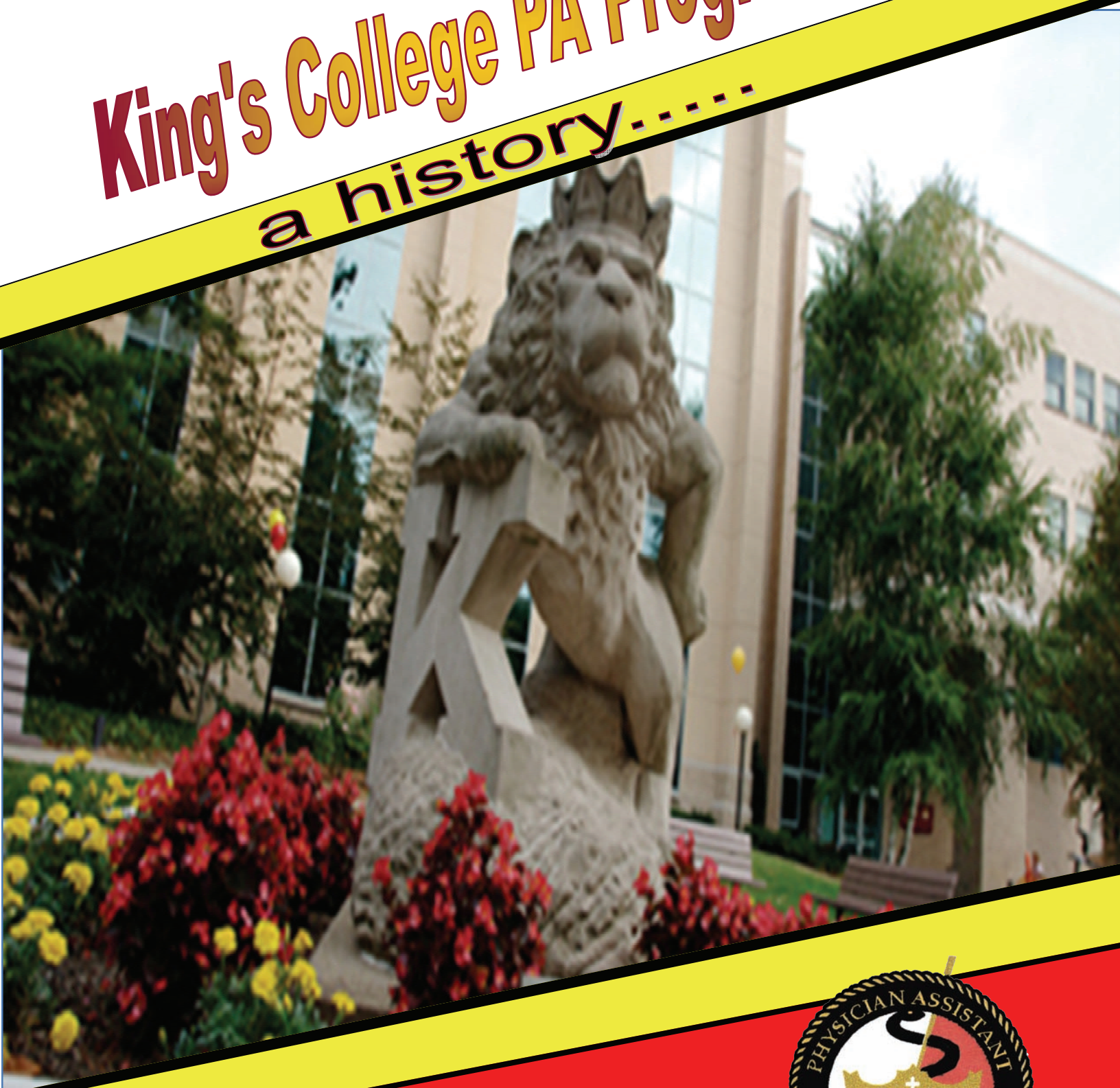


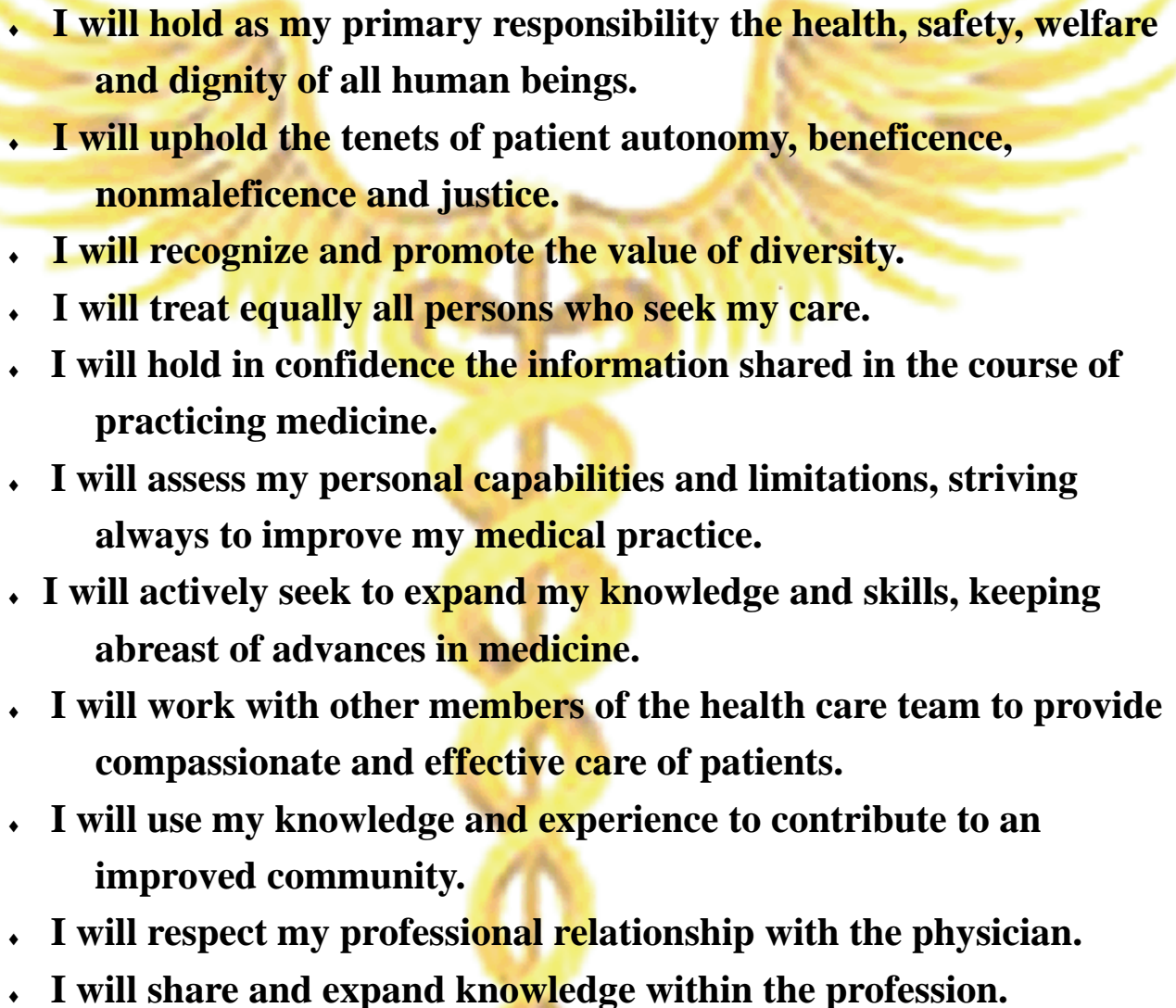
King's College PA Program

a history.....



