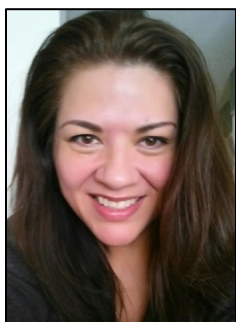




# Historical Happenings

Newsletter of the Physician Assistant History Society



## Message from the President

*Karen Mulitalo, MPAS, PA-C*

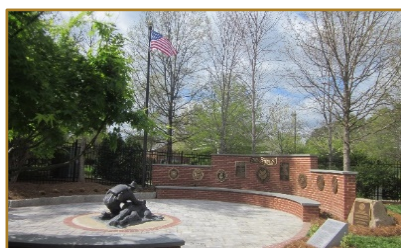
*I hope PAs everywhere have been enjoying the golden anniversary of our great profession!*

It's been my pleasure to serve you as president of the PA History Society for the past two years. The Society captures your PA history, and I hope that PAs, PA programs and national, state and specialty PA organizations will continue to support the mission of the PAHx each year. The trustees,



historians and staff have been especially busy this year developing products to celebrate and promote the first 50 years of the PA profession. We

have partnered with the National Library of Medicine to develop the five-year PA traveling banner exhibition, renovated the only Veterans Memorial Garden dedicated strictly to PAs, and prepared a 50th anniversary toolkit to help PAs celebrate the profession's golden anniversary. In addition, since it's also been the Society's 15th anniversary, we produced a manuscript documenting the organization's history. What a privilege it's been for me to be president of the PA History Society Board of Trustees during this exciting time!



*(President's Message, continued on page 2)*

## Inside this edition:

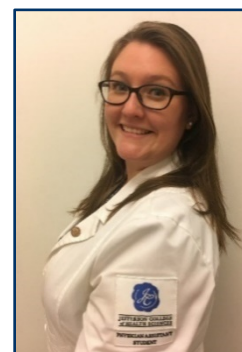
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## PA Student – Soon to be Graduate

*Courtney Amburgey, PA-S3*

Accomplished, yet undistinguished. These are the feelings that strike me as a graduating PA student 50 years after the start of my profession.

I have studied for more hours than there are episodes of "Grey's Anatomy," consumed countless milligrams of caffeine, and reached my goal of 10,000 steps each day. Even so, I cannot feel entirely accomplished as this part of my career comes to an end.



*(PA Student, continued on page 3)*

*(President's Message continued from page 1)*

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the PAHx Booth during the PAEA Forum in Denver last month. Our trustees and staff enjoyed catching up with you, and hearing about the "history" that PAs are making today. If you didn't get a chance to fill out your postcard for inclusion in the **"PA Time Capsule"** during the PAEA Forum, there is still time! The **PAHx will be accepting** written messages to the



PAs of 2067, photographs (with captions), ribbons, lapel pins, patches and/or buttons – anything that will fit one standard-sized manila envelope (9 ½" x

11 ½") **until December 1, 2017**. Please do not send anything glass, fragile, or information on multi-media (such as stick drives, CDs, etc.) as they may not be operational in 2067. The **"PA Time Capsule"** will be stored in the Society's archives until it is opened at the 2067 PAEA Forum. **Be a part of PA history** in 2067, and mail your envelope to: PA History Society, 12000 Findley Rd, Suite 100, Johns Creek, GA 30097.

If you haven't had a chance to pick up your 50th anniversary commemorative gifts, there is still time! Check out the **50th Anniversary Poster**, **50th Anniversary Lapel pin**, and **special edition comic book** featuring PA Chipper Wallet on page 11 of this newsletter.

Please don't forget to support the work of the PAHx by sending in your PA program's or organization's 2017-2018 Educational Research Fee for Associates. This year, we offer three new levels of giving: **Founder \$1,000; Historian \$500; Scribe \$250**. With your paid 2017-2018 contribution, Associates will have access to:

- ✓ 3 Online Toolkits:
  - *Educational Toolkit, Historian Toolkit and 50th Anniversary Toolkit*
- ✓ Recognition on the PAHx website home page
- ✓ The PAHx Speakers Bureau
- ✓ PAHx digital images "free of charge"
- ✓ Recognition on the *Associates* page of the PAHx website

- ✓ Photograph of your first graduating class of the PA program on our webpage

For all PA history lovers, the Society now has a donor category for individuals to demonstrate their support of the PAHx mission by becoming a **"Friend of the Society."** Donation forms are available [here](#).

