

**Missouri
State.**

DEPARTMENT of
PHYSICIAN
ASSISTANT STUDIES

Newsletter

CLASS OF 2022 SPOTLIGHT
PA PROGRAM DIRECTOR
HAPPENINGS IN PA WORLD
HAPPENINGS IN DEPARTMENT
COVID POLICY UPDATE
MEDICAL INSURANCE
MSU FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS
FACULTY HAPPENINGS
DIRECTOR OF DIDACTIC EDUCATION
DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL EDUCATION
DIRECTOR OF ASSESSMENT
DIDACTIC UPDATES
CLINICAL UPDATES
ADMISSION & RECRUITMENT

JULY 2021

PROGRAM UPDATES

Class of 2022 Spotlight:

The Department is proud to spotlight Class President [Sarah Phillips](#) this month.

PA Program Director, Roberto Canales

How did we get to week 7 of the summer semester so fast? For both classes, this means you are more than halfway through the year! While this typically brings a degree of apprehension, there is also some joy in knowing that the light at the end of the tunnel is just a bit closer.

Happenings in World.

* There is the [AAPA House of Delegates Votes to Change Professional Title to Physician Associate](#). Followed by the [AMA opposition to the title change](#), and then the [AAPA Responds to National Medical Organizations](#).

* PA Professional meetings have been scheduled. AAPA held its annual meeting virtually for the second year in a row. PAEA will hold its annual education forum meeting for PA educators virtually October 11-15, 2021, for the second year in a row as well. And [MOAPA](#) announced that its 2021 Annual Primary Care Update conference will be in person and on-demand July 22-24, 2021.

* Two universities in the region are in the process of applying for provisional accreditation. The first in MO ([Drury University](#)) and the other in Kansas ([Kansas State University](#)) in Manhattan, KS.

* A second PA program in Tulsa, OK has received accreditation – provisional at [Oklahoma State University](#) earlier this year.

* And the UMKC PA program is getting ready to announce a new program director.

All these changes remind me of the need for PA trained clinicians, PA students, PA educators, PA programs, and PA state chapter to work together to ensure training quality, address practice barriers and PA practice misconceptions. It is also important not to overlook the importance of working with healthcare systems, and additional healthcare provider team members (physicians, nurse practitioners, nurse-midwife, psychologist, etc.).

Happenings in Department

Along this line, the program recently reached out those in leadership positions with several of our area partnering healthcare systems (Citizens Memorial Healthcare, CoxHealth, Jordan Valley Community Health Center, Mercy Springfield / Joplin) and to many clinical preceptors not only to relay our appreciation for partnering with the Program but for supporting the profession as well.

Students from both classes also do their part to promote the program and profession. Clinical preceptors often let Mrs. Cook know how much they appreciate receiving thank you notes from those who they precepted. Guest lecturers also voice their appreciation when receiving a thank you note from the class after taking time out of their practice to provide a guest lecture.

COVID Policy Update

The COVID-19 vaccine has been a game changer. It has provided the public with an option to get vaccinated. Currently, this option also applies to those who work in healthcare. This leads to the ethical question, do medical providers have a responsibility to be vaccinated? The [AMA](#) has recently published their thoughts on this issue, and courts have also begun to get involved; a judge dismissed a lawsuit on behalf of Houston Methodist Hospital employees who were fired / resigned when they refused to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The ethical question also applies to PA students. However, there is another level of complexity with PA students. PA students are required to successfully complete a specified amount of clinical training. As of this writing, some partnering healthcare facilities and preceptors will not accept students who have not undergone complete COVID vaccination. While this is not the norm, that is expected to change. Actually, Mercy just announced that all students will be required to demonstrate proof of vaccination starting 9/30/2021. I would not be surprised if this date is not moved up. The program will work with students who cannot be vaccinated because of a bona fide disability or accommodation rather than a philosophical objection to the COVID vaccination. However, the reality is that any unvaccinated student assumes the risk of continuing the program with no assurance that they will ultimately be able to complete their degree and become licensed as a physician assistant.

Medical Insurance

Several individuals from both Classes will have their medical insurance expire at the end of this month, if you know you will not have coverage beyond July 2021, you must act quickly. Magers provides some direction on their website as to ways to [price policies](#). Having medical insurance which includes hospitalization is a program requirement and lack of this is grounds for dismissal. This requirement is typically considered by MSU Financial Aid office when calculating cost of attendance. However, there is a mechanism in place to request additional funds from the [Office of Financial Aid](#)

MSU Office of Financial Aid; Breanna Scanlon, Financial Aid Counselor

Financial Aid Forms will be coming out late next week for the Fall semester. This is mainly for Graduate PLUS loan forms, but also Budget Increase Forms as well (if needed).

