

Society for the Preservation of Physician Assistant History

Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

Summer 2003



**Jeff Introduces Brenda
Nichols to Ron**

Board of Directors 2003-2004

Ron Nelson, PA-C, President
Central Michigan University

J. Jeffery Heinrich, EdD, PA-C
Immediate Past-President
George Washington University

J. Dennis Blessing, Ph.D., PA-C
President Elect
University of Texas @ San Antonio

Ruth Ballweg, MPA, PA-C, Secretary
University of Washington

Glen Combs, MA, PA-C, Treasurer
Grand Valley State University

Elaine Grant, MPH, PA-C,
Yale University

Donald Pedersen, Ph.D., PA-C
University of Utah

Eugene Schneller, Ph.D.
Arizona State University

William Stanhope, MS, PA-C
St. Louis University

Brenda Nichols, PA Student
George Washington University

Administrative Staff

Reginald D. Carter, Ph.D., PA
Executive Director
Duke University Medical Center

Mildred Woody, BS
Administrative Coordinator
Duke University Medical Center

BOARD OF DIRECTORS HOLDS TWO MEETINGS DURING THE YEAR

The Board of Directors met during the Association's Education Forum on November 8, 2002 in Miami, FL and with the Academy's Annual Conference on May 24, 2003 in New Orleans, LA. The BOD heard reports from president, Jeffery Heinrich, and executive director, Reginald Carter. Both provided optimistic reports describing progress made in developing an organizational structure for the Society, gaining tax exempt status from the IRS, and getting the message out about the Society and its mission to PA professional leaders. The Society exhibited at the Association, Academy and North Carolina Academy conferences during the year, distributing informational materials to over 500 people visiting the booth and registering over 150 new members. At its two meetings the Board:

- approved bylaws amendments to improve nomination and election processes
- amended the 2002-2003 budget to be more realistic and conform to financial projections reported to the IRS
- extended founding member status to those joining by June 30, 2003
- endorsed concept of establishing a Board of Advisors for the Society
- approved 2003-2004 budget with understanding that membership dues would be split 40:60 between the Society and PA History Office and that all donations would be used to support PA History Office ongoing projects during the year
- approved joining the American Association of the History of Medicine as a constituent chapter
- discussed strategic plans for the Society including the development of a "grassroots" organizational structure that would provide constituent chapters, special interest groups and caucus congresses, and PA educational programs a direct line of communication with the Society and vice versa.

The Board thanked Dr. Carter and Ms. Woody for their continued administrative support during the year.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

RON NELSON, PA-C, PRESIDENT

I am honored to serve as your incoming President. Preserving our professional history echoes the sentiment that *"to know where you are going you must first know where you have come from."* It is an exciting time for the PA profession as we see greater evolution and recognition of the PA as a member of the health care team. It is an exciting time for us to be gathering the historical information that is part of the "PA experiment" that became a success. With increased membership, I look forward to continuing our mission to preserve and present the history of our unique profession.

Through the PA History office, currently housed at the Duke University Medical Center (DUMC) and staffed by Reg Carter, we continue to gather important historical documents and related material that will enrich both our future professional education and research perspectives. I enjoyed spending time at the exhibit booth in New Orleans meeting various people who told us historical antidotes and facts drawn from over thirty plus years of experience. It is capturing that personal history that is so important for us to be able to maintain and enrich our evolving professional identity. To that end, as President, and on behalf of the Board of Directors, I look forward to achieving an adequate cash flow for our preservation projects through raising our visibility and improving and increasing our relationships with all of the organizations, which represent the PA profession. Those organizations include the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the National Commission for Certification of Physician Assistants, who are currently providing financial support and working closely with the Society Leadership. We look forward to building closer working relationships with the Physician Assistant Foundation, The Association of Physician Assistant Programs, the ARC-PA, the Student Academy, and other organizations which represent this profession. It is through our interaction and communication with these organizations that we will continue to capture the past and current history of the profession.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



The Society's incoming president, Ron Nelson presents his vision to the Board in New Orleans

OFF TO A GREAT START

J. Jeffrey Heinrich PA-C, EdD

As the outgoing Society President, I am happy to report that the infrastructure of the Society has been built in the past year. The year started with a successful first meeting in Boston on May 25, 2002. At this meeting, the bylaws were amended and approved, the first Board of Directors was selected, an Executive Director and Administrative Coordinator were appointed, the 2002-03 budget was approved and the Committee Chairpersons were identified.