The Physician Assistant Oath

I pledge to perform the following duties with honesty and dedication:

- 
- **I will hold as my primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare and dignity of all human beings.**
 - **I will uphold the tenets of patient autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence and justice.**
 - **I will recognize and promote the value of diversity.**
 - **I will treat equally all persons who seek my care.**
 - **I will hold in confidence the information shared in the course of practicing medicine.**
 - **I will assess my personal capabilities and limitations, striving always to improve my medical practice.**
 - **I will actively seek to expand my knowledge and skills, keeping abreast of advances in medicine.**
 - **I will work with other members of the health care team to provide compassionate and effective care of patients.**
 - **I will use my knowledge and experience to contribute to an improved community.**
 - **I will respect my professional relationship with the physician.**
 - **I will share and expand knowledge within the profession.**

These duties are pledged with sincerity and upon my honor.

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Front Cover: Leo's Den with Parenti Science Building in the background.

Back Cover: Christ the King, atop the King's College Administration Building.

Cover artwork provided by the King's College Marketing Department.

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August 2009



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**...THIS ACCOUNT OF THE HISTORY OF THE KING'S COLLEGE
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE
GENEROUS ASSISTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING...**

Frances Feudale, D.O., FACEP

Eleanor Babonis, PA-C, PhD

The Faculty and Staff of the King's College PA Program Who Made Us Who We Are

Our Dedicated Alumni Who Paved the Way

The memory of Dr. Lester Saidman, who believed in us from the start

Mr. John McKeown

The King's College Print Shop

and

The King's College Physician Assistant Class of 2009

"ONLY A LIFE LIVED FOR OTHERS IS A LIFE WORTHWHILE."

Albert Einstein...

A MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR.....

“If I would have known what a PA was...” Anyone who has ever met me has probably heard me utter these words. Don’t get me wrong, I love being an Emergency Department Physician, but if I would have known what a PA was before I went to medical school, I’m sure things may be different now. As a kid, I always wanted to be a doctor or a teacher.

After graduating college and getting seven rejection letters from medical school, I figured I was going to try teaching for a while, but my desire to take care of people never went away. So, after two years of teaching high school science, I finally made it to medical school!

In my first year of residency, I was in awe of a particular female trauma resident. I watched as she skillfully pieced together a history, did a lightning fast but incredibly accurate physical exam and relay her assessment and plan to the trauma surgeon who placed his utmost trust in her to manage a trauma victim in the ED while he was in the OR. But most of all, she cared deeply for her patients and their families and had the respect of her peers. I wanted to get to know her better so I got up enough nerve to introduce myself and that’s when I found out she was not a resident at all...she was a PA from King’s College.



A what from where? I never heard of a PA or King’s College but whatever a PA was, I wanted to be her but I soon learned that it was not meant to be. Nevertheless, she influenced the kind of practitioner I’d be. And so, I completed my residency and went off to find a job, never giving King’s College or the PA profession much more thought. My search for employment brought me to the Wilkes-Barre area and I accepted a full time position as an Emergency Physician at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Although I loved my job, I started to get the itch to teach again and randomly emailed local colleges and universities.

My first offer came from Mr. Kyle Fetterolf, PA-C to lecture PA students at King’s College and I jumped at the chance. Soon after, a position as Assistant Program Director became available and I just couldn’t pass up the opportunity to join the faculty full time. Under the guidance of Eleanor Babonis, Program Director since 1977, and all the wonderful faculty members, I learned all about the history of the program and the profession.

Less than a year later, Eleanor announced her retirement and the rest is history. So I’ve been blessed with the best of both worlds. I still work per diem as an Emergency Physician but in the past 8 years I’ve also been able to meet and mentor hundreds of students like the authors of this book, Bret Stemrich, Monica Thomas, and Phil Sekunda.

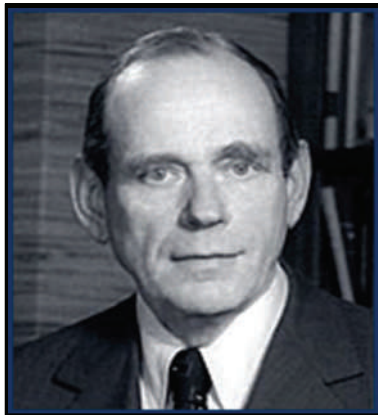
Funny how things come full circle.

Dr. Frances Feudale, DO, FACEP
Physician Assistant Program Director

In The Beginning.....

