NEW STUDENTS, NEW STETHOSCOPEs!

Thanks to the generosity and encouragement of our donors, every incoming student to the School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) Physician Assistant (PA) Program receives a stethoscope and congratulatory note welcoming them into the program. In turn, students have begun to say “thanks” with creative “stethoscope selfies.”

This year, Bucky Badger appeared at last May’s student orientation to welcome our newest batch of Badgers. There, he lent some extra spirit to the burgeoning tradition.

Included in this newsletter are just a sample of those photos, accompanied by the sentiments of grateful recipients. Please consider welcoming a new student with a stethoscope and a note of your own.

Learn more at: https://jumpstart.supportuw.org/campaigns/pa-stethoscope-2023
New Students, New Stethoscopes!
(Continued from page 1)

ALYSSA KOLVE

“Becoming a PA student was the ‘I’m so blessed to
begin the path to doing what I am passionate about!’
moment! It signified a major stepping stone in my
life personally and professionally. It also serves as a
wonderful reminder to me about the importance of
listening to our patients – not only what’s on the
inside, but emotionally and mentally, too.”

Alyssa received her stethoscope from
Julie Nelson.

“It signified a major stepping stone in
my life personally and professionally. It
also serves as a wonderful reminder
to me about the importance of
listening to our patients.”

MATT DAVEL

“I was shocked when they informed us we were getting
stethoscopes, and was very appreciative knowing how
expensive they can be. My donor sent a very heartfelt
note which I have kept. I have been able to use the
stethoscope on many occasions since receiving it, as we
have had multiple lab opportunities for class, as well as
for my job outside of class. I am a distance student and
my current job is in cardiac rehab so I take dozens of
blood pressures as well as listen to heart and lung sounds
each shift I work. The stethoscope is very high quality and
I will remain grateful for it.”

Matt received his stethoscope from
Joel Hill.

“... receiving that
stethoscope felt like a
huge pat on the back.”
ADDIE AGBOOLA

“Between applying to PA school and moving
to another state, not having to acquire the
cost of medical equipment was such a huge
financial relief. And on a personal level, it just
emphasized that this journey was real for me. It
is so much work to get into school and receiving
that stethoscope felt like a huge pat on the back.”

Addie received her stethoscope from Theodore Parins.

“...my current job is in cardiac
rehab so I take dozens of
blood pressures as well as
listen to heart and lung
sounds each shift I work.”

INTRODUCING THE
LATEST IN ULTRASOUND
TECHNOLOGY

As part of the PA Program’s mission to provide exceptional
education and training, our faculty strive to ensure all PA
Program students graduate with an understanding of the latest
developments in their field.

Accordingly, over the past three years, students in PA 660 Clinical
Skills Labs have received hands-on training in point-of-care (POC)
ultrasound technology from instructors who know firsthand the
benefits of its application.

By making use of portable devices like iPads, POC ultrasounds
promise to change the nature of patient care, and the role of
PAs who provide it. In the emergency department, for example,
the portable devices can help bypass the wait for an
ultrasound tech, allowing for the quick assessment of
unstable patients in a setting where time is of essence.

POC technology also can assist in therapeutic procedures
(say, identifying foreign bodies or starting IVs), offering
particular benefits to underserved areas where access to
additional imaging is limited.

This year’s students received training from: Associate
Clinical Professor Angela Vitrenda, MS, PA-C ’97, who
practices family medicine; and Brian Beardsley, MPAS
’14, PA-C ’10, and Jami Hagemann, PA-C, both of whom
practice in emergency medicine. In Wausau, PA Program
Clinical Instructor Carrie Riley, MPAS, PA-C, has trained
wisPACT@Stevens Point students in their ultrasound lab.