The first official membership drive took place in the Exhibit Hall of the Annual PA Conference in Boston from May 28 to May 30, 2002. In addition to signing up more than 100 new founding members, Society volunteers were able to promote the importance of preserving the history of the PA profession to many of the conference participants.

Shortly after the Boston Meeting, the Society web site was established. This site serves as a readily accessible resource for PA's, PA students, historians, researchers, medical sociologist and the general public.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

SOCIETY HOLDS ITS FIRST ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thirty-one members including the BOD were present to inaugurate the Society's first annual membership meeting held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverview Hotel on Saturday, May 24th from 10:30 to 12:00 noon. President Jeffery Heinrich, recapped progress made by the Society during its first fiscal year. "We started with 125 members, mostly recruited at the AAPA Annual Conference in Boston, and will have over 200 members by July 2003. We received our tax exempt 501(c) (3) status from the IRS, and

have launched several fundraising campaigns to preserve our professional history." Reginald Carter spoke briefly about progress made in identifying, digitizing and cataloging items for the PAHx archival collection supported by a grant from the NC State Library. Dennis Blessing was elected as president-elect. Ron Nelson shared his vision for the Society and opened the floor for discussion and suggestions from the membership.



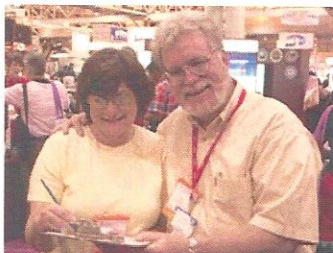
Ron Nelson leads the membership in an open forum to discuss future directions



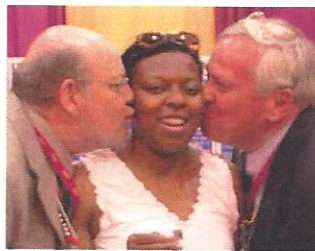
Founding Members of the Society listen to Officer and Committee Reports

EXHIBITS HELP BRING IN NEW MEMBERS

The Society exhibited at the APAP Educational Forum, Miami, FL in November 2002, the NCAPA Winter Conference, Research Triangle Park, NC in February 2003, and the AAPA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA in May, 2003. Exhibits account for about 90% of the 208 individuals who joined this past year. We appreciate the APAP and NCAPA providing complementary booths for the Society to educate PAs about its mission and goals and to recruit new members.



Rick Hillegas and Wife Carolyn sign the dotted line



Cynthia Ferguson receives traditional new membership kiss from Reg and Jeff



Jeff gives Bob McNellis a membership lapel pin

NC ACADEMY CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN APPROACHES \$30,000

Using the House of Delegates Resolution adopted in Boston in support of the PAHx project, Lanny Parker, President of the NC Academy of Physician Assistants (NCAPA), sent a follow-up letter to AAPA constituent chapters, caucuses, and specialty groups to challenge them to join others who have sent gifts to the Society and PA History Office to continue preservation activities.

To date, 15 organizations have responded to the challenge. State chapters include: North Carolina, New York, Kentucky, California, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Georgia, Massachusetts, Florida, Maine and Ohio. Special interest groups and caucuses include: the Veterans Caucus, Association of PAs in Obstetrics & Gynecology, and PAs in Orthopedic Surgery. Two of the state chapters, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, account for 84% (i.e., \$25,000 of the \$29,925 donated). The average donation by the remaining 13 organizations is \$380 (minimum of \$25 to maximum of \$1,000).