The Society is a 501c (3) tax-exempt organization. While we receive generous financial support from NCCPA each year, we also depend on financial support from PAs, PA educational programs, AAPA constituent organizations and individual donors to continue and expand our work. With your financial support, the PAHx will continue to create projects like these to preserve and promote the legacy of the profession for future generations and to honor the pioneering PAs who fought for the privileges all PAs enjoy today. **Remember, the work you are doing today will be tomorrow's "PA history"!**

Once again, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the PAHx trustees and staff for their dedication and commitment to the work of the PA History Society. I have enjoyed serving as the Society's president for the past two years, and I look forward to fulfilling my role as immediate past president in 2018. I would also like to welcome Maryann Ramos, MPH, PA-C Emeritus, who will become the Society's board president starting in January 2018.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at White House

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Reginald Carter, PAHx Historian Emeritus, and Kenneth Ferrell, 1967 graduate of the Duke University PA Program, were invited guests at the Navy Association of Physician Assistants (NAPA) PA Symposium held at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, a stone's throw from the West Wing. The symposium was hosted by PAs assigned to the White House Medical Unit.



*(White House Celebration continued on page 3)*

*(PA Student, continued from page 1)*

I am incredibly eager to finish school and transition to caring for patients in my own practice as a PA-C. As I begin to apply for jobs and to progress through the last of my clinical rotations, I start to recognize the fruits of my labor.

In helping precept new PA students in my program, my eyes have been opened to how much I have learned in 24 months. I appreciate that I can use my new knowledge to help others -- even in my inexperience.

My feelings of accomplishment run deep, but I have some rather large shoes to fill that prevent pride from overwhelming me.

Fifty years ago, pioneers of the PA profession CREATED this career. The efforts those founders made are the sole reason that I, and so many others today, am able to take part in a profession for which we have such passion.

The first PAs, who were Navy corpsmen in the Vietnam War, could have decided to become nurses or doctors, or to leave the medical field entirely when they returned from combat. Instead, they pushed for a new and unique position that would improve health care for patients. I am grateful for their work in developing collaborative relationships within the healthcare team, for proving the role of a PA in this team, and for educating me to be successful in caring for patients.

These men and women laid the foundation of success for their new profession, now *our* profession. They have distinguished themselves. Now it is our turn.

*Courtney Amburgey, PA-S3, Jefferson College of Health Sciences PA Class of 2017*

*(White House Celebration continued from page 2)*

CDR Keith Bass provided a tour of the building, restored over time to its original 1888 design when it housed the War, State, and Navy Departments. Many of the White House staff now occupy offices in the building. A highlight of the tour was meeting the President's physician, RDML Dr. Ronny Jackson, in his White House office.

After the tour, Carter and Ferrell addressed the symposium attendees and special guests during lunch. NAPA president LCDR Stephen Rogers and Ferrell cut the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake using a ceremonial Navy sword. Following lunch, Carter



provided a slide presentation about why and how the PA profession came to be and how it has evolved over the past 50 years. Ferrell spoke briefly about how he and his classmates were selected into the first class of PA students at Duke University. Carter and Ferrell received plaques of appreciation and a coin commissioned by NAPA to celebrate the profession's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Carter would like to thank LT Ari Doucette, NAPA VP, and LTC Dr. James Jones, PA to the President, for being such thoughtful hosts.

## Celebrating PA Week at Fort Benning, GA

*CPT Shavana Turay, IPAP Phase II Instructor, Martin Army Community Hospital*

Our four most recent PA graduates from Interservice Physician Assistant class 15-2 from Martin Army Community Hospital, Fort Benning, GA have a total of over 40 years in service. Prior to their completion of the PA program, they



IPAP Phase II Students from Martin Army Community Hospital

served in the military occupational specialties of air defense artillery, combat infantry and combat

*(Fort Benning continued on page 4)*

*(Fort Benning continued from page 3)*

medicine. This variety of backgrounds will serve them well as they progress into their new roles as unit providers and leaders of medical platoons. These soldiers have shown dedication and work ethic above reproach. I am confident they will go on to be not only superior clinicians but also dedicated stewards of the



profession. PA history is an essential part of PA

*PA Week historical items at MACH on loan from the PA History Society*

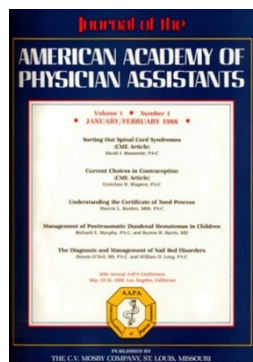
education. It gives students insight into the humble beginnings of our profession, and they are able to truly appreciate how far we have come. I am in awe when I read through the hurdles the PAs before me had to overcome to make our profession as successful as it is today. I am humbled to be able to shape the next generation of PAs and provide a high-quality learning environment in which they can hone their skills.

