COMMENCEMENT 2018

Congratulations, Grads!

Congratulations to the 41st graduating class of the University of Wisconsin–Madison Physician Assistant (PA) Program!

We honored the 46 members of the class of 2018, plus many award winners, at our commencement ceremony on May 11, 2018. We celebrate your success and wish the best in your careers. On, Wisconsin!

Above: the class of 2018. Inset: PA Program Director Virginia Snyder, PhD, PA-C, and former UW School of Medicine and Public Health Associate Dean for Rural and Community Health Byron Crouse, MD, toast the grads.
Preceptor of the Year: Joseph Strangfeld, MPAS, PA-C

Joseph Strangfeld, MPAS, PA-C, a PA in hospital medicine at Hennepin Healthcare in Minneapolis, is the PA Program’s 2018 Preceptor of the Year.

A 2013 graduate of the UW–Madison PA Program, Strangfeld precepts students during their internal medicine rotation.

He began precepting in 2014 as a way to give back to the program that prepared him so well for PA practice.

Students describe Strangfeld as a patient, encouraging teacher who treats them with respect, takes time to answer their questions, ensures they are part of the care team and asks for feedback on how to improve his own teaching skills.

“I was inspired by his enthusiasm to continue to learn and his wealth of knowledge,” said one student.

“Joe goes above and beyond to make the rotation a successful experience.”

“Joe goes above and beyond to make the internal medicine rotation a successful experience,” said another. “He has a firm grasp on how to maintain balance when it comes to accepting students for where they are in their career, and challenging them to reach their potential.”

Congratulations, Joe!

Instructor of the Year: Patrick McBride, MD, MPH, FACC

Patrick McBride, MD, MPH, FACC, a professor emeritus in the UW School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) Department of Medicine’s Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, is the PA Program’s 2018 Instructor of the Year.

Dr. McBride lectures on hyperlipidemia, lipid disorders and secondary heart disease prevention in the PA Program’s Clinical Medicine II course.

He has also served as the SMPH’s associate dean for students and director of alumni relations; directed several clinical programs in cardiology at UW Health; and led National Institutes of Health-funded research on heart disease prevention, cholesterol management, tobacco cessation, diabetes and obesity.

“He was extremely passionate about what he was lecturing on,” noted one student. “As a class, we left that lecture extremely excited about our profession and the impact we can have on those we care for. He was truly inspirational.”

“He was truly inspirational.”

“I think it is so awesome to have someone willing to come and lecture us who has had so much impact in his field,” reflected another. “He was part of the group that came up with the new guidelines for cholesterol, and for him to speak to us was an honor.”

Congratulations, Dr. McBride!
Class of 2018 Grads Recognized

These members of the class of 2018 received recognition for leadership, scholarship, service and commitment to the profession:

- **Anatomy Teaching Assistants:** Mark Diaz, Morgan Hormig
- **Aspirus Scholars Program Scholarship:** Hayley Marie Schanen, Kristin Renee Erickson
- **Norine Friell Service Award:** Kelsey Henriquez
- **Outstanding Capstone Paper:** Colleen Gleason, Julia Prosser, Kelsey Henriquez, Lauren Siewert
- **Revered Peer Award:** Kelsey Henriquez
- **Paul S. Robinson Leadership Award:** Jourdyn Mootz
- **Andy Stolper Memorial Award:** Chloe VanDerWeele
- **Alice Thorngate Scholarship:** Sabeena Cheema, Jourdyn Mootz
- **Tomorrow River Scholarship:** Ashley Wenninger
- **Wisconsin Rural Opportunities Foundation Award:** Marlee Schmitz, Bailey Yeager, Ashley Wenninger

At this year’s commencement ceremony, Joel Hill, MPAS, PA-C, and Virginia Snyder, PhD, PA-C, presented Jerry Noack, PA, with the new Friend of the Program award. The award recognizes those who have gone above and beyond their professional capacity to significantly contribute to the program’s success.

