

**Guide and Finding Aid for  
Nelson E. Myers Papers, 1962-2003**



**Contact Information:**

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## **Abstract**

Contains the papers of Nelson E. Myers, a United States Navy Hospital Corpsman who was among the early graduates of the Duke University Physician Assistant Program. Before becoming a physician assistant, Mr. Myers was employed in the cardiovascular laboratory at the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC. He spent over 35 years working as a physician assistant primarily at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Muskogee Oklahoma. Types of materials include personal papers, photographs and notebooks. Materials range in date from 1962 to 2003.

## **Descriptive Summary**

### Title

Nelson E. Myers papers, 1962-2003

### Creator

Myers, Nelson E.

### Extent

2 boxes,  
1.0 linear feet

### Repository

Physician Assistant History Society  
12000 Findley Road  
Suite 100  
Johns Creek, GA 30097-1409

### Call Number

NA

## **Information for Users**

### Access Restrictions

No Restrictions.

### Usage Restrictions

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### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Nelson E. Myers papers, Society for Preservation of Physician Assistant History, Johns Creek, GA, USA

### Acquisitions Information

Gift; December 2008.

### Processing Information

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## **Biographical/Historical Note**

Nelson Earl Myers is a native of Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. He completed the Navy's Hospital Corps School at Great Lakes, Illinois in 1959 and was stationed at the Portsmouth, Virginia Naval Hospital. While there he met several former Duke Cardiologists who were establishing a cardiac catheterization laboratory at the hospital. This eventually led to his accepting a position at Duke University in the cardiovascular lab after he left the Navy in 1962. His supervising physician was Dr. Henry McIntosh who at the time was trying to help Dr. Eugene A. Stead, Jr., the chairman of the Department of Medicine, to secure clinical support personnel for the Duke University Hospital. As a member of the staff, Nelson was asked to participate in research activities, surgical interventions, cardiac catheterizations, electronic instrumentation, and patient care.

Dr. McIntosh appreciated Nelson's knowledge and skills and supported his efforts to enroll in the Duke University Physician Assistant Program when it was established by Dr. Stead within the Department of Medicine in 1965. Nelson continued working in the Cardiac Catheterization lab while attending classes and rotations which prolonged his completion of the program by a year. Upon graduation, he continued working at Duke as the Supervisor of the Myocardial Infarction Research Unit Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, located on the Coronary Care Unit.

In 1970, Nelson went to work for Dr. Fred Ownby of Nashville, Tennessee. One year later, he accepted a position at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Muskogee Oklahoma where he spent the next thirty two years until retiring in 2003 practicing in the cardiology, oncology and internal medicine departments. He received the Administrator's Hands and Heart award in 1993. He also served as the Hospice director, Chairman of the Tumor Board, and as a member of both the Ethics and the Pharmacy and Therapeutics committees. He helped educate PA students and medical residents and received numerous awards from a variety of academic institutions. He is a Charter Member of the Oklahoma Academy of Physician Assistants (OAPA), and served on the OAPA board of directors.

Nelson was a founding member of the American Academy of Physicians Assistants established in 1968 and an inaugural member of the American Registry of Physicians' Associates founded in 1970. He was named a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Physician Assistants in 2010.

## **Collection Overview**

This collection contains papers, photographs and notebooks relating to Nelson E. Myers' career in the cardiovascular laboratory and as a student in the PA Program at Duke University and his

career as a physician assistant for over 35 years. Materials are arranged chronologically from 1962-2003.

Organized into the following series: Personal Papers, 1962-2003; Photographs ca., 1964; and Notebooks, 1967-1968.

### **Online Catalog Headings**

Cardiovascular services in hospitals.

Duke University. Medical Center.

Duke University. Medical Center. Dept. of Community and Family Medicine. Physician Assistant Program.

Physician Assistants -- USA.

Physician Assistants – History.

Physician Assistants--Education--United States--Outlines, syllabi, etc.

### **Collection Series**

- **Personal Papers, 1962-2003**
- **Photographs ca.,1964**
- **Notebooks, 1967-1968**

### **Detailed Description of the Collection**

#### **Personal Papers**

This collection contains correspondence, newsletters, clippings, manuscripts, bulletins, pamphlets and education materials related to working in a cardiovascular laboratory, being a physician assistant student and working as a physician assistant over 35 years. The collection contains a booklet of letters of appreciation written to Dr. Eugene A. Stead by physician assistants and former colleagues. It also contains correspondence related to the death of Richard (Dick) Schelle, one of the first graduates of the Duke University Physician Assistant Program.

#### **Box 1**

Correspondence - Job at Duke Cardiovascular Laboratory 1962

Procedures for Policy Manual Cardiovascular Laboratory 1964

Duke University Medical Center Newsletters 1964, 1968

Clippings, Newspapers 1964-1970

Curriculum History and Physical Examination 1966

Reprints about PAs 1966-1969

AAPA Bylaws 1968

AAPA Newsletters 1968-1971

Manuscripts 1969-1970

Bulletin of Duke University PA Program 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972

AAPA Certificates 1969-1975

Correspondence Baptist Hospital Staff Privileges 1970  
Eugene Stead PA Student Society Newsletters 1970  
Duke University Medical Legal Packet Information 1970  
Reference Letters 1970  
Richard (Dick) Schelle 1970  
American Registry of PAs Correspondence 1970  
Correspondence about Role as PA 1970  
National Academy of Sciences Physician Assistants 1970  
Bulletins and Pamphlets PA Programs 1970-1975  
American Registry of Physicians' Associates 1971  
AAPA Brochure 1971  
Clippings - Gasoline Alley Comic Strip 1971  
Certification and Accreditation 1972-1974

## **Box 2**

AAPA Review Course 1973  
Survey of PAs Dept Health Manpower 1973  
Duke University PA Program Pamphlet 1975  
Eugene Stead Volume of Letters 1976  
AAPA Newsletters 1976, 1977  
Duke University PA Program Alumni Roster 1974, 1980, 1985  
NBME Certification Results 1987  
Reference Letters 1993  
Curriculum Vitae and Personal Information 2003

## **Photographs**

The slides and photographs were taken while Mr. Myers worked in the cardiovascular laboratory at Duke University in the early 1960s. They primarily are of instrumentation and laboratory scenes.

American College of Cardiology Slide, ca. 1964  
Photographs Cardiovascular Lab Mixture, ca. 1964  
Photographs Cardiovascular Lab Equipment, ca. 1964  
Photographs Pacemaker Adapter, ca. 1964  
Photographs Conference, ca. 1964

## **Notebooks**

This collection contains two notebooks that were used by the Duke University Physician Assistant Program to teach EKG diagnostic skills and to serve as a guideline for clinical rotations.

Duke University Arrhythmia Note Book 1967  
Clinical Rotation Descriptions and Guidelines 1968