



Physician Assistant History Society
Honoring our History; Ensuring our Future

Guide to Stead Center Archival Collections



Lobby Display Area



Eugene A. Stead, Jr.
1908 to 2005

PAHx website: www.pahx.org

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June 2015

Welcome to the Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Center for Physician Assistants. The building features a collection of museum items donated to the Physician Assistant Society by Dr. Stead's family and from other donors.

The exhibits on display at the Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Center for Physician Assistants are assembled and maintained by the Physician Assistant History (PAHx) Society in collaboration with the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants (NCAPA).



While here, you will have an opportunity to view a replica of Dr. Stead's lake home office in Bullock, NC, complete with furniture, decorations, pictures and awards that he donated to the Society before his death. A formal garden behind the building is decorated with statuary also donated from Dr. Stead's estate.



The building also houses wall exhibits and display cases honoring the founders of the profession, the development of national PA professional organizations and marketing the profession to the general public. There is a wall exhibit sponsored by the AAPA Veterans Caucus and outside a Veterans Memorial Garden featuring a life-size combat medic bronze statue titled "life savers then, care givers now."

Founders Wall Exhibit - Let's begin our tour in the Lobby. The Founder's wall display honors five notable physicians who established formal educational programs to train physician assistants during the 1960s. By doing so, they gave birth to a new profession and changed the course of how medical services would be delivered in the United States during the latter half of the 20th century.



Dr. Eugene A. Stead Jr. launched the first formal educational program for physician assistants at Duke University in 1965. In 1968, Dr. Henry K. Silver launched the Child Health Associate Program at the University of Colorado to provide primary health care services to children. The founder of the nation's first formal educational program to train surgeon assistants, Dr. John Webster Kirklin, was also a pioneer in the development of cardiac surgery. He started the Surgeon Assistant (SA) Training Program in 1967 at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. A general surgeon, Dr. Hu C. Myers established the first baccalaureate degree program for Physician Assistants (PAs) at Alderson-Broaddus College in Philippi, WV in 1968. In 1968 Dr. Richard (Dick) Smith relocated from the Public Health Service in Washington, DC to the University of Washington to create the first MEDEX program in the country. His educational model was designed to rapidly deploy former military corpsmen to remote sites throughout the northwest.

PA Organizations - On the opposite side of the lobby is the PA Professional Organizations Wall Display.



In 1968, students and graduates of the Duke PA Program founded the American Association of Physician's Assistants (AAPA) which today is known as the American Academy of Physician Assistants. With inclusion of Child Health Associates, MEDEX and Surgeon Assistants, the Academy emerged in the 1970s as the "unified voice of PAs" in the USA.

Prior to the advent of national accreditation and certification standards, a group of PA educators formed The American Registry of Physicians' Associates in 1970 to assure the public and employers the competence of their graduates. Graduates from approved PA programs could apply to the Registry, pay a fee and be certified as "Registered Physician Associates." The Registry was dissolved once accreditation and certification standards and processes were adopted nationally.

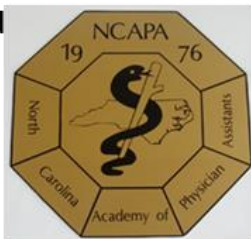
At a meeting of the Registry held in Durham during the 4th Duke Conference on PAs, Program Directors decided they needed to form their own association. They met in Washington DC in November 1972 to formally launch the Association of Physician Assistant Programs (APAP). In October 2005, the Association's members voted to change the organization's name to the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA).

The AMA House of Delegates adopted the Essentials and a meeting was held in December 1971 to form a Joint Review Committee for Educational Programs for the Assistant to Primary Care Physician (JRC-PA). Originally under the oversight of the AMA's Committee for Allied Health Education Accreditation, the accreditation body has evolved overtime into a free-standing organization, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant. The ARC-PA is composed of seven collaborating organizations.

In 1974, fourteen national health organizations come together to form the National Commission on Certification of Physician's Assistants (NCCPA) to provide oversight regarding eligibility and standards for the NBME examination administered the first time in 1973, and to assure state medical boards, employers and the public of the competency of PAs.

Pedestal Case 1: North Carolina Academy of Physician

Assistants (NCAPA). The NCAPA celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2004 with a groundbreaking ceremony for a new building in the Research Triangle Park. The building honoring Dr. Eugene Stead, Jr., was completed and occupied in January 2006 by NCAPA staff.



