



Le Moyne College Physician Assistant Program Newsletter

Fall Newsletter 2008

Le Moyne Physician Assistant Program

Published by: Stephanie Johnson

From the PASS President

On behalf of myself and the second year class, I would like to welcome the first years to the PA program. It has been great to meet you at PASS meetings and the welcoming picnic. If we can help you in any way as the year continues, please let us know. At the same time, I would also like to congratulate and welcome some new changes and additions to the faculty: Professor Springston, as Director of the PA Program; Dr. Vinciguerra, as Academic Coordinator; Professor Brown, as A&P instructor; Professor Wolfe, as PD lab instructor; Dr. Reagan, as Clinical Medicine Instructor. Whether we are out on our rotations, in the didactic portion, or teaching, we are all embarking on new adventures this year. And although each experience is individualized, we all still share a common thread to the program.



It is hard to believe that the fall term is already coming to an end. For second years, it means the end of three rotations. While for the first years, it means you almost have one third of your first year behind you. As my current preceptor pimps me incessantly during surgery, he loves to tell me to take advantage of PA school because you are as smart as you will ever be before you specialize and forget everything else. While you will be amazed on a daily basis by how much there is to still learn, you will also be impressed at how much you have retained. It is a different experience when you are building upon your knowledge day in and day out in the classroom from when you are putting it to the test in clinicals, but the hard work now will pay off as the bigger picture comes into focus. So persevere through this year, work hard, study harder, absorb more knowledge than you ever thought possible, and make the most of being as smart as you will ever be 😊.

I look forward to a great year for our student society. We have some great things planned, including the new fundraising event. I hope it will be a great success not only for our society, but for the Amaus clinic as well!

Julianne Duffy, PA-S
PASS President

And the Winners Are...

CONGRATULATIONS!

\$1000 NYSSPA 2008 Scholarship Winner: **Timothy Brown**

The 2008 **William G. Allyn Scholarships** were awarded to: \$4000 to **Emily Barnak**, \$1500 to **D'Lorah Robbins and Robert Sawyer**, and \$1000 to **Julianne Duffy, Rebecca Hosey, and Brandon Wolfenden**. Meg O'Connell, Executive Director of the Allyn Foundation, and Mary Springston presented the awards. Congratulations to all the winners!!

Amaus Health Services Fundraiser

The Le Moyne College Physician Assistant Program will be putting on a "Cow Chip Bingo" fundraiser this upcoming spring to raise money for the Amaus Health Services. We will be selling squares priced at \$20 a piece. At the present time we anticipate having 4 bingo boards with 100 squares on each board. Each board will then have its own winners. We will be giving away cash prizes as well as other prizes for the top several winners on each board. If you have any questions or wish to participate in the fundraiser please feel free to contact Desiree Woods (woodsdl@stu.lemoyne.edu) or Ashley Volles (vollesal@stu.lemoyne.edu)

Welcome New Professors:

Professor Edward Wolfe BS, RPA-C

Hometown: I was born outside Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada when my Dad was in the U.S. Air Force. I was raised in York, PA, the home of peppermint patties, air conditioning, and bar-bells.

Educational Background: I graduated from York Catholic High School in 1977. I spent nearly eight years on active duty in the U. S. Army. Basic, Infantry and Airborne school at Fort Benning and permanent station at Fort



Bragg with the 82nd Airborne Division. I graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course in April 1984. I held two SF MOS ratings, Weapons Specialist and Medic. I was fortunate enough to serve in various capacities throughout the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa during my years with the Army. It was while in the Army that I developed an interest in the PA profession. I separated from active duty in June of 1988, moved to Sandy Creek, NY, and then turned right around and moved to Philadelphia, PA to enroll in the PA program at Hahnemann University. (Now Drexel-Hahnemann).

Specialty Areas: Since graduating I have worked in Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Hospital-based Ob-Gyn, Orthopedics, nursing home practice and Urgent Care.

