

# Historical Happenings

Newsletter of the Physician Assistant History Society

## Message from the President

Stephen D. Wilson, PA-C



Greetings,

By the time you read this newsletter issue, two significant historical events for the PA profession will soon occur. The Society's new book, *Physician Assistants as Social Innovators in Healthcare*, will have been published and the annual AAPA conference, "AAPA2022", will once again be attended in person. Both events provide a great kickoff to the PA History Society's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year!

*Physician Assistants as Social Innovators in Healthcare* was an idea of the Trustees that began to take shape over 3 years ago. It is now the most comprehensive book written about the profession. The project was spearheaded by the capable editorial leadership of Trustee Leslie Kole with support from PA History Society Managing Director Lori Konopka-Sauer. The topics covered by its 20 authors, the significant pictures gathered, and the hundreds of references compiled and organized highlight the impact that the PA profession has had as a social innovation in healthcare. I hope you will stop by our booth at the AAPA conference to purchase your copy. Also, one lucky person will win a book to add to their personal library. Didn't make it to the conference? Check out the details of the book on our website here: <https://pahx.org/pa-history-book/>

*(President Message continued on page 2)*

## We Hope to See You at AAPA!

The PA History Society team is excited to be returning to an in-person **AAPA Conference** experience this month. We're looking forward to speaking with you at the **Society's Booth**, which will

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be located on the **first floor** of the **Indiana Convention Center between Halls D & E** across from the primary escalator. The Society's new book, *Physician Assistants as Social Innovators in Healthcare*, will be available at our booth too! As part of the Society's 20th Anniversary celebrations this year, a special gift drawing will be held at our booth for a PAHx Anniversary gift pack! We look forward to seeing you in Indianapolis.



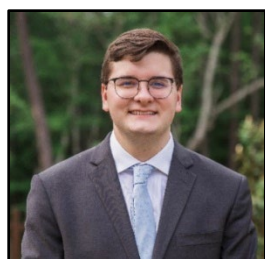
*(President Message continued from page 1)*

While the country begins to emerge from the pandemic, it is certainly welcome news that PAs will once again have the opportunity to meet with their colleagues to gain a significant educational experience, break bread together and renew those lasting friendships at “AAPA2022”. We know that dealing with COVID-19 is not over and that it will be a disease of consideration in our future differential diagnosis. It has been a difficult ordeal for all of us and we look forward to the camaraderie with our peers. As with all healthcare over the last 55 years, PAs have provided a tremendous service to their communities during this pandemic through treatment and promoting responsible preventions. Check out some of their stories on our website here: <https://pahx.org/news/thank-you-for-your-care-during-the-covid-19-fight/>. If you would like to share your own COVID-19 related story, please email us at: [contactus@pahx.org](mailto:contactus@pahx.org).

### In His Own Words:

#### Joshua Penninger, MSM, PA-S1

*Bruna Varalli-Claypool, MHS, PA-C  
PAHx Trustee & Newsletter Editor*



Joshua Penninger received his Master of Science in Management in May 2021 from the Wake Forest University School of Business. He is currently attending the Wake Forest School of Medicine Dept. of PA Studies. Penninger has been interested in the history of the profession for many years and is currently serving as the 2022 Student Trustee on the PA History Society Board.

*You’ve already written your first article for “Historical Happenings”. What’s your second one about?*

Carol James, a long-time PA colleague of Dr. Ben Carson.

### *Do you have any pets?*

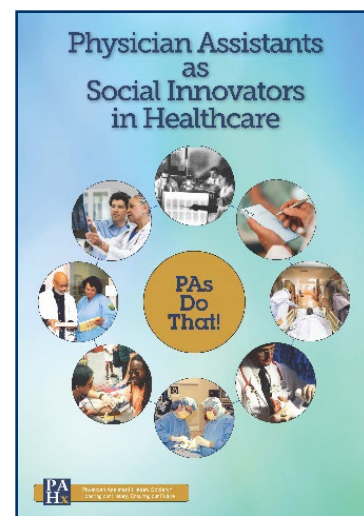
My wife and I have two cats, Winston and Ally! They love to play with ice cubes and watch birds from the window! They are best friends and cuddle each other regularly.