The goal is to have 100% participation from each chapter, caucus and specialty organization. If each of the 60 plus AAPA affiliated organizations would pledge and give an average of \$2,500 over the next two years, \$300,000 (i.e., \$2.5k x 60 x 2 yrs) could be raised to place the PAHx preservation project on a solid footing by July 2005.

President's Corner – Continued

It is imperative that we improve and increase our base of funding. Through building relationships with various organizations, strengthening the Society through increased membership participation, and through developing new corporate and foundation relationships, we look forward to providing a stable and adequate funding reserve for the organization. This is necessary for us to continue to build and maintain the illustrated PA history website developed by the PA history office at the DUMC. We appreciate the gracious support

of Duke's Department of Community and Family Medicine, the PA Division and the DUMC Library and Archives for providing Dr. Carter resources to continue the hard work of making our dreams become reality. Eventually however, the oversight and financial responsibility for continuing the work needs to shift to the Society.

The Society's Board of Directors are excited about the many opportunities that we have to capture past and current information that is important to the history of this profession. We look forward to building our communication network through publications, participation in the State PA Chapter meetings, working with organized medicine, and continuing to promote the Society's mission and goals. Our future goal is to use the historical information from the digital archives to develop curricula for physician assistant students and continuing education materials for graduate PAs.

It is an exciting and challenging time for our organization, but as I see it, we are providing the profession a great opportunity to capture its collective history (memory) spanning the past thirty-five years and to establish best practice standards for continuing to collect quality historic and relative information in the future. The Academy has an excellent reputation for maintaining comprehensive data regarding work force and practice characteristic of physician assistants. My goal and that of the Board of Directors is for the Society to have the same recognition as it relates to capturing, retaining and making available the history of the profession. We look forward to a great year and one of growth for the Society. I am available and encourage anyone who has questions, concerns or suggestions about our Society to contact me. If you are not a member of the Society, please join and invite colleagues to do likewise.

OFF TO A GREAT START – CONTINUED

At the November 2002 Society meeting, the Board of Directors approved the continuation of the Founding Members Campaign until June 30, 2003. The second of four membership drives occurred at the annual APAP meeting November 7-8, 2002. The major benefit of this effort was the opportunity to continue to promote the importance of preserving our history.

The Society is extremely grateful to the 15 AAPA constituent chapters and organizations that responded to the challenge put forth in a resolution

submitted by the North Carolina Academy of PA's to the 2002 AAPA House of Delegates. The fifteen organizations are listed on page 4 and alone contributed nearly \$30,000. A special thanks goes to the North Carolina Academy of PA's who donated \$15,000 and the Pennsylvania Academy of PA's who donated \$10,000.

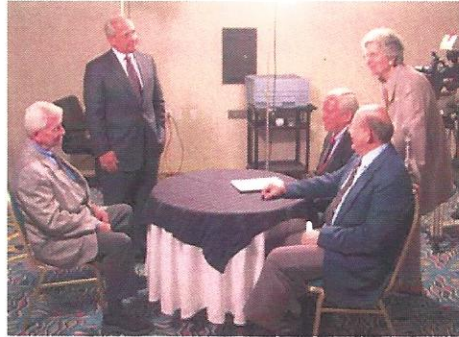
Three early leaders of the profession were invited to the Miami APAP meeting in November 2002. Included were Dr. Thomas Piemme, Dr. Donald Fisher and Mrs. Suzanne Greenberg. Dr. Carter and I conducted videotaped interviews with each past leader highlighting their accomplishments and their memories of the early days of the profession. The opening ceremony of the November APAP meeting consisted of a Historical Panel composed of Dr Piemme, Dr Fisher and Mrs. Greenberg. Dr Carter and I served as panel moderators. The session was a huge success with the audience, many of whom were hearing about the early days of the profession for the first time. In fact, one faculty member in the audience commented at the end that he did not realize how much hard work went into getting the profession started.

In the latter part of 2002, the Internal Revenue Service officially approved the tax status for the Society. As a result, the Society currently enjoys a 501 C-3 tax exempt status.