Why did you want to teach at Le Moyne? I have precepted students from LeMoyne since 2001 and am presently enjoying my duties as an adjunct professor with the program this year teaching first year students physical diagnosis skills. I believe that I have enough clinical experience now to be helpful to students. The profession is changing, with more programs, fewer physicians and a rapidly aging population. I feel strongly that it is time to get involved in the profession in a meaningful way beyond just seeing patients, and teaching is the best way I can think of to do that.

Tell me something we would want to know about you.

I am presently married to a lovely gal from Sandy Creek, have an 11 year old son, Tim and two adult stepsons.

Professor Rebecca Brown, BS, RPA-C
Hometown: Syracuse.

Educational Background: Bachelor's in Physician Assistant Studies from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2001. Master's Degree in progress.

Specialty Areas: I have worked 5 years in surgery at St Joseph's Hospital and Health Center, most recently in Orthopedics, Neurosurgery, and Vascular Surgery. I have also covered General, Thoracic, Urological, Colorectal, and Plastic Surgery. I also worked in Family Practice for 2 years in Cortland, where I had my own patients and saw acute visits as well as managed chronic conditions.

Why did you want to teach at Le Moyne? I wanted to teach at Le Moyne because I have always enjoyed precepting students at St Joe's and was impressed with the enthusiasm the students had in working with patients. It was amazing to see a student really connect with the material and see him or her put it into practice.

Tell me something we would want to know about you.

Well, I am a world famous yodeler... OK, not really! Actually, I am a professional voice over artist and have done commercials (was once the voice of a cartoon car!) and narrations, as well as phone messaging systems (yes, I am the lady that tells you to, "Press one..."). I have also had small parts in two movies and have appeared in local theatre productions. I have been married for almost 5 years and have my wonderful 4 month-old son, Noah, whom I lull to sleep by practicing my lectures on him!



NYSSPA Medical Jeopardy



Each year at the NYSSPA Fall CME Conference, students have a chance to compete in Medical Jeopardy. Student teams are composed of three student members of NYSSPA and they answer questions from categories ranging from

Anatomy to Surgery with a point value of 100 to 500. The competition took place during the NYSSPA Fall 2008 CME Conference at the Hilton in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Congratulations to **Sherrie Bishop, Tim Brown, and Daniel Joseph** who came in 2nd place. Way to go team! Thank you for representing Le Moyne at this event.



Clothing Drive for the Center for New Americans

On November 15, 2008, a group of students coordinated a service learning project with the Center for New Americans. They organized a used clothing drive for the clients who do not have sufficient warm clothing to face our harsh Central New York winters. We collected and sorted more than a thousand items, including a few toys. The look of wonder and appreciation on people's faces made this a worthwhile endeavor. They were so appreciative of our efforts and you could see the relieved expressions knowing they would not be unbearably cold. One little girl was so excited when she found a pair of child size sunglasses, she immediately put them on ... upside down ... and did not want to remove them. She was so unbelievably excited!



Surveys of First Year PA Students:

Name: Daniel Joseph

Hometown: Santa Rosa, California

Medical background:

Nurse Tech at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Utica, NY and Caregiver at Hanna Boys Center in Sonoma, CA

How is your experience with the PA Program so far? Incredible and challenging; but living what I love to do.

Since the onset of this program, have your career goals changed? No, my goals have become more focused and stronger than before. Trusting that with lifelong academic



determination the knowledge will eventually be there; but becoming a greater human being, in order to become a better PA, takes a strong-willed mastery of self, a fearless heart for new experiences, and a courage I'm working on finding in myself every day.

Tell me one thing that we would want to know about you. I once played a med student on the television show ER. Danced with Goldie Hawn, played basketball with Kevin Spacey, fought in both WWII and Vietnam, but unfortunately died in the Revolutionary War... twice in one day.

Name: Greer Mahoney

Hometown: Manlius, NY

Medical background: After getting my Master's in Neuroscience, I worked in a Neurology lab at Syracuse University for a year and a half before beginning PA school. I also worked on the Pediatric Floor at University Hospital.



How is your experience with the PA Program so far? My experience at Lemoyne so far has been a good one. I knew coming into the program the work load would be intense, so I prepared myself for a busy year. I'm enjoying the different lecturers and the material we have learned thus far.

Since the onset of this program, have your career goals changed? My career goals have not changed yet, but I think clinical rotations will give me an idea of what I want to do.