## At 30, JAAPA is Thriving

Leslie A. Kole, PA-C

Thirty years ago, I was putting to bed the premier issue of the *Journal of the AAPA (JAAPA)* while on maternity leave with my first child, who was as colicky of a cuss as any newborn can be. Frantic to get the manuscripts submitted, peer-reviewed, accepted and copy-edited, I strained as much of my brain on this as I did figuring out how to be a mother. Thus, it is with a mother's pride that I give a brief synopsis of the recent progress that *JAAPA* has made as it turns 30 years old.

*JAAPA* has made significant strides since Reamer Bushardt, PharmD, PA-C, DFAAPA took the helm as editor in chief six years ago. Key among the journal's success has been a greater emphasis on publishing original research, both online and in print.



*JAAPA*, which continues to be the most widely-read PA journal, was recently accepted into the "Journal Citation Reports (JCR)," which provide impact factors that measure the frequency with which an article has been cited in the literature. After a rigorous application process, *JAAPA* is the only clinical PA journal to be accepted into the JCR.

"There was very little research, but we tried to build on the rich clinical body of work that already existed and layer upon that more rigorous scientific content and policy work," Reamer recalls. Having an impact factor increases *JAAPA's* visibility and makes submitting articles more appealing to researchers. "We're finally in the family," says Bushardt, "It may take a while to get our rankings up, but we **are** now in the family."

*JAAPA's* editorial board has also concentrated on improving the manuscript peer review process and has strengthened article acquisition efforts to ensure the content is most relevant to readers' needs. Since switching publishers to Wolters Kluwer, approximately 60% of articles are strategically solicited as opposed to "whatever comes in, comes in" reported Bushardt. *JAAPA* processes approximately 350 manuscripts per year. Thanks to *JAAPA's* relationship with the publisher and their OVID collection, the journal is available and now read in more than 150 countries. Further, the editorial board now meets during AAPA's Leadership and Advocacy Summit to allow editorial board members to network with other leaders to gauge professional trends and issues that should be covered.

Another embellishment of *JAAPA's* content in the last decade has been the addition of medical humanities departments. The previous editor in chief, Sarah Zarbock, PA-C, and former *JAAPA* managing editor Tanya Gregory, PhD, (who continues to be involved in the medical humanities submissions,) were largely responsible for this evolution that gave a voice to the ethical, emotional and spiritual aspects of practicing medicine. Zarbock reflects, "As practitioners, PAs bring tremendous heart, caring and soul to their jobs, and I wanted

*(JAAPA continued on page 5)*

(JAAPA continued from page 4)

[those attributes] more reflected in our professional journal.” The initial department was called Humane Medicine, which paved the way for the current departments: The Art of Medicine, Becoming a PA, and Mindful Practice. The latter online department publishes essays that endeavor to show “how medical humanities can help clinicians find meaning in what they do and encourage respectful, empathetic, professional, and nourishing medical care.”<sup>1</sup>

The special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary article series that has been published in JAAPA and the *Journal of PA Education* this year has been a labor of love for Bushardt; Ruth Ballweg, MPA, PA-C Emeritus; David Asprey and many others. The plan is for the article series to be consolidated as an “e-book” on JAAPA’s website, to be available in late fall/early winter. Articles were provocative and wide ranging, addressing topics such as “Communication is Key to the MD-PA Team,” “Research on the PA Profession; The Medical Model Shifts,” “Last but Not Least: PA Practice in Mississippi,” “PAs: Public Awareness and the Popular Media,” and “How PAs became Licensed to Practice in the U.S.” Overall, it was a stellar collection. In the midst of winding down the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PA profession, remember to save a little “happy birthday” to JAAPA, which, like the innovative profession it chronicles, has matured and accomplished impressive advances we should all be proud of.