The year was 1965, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) won the Nobel Prize, the LA Dodgers defeated the Minnesota Twins in the World Series, and a man named Eugene Stead with a unique idea was standing forefront in the medical arena.

In the early 1960's American involvement in the Vietnamese Civil War escalated. The Army Combat Medics and Navy Corpsmen were suddenly forced to adapt to treating modern warfare casualties that often involved intensive medical management and surgical intervention. As these medical personnel exited the service they returned to the United States with a profound knowledge of medicine and a lack of certification that prevented them from practicing their skills.



Dr Eugene A. Stead

Dr. Eugene Stead recognized the important abilities of those returning aidmen, as well as their inability to find gainful employment. As a professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine at Duke University, Dr. Stead was able to place into action a plan that would facilitate the medical experience of the former soldiers and sailors. In 1965 the first class of Medex (Ex-Medics) assembled at Duke University. The fundamental design of the program was modeled after the accelerated training given to Army physicians during World War II.

In 1966 *Look Magazine* published an article entitled "*More than a Nurse, Less than a Doctor*" which drew national interest to the budding physician assistant concept (Some programs referred to their graduates as Physician Associates). The program was further solidified by the Allied Health Professions Personnel Act (PL – 751), which promoted the development of programs to train new types of primary care providers. On October 6th, 1967 Victor Germino, Kenneth Ferrell, and Richard Scheele became the nation's first Physician Assistants; the graduation date (incidentally Dr. Stead's birthday) would later become National PA Day.

Founded in 1946 by the Congregation of the Holy Cross, King's College was an established Catholic educational institution that placed a strong emphasis on the Liberal Arts. As technology and medicine advanced, the administration at King's decided that it should invest energy in the medical profession and received a federal grant to start an Allied Health Department that would train students in four fields: Clinical Medicine, Medical Records, Health Care Management, and the new and relatively unknown profession of Physician Assistant.



The King's College Administration Building



191 N. Franklin Street

The initial student recruitment for the graduating class of 1977, which took place in 1975, was not advertised publically but rather spread internally within the King's community. Dave Hartley, a 1975 graduate of the Hershey Medical Center PA Program, was hired to organize the curriculum to prepare for the first incoming class of eight students who were set to arrive in August. In order to be accepted into the first class, the students must have previously attained a bachelor's degree, or have been employed for a period of time in the medical profession.

The Class of 1977 arrived at the college campus two weeks before the start of the Fall semester to find an almost non-existent program. The students went to Father Sherrer with their grave concerns, while the faculty scrambled to place the first year students in classes as the minutes counted down to the semester's start. Through passionate persuasion and the influence of Pennsylvania Congressman Daniel Flood, an avid supporter and friend of King's, the PA program at Hahnemann Medical College placed an umbrella over the new King's program and offered an academic sanctuary to the "first eight". Hahnemann Medical College had a reputation in the 1970's for offering didactic year training to fledgling programs, like the one at King's.

Six months later the didactic phase was completed and the King's students were once again sent back to the campus to begin clinical preceptorships. The return offered no significant improvement in the program's plan and the students set about actively recruiting physicians in the Wilkes-Barre area who believed in the PA concept. The task was not easy but in the end the eight students managed to find adequate training sites (The Dr. Lester Saidman King's PA Student Society was named in honor of one of the greatest advocates of Physician Assistants in the Wyoming Valley).



The PA Program Offices at Struckus Hall in the early 1980's

On July 1st, 1977 Dr. Eleanor Babonis, PA-C, PhD replaced Mr. Hartley as the new program director. Dr. Babonis, a former nurse, was a 1975 graduate of the Hershey PA program. On September 7th, 1977 eight students stood in the Gold Room in the administrative building and received their certificates from Father Charles Sherrer, C.S.C. The modest ceremony took only minutes but sealed the validity of a program which would bring great credit to its Alma Mater.

Recognizing that failure is often attributed to those who rested on their laurels, Dr. Babonis quickly got to work developing a program that would meet the standards of the American Medical Association's requirements for certification. The program was allotted office space at 191 North Franklin Street and Jean Primatic was hired as a secretary and administrative assistant to Dr. Babonis. Dr. Babonis designed the curriculum to parallel the established one at Hershey and Mrs. Primatic, the secretary to the Allied Health Department, dutifully typed out every letter, test, and syllabus.