*(In His Word Words continued on page 3)*

## Read All About It!

*Lori Konopka-Sauer, BS  
PAHx Managing Director*

The PA History Society’s latest book, *Physician Assistants as Social Innovators in Healthcare*, will be available at the PAHx booth during the AAPA conference. This educational resource for PA faculty, students, researchers, and legislators presents the history of the PA profession as a social innovation that has changed and improved the way medical, surgical, and preventive healthcare services are delivered. It explores the transformations that have taken place over the past 55 years to ensure that PA innovation continues to meet societal needs for effective, efficient, and affordable healthcare services. During the AAPA Conference, be sure to stop by the PAHx Booth to check out our newest resource! We will be located on the first floor of the Indiana Convention Center between Halls D & E across from the primary escalator. You can also find our book on Amazon and our [website](#).



### PAHx Book Fun Facts:

- ✓ 14 Chapters
- ✓ 20 Authors
- ✓ 70 Contributors & Reviewers
- ✓ 24-Page Index
- ✓ 789 References
- ✓ 408 Pages

*(In His Word Words continued from page 2)*

***Why did you decide on a career in medicine?***

Social drivers of health play a key role in the lives of our minority and underserved patient populations. I chose a career path in medicine to play a small but important role in working to alleviate these factors.



Josh & Emily Penninger  
at the Biltmore Estate in  
Asheville, NC

***Where is your favorite place to study?***

Quiet spots are my go-to places to study. Most of the time, that's finding an empty room in the Wake Forest School of Medicine or sitting at my desk at home.

***Have you thought about what kind of medicine you'd like to practice?***

I'm most interested in practicing in a hospital setting. As of now, the two areas I'm looking at are emergency medicine or hospital medicine. However, family medicine has been more on my radar lately, and I'm interested to see how my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of PA school changes this!

***What advice do you wish someone would have given you before you started PA school?***

"Trust the process." Even though this has been told to my classmates and me several times by our faculty, I never truly took it to heart until recently. There is a method to this madness, after all!

***What is the last movie you watched?***

I recently saw the new movie "The Lost City", starring Sandra Bullock and Channing Tatum. This was one



of the first movies I saw in the theater since the start of the pandemic two years ago.

***What is your favorite video game or favorite board game?***

I love the Game of Life! I played it frequently with the pediatric patients at the Children's Hospital that I volunteered at during undergrad. Their reaction to having to pay taxes in the game was priceless!

**From the Archives:  
New Additions to the Archives**

*Michelle N. Schabowski, MSIS, CA*

The PA History Society has received several great additions to the archives this year.

For all the golf enthusiasts, we received an unique promotional item: an AAPA golf ball! Always keep your national membership organization on your mind when you are on the greens.

We also received historic organizational documents, newsletters, and photographs of meetings from the Association of PAs in Obstetrics and Gynecology (APOP), which is celebrating its 30-year anniversary this year. Please stay tuned as we process the collection and upload the digital card catalog entry to our website.

The Society has added several children's books written by PAs to our collection. These books introduce children to a variety of health topics and explain what a PA does as their healthcare provider.

Another fun donation to our museum section is a New York license plate with a RPA designation standing for Registered PA. Truly a fun, historical item!

You can always check out our new collections which are featured on our [website](#) at any time!





