Program Director’s Message

Welcome spring! With the change of seasons comes exciting times at the AACC/UMB Collaborative PA Program. We welcomed a new cohort of 40 students on May 3, the Class of 2021. I am truly in awe of this program’s legacy, as the Class of 2021 became the 24th cohort of students to train here. That speaks volumes about the mission and vision of this program, AACC, UMB, the faculty, the staff, and myriad volunteer preceptors. We would not be successful without the “can do” collaborative efforts from everyone. In addition, the 38 members of the Class of 2020 are currently transitioning from the classroom to the clinical arena, with just a few weeks remaining in their didactic year. Their next phase of training will harness remarkable growth, both personally and professionally. All of our matriculates are special, but none more so than the 30 comprising the Class of 2019. They are preparing to graduate July 18, with just a few months remaining in their clinical phase. They are working hard to complete their capstone projects as they diligently prepare for their board examinations post-graduation. We are so very proud of the hard work each of our students puts forth on a daily basis.

Speaking of volunteer preceptors, I cannot thank you enough for all you continue to do for our program, our students, and our profession. I am inspired to see alumni not only precept, but also return to campus to teach. I lecture formally all across the country, and while doing so run into colleagues and former students who attend these events. I am so honored to lecture to them again and am truly inspired to learn of their successes in life and as certified PAs. A common theme in conversation is the desire to give back to our profession by teaching.

The PA profession needs more educators. The sheer number of PA programs across the nation is expanding at an unbelievable rate; as of this writing, there are 238 accredited programs with 60+ being processed. With that many programs comes a deficit of qualified faculty. We need more graduates to come forward to teach the next generation of PA students. Likewise, it is time to start focusing on the next generation of PA faculty nationwide, as seasoned educators are inching closer to retirement. The AACC/UMB Collaborative PA Program is creating that much-needed pipeline to train all interested PA-Cs in becoming educators. As much as I love to take care of patients, I love to teach even more. The satisfaction derived from passing knowledge to eager students and watching their growth during “ah ha” moments is priceless. I honestly cannot think of a better way to give back, nor a better way to
grow our profession. We need your help—please consider coming on board. We’d love to have you!

Dr. Cheri Hendrix

Class of 2019

Georgia Harper, AHEC Scholar & Award Recipient
Ms. Georgia Harper, 2019 AACC/UMB PA student participated in the AHEC Scholars Program during her cardiology/transitional care elective in October 2018. The AACC/UMB Collaborative PA Program congratulates Georgia on representing the Physician Assistant program for the Central Maryland AHEC scholars. More at: http://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/mahec/About-MAHEC/Sigature-Programs/

Ms. Harper also received the 2019 award for Outstanding Primary Care Physician Assistant Student from Johns Hopkins and University of Maryland School of Medicine at the primary care consortium 40th biannual retreat to advance primary care.

The AACC/UMB Collaborative PA Program is proud of Ms. Harper’s achievements. Congratulations, Georgia!

Class of 2020

The Class of 2020 is actively fundraising and recently designed a quarter-zip sweatshirt for sale. Additionally, Mr. Donovan Young, Class President, successfully lobbied the SGA in securing $2,200 in funds for four students to participate in an AAPA conference in Denver on May 18-22, 2019. The recipients are Mr. Joseph Alfera, Mr. Michael Pham, Ms. Evelyn Shapter and Mr. Donovan Young. They are also hoping to meet with some of the 2017 and 2018 graduates who are likely to be participating.

Faculty News

Professor Mary Jo Bondy
Dr. Bondy conducted a workshop in April 2019 for PAEA on Competency Based Education. She will also be presenting at two other forums in June and August 2019, respectively.