#### References

1. JAAPA Instructions for Authors. Accessed at <http://journals.lww.com/jaapa/pages/instructionsforauthors.aspx>

### Stay in Touch with PAHx thru Social Media!

Please be sure to “like” PA History Society on [Facebook](#) to receive updates, and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Check out the Society’s [Blog](#).

## Offering Aid in the Aftermath of a Disaster of Historic Proportions: A Personal Account

Maryann Ramos, MPH, PA-C Emeritus

*Note from the Editor: The devastation wrought by a series of hurricanes this fall created tremendous need for medical supplies and qualified personnel. Many PAs answered that call. We asked our own Maryann Ramos to share a first-hand account of her experience as a disaster zone volunteer.*

In early October, I was invited to Puerto Rico for a medical mission trip in response to Hurricane Maria, which wreaked havoc on the U.S. island on September 17, 2017. I felt a responsibility to serve in Ponce, PR, my late husband’s family town. Three of us (two PAs and an RN) met in Hialeah’s Opa Locka Airport where a private plane ferrying bottled water to San Juan accepted us as passengers. Our planned contact, scheduled to meet us in Isla Grande private airport, failed to show up. So, after a few hours, we hopped a ride to the San Juan Civic Center, where we found a place that needed us: San Lucas Hospital in Ponce. On the two-hour drive to Ponce, we saw many downed trees and electric poles, whole sides of mountains with leafless trees, and roofs next to homes.

Dr. Jesus Cruz, hospital director of San Lucas Hospital, greeted us warmly and explained that we’d have rooms in the hospital with meals provided. Happy to have us agree to work with him at 12 shelters (located in newly closed schools), he drove us there immediately to make rounds with him and to meet some of the 120 chronically ill people now housed there: amputees, post-stroke victims, cerebral palsy patients, diabetics, chronic lung patients, and those simply confused and depressed from the shock of homelessness. Some needed prescription refills. Diesel-powered generators in these facilities had police guards as did social service, dietary, and nursing staffs. Later in the

(Offering Aid in PR continued on page 6)



Ramos and Dr. Cruz

*(Offering Aid in PR continued from page 5)*

day, we returned to the general community to distribute bottled water and chlorine for those whose homes were still uninhabitable.

We three volunteers helped offload bottled water, over-the-counter and prescription medications. We set up a system of medication storage and retrieval in the hospital pharmacy's corridor. The chief pharmacist requested we check the medication expiration dates and gave us shelves and tables to use for the system. Working together, we were able to have medications from two stateside U.S. hospitals separated and shelved for easy retrieval. Luckily, the hospital was on electric power; one of the few lucky hospitals that didn't need generator power. (Even so, we could only text our families in the middle of the night since the internet was almost impossible to use in the daytime, and telephone calls completed only sporadically if towers were working.)

On subsequent days, we joined Dr. Cruz and a church-based volunteer group to help deliver water and chlorine to the double or larger rooms filled with homeless residents. The residents stored the bottles near their cots with the rest of their few rescued possessions. With information from the social worker or nurse at three facilities, we went on rounds to check blood pressures and blood glucose levels and to give cursory general wellness evaluations, documenting data in notebooks.

In the next several days, we continued to make rounds and realized those who were staffing the shelters were holding onto the prescriptions written by physicians who saw the patients before our arrival, possibly because of difficulty with network electricity combined with the lack of the internet to apply co-payments. The CVS and Walgreen pharmacies near the hospital were on generator power and were open only sporadically. As we drove to the shelters, there were lines around banks since automatic teller machines weren't operable. Only small amounts of cash were given daily to customers, a practice that made purchase of scarce food products extremely difficult.

We learned from newspapers handed out on street corners that 3,000 people were leaving the island daily via the main airport in San Juan. We also learned that those in the middle of the island were unable to be reached except by helicopter or by American Red Cross volunteers (some past Peace Corps) hiking in with bottled water and meals ready to eat (MREs). The roads and many bridges were washed out or had trees making them impassable. Eighty percent of Puerto Ricans were still without potable drinking water, food, refrigeration, and electricity in the middle of October (a situation that continued into November). Some people contracted leptospirosis from drinking contaminated water.

The homeless population also continued to grow weeks after the hurricane struck. The Guajataca dam, in the northwest near Quebradillas, was holding with the help of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, but there was enough structural damage for them to demand that the people who lived nearby be evacuated. Many Puerto Rican residents were abandoning their homes and hiking out of the mountains to go to live with relatives in the States.