During the past year, Ryan Brainard, a clinical year student at The George Washington University, served as the first SAAAPA representative to the Society's Board of Directors. Ryan and I met on several occasions to discuss student involvement. SAAAPA involvement is being actively pursued in order to maximize student participation. Ryan had regular discussions with Andrew Booth, the 2002-03 SAAAPA President, to facilitate common interests between the two organizations.

In December 2002 Dr Carter and I met with Dr. Steve Crane and other members of the AAPA National Office leadership team. The discussions primarily centered on the basic mission and future goals the Society. It was also a nice opportunity to express our thanks for the generous support of the AAPA to the history project of \$105,000 over the past three years.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

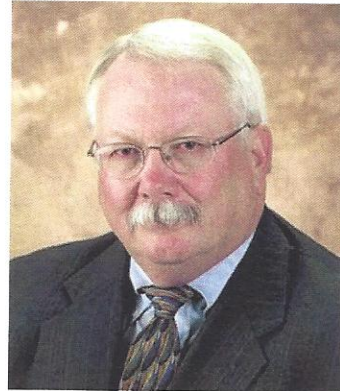


**Thomas Piemme, Don Fisher and Suzanne Greenberg join Jeffrey Heinrich and Reginald Carter to videotape Oral History Interviews
Miami FL, November 2002**

OFF TO A GREAT START – CONTINUED

Dr. Carter and I attended the NCAPA Winter CME Meeting in Raleigh, NC, February 23-26, 2003 to promote the Society and recruit new members. There were PA participant's from all over the US who welcomed the opportunity to hear about the Society and the PA History Office.

Dr Carter has done an amazing job in establishing the digital archival collection and database in Durham. When I visited in February 2003, it was a real treat to actually see the cataloged documents neatly placed on shelves in 60 or more boxes. This really represents the beginnings of the preservation of our history.



Dennis Blessing, President-Elect, 2003-2004

In the spring of 2003, a letter was sent out to 1000 PA's who graduated on or before 1980. This correspondence represented the fourth effort to promote the overall history project and to encourage membership in the Society. The results of this effort are currently being compiled. Certificates were sent to all new founding members in the summer of 2002. In the spring of 2003, membership renewal packets were sent to the membership which included a copy of the original letter that Dr. Stead sent in April 1964, to an administrator at Duke, indicating that he wanted to start a physician assistant program. Dr. Stead's letter serves as an excellent example of why we need to act now to preserve our history before valuable documents like this are lost.

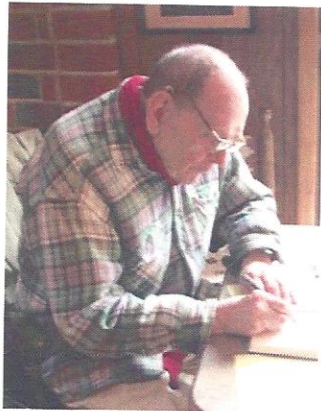
The election of the first President-Elect of the Society took place at the annual meeting in New Orleans in May 2003. Dr. Dennis Blessing is the new President-Elect.

In the future, the Society plans to host an annual workshop at the national PA conference to assist state chapters and others with the preservation of their important history. It is hoped that the first workshop will take place at the 2004 meeting in Las Vegas. The Society will be establishing a Board of Advisors in the coming months. The Board will not only offer advice concerning the overall operation of the Society but will also assist with recruiting new members and offering suggestions concerning fundraising.

The Society is enjoying much of its early success due to the unbelievable efforts of Dr. Reginald Carter and Ms. Mildred Woody. Their enthusiasm, dedication and hard work leave no stones unturned. Many thanks Reggie and Mildred!

I would like to thank the Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons for all of their work in the past year. In addition, the financial support for the project from the AAPA, NCCPA and APAP is very much appreciated. Many thanks also to the Founding Members of the Society for their support of this new and important adventure in preserving our very important history.