Professor Robert Cook
Dr. Cook attended the American Telemedicine Association’s annual conference and expo in New Orleans. He also recently joined the board of directors of the Divers Alert Network (DAN). Congratulations Dr. Cook!
CLASS OFFICERS

The Class of 2019 officers:

Laurena Richardson, President
Allison Leonardi, Vice-President
Shannon Gaskins, Secretary
Kyra Kearney, Social Chair

The Class of 2020 officers:

Donovan Young, President
Evelyn Shapter, Vice-President
Michael Pham, Treasurer
Mark Symancyk, Secretary
Rita Younes, Social Chair
Meghan Byrne, Social Chair

More at: https://www.divenewswire.com/dan-welcomes-craig-cook-m-d-to-its-board-of-directors/

Professor Cheri Hendrix
Dr. Hendrix was selected by PAEA to be a member of a Special End of Curriculum Examinations Workgroup. She is also attending UMB’s six-week Management Essentials Workshop.

Several faculty members recently submitted education proposals to the PAEA for consideration for inclusion during its annual academic forum in October 2019.

PRECEPTOR

Mr. Al Struck, PA-C, Paves the Way for PAs in Emergency Medicine

The AACC/UMB Collaborative PA Program honors Al Struck, PA-C, AACC clinical faculty and preceptor. Throughout his 25-year career in emergency medicine and five years in urgent care, Mr. Struck has kept a steady focus on developing the vision and skills of future physician assistants. He is well-known among peers for his compassion, humility and collaborative spirit. Mr. Struck currently works at Priority Care Clinics of Maryland as a Staff PA

Early Years
Born and raised in Maryland, Mr. Struck enlisted in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam era from 1967 to 1971 after completing high school. Honorably discharged as a Sergeant, he attended AACC from 1971 to 1973 and then completed his Bachelor of Science degree summa cum laude in 1975 at Bowie State University.

Mr. Struck became a high school teacher, YMCA director and the first civilian athletic director at the Annapolis Naval Complex in Annapolis, MD. He decided to switch careers in 1987, ultimately launching his path of becoming a PA, and graduated in 1989 from the Essex-CCBC physician assistant program.

PAs Take Roots in Emergency Medicine
Mr. Struck joined Mercy Hospital in 1990 as the first PA in the Emergency Department (ED). With support from Dr. David Rorison, he began recruiting PAs, inevitably launching the course for the PA concept to take off. He became the Chief PA and led the development at Bon Secours to hire PAs for the EDs at three sites in Maryland and Virginia.

In 1997, Mr. Struck joined Good Samaritan Hospital and piloted a fast-track program. Within 10 years, the ED grew from being staffed with one PA, one technician and two beds to having a separate location with more than six beds and waiting areas, with
specific PA staffing registration, nursing and technicians. Mr. Struck reported that in 2008, the staff saw 50 percent of all patients, usually within an hour, and every patient received a follow-up phone call after discharge. He said that patients’ satisfaction results were 99 percent, highest in the nation, according to a third-party provider. The success of the program paved the way for Mr. Struck to establish more fast-track programs in the tristate area EDs.

**Recognition of the Fast-Track Program**
In recognition of his accomplishments, Mr. Struck was awarded the Health Care Professional by the Daily Record in 2008 for piloting and establishing the fast-track concept and staffing EDs with PAs within the tristate area. Mr. Al Struck credits the hospitals and support from previous ED Directors, including Dr. Andrew Sumner and Dr. Stephen Holtzclaw, for their unwavering commitment to the fast-track program in emergency medicine.

**Precepting Since 1990**
Mr. Struck’s work also addressed another important factor about PAs hired to work in EDs: PA’s clerkship locations can play a key role in where they choose to work. In his role as Chief PA of multiple EDs, Mr. Struck precepted students from both CCBC and AACC PA Programs. He estimated that 95 percent of all PAs hired for the ED were students they had precepted. He proudly stated that some of the PAs went on to become Chief PAs at other institutions. Mr. Struck declares that precepting has always made him happy since it never felt like work, which he likened to shoveling rose petals.

Mr. Struck became a clinical instructor at the AACC PA program in 1996 teaching emergency, ambulatory and occupational medicine. He is currently an adjunct instructor at the Towson/CCBC program.