For the Budget Increase forms, we will be updating the Budget Increase Forms to include the option to increase your budget for Insurance. We know that many students will be switching from the MSU insurance to a private insurance. We are able to help increase your Cost of Attendance by the amount of your insurance. We only want to do this if you have taken up to your budget for the semester in loans/scholarships. Fall/Spring COA will be coming out later this month to early August.

Remember if you are needing any additional summer only loan funds, that the paperwork for those need to be sent in by July 23rd. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns!

Requests for PA student Research Volunteers

Assistant Professor Jaclyn Cotgreave with the New York Institute of Technology PA program is looking for PA students to volunteer in a study looking at PA student's social media use and personality traits. Here is some additional information.

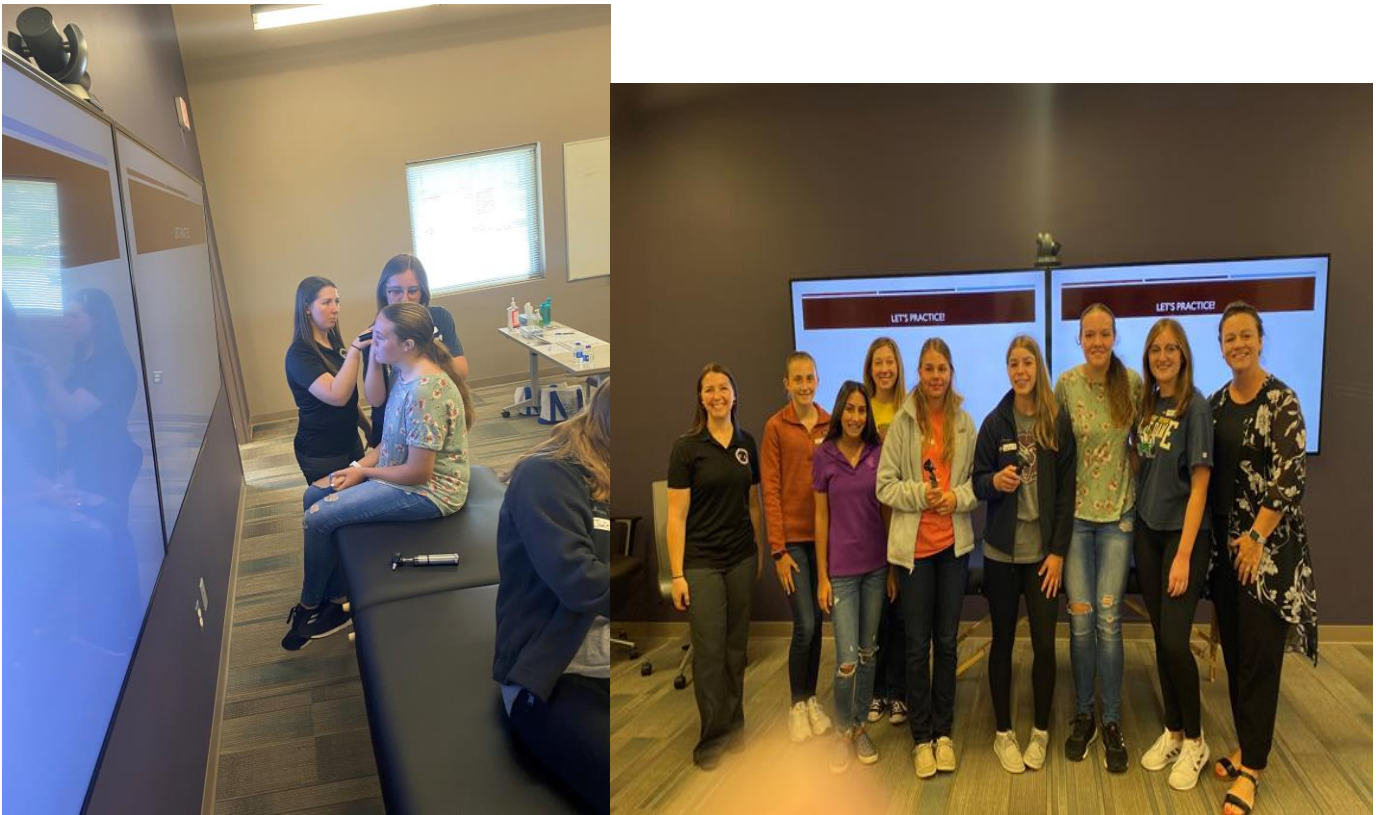
*Participants should be students in physician assistant programs. Participation in this study is voluntary and anonymous. Students who participate will complete a survey consisting of a series of multiple-choice questions that will take no more than **5 minutes** to complete. Students can conclude the survey at any time without penalty by closing the browser. There are minimal to no harms. However, respondents may feel anxiety about posts on social media or think about personality traits. There are no costs associated with completing the survey, nor is there compensation. Benefits include exploring social media use in physician assistant students and knowledge of personality traits.*