Mr. John McKeown, an administrator at the VA Hospital, was hired by King's College in September of 1978 as the new director of the Allied Health Department. Mr. McKeown and Dr. Babonis worked diligently to prepare for the first accreditation. The visit by Dr. Frances Horvath and her staff from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri occurred in November of 1978. The AMA listed several concerns that it wanted to see resolved and scheduled a follow-up visit for January. The issues were addressed and in April of 1979 King's College received a one year accreditation. Since 1979 King's has never been without accreditation.



Faculty and Students, 1981

The original PA certification boards consisted of a two day event in which an extensive written examination was given on the first day, followed by a practical examination, similar to what is today known as the OSCE's (objective structured clinical exams), on the second. The examination results often took up to six months to be processed and the unfortunate graduates were not afforded a temporary license during the waiting period. The successful pass rate at King's did not go unnoticed and the college became a state testing center with Dr. Babonis administering the tests to students from all over the Commonwealth. This continued into the late 1990's when test administration was accomplished via a computerized certification examination.

In December of 1998 the King's PA program held its first pinning ceremony to award the program's emblem to its second-year students. The emblem and original pin was designed by the Class of 1984 and was solid gold. The pin was colorized in 1998 to represent the colors of the college which are gold, red, and white. The "Rod of Asclepius" (often misnamed a Caduceus), a symbol of resurrection and healing, bisects a three point golden crown with an inlaid Cross, "sans corpus" representing the "Heavenly King, Jesus Christ". The internal symbol sets among a black arc with the words "Physician Assistant – King's College", the borders of which are gold. The emblem, when awarded to a second-year student, represents the acknowledgement that the wearer has the faith of the faculty that they will complete the program and will reflect credit not only on the PA profession, but also on the "*Collegium Christi Regis*", the College of Christ the King.



The original PA pin

As the status of the Physician Assistant grew, so did the need to increase the knowledge base and academic degree awarded to those individuals who now performed many of the same functions as their supervising physicians. King's College awarded the first Bachelor of Science Degrees to the Class of 1984. The program would remain an undergraduate program until February 1999 when it was granted the honor of a Master's Degree Program by the Pennsylvania Department of Higher Education.

THE MASTERS OF SCIENCE

King's College Physician Assistant Program degree became a Master's of Science in February 1999. The proposal to change the previously four-year baccalaureate program into a five-year master's program was a collaborative effort put forth by the Director of the PA Program, Dr. Eleanor Babonis, the Director of Graduate Programs, Dr. Elizabeth Lott, and the faculty members of the Physician Assistant Program. The initial process to change the Program began in May of 1997 and was inspired by several sources: advances were being made within the physician assistant profession and in order to remain competitive with the continuing evolving nurse practitioner profession higher credentials were needed; physicians were preferring to hire healthcare professionals who were graduates of master's level programs; prospective students began indicating a desire to attend an institution that could grant a Master's Degree. Also at the current time the Association of Physician Assistant Programs (APAP) stated that approximately 30% of the existing physician assistant programs were converting from Bachelor's to Master's Degree programs.



The Physician Assistant Program wanted to stay up to date with the changing times as well as continuing to uphold the mission of the college, which is to “provide students with a broad-based liberal education in the Catholic tradition and offer intellectual, moral, and spiritual preparation for satisfying and purposeful lives.” To maintain these goals, the Physician Assistant ‘Department developed a Master’s level program that encompassed a sophisticated year of didactic training, an intense clinical year comprising all areas of general medicine to ensure competent graduates, as well as a capstone research project that would engage the students in critical evaluation and interpretation of medical literature. On June 22, 1998 King’s College submitted a “Proposal for the Establishment of a Five-Year Graduate Program in Physician Assistant Studies” to the Pennsylvania

Department of Education.