Mr. Struck credits the support of several colleagues including the PA Program Director Dr. Robert Solomon, Towson/CCBC, who gave him the start to an amazing career, and others including Dr. Sumnor, Dr. Rorison, Dr. Holtzclaw, and Dr. Adjei who have given him the opportunity to treat thousands of patients in Maryland. He recognizes the support from PA Program Directors such as Mr. Michael Olds, Dr. Mary Jo Bondy, Dr. Cheri Hendrix and Ms. Jodi Pinkin for allowing him to share his ED skills and experience with their PA students.

**On Family, Life and Giving Back**
Within the last two years, Mr. Struck has become a serious motorcycle enthusiast, biking from Maryland to California using the old Route 66; while in California, he travelled up and down the West Coast. He also hits the gym on a regular basis, having always led an active lifestyle, from boxing in the Marine Corps to being on college wrestling, tennis, cross country and lacrosse teams. After college, he became an amateur body builder and competitive karate participant. He admits that you if “talk the talk” then you have to “walk the walk” as adopted from the Marine Corps. He is married to Sandra, has two stepsons, Demitri and George Powers, and a daughter Erica in California with two grandchildren, Luke and Emily Jackson.

Mr. Struck says that “he is in the winter of his 30-year career and it is time to give back to the career that has changed him and his family for the best. He is very thankful for his family, friends, peers and thousands of patients that brought him to 2019.”
Ms. Aziza Alaoui, 2018 graduate, is a New Resident

The AACC/UMB Collaborative PA Program congratulates Aziza Alaoui, 2018 PA graduate, who entered the Johns Hopkins Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant Residency Program in October 2018.

Why residency?
Aziza’s long-standing passionate interest in the chaotic and challenging nature of the Emergency Department (ED) only intensified while taking the dedicated Emergency Medicine class in PA school. She enjoyed seeing a variety of cases, not knowing what would come next, and ultimately feeling the need to become more equipped to manage the extremely sick patients and traumas seen on a daily basis. As with any new grad, transitioning into a work environment is challenging, and Aziza felt that extending her training and building on her already solid PA school foundation would allow her to focus on the demanding, delicate, and diverse nature of cases in the ED and help her to excel on the job more quickly as a new PA. Aziza wanted to (and still does) be like the many fierce PAs she had the opportunity to learn from throughout school.

PA staff in ED & off-service rotations
The residency, a well-structured 18-month program, allows for Aziza to spend time working as a typical staff PA in the ED while having the opportunity to go on additional off-service rotations in many specialties, such as ophthalmology, orthopedics, neurology, POC ultrasound, and intensive care, which can aid in decision making as an emergency medicine provider. She said, “The off-service rotations have expanded my knowledge, practical application, and comfort level in areas many aren’t exposed to while in fast-paced PA school. I look at these additional rotations as increasing the tools in my diagnostic and management tool belt.” Recently, she has been able to spend time in the OR strictly performing intubations and managing airway with anesthesia, which has been one of the highlights of her residency so far and that she feels will serve her the next time she is taking care of a crashing patient in the ED.

Didactic & SIM lab training and supportive team
Aziza and her co-residents are also able to spend time attending weekly Emergency Medicine conferences with M.D. resident colleagues to receive didactic teaching from ED attendings. She enjoyed this part of the training immensely because the residents not only expanded their knowledge of thorough and complex patient management, but they also bonded with mentors and the M.D. residents, whom they often work alongside. The PA residents also utilize the Hopkins SIM lab and review difficult cases as a team, where each PA resident takes a turn leading a trauma or medical case, with
the help of peers if needed. “As one of the newer residents, this was one of my favorite days, because I learned a great deal from my senior residents,” she said. She looks forward to seeing her growth as she works through this program, striving to be as strong as her peers.

“I have never felt so welcomed by a group of individuals, especially in medicine. My new co-residents, residency directors, staff PAs, nurses, techs, and attending physicians have become like my second family,” Aziza shared. As a new grad and resident, she feels supported both in and out of the hospital, which is as important to her as continuing to hone in on her skills and practical application of medicine.