Now that the infrastructure has been built, the Society will look forward to building the superstructure over the next several years. I offer all best wishes to Ron Nelson as he ascends to the Presidency of the Society effective July 1, 2003.



**Dr. Stead autographing
Books at his Lake House**

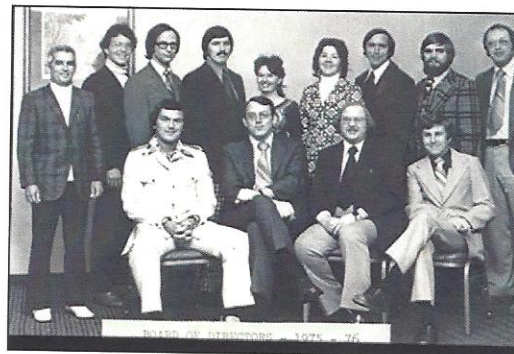
PA FOUNDATION AUCTIONS STEAD BOOKS TO HELP FUND PA HISTORY PROJECTS

The PA Foundation BOD approved auctioning three sets of two books each of Dr. Stead's Essays edited by Dr. Barton Haynes. The books are titled "A Way of Thinking" and "A Way of Working." Two photographs of Dr. Stead autographing the books were included with each set. The books were auctioned during the New Orleans meeting for an average of \$150 per set. The foundation continues to sell the "preceptor" poster painted by Dr. Don Pederson. Sale of these posters has netted the Society \$1,500 to date.

GRANTS HELP DIGITIZE AND PRESENT PA PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

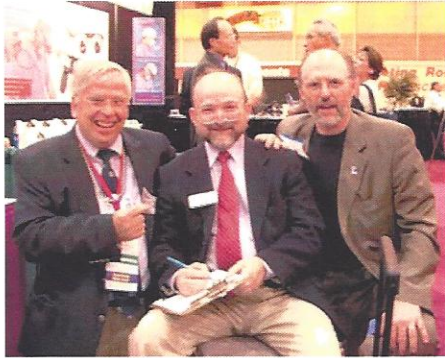
A contract was signed in October 2002 between the Duke University Medical Center Library and the NC State Library to conduct a \$45,000 LSTA Echo grant project. The project has helped us establish metadata bases, finding aids, vocabulary, and other necessary processes and systems to digitize and present on-line documents, media, artifact and other materials contained within the DUMC archives relevant to the development of the PA profession. Project manager, Thomas Clark, was hired in January 2003 to assist with the grant. Over 500 items have been identified, imaged, indexed and added to the PAHx digital archival collection. Ten vintage films and videos have been digitized and video streams have been incorporated into the existing PAHx website (<http://pahx.org>). The total number of images in the database now exceeds 2,500. Metadata (based on Dublin Core fields) has been written for each item included in the digital archives. Dr. Carter uses the supporting documents and digitized materials to write and create brief online articles (exhibits) illustrating the history of the profession. He hopes others will soon contribute similar articles and exhibits for the website.

A matching \$2,000 grant from the Josiah C. Trent Foundation will be used to upgrade the existing PAHx illustrated history website. The funds will be used to develop a search engine that interfaces with the digital archival collection to allow users quick access to documents and materials. Plans are to have the new website online by September 2003.



**Academy Leadership – 1975-76
Carl E. Fasser Slide Collection**

MORE PICTURES FROM THE NEW ORLEANS MEETING



Bob Johnston joins the ranks of founding members



Reg and Jeff take a break during the last day of the Exhibit



Society for the Preservation of Physician Assistant History

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION, STUDY AND PRESENTATION OF PA HISTORY

MAILING ADDRESS:

BOX 3848
DURHAM, NC 27710

PHONE: (919) 681-3100
FAX: (919) 681-3371
EMAIL: pahx@mc.duke.edu

DELIVERY ADDRESS:

ROOM 184, HANES BLDG.
TRENT DRIVE
DURHAM, NC 27705

We are on the Web at
<http://pahx.org/society/>

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
DURHAM, NC
PERMIT # 60