Students practicing casting

After review of the proposed program, the Department of Education responded July 16, 1998 with recommended revisions to be made. A site visit was conducted on November 1, 2, and 3, 1998 at King’s College and the Department of Education sent a report shortly thereafter on November 17, 1998. This evaluation identified concerns and suggestions to be made before granting approval for the Master’s Degree.

The College was grateful for the constructive observations and continued to re-develop the model for the Master of Science Degree program.

King's then determined a plan for a smooth transition for both transfer students as well as current students. Current freshmen in their first year of the pre-professional phase in 1998-1999 were sent a letter to inform them that if they were admitted into the professional phase, they have two options: 1.) to finish the undergraduate program and graduate with a B.S. degree in August 2002 or 2.) enter the new five-year program, beginning with the junior year minor in Health Care Administration in 2000-2001 and graduate with a Master's of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) in August 2003. Any undergraduates for freshmen admission after Fall 2000 and beyond would be admitted only into the five-year master's program.

The Department of Education agreed with these revisions, granting King's College Physician Assistant Program a Master of Science Degree in February 1999, allowing for a smooth transition and continual pursuit of the College to produce outstanding practitioners for the 21st Century.

A bit more history... PA program locations:

191 N. Franklin (a spare King's building)

Struckus Hall (now demolished and the area is green space)

Holy Cross basement (its still a basement)

Hafey-Marion 1st floor (now a general classroom)

Science wing 4th floor (now physics & chemistry labs in Mulligan Science building)

Mulligan Science Building 1st and ground floors (our current and maybe our last location)

**Our newest clinical skills
lab with SimMan in
Mulligan**



The Program Directors

David Hartley, PA-C 1975 – 1977
Dr. Eleanor Babonis, PA-C, PhD 1977 – 2003
Dr. Frances Feudale, D.O. 2003 – Present

The Medical Directors

Dr. Edward Lottick, M.D. 1975—1977
Dr. Lester Saidman, M.D. 1977 - 1980
Dr. Phil Seroska, MD 1980 -1983
Dr. DeJoseph 1983-1984
Dr. Robert Czwalina, D.O. 1984 - 2004
Dr. Mark Radziewicz, D.O. 2004—present

The PA Timeline

1965	Four ex-Navy corpsman enter into the first PA program at Duke University
1966	PL-751 “Allied Health Professions Act”
1967	The first three PAs graduate from Duke, the fourth left the program for personal reasons.
1968	The American Academy of Physician Assistant (AAPA) is incorporated
*** 1975	The King’s College PA Program begins
1976	The Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants is incorporated
1977	King’s graduates the first PA class of 8 individuals
1984	King’s becomes a Bachelors Degree program
1998	The first “Pinning Ceremony” is held at King’s
1999	King’s becomes a Masters Degree program
2008	King’s converts to extensive computer use for all aspects of the program



The King's College PA Class of 2009



As of 2009 the PA Program at King's College has graduated 830 quality physician assistants who proudly care for patients in all 50 states and in all fields of medicine.

The tradition of excellence continues.....

Organizations that have been instrumental in the advancement of the Physician Assistant Profession



“The Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants (PSPA) was established in 1976. As a young but steadily growing non-profit organization, the PSPA strives to be representative of all physician assistants within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.”

“The goals and objectives of the Society are to enhance quality medical care to the people of Pennsylvania through a process of continuing medical education, both to the membership and to the public; to provide loyal and honest service to the public and to the medical profession; to promote professionalism among its membership; and to promote understanding of the PA profession.” ~ PSPA

*All states have their own respective state PA organizations.

-Source: www.pspa.net



“The American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) is the only national professional association that represents all PAs across all medical and surgical specialties in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the armed forces, and the federal services.”

“AAPA provides comprehensive support and advocacy for physician assistants so that they may, in turn, provide patients with increased access to quality, cost-effective health care.”

Mission

“To ensure the professional growth, personal excellence, and recognition of physician assistants, and to support their efforts to enable them to improve the quality, accessibility, and cost-effectiveness of patient-centered health care.” ~AAPA

-Source: www.aapa.org



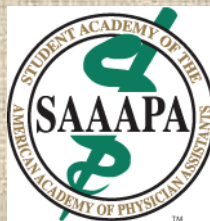
“As the philanthropic arm of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) the Physician Assistant Foundation's mission is to foster knowledge and philanthropy that enhance the delivery of quality health care”.