After five days, we were slated for return to the States but faced the challenge of arranging our own transportation to San Juan and then to Florida. Thankfully our medical missionary administrator connected us with a driver returning to San Juan after visiting his family in Ponce. We were deposited near the Civic Center, where the Puerto Rican Department of Health personnel helped find a church housing American Red Cross volunteers. Meanwhile, we were invited to share a meal with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel, uniformed military, and some National Guard outfits from Puerto Rico and the States. We had interesting conversations about how they were trying to get water and food to interior residents. Most of the military were housed at the Civic Center, others in the nearby Sheraton Hotel. The Army was purifying ocean water using 3,000-gallon Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units then distributing it to the Puerto Rican people.

*(Offering Aid in PR continued on page 7)*

*(Offering Aid in PR continued from page 6)*

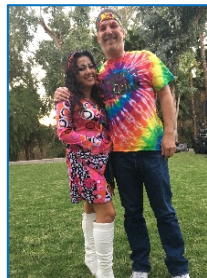
There is still so much work to be done to restore the island's usual way of life. Growth of bananas and other produce was halted. Many hotels are without electricity for the tourist industry.

It is frustrating to see such delay in restoring power, so I am collecting and sending portable, battery-powered camp lanterns to Ponce and San Juan for distribution. Others have asked me how to contribute to the effort, and I have been recommending [Fundación Bechara](#), a Puerto Rico based 501(c) (3) tax exempt charity that gives 100% of their donation receipts to the PR medical needs.

## How did you Celebrate the 50th Anniversary and PA Week?

The PA profession's 50th anniversary culminated with this National PA Week (Oct. 6-12). The PA History Society asked PA programs, state and specialty PA organizations, and individual PAs how they celebrated their special week. Here are a few images from 50th anniversary and PA Week celebrations:

- **Marshall B. Ketchum University** held a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bash, with participants wearing their best tie-dyed shirts and 60s chic.



- PAs from various PA programs turned up in force for the filming of NBC's *Today Show* the entire week!

- **Trevecca Nazarene University PA Program** proudly showed their love of the profession.



- The **University of Utah's** celebration coincided



with their program hosting the National Library of Medicine/PAHx PA Profession banners for display.

- **Oregon Health and Science University and Pacific University** students teamed up to cut down overgrown trees and brush on the property of an elderly couple in need.



- **Hardin-Simmons University** volunteered at a pumpkin patch fundraiser for Disability Resources.

- **Keck School of Medicine of USC** students put together more than 100 care packages for the Union Station Homeless Services Adult Center.



- The **New Jersey State Society of Physician Assistants** took part in a walk/run for breast cancer research.



*(PA Celebrations in Pictures continued on page 8)*

(PA Celebrations in Pictures continued from page 7)

- **MCJPHS University of Boston** held an ice cream social and hosted the NLM/PAHx traveling banner exhibit.



Though the activities and festivities varied from location to location, pride in the profession and joy in celebrating it were evident everywhere!

## Echoes from History: The Treasure Troves of Archives

Michelle Schabowski, MSIS

October is always a big month for the PA profession. It's also American Archives Month, an event near and dear to our hearts here at the PA History Society.

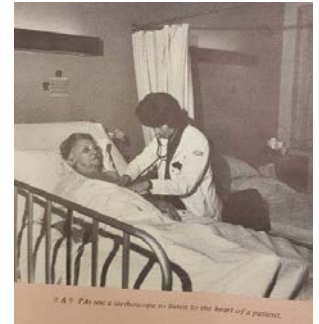
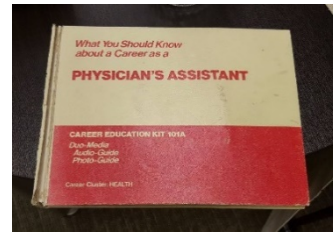
As archivist of the PA History Society, I celebrated American Archives Month by showcasing on the Society's social media channels (Facebook and Twitter) items in the collection that were some of my personal favorites. The first highlighted item was a 1964 letter Dr. Eugene Stead, Jr. wrote to Mr. Charles H. Frenzel, Duke University hospital administrator. In the letter, Dr. Stead tells Mr. Frenzel

his intentions to begin a program to train physician assistants.

The next item I selected was a 1973 book entitled *What You Should Know about a Career as a Physician's Assistant*, featuring photographs from pioneering PAs like Clara Vanderbilt, the first surgical PA resident. The book came

with an audio cassette tape so readers could listen and read along.