*Participants can only take the survey once. If you wish to participate, please click the link to the survey and proceed. **LINK:***

<https://comresearchdata.nyit.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=TMLNM4JE7D>

Faculty Happenings

On Tuesday June 22 Professors Hauschildt and Maben had the opportunity to present about the PA Profession to a group of high school students. These students were attending a 2-day camp called MASH, which was hosted by AHEC and SBU's College of Nursing. The purpose of the camp was for students to learn about and have exposure to different healthcare professions and learn about the training process involved with pursuing that profession. At the end of the presentation, we did a short discussion about the tympanic membrane and allowed the students to practice viewing each other's TMs.



Assistant Professors Hauschildt and Maben alongside area high school students

Director of Didactic Education, Nathan Miracle

Three weeks of seated classes remain in the summer semester. We told you time would pass quickly this summer! The 2 Week Clinical Practicum I experience runs from August 2nd-13th, white coats will be distributed prior to CP1 and then recollected afterwards. This brief course will be followed by a week off!!!! August 16-20. Then the Fall Semester starts August 23rd.

As a reminder, please send me COVID-19 vaccination records. Also, the program needs updated health insurance information if this has changed during the didactic year.

Director of Clinical Education, Kim Cook

The clinical year students are continuing to shine out there at their clinical sites. They make us proud everyday with how they represent our profession and our program. Examples of comments on evaluations from their most recent rotation include some of the following:

“Fantastic bedside manner and a vast array of medical knowledge. Eager to learn and will make a fantastic provider.”

The student was on time, didn't complain on busy/hectic days, willing and ready to help out. Very professional in appearance/mannerism. The student doesn't deserve less than 100% honestly."

"Very strong student. Self-starter, engaged, enthusiastic. I expect this student to be a superior PA."

"The student did a fantastic job on this rotation. Incredibly professional and has an outstanding knowledge base and critical thinking skills. Will make an outstanding practitioner."

At their last EOR, the students participated in OSCEs here at the MSU SIM lab. They made us proud with their ever-improving history and physical exam skills. They also did a great job of showing us how they go about establishing rapport with their patients; we were impressed with how professional and empathic they are with the manikins.



Hunter Howe anxiously awaits his pediatric patient to become a bit more engaging in contrast to Shane Gleaves who is totally OK with his patient being obtunded.



And here is Assistant Clinical Professor Cook in the OSCE control booth, having a bit too much fun.

Students are continuing to work on their research projects, as they have turned in their rough drafts and are fine tuning their papers.

Many students still aren't exactly sure what they want to do for their Directed rotation, but they are starting to narrow it down. A couple are starting to set their eyes on some potential job opportunities after graduation.

It's exciting to talk with students when they come back from their rotations and hear that they are starting to feel more comfortable at their rotations and to hear them talk about all of the conditions they are getting to be a part of diagnosing and treating, and all of the procedures they are getting to do. And, yes, a couple of students have diagnosed pityriasis rosea! 😊

Director of Assessment, Andrea Applegate

We have successfully completed a total of seven OSCEs so far this year, three with the didactic class and four with the clinical class. This has been a significant increase over the last few years, and student performance continues to be above expectations.

Our EOR exam performance continues to improve and EOR4 weighed in with three students who achieved >1.5 standard deviations above the national mean!

We have our first SIM OSCE with the didactic class in July and they will have their MUTA/GTA experience in July as well. Both events will be at MU's Sheldon SIM Center utilizing standardized patients and trained GU teaching assistants.