-Source: www.aapa.org



“The Society is the preeminent leader in fostering the preservation, study and presentation of the history of the physician assistant (PA) profession by creating and presenting on-line, a virtual repository of historic and current information on the PA profession.”

-Source: www.aapa.org



“Student societies provide PA students with a chance to interact with other students who have the same interests. These interactions can serve many purposes, such as helping to meet other students in a social atmosphere; working to educate others about the PA profession; improving the community with projects the society implements; or enhancing ones own leadership skills. The student society provides a way for you to get involved with your peers, the PA profession, and the community.”

-Source: www.aapa.org

Alumni Reflections



"I would advise students to never forget the patient. Sometimes as professionals we forget why we are doing what we do and the patient gets lost in all the paper work and chaos during the day. It is important for PAs to take the time and LISTEN and empathize with what the patient is saying and what they are going through. Always take that extra step to make their experience a good one. Additionally, I would tell them never forget the details. When working with patients, it is vital the PA is organized and follows duties through."

~Jennifer (Currie) Koehler, MPAS PA-C '03

"New Students: Study hard, apply yourself, take full advantage of the training courses, don't make excuses.... You are in a professional program.

New Grads: Remember that our career is filled with lifelong learning. Keep reading and learning. Know when you do not know something, look it up, ask your doctors. Above all else do no harm. Be a proud example of a King's grad!"

~JoAnn Kosik, MHA, PA-C '86

"Listen to your patients, they are often right."

~Janette (Bauer) Cherry, PA-C '92

"We were the earliest individuals in a totally new profession. Didn't really know where it was going to lead. Scary.

~Frank Tylutki, Jr, PA-C. '77

"You are part of a team. Work for the best possible outcome for your patients. Use your skills to provide the most effective care possible and advocate for those that need additional support. The skills you learn today will become the foundation of everything you do in the future."

~Timothy Cheslock, D.O., PA '96



"The overall class size was small and conducive to learning. Instructors are both teachers and practitioners which helped to provide realistic accounts of patient presentations, diagnosis, and treatment."

~Megan O'Donovan, MPAS, PA-C '07

Alumni Reflections

“Be prepared to earn your grades!”

~Barbara (Gennetts) Sauls, EdD, PA-C ‘84



“To me the positive thing about a King's education is that I felt like I had a second family, from the faculty to my ‘crazy’ peers in the classroom. I felt like we were all in it together, and we strived to help one another succeed to become a competent practitioner. Now as a faculty member, I still would like that to continue to be the case at King's. Someday we may be practicing side by side. That type of atmosphere can make life so much more pleasant.”

~Diana (Laber) Easton, MPAS PA-C ‘86

“People know what a PA is now and we are more widely accepted.”

(In response to “What changes have you seen in the PA Profession since graduation”)

~Linda Groiss, PA-C ‘81



“You have no idea how lucky you are to learn medicine as you are learning now at King's. I cannot describe the fear I had when I sat for boards (2 day test at that time). You have to be a life-long learner and never stop studying”

~Jocelyn (Charnetsky) Hook, MPAS PA-C ‘77

“The PA program at King’s is very difficult but it will help you in your future more than you realize. It is well worth it and I would do it again!”

~Patricia Canina-Niglio, PA-C ‘84

“Be patient with yourself, the confidence will come eventually, and act confident even when you are not!”

~Julie Pashley, MPAS PA-C ‘03



Closing Thoughts



The Physician Assistant Program at King's College is comprised of two distinct yet integrated phases. Each phase interfaces with the other phase.