Tell me one thing that we would want to know about you. I was born and raised in Syracuse and I hope to work and live in the area when I graduate.

Name: Kaelyn Rowley

Hometown: Liverpool, NY

Medical background: I worked at Crouse Hospital as a phlebotomist for about a year and also did research for the pharmacy on medication overdose in the hospital. I interviewed patients on their pain management during their stay at Crouse and also helped out in their Elder Life Program. I currently work as a phlebotomist at St. Joseph's hospital.



How is your experience with the PA Program so far? So far it has been a great experience. At first I found myself very overwhelmed and I still do at times. However, I am learning a lot about medicine and am finding ways to manage all of the work that the program entails.

Since the onset of this program, have your career goals changed? My goals haven't necessarily changed. I still hope to become a caring and compassionate healthcare provider once I am finished with the program. I am excited for my second year so that I can try to get a feel for what specialty I am interested in.

Tell me one thing that we would want to know about you. One thing about me that is not related to medicine is that I have danced since I was three years old and am still involved with the Le Moyne Student Dance Company. I think leading a balanced life is important and I find dance to be the perfect outlet for me when it comes to needing a break from school work.

Surveys of 2nd Year PA Students:

Name: Emily Barnak

Hometown: Palmerton, PA

Most Memorable Experience in

Rotations: Irrigating a wad of cerumen out of an 80 yo man's ear the size of a golf ball. Well, perhaps that is a slight exaggeration. He did have some giant ears!!

Clinical Pearls: Get comfortable saying the words "I don't know, but I'll look it up and tell you tomorrow."



Name: Andrew Friebe

Hometown: Newark Valley, NY

Most Memorable Experience in

Rotations: Completely nailing a pre-op physical on a lady and showing up a 4th Year Upstate Med Student as a result on the first go; thank you Dr. Longo.

Elective Rotations: I am trying for a Pediatric Orthopedic rotation

Clinical Pearls: Your first day of rotations will truly be one of the happiest and scariest days of your life; yes, it is possible. It is ok to make mistakes. That is what rotations are for; just don't repeat them. That is what learning is about. Interestingly enough, you will actually have some patients put themselves through certain situations just for the benefit of your learning; one lady kept putting off her annual Pap for a while until I came in and needed "practice." Become really good at cooking; for some reason, preceptors really like that. Guidelines, Guidelines, Guidelines



Name: Theresa Agrasto

Hometown: East Syracuse, NY

Most Memorable Experience in

Rotations: Just hearing from preceptors that patients said I did a great job.

Elective Rotations: Hopefully cardiology for the medicine

"elective" & dermatology/pulmonology for my elective.

Clinical Pearls: Always look up what you don't know & do not be afraid to ask questions or point out mistakes.



Casting Workshop for the First Years



A few websites about scholarships & loan repayment programs:

--Health Professional Loan Repayment and Scholarship

Available at: <http://www.hecb.wa.gov/paying/waaidprgm/health.asp>

--Scholarships for PA Students

Available at: <http://www.scholarships-ar-us.org/scholarships/health/physician-assistants.htm>

--Loan Repayment Program

Available at: http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/join_us/lrp.cfm

--Rural Physician Assistant Loan Reimbursement Program, Grants and Scholarships

Available at: <http://www.orca.state.tx.us/index.php/Rural+Health/Grants+and+Scholarships>

--Scholarship Site:

<http://www.explorehealthcareers.org/en/Index.aspx>

--Pamphlet with a list of Loan Forgiveness and Repayment Programs by State

Available at: <http://66.99.255.20/osa/financialaid/Alumni/LoanForgivenessRepayment.pdf>

A few websites for Job Search and Employment Resources:

--Placement Specialist for Physician Assistants

<http://www.cmawashington.org/index.cgi?CONTEXT=art&art=201&cat=63&BISKIT=7492053>

--PA Job Placement

Available at: <http://www.paworld.net/employment.html>

--PA Employment Job Search

Available at: <http://www.4alliedhealthjobs.com/default.aspx>

--International PA Employment

Available at: <http://www.aapa.org/international/index.html>