**Earned additional certifications**
Aziza thinks that the residents are lucky to work at Bayview, a heavily PA-run and very friendly ED, where they see a variety of high-acuity medical patients as well as complex traumas. As a result, she had to take additional certifications, such as Advanced Trauma and Advanced Burn Life Support. She stated that she will be able to eventually work her way up to the Critical Care Bay at the 12-month mark of the residency.

**Plans to give back and being best possible emergency medicine provider**
Aziza has the opportunity to choose electives and is hoping to be part of a global health mission trip, as giving back to underserved populations and experiencing other cultures are important to her. Only five months into residency, she has already been exposed to so much, allowing her to ultimately become a more autonomous, confident, and well-rounded provider, who in the future could not only work in just about any ED but even in other specialties, if desired. Aziza added, “I’m honored to have been selected into this residency, and so excited to have the opportunity of reaching my goal to become the best possible EM provider that I can be in a fast-tracked environment. I look forward to comparing myself as a PA now to what I am capable of in the next year and to share the skills and knowledge acquired in this jam-packed residency with those that come after me.”

**Advice to other PAs**
“To any aspiring PAs, who are passionate about Emergency Medicine, or other similar specialties like Critical Care, don’t be afraid to take a look into residencies. Residency is rigorous and you work a good bit, but I have still had time to enjoy life and even plan a wedding! While not for everyone, I am so glad that I decided to go this route and excited for what the future holds!”

Congratulations, Aziza, on your upcoming wedding!

Students who are interested in what residency entails can email Aziza Alaoui at amdarhr1@jhmi.edu.

Fellow PAs and students can also follow the Johns Hopkins residents on their Instagram page: @hopkinsempares

or more at:
https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/johns_hopkins_bayview/education_training/residency_programs/emergency_medicine_physician_assistant_residency_program/index.html
Alumni News Brief – Class of 2014!
Mike Mastrangelo Receives Advance Patient Provider Award

Mr. Mastrangelo, Coordinator/Lead PA, received the Advance Patient Provider of the Year 2018 award (Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner for Cleveland Clinic) from the Emergency Services Institute - Cleveland Clinic (Emergency Medicine), for his work in the Cleveland Clinic - South Point Emergency Department in March 2019.

His father, Mr. Bob Mastrangelo, shared that one individual is awarded annually based on the recommendations of their respective emergency services department heads throughout the Greater Cleveland Clinic network.

University of Maryland Shore Health Chief Medical Officer, Dr. William Huffner
Honored by the Maryland Academy of Physician Assistant as Physician of the Year

Dr. William Huffner, the current Chief Medical Officer, Senior Vice President for University of Maryland Shore Regional Health received the MAPA highest honor Physician of the Year Award. His service and leadership in advancing educational and employment opportunities to physician assistants in Maryland earned him the nomination put forward by Dr. Mary Jo Bondy.

Dr. Huffner was nominated in recognition of his leadership that led to the development, coordination and oversight of a longitudinal clinical curriculum at Shore Health for AACC/UMB PA students. Most of the students had been displaced after the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Physician Assistant program lost their accreditation. Dr. Huffner was instrumental in identifying Shore Health Physician partners from across the medical specialties and disciplines to support the clinical rotations of twelve students from 2016-2018 and he has continued to do so since 2016. The benefit of educating and training these students in Easton where many are supported by family and the community is that they are then recruited to work within the Shore Health system following graduation. From the 2016-2018 cohort three PA graduates were recruited and are in practice on the shore.

On April 30th he was presented with the award and plaque by Dr. Mary Jo Bondy and Dr. Hendrix. According to Dr. Bondy “we are indebted to Dr. Huffner for his leadership and very grateful to the physician community for their collective efforts to educate the next generation of physician assistants.” Dr. Hendrix added “we look forward to our continued collaboration with Shore Health to meet the healthcare on the shore.”