DIDACTIC

Class of 2022, Sarah Phillips Class of 2022 President

July: Didactic students are more than halfway through their summer material! We are taking it one day, and one test at a time! We are starting to get into the grove of Clinical Medicine, figuring out what works for us, and how we can best help each other. We just recently took our psychiatry exam, Pharmacology midterm, and our first Clinical Assessment II exam. We also had our first OSCE in the sim lab a few weeks ago. It was a blast getting to work with a team to diagnose our first patient and come up with a treatment plan together. Our favorite part of clinical assessment this summer has been getting to hang out with the babies and kiddos in lab which was an absolute blast! We are now halfway through our Obstetrics and Gynecology section in Clinical Medicine! We are eager to receive our placements for our two-week rotations at the end of summer, and we have continued spending days at MSU Care Clinic dipping our toes in the water. We have really enjoyed our experiences there and have learned so much about the mission of MSU Care Clinic. It has been exciting to see medicine put to practice and realize we will soon get to apply all that we have been learning! Outside of a busy schedule, our cohort has also started volunteering monthly at O'Reilly Center of Hope. A lot of time has been spent studying, but we have been making time for fun including taco Tuesday's, 4th of July celebrations, and float trips. It is crazy how quickly time is flying by, only six more months until we get out white coats!



Clinical Assessment II lab during pediatric week. We start training future PAs early – it's part of our early acceptance program, lol. Thomas Nelson practicing his otoscopic exam skills on a somewhat reluctant volunteer.



Josh Lottmann, Trevor Moore, and Patrick Murphy volunteering at the O'Reilly Center of Hope in July.

CLINICAL

Class of 2021, Jennifer Parmalee

We are a little over halfway through clinical year! So far this year I have had the opportunity to have my surgical, family medicine, emergency medicine, and internal medicine rotations. My preceptors have all taught me so much and I know that because of these experiences I will be able to graduate ready to provide high quality care for the patients in SWMO. Five months and a PANCE left until I can call myself a PA-C!

A Word from Professor Canales

We continue to work with existing clinical healthcare systems to make sure all clinical learning outcomes (e.g., pediatrics, women's health) are met prior to graduation. To further enhance this aspect of clinical training, we are pursuing the West Plains, MO region through alumnus Scott Kenslow, who works in ophthalmology as a PA but with several connections in that part of the state. The MOAPA annual conference is also an opportunity for Clinical Assistant Professor Cook to network with alumni while earning CME I credits so she is looking forward to that opportunity as well.

As you recall, one of the goals for 2021 was to involve other faculty in helping manage the clinical aspect of the program. As such, the program began having weekly Clinical Team Meetings. The meetings consist of Clinical Assistant Professor Cook along with Assistant Professor Hauschildt who helps with administrative aspects, Assistant Professor Applegate to coordinate all testing (i.e., EOR, OSCE, Summative evaluation, AccessMedicine, remediation activities), and Assistant Professor Maben to coordinate all end-of-rotation activities and E-Value, and Ben Johnston to help coordinate all required paperwork needed for rotation sites.

Based on feedback from the Class of 2020 and feedback from the Class of 2021, Aquifer has been replaced with i-Human Patients. I-Human Patients is designed to help students enhance diagnostic competency and clinical judgment skills. All assignments from i-Human will be coordinated by Assistant Professor Applegate. We are optimistic that this simulation application will provide a better experience than Aquifer did.

Kudos to Sarah Dobard (Class of 2022) for recruiting her dad, Dr. Dennis Dobard, MD to become a mental health preceptor with the MSU PA Program. Feedback to date has been wonderful. Thank you Dr. Dobard and Sarah!

Admission & Recruitment

Submitted by LeAnne Snow

The 2021-2022 application cycle is coming to a close this month, with the July 15th deadline rapidly approaching. Application submissions are currently similar to last year with just under four hundred application submissions anticipated. Throughout the month of September, interviews will be held as in-person, individual interviews in front of a panel of Admission Committee members. The removal of the group interview occurred last cycle due to covid-19 restrictions and ineffective simulation via online interview. After receiving positive feedback from students and panelists alike, we are eager to host individual interviews in-person this fall. Interview candidates will still be invited to campus for the Pre-Interview Orientations held each Thursday in September. Please check your calendars for availability from 4:30-5:30pm on the following dates: 9/2, 9/9, 9/16, 9/23. Volunteers from both the didactic and clinical cohorts are needed for the student Q&A panels. Emailed requests for volunteers will be sent out next month. Thanks in advance for volunteering your time for prospective students. It is always appreciated!

As a reminder, we would love to feature class/student updates, volunteer activities and photos on our social media platforms. Please submit photos, suggestions for social media posts or blog article proposals to lsnow@missouristate.edu.

OTHER NEWS

EVENTS

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