An alumnus of the program’s first class, Noack served as PA Program director from 1994 to 2001. In 2001, he became the director of the program’s newly established distance learning option, which he led until his retirement in 2010.
In May, we welcomed our newest class of future physician assistants, pictured above during their traditional photo session with Bucky.

With this class, we also marked the launch of our newest educational option: the regional distance education track (rDE). This track is designed for students who want to remain in their home communities during their PA education, but who live within driving distance of Madison and can commute to campus at least once per week.

The new track complements our traditional distance education (tDE), wisPACT and MPH-PA dual degree tracks.

The tDE track is for students who live in distant communities across Wisconsin and the country, with a particular emphasis on medically underserved communities. Students return to the Madison campus for two three-day visits each semester for labs and discussions.

In the northern Wisconsin Physician Assistant Community-based Track (wisPACT), students take courses in Wausau. This is a full-time program delivered via videoconference with PA Program lecturers at the Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC) in Madison. PA Program faculty visit the UW–Stevens Point at Wausau campus about once a week.

MPH-PA dual degree students earn both a master of public health and master of physician assistant studies.

Welcome new students! We’re so glad you’re part of our program!
White Coat Ceremony Marks Clinical Year

On June 15, 2018, the PA Program held its annual White Coat Ceremony, a tradition that commemorates the beginning of students’ clinical year.

The event kicked off with presentations of the Andy Stolper Memorial Award, the Dr. Mildred H. Evans Memorial Scholarship Award and the Wisconsin Rural Opportunities Foundation Award. Guest speakers included class of 2019 student representative Javier Font, PA-S, and Venkata Meduri, MD, a clinical assistant professor in the UW Department of Radiology Community Section.

PA Program faculty then presented students with their white coats; Medical Director Dipesh Navsaria, MD, MPH, MSLIS, led students in the reading of the Physician Assistant Oath; and Clinical Education Director Bev Speece, MTS, PA-C, offered her closing thoughts.

Congratulations, students, for reaching this important milestone in your education!

Three Lessons of the White Coat

A lively presentation from UW radiologist and PA Program lecturer Venkata Meduri, MD, offered students inspiration and humor at this year’s White Coat Ceremony.

Reflecting on the 15 years since he received his white coat, Dr. Meduri shared three lessons with future PAs.

The first? Get ready to get dirty. “Look at your coat right now,” he laughed. “This is the cleanest it will EVER be.” A white coat stained with sweat, blood or vomit is a reminder that “medicine is visceral and real work, and that your decisions and actions always matter.”

The second? Rely on others. Recalling a night shift early in residency when a colleague helped him identify a ruptured aorta, he reminded students that “medicine is not a vacuum, and when possible, is best practiced as a team effort.”

The third? Never be afraid to ask a question. “It’s humbling to realize how much you don’t know,” he said, but “if you’re not asking questions, you’re not learning.... One day, you’ll find things have flipped and you’re answering more questions than asking.”

Dr. Meduri closed his talk with the same advice that he not only gives the PA students at the end of his lecture series, but that he also received during his first few weeks at UW: “Be humble, be hungry, and be the hardest worker in the room.” The source? Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson.

Words to live by. Thanks, Dr. Meduri!
Three Wisconsin healthcare organizations that have academic partnerships with the UW–Madison PA Program—Aspirus, Columbus Community Hospital and Monroe Clinic—recently received Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) grants to expand the number of advanced practice clinicians (APCs), including physician assistants (PAs), in rural communities.

Through the grants, those three organizations will collaborate with the PA Program on ways to strengthen rural educational opportunities for PAs, addressing the significant healthcare workforce shortages projected to impact rural Wisconsin.

Rural Education Strategies

Grant-funded initiatives at the Wausau, Wisconsin-based Aspirus Office of Medical Education intend to focus on recognizing and retaining existing preceptors in rural clinics, potentially adding new rural training sites and collaborating with PA Program faculty to enhance rural curriculum content and delivery.

Since 2014, Aspirus has been a partner site for the PA Program’s Wisconsin PA Community-based Track (wisPACT) track, providing clinical rotations for students based in northern Wisconsin.