The final item was a photograph (see image below) of PA History Society co-founders, Dr. Reginald Carter and Mr. J. Jeffrey Heinrich, interviewing Dr. Thomas Piemme, Don Fisher, and Suzanne Greenberg in 2002. It was the first major project the PAHx undertook once it was formed that same year.



Vanderbilt with patient



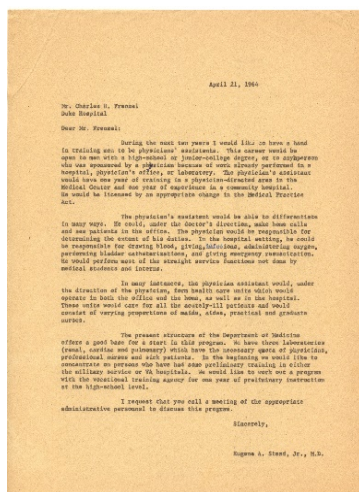
## Dr. Richard A Smith's Memorial Service October 14, 2017 University Club University of Washington, Seattle

MEDEX Founder, Dr. Richard Smith, was honored at a memorial service in Seattle on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Smith passed away in March at his home in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dr. Smith grew up in Connecticut where his mother encouraged him as a musical performer and where he was taken under the wing of the well-known writer Manfred Lee, the author of the Ellery Queen mystery series. As an undergraduate student at



(Dr. Smith continued on page 9)



*(Dr. Smith continued from page 8)*

Howard University, he was highly visible in the community as a jazz musician and became life-long friends with the famous jazz composer, Horace Silver. Thus, attendees at the memorial service were greeted with jazz music (performed by Seattle pianist Dwight Beckmeyer).

During a summer outreach experience in Cuba during his college years, young Richard Smith observed practical nurses and health workers providing primary care in rural areas and redirected his education into medicine. He later completed an MPH at Columbia University, served in the Epidemiologic Intelligence Service of the US Public Health Service, as an early medical director for the US Peace Corps in Africa, and then was reassigned to the Peace Corps Headquarters in Washington, DC.

As the music continued throughout the memorial service, selections included works by Debussy, Mozart and songs of the Civil Rights Movement including “We Shall Not Be Moved” and Oscar Peterson’s “Hymn to Freedom”—to honor Dr. Smith’s national role in the desegregation of US hospitals as a requirement of the civil rights and Medicare laws.

Three of Dr. Smith’s five sons spoke to the group as did his wife Lorna and two grandsons. Seattle psychiatrist Dr. Raymond Vath described his partnership with Dr. Smith in the creation of “The MEDEX Model” of primary care training, and Mark Patterson, a member of MEDEX Class One described his own 47-year history of medical practice in a remote Eastern Washington



*Lorna Smith w/a grandson*



Community. Don Pedersen and Ken Harbert honored Dr. Smith’s nationwide impact on the PA career and the career trajectory of military corpsmen. Colleagues of Dr. Smith reviewed his international work and his impact on primary care through his MEDEX International Project housed at the University of Hawaii. Biographer Margaret Chambers read from some of Dr. Smith’s own writings about his growing up years, his career choice of medicine, and his enthusiasm as a self-proclaimed international expert on chocolate mousse. (Appropriately, chocolate mousse was served at the memorial.)

Representatives of several national PA organizations attended, including Ann Davis from the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), Timi Agar Barwick from the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA), Mary Warner from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), and Dan O’Donoghue from the Accreditation Review Commission on the Education of Physician Assistants (ARC-PA). Connie Daruthian, President of the Washington Academy of Physician Assistants (WAPA) emphasized Dr. Smith’s role in the state and in the region. Randy Danielsen provided a broad overview of Dr. Smith’s historic and ongoing influence with PA organizations, programs and individual PAs.

As host of the event, Ruth Ballweg provided closing remarks by passing on greetings from several of Dr. Smith’s friends who could not attend but who each independently commented that “Richard is so happy with the attention!”

[Dr. Smith’s bio](#) is published on the PA History Society website.

