so. I was assigned to a couple of preceptors who appeared to get some degree of pleasure in making my life very difficult, to the extent that I almost withdrew from PA school. However, I was fortunate to have a program director who saw what was happening and convinced me otherwise. Upon resuming my clinical training, I had wonderful experiences such as delivering a newborn.

This past Friday, we graduated the program's 20th class. What an exciting time for them! I vividly remember how excited and at the same time apprehensive I was about beginning my career. I was 23 years' old and was moving from Galveston, Texas to the Madison, WI area where I knew no one. I had my apartment lined up on the banks of the Wisconsin River and had just bought my first new car, a Chevrolet Barretta. My career as a PA and PA educator has been a blessing. I am hopeful that all Class of 2021 graduates will have an equally exciting upcoming year and career.

Faculty Happenings

Assistant Professor Nathan Miracle

The Missouri State University Department of Physician Assistant Studies would like to congratulate Nathan Miracle, MSU PA Director of Didactic Education and Assistant Professor, on a recent scholarly accomplishment. Assistant Professor Miracle received a 2021 MSU Curriculum Innovation Award that will grant funding for his proposal on "Enhancement of Acute Airway Management and Endotracheal Intubation Skills in Physician Assistant Students" allowing the purchase of a simulation mannequin. Assistant Professor Miracle will share the outcomes of the project at the annual MSU Showcase on Teaching and Learning. Congratulations to Assistant Professor Miracle!

Assistant Professor Andrea Applegate

The Missouri State University Department of Physician Assistant Studies would like to congratulate Andrea Applegate, MSU PA Director of Assessment and Assistant Professor, on a recent scholarly accomplishment. Assistant Professor Applegate co-authored an article that has been published in the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association. Research for the article entitled "Vaccine perceptions in a free urban clinic for underserved, uninsured adults" was completed with Dr. Brandi Bowers (UMKC Pharmacy School), Dr. Aaron Hunsaker, and MSU PA graduate students utilizing the patient population at MSU Care Clinic. Congratulations to Assistant Professor Applegate!

Read more about the article here:

[Vaccine perceptions in a free urban clinic for underserved, uninsured adults - ScienceDirect](#)

Professor Roberto Canales was recognized with a Certificate of Recognition December 9, 2021, by the McQueary CHHS & MSU in recognition for his dedication to diversity, equity, & Inclusion.

Alumni & Preceptor Recognition

The MSU PA Department would like to congratulate James "Bobby" Eden, Class of 2001 alumnus and program preceptor, who received Mercy Springfield, Advanced Practice Council provider of the year award.

Congratulations also to Robyn Yost, MSU PA Advisory Board member and program preceptor, who was honored with Mercy's Service to Community Excellence award! Robyn Yost stated, *I was nominated by my co-workers. I just show up and do what I do because it's the right thing to do. I never thought I'd win some sort of recognition for it. I am very honored to be recognized.*

Department & Program Events

The program undertook a fund raising effort this past November called [Bridging the Rural/Underserved Gap](#). This crowdfunding campaign is meant to help defer student clinical training housing costs in rural underserved communities. The campaign will help the program assign more clinical rotations in rural underserved communities, in hopes of increasing the likelihood that graduates will practice in these areas. The campaign ends January 14, 2022, and donations are tax deductible. We hope to make this an annual fall event.

The program held its 20th Anniversary Celebration on Friday, October 29, 2021. It was a great time for program faculty, staff, students, alumni, family, and friends to come together. Here is a [video montage](#) of the last 20 years. And here are a few snapshot photos taken while at the Springfield Brewing Company marking the event.



Left to right, Kimberly Cook (Class of 2003 & Faculty); Torria Slagle (Class of 2019); Frances Theisen (Class of 2019); Heather Lassiter (Class of 2019)

DIDACTIC

Class of 2022 November Student Spotlight: Mallory Warren-Brothers

<https://blogs.missouristate.edu/pas/2021/12/01/class-of-2022-spotlight-mallory-warren-brothers/>

Class of 2022 December Student Spotlight: Melissa Toman

<https://blogs.missouristate.edu/pas/2021/12/16/class-of-2022-student-spotlight-melissa-toman/>

Class of 2022-Didactic Year in Review:

<https://blogs.missouristate.edu/pas/2021/12/21/class-of-2022-didactic-year-in-review/>

PA-S1 and member of the Class of 2022, Cassidy McCandless, attended her first PAEA (Physician Assistant Education Association) Board of Directors Meeting as she prepares to transition onto the Board January 1, 2022 to begin her 2-year term as Student Member at Large. PAEA is the only national organization representing Physician Assistant educational programs in the United States and nationally one student is selected to serve on the Board at a time and represent their peers around the country. After completion of PA school Cassidy hopes to become a PA educator and continue growing the PA profession while pursuing the vision of Health for All.



The MSU PA program celebrated the successful completion of the didactic year for the Class of 2022 during their White Coat Ceremony, held on Saturday, December 11th. Students received white coats marking their transition from the academic study of medicine to the practice of it in upcoming clinical rotations. Congratulations MSU PA Class of 2022! We are very proud of your dedication to becoming excellent providers. Best of luck as you begin preparing for your first clinical rotations in 2022!



CLINICAL

Check out November's Clinical Student Spotlight on Logan James:

<https://blogs.missouristate.edu/pas/2021/11/29/class-of-2021-student-spotlight-logan-james/>

Class of 2021 December Student Spotlight: Courtney Estes

<https://blogs.missouristate.edu/pas/2021/12/07/class-of-2021-spotlight-courtney-estes/>

PAS hosted the Class of 2021 Graduation Reception on Thursday, December 16th, 2021. It was a time for the program faculty and staff to show our appreciation for their hard work over the last two years, and a time for everyone to come together in support of this milestone.





OTHER NEWS

If you have a Facebook account, do not forget to follow program happenings on the [Missouri State PA Program](#) site.

Also, if alumni or current student in the program, we also have a [Missouri State University PA Alumni/Students](#) Facebook site where we post additional information

The program also has posts information about alumni achievements, copies of previous newsletters, and other useful links on the [program's Website](#).



EVENTS

MSU PA [Open House Information Session](#) dates for those interested in learning more about the program is now available.

Website: MissouriState.edu/pas

Phone: 417-836-6151

Email: PhysicianAsstStudies@missouristate.edu

Social: Facebook.com/MissouriStatePAProgram/