At Monroe Clinic, grant activities will focus on increasing the number of APC students rotating there, ensuring the curriculum provides the necessary training for successful rural practice, and actively engaging APCs in the training of their future colleagues.

The PA Program has partnered with Monroe Clinic on clinical rotations for over 10 years, and will assist with curriculum and preceptor development as needed.

Columbus Community Hospital plans to partner with the PA Program to develop a new rural clinical rotation site and curriculum for APCs. It’s the first formal collaboration between the hospital and the program.

Growing the Rural Healthcare Workforce

The new grant program was supported by Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker in the 2017-2019 biennial state budget.

Increasing the number of PAs and APCs who practice in rural communities gives rural residents better access to quality health care.

“Our program requires all students to complete clinical preceptorships in rural and/or medically underserved communities,” explains PA Program Director Virginia Snyder, PhD, PA-C. “Often, that experience exposes students to a setting and culture that matches their career interests and influences them to practice in a rural community.”

However, the growing number of health professions education programs, combined with a paucity of rural clinical training sites, can strain healthcare organizations, educational programs and individual preceptors alike.

“We are eager to collaborate at the forefront of exciting new initiatives to strengthen rural educational opportunities for PAs and APCs statewide,” Snyder continues. “By working together, we can help grow the healthcare workforce for rural Wisconsin.”
Alumni Reflections

Enjoy more reflections from our alumni! Share yours at: go.wisc.edu/657684

Lenard Markman, DO (1978)
I went on to earn a medical degree from the Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1985, and became a family physician in Amherst, Wisconsin. I’m the past-president of the Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons. I work to promote increased availability of epinephrine to the public and welcome collaborations with peers who share this interest. I also teach anaphylaxis training programs.

Angela (Dolski) Lamack (2002)
I’m currently practicing as a physician assistant in a rural family medicine clinic in Luxemburg, Wisconsin. I love the patient encounter and listening to their story, and using my knowledge to help improve their health and develop a trusting patient-provider relationship.

Michelle Esch (2005)
I’m employed by Madison Emergency Physicians, an emergency medicine group that staffs multiple emergency departments and one urgent care clinic in southern Wisconsin. I work primarily at two SSM Health hospitals: St. Mary’s Hospital–Madison and St. Mary’s Hospital–Janesville.

Natalie Winterle (2014)
I work at Emergency Medical Associates at Waukesha Memorial Hospital, in Waukesha, Wisconsin. I recently earned a Certificate of Added Qualifications in emergency medicine from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA).

Krista (Kasuboski) Solarek (2015)
I work as an orthopedics PA and am fortunate I get to see many aspects of medicine. I see patients in the clinic and provide perioperative care in the hospital and the operating room. I love the variety in general orthopedics and the rural setting. Possibly my favorite aspects of the job are working with injured athletes and watching them progress and return to their passion for athletics at a competitive level. Being an orthopedics PA has also let me continue my passion for sports by coaching high school basketball in my hometown.

Joanie Krabbenhoff (2016)
I practice at Mayo Clinic Health System in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery. I work closely with a hand and upper extremity surgeon in the operating room. Additionally, I see general orthopedics patients in my clinic and cover orthopedic trauma call.
Did your address change? Have any big accomplishments? Got great memories from PA school?

We’d love to hear from you and share your stories and photos in a future newsletter.

Contact us at: www.fammed.wisc.edu/pa-program/alumni/contact

Three great ways

Share an alumni reflection

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Become a volunteer preceptor

Share your knowledge and help educate future PAs.

You’ll pay it forward and receive benefits of an UW–Madison appointment, including campus access and potential CME credit.

Learn more at: http://www.fammed.wisc.edu/pa-program/preceptors/benefits/

Join our Facebook group

Keep in touch with us in real time on social media.

You’ll find job opportunities, program news, student and alumni stories, and more.

Visit Facebook on your computer or mobile device and search for: UW–Madison Physician Assistant Program