*All things PA History can be found on our website at [www.pahx.org](http://www.pahx.org)!*

## What's Totally Rad? *PA History in the 80s!*

Michelle Schabowski, MSIS

The PA profession did not have an auspicious start to the 1980s. In 1980, the Graduate Medical Education National Advisory Committee (GMENAC) was published. GMENAC predicted that there would be an oversupply of medical workers by the year 2000 and recommended steps be taken to reduce production of physicians. Many PA programs began to scale back new student admissions; some universities even closed their programs altogether. MEDEX Northwest narrowly survived being shut down due to the report. Thankfully the 80s proved that GMENAC was woefully inaccurate, and the profession continued to make great strides during the course of that decade.

### Research

The 1980s saw more academic research about the PA profession and irrefutable proof of its efficiency and cost effectiveness. The report, "Staffing Primary Care in 1990: Physician Replacement and Savings," by Jane Cassels Record initiated this decade of research. It showed that PAs in an HMO could provide 79% of the care that a primary care physician provide for 50% the cost. More studies and reports soon followed:

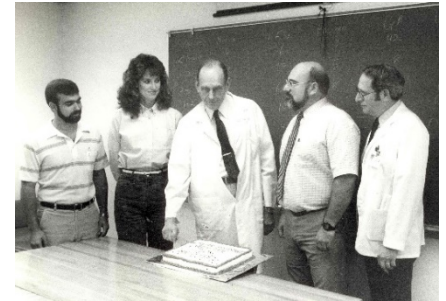
- "Physician Assistants: Their Contribution to Health Care" by Henry Perry and Bina Breitner in 1982
- "The First Annual Report on Physician Assistant Educational Programs" by Dennis Oliver, published by APAP in 1984
- "Alternatives in Health Care Delivery" edited by Reginald Carter and Henry Perry in 1984
- "Physician Assistants: New Models of Utilization" edited by Sarah E. Zarbock and Kenneth Harbert in 1986

### Legislation and Public Education

PAs celebrated more acceptance and growing recognition in this decade. By the end of the 80s, all but two states – New Jersey and Mississippi – permitted PA practice. Prescriptive rights for PAs

were allowed in most states. With the AAPA's legislative efforts, the reimbursement of PA services under Medicare, Part B, was authorized under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act in 1986. National PA Day, October 6<sup>th</sup>, was established in 1987 to coincide with the profession's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Dr. Eugene Stead Jr.'s birthday.

Congress approved additional Medicare coverage for PA services in rural areas in 1987. The first issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Physician*



*Assistants (JAAPA)* was published in 1988. The newsletter *Perspective on PA Education* was published in 1989. The Navy and Public Health Service joined the Air Force in granting commissioned officer status to PAs in 1989.

### Certification

NCCPA introduced the Physician Assistant National Recertification Examination (PANRE) in 1981. In 1983, the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) was redesigned to include three main components: general knowledge core, extended core in either surgery or primary care, and observational checklist clinical skills problems (CSPs). The PA National Certifying Exam was closed to informally trained professionals in 1985.

### Firsts

AAPA elected its first female president, Judith B. Willis, in 1984. AAPA and APAP worked together on a project to provide a job bank service for PA graduates: PA JOB



Find in 1985. A new AAPA national headquarters was built and occupied by the end of 1987.

What a productive decade! For more fun facts, check out the PAHx website [Timeline](#).

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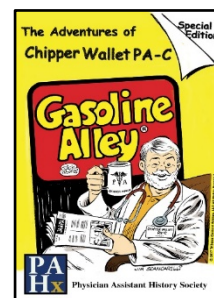
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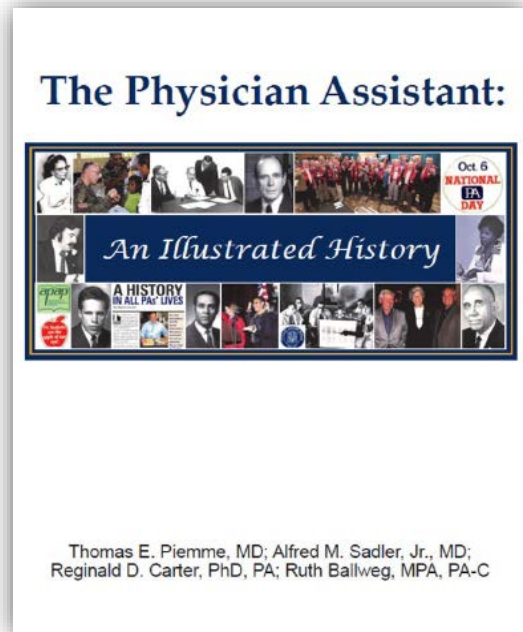
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