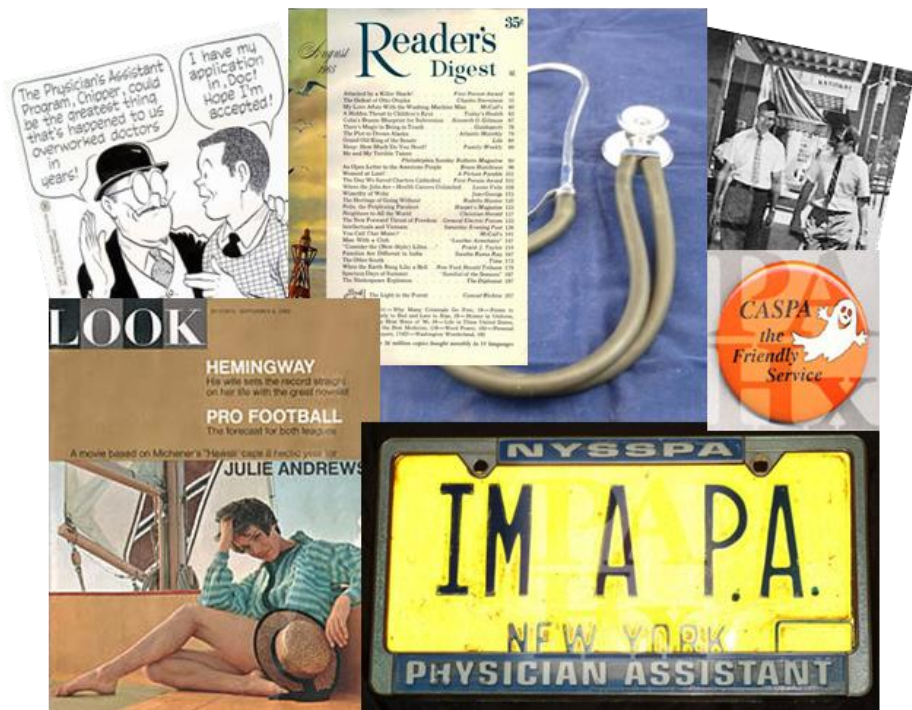
Pedestal Case 2: PAHx Society was founded in 2001 and

headquartered at the Stead Center from January 2006 to June 2007. In June 2011, the Society became a supporting organization of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) located in Johns Creek, GA.



Tower Case 1: Marketing the Physician Assistant Profession. At a critical time in its development, the PA profession gained public attention from articles that appeared in national published magazines such as *Look* and *Reader's Digest*, as well as, a syndicated newspaper cartoon, Gasoline Alley, drawn at that time by Dick Moores. One of his characters, Chipper Wallet, a former military corpsman, became a Physician Assistant in 1970.

Tower Case 2: PA History Archival Collection. The Society's Archival Collection contains documents, photographs, oral histories, artifact and memorabilia that document the history and evolution of the physician assistant profession from its conception to the present time. The collection is a valuable primary source of materials for educators, students and researchers. The specialized collection is housed in Johns Creek, GA. Materials are loaned to PA Organizations and Educational Programs for exhibition.



Stead Lake Office Museum. As plans were being made for the Stead Center, Dr. Stead was asked if he would consider having a replica of his Lake Home Office placed in the building bearing his name. He consented and upon his death the family donated the original furnishings and photographs to the Society to be maintained within the Stead Center.



The photographs are arranged as they were in the Lake Home Office and the desk calendar is open to June 12, 2005 the day of his death. In addition, the room contains many awards given to Dr. Stead by various medical organizations and universities. His academic robe hangs in the corner and his books remain on the shelves as they were in Bullock, NC. In addition, bronze statuettes collected by Mrs. Evelyn Stead and located on the lake home grounds now adorn the Stead Center



Veterans Wall and Memorial Garden: The framed prints mounted on the Veteran's Wall were donated by various PA members of the Veteran's Caucus. The title Reflections: In honor of those who serve – reminds us of the former military corpsmen who were the initial recruits to be trained as PAs – truly the pioneers of our Profession.



The John McElligott Veterans Memorial Garden features a life-size combat medic bronze statue titled “Life Savers Then ... Care Givers Now.” This sculpture was commissioned to serve as a constant reminder of the origins of a profession that keeps “service to the underserved” as one of its basic tenets. The artist is John Prazen, a Korean War Veteran and was cast in Salt Lake City, Utah. An identical statue is on the campus of the University of Utah, commissioned by Don Pedersen.



Enjoy your visit to the Stead Center and take time to take a close look at the collection.

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