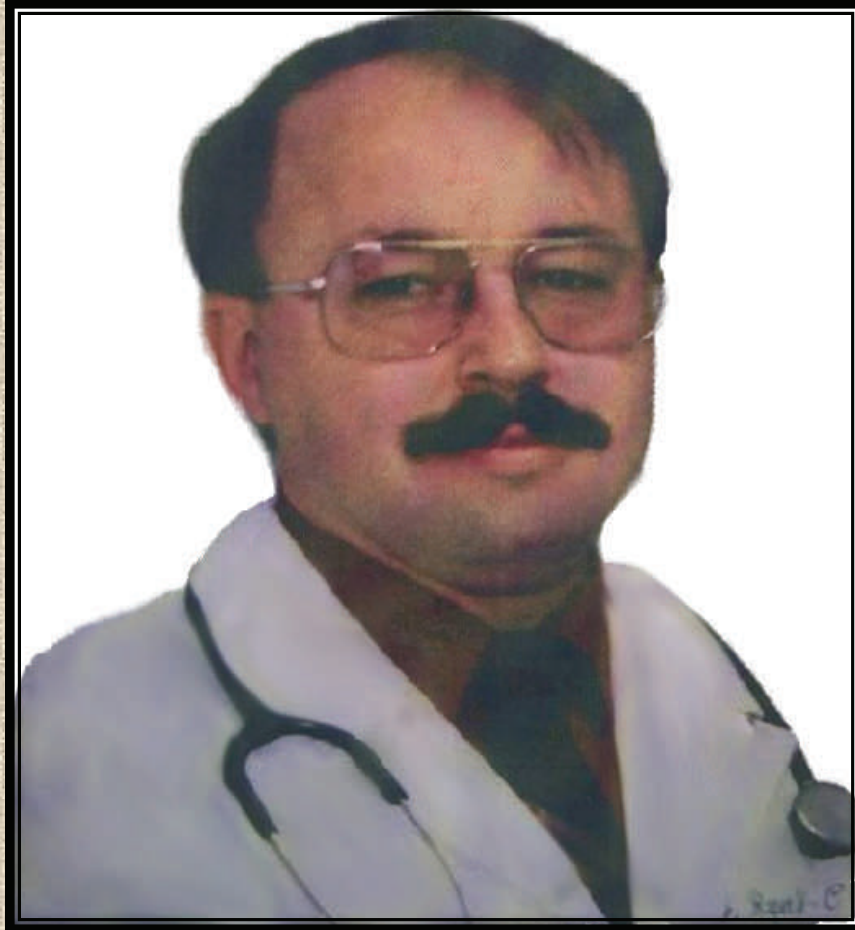
The first component, or tier, of the Physician Assistant Program is entitled the Pre-Professional Phase. This part incorporates the basis college foundation courses as well as the required science courses.

The second tier, or component, is called the Professional Phase. This phase is comprised of 24 consecutive months. The component deals with acquiring the basic knowledge, skills, and theory to enable the student to become a competent professional in the future. The Professional Component integrates the wisdom, and knowledge attained in medical classes with the practical application in a supervised setting. This is an opportunity for "hands on experience" while learning from, and being mentored by professionals in the field.

Upon completion and graduation the actual practicing of the Physician Assistant Profession commences. It is the culmination of 5 years of intensive study and dedication. In the current medical environment, the profession of the Physician Assistant is so necessary and important. The opportunities available are limitless. The rewards of this profession are immeasurable.

The structure and organization of the Physician Assistant Program are important. Equally, if not more important, are the intangibles; the qualities and values unique and distinctive to each student in the program. The demands and rigors of an intense curriculum require personal commitment, sacrifice, and dedication. Service to others requires that each individual comprehend the difference that one person can make in the life of another. Internal reflection, and honest deliberation on a daily basis can continue to motivate a Physician Assistant in a most worthwhile profession.

Eleanor Balonis, PA-C, PhD
King College PA Program Director, 1977 - 2003



IN MEMORIAM

John Roper, PA-C

King's College PA Class of 1984

Physician Assistant, Professor, Soldier, and Friend....

June 9, 1956 - December 12, 1996

*I think of life itself now as a wonderful play
that I've written for myself,
and so my purpose is to have the ultimate fun
playing my part.*

~ Shirley MacLaine ~



*King's College teaches students "not only how to make a living, but how to live."
Rev. James Connerton, C.S.C.*

**Monica Marinos-Thomas, Philip Sekunda, and Bret Stemrich,
King's College PA Class of 2009**

