Celebrating PA Week

State proclamations, appreciation breakfast honors profession

Proclamations from former Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and State Representative Steve Doyle (Wisconsin State Assembly, 94th district) declared October 6-12, 2018, as Physician Assistant (PA) Week throughout Wisconsin.

The proclamations dovetailed with National PA Week, the American Academy of Physician Assistants’ (AAPA) weeklong event to raise awareness of the PA profession and its contributions to the nation’s health.

In celebration, the University of Wisconsin–Madison PA Program hosted a PA appreciation breakfast on October 10, 2018, at the Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC). Approximately 130 physicians, PAs, PA Program faculty and students attended the breakfast, provided courtesy of UW Health.

Students Obtain Proclamations

Two PA students, Libby Dassow and Stephanie Doyle, were instrumental in pursuing the statewide PA Week proclamations.

Following a suggestion from the AAPA, Dassow, who is her class’s...
An Abundance of Accolades!

Amanda DeVoss, MMS, PA-C; Joel Hill, MPAS, PA-C; and Michelle Ostmoe display their poster, “Meeting the Healthcare Needs in Wisconsin: Recruitment of PA Students from Rural and Underserved Communities,” which won third place at the Wisconsin Collaborative for Rural Graduate Medical Education Rural and Community Medical Educators Faculty Development Conference, held in September in Waupaca, Wisconsin.

The poster describes how PA students who come from a rural community, and who participate in more four-week preceptorships, are more likely to practice in a rural location.

PA Program Medical Director Dipesh Navsaria, MPH, MSLIS, MD, was one of 12 health professionals appointed to a Health Policy Advisory Council by newly elected Governor Tony Evers and Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes. The council advised the transition team on several health policy matters.

Brenda Balthazor, PA-C (above left), a 2005 alumna of the PA Program who now practices in family medicine at Aspirus Birnamwood Clinic in Birnamwood, Wisconsin, was named a 2018 PA of the Year by the Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants (WAPA) Foundation. The award is a testament to Balthazor’s commitment to her patients, healthcare network, and profession.

Current PA Program student Martin Medina (above right) received the WAPA Foundation’s Paul S. Robinson Leadership Award. This $1,000 scholarship is awarded to a PA student in his/her final year of school who demonstrates outstanding leadership.

Balthazor and Medina received their awards at a WAPA Foundation dinner held in conjunction with the WAPA Fall Conference in October in Elkart Lake, Wisconsin.

Michelle Ostmoe, the PA Program’s educational technology consultant, received a national administrative support staff award at the Physician Assistant Education Association’s Education Forum, held in October in Anaheim, California. She was recognized for her work to ensure that distance education students have the same effective, accessible learning experiences and outcomes as on-campus students.
representative to the society, submitted a proclamation request to the Governor’s office. Doyle submitted a similar request to the office of Representative Doyle, who is also her father.

Governor Walker and Representative Doyle both signed the proclamations, and the two students brought the mounted documents from the Capitol to display at the HSLC.

The Governor’s proclamation stated that “PAs have earned the respect of the general public for their dedication and contribution to people’s lives and for their commitment to team-based care and ensure delivery of effective and efficient healthcare services.”

Congratulations to all PAs—in practice and in training—on this recognition. We honor and thank you!

Above, from left: UW Health Oregon Clinic’s McKayla Kirby, CMA, and Beatriz Folcik, PA-C; PA Program Director Virginia Snyder, PhD, PA-C; UW Health Oregon Clinic’s Anna Bast, RN.

At right, program assistant Diane Twiton displays the proclamations as she welcomes breakfast attendees.

Scenes from the wisPACT Reception, UW–Stevens Point at Wausau

On November 5, 2018, the PA Program held a reception at UW–Stevens Point at Wausau to celebrate the Wisconsin Physician Assistant Community-based Track (wisPACT) and five years of PA education in northern Wisconsin.

In attendance were faculty leaders from the UW–Madison PA Program and Aspirus; UW–Stevens Point Chancellor Bernie Patterson, PhD; and wisPACT students and alumni.

In July, the University of Wisconsin System restructured UW–Marathon County, one of the original wisPACT partners, into a branch campus of UW–Stevens Point.

This welcoming event was a wonderful opportunity to visit newly expanded wisPACT classroom and lab space, and recognize the continued commitment of the campus and community to PA education.

Clockwise from upper right: PA Program Academic Director Amanda DeVoss, MMS, PA-C, with wisPACT alum Richard Clark, MPAS, PA-C, and his wife Susan; wisPACT coordinator Patti Thwaits, MA, with UW–Stevens Point Chancellor Bernie Patterson, PhD; PA Program Director Virginia Snyder, PhD, PA-C with students Bao Yang and Abby Alft.
THREE GREAT WAYS
to stay connected with the UW–Madison PA Program

1. Share an alumni reflection
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: go.wisc.edu/657684

2. 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: go.wisc.edu/4bi5k4

3. 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 and search for: UW–Madison Physician Assistant Program