## 20 YEARS PRESERVING PA HISTORY

2

1,040 PRODUCTIVE WEEKS  
50 BOARD MEETINGS  
56 JOURNAL SERIES  
257 BIOGRAPHIES  
50 NEWSLETTERS  
2,500 IMAGES  
410 BOOKS  
59 SERIALS  
200 VIDEOS  
274 REPORTS  
920 ARTICLES  
230 INTERVIEWS  
37 MANUSCRIPTS  
35 DISSERTATIONS  
56 JOURNAL SERIES  
690 MUSEUM ITEMS  
55 PERSONAL COLLECTIONS  
5 ORGANIZATION RECORDS COLLECTIONS

0

### Deciding on a Logo

*Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA  
PAHx Historian Emeritus*

In 2001, a decision was made to create and staff an Office for the Preservation of Physician Assistant (PA) History at Duke University to provide a foundation to develop a national strategy to preserve, study and present the history of the PA profession. To secure funding and grow membership, the Office needed to create a website and a “catchy” logo. With a small grant from the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), the Educational Media Services at the Duke University Medical Center was hired to design a website and logo for the Office. The logo would be used on the website and on stationary, displays and promotional materials. A graphic design artist was assigned to develop a logo that contained the acronym PAHx for Physician Assistant History, using the medical abbreviation Hx for history.

Here are a few of the logo designs\* that were considered:

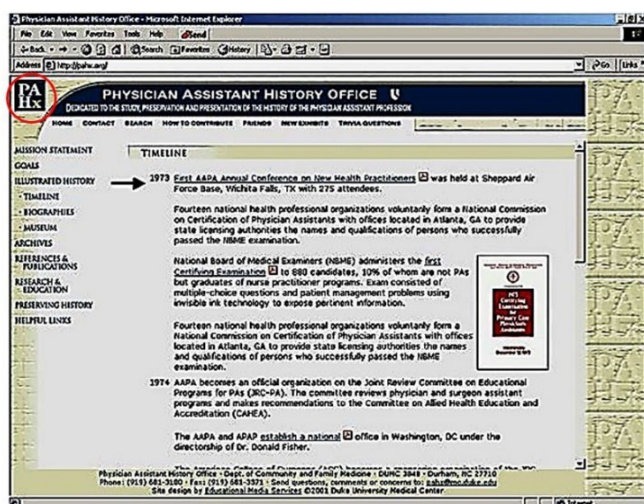


The final design was chosen using blue and gold colors to stand for truth and happiness (Cub Scouts). When vocalized, the PAHx acronym sounds like the Latin word *pax* meaning peace.

*(Deciding on a Logo continued on page 5)*

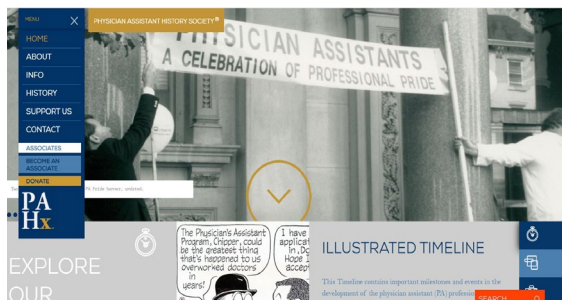
(Deciding on a Logo continued from page 4)

The website was launched one week prior to the meeting of a planning group for the Society held at the AAPA annual meeting in Anaheim, CA. The logo appeared in the left upper hand corner and is still used today as the logo for the PA History Society that was incorporated in 2002 and is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.



\* The original artwork is maintained in the PAHx Society's archives, Johns Creek, GA.

Visit the Society's website for all things  
PA history! [www.pahx.org](http://www.pahx.org)



## Carol James, a Long-term PA Colleague of Dr. Ben Carson

Joshua Penninger, MSM, PA-S

Most people are familiar with Dr. Benjamin Carson, the famous neurosurgeon responsible for many medical accomplishments, including separating conjoined twins and intrauterine neurosurgery, who later had a stint in the realm of politics. However, a little-known fact is that a PA named Carol James worked alongside him for 31 years. According to the Johns Hopkins Medicine's newsletter, *NeuroLogic*, James began working as a medical secretary in 1967 and later decided to attend PA school at Yale University. After graduating, she returned to Johns Hopkins to work in neurosurgery where she met Dr. Carson, the chief resident at the time, and they worked together until 2013. James later mentioned in the newsletter that, "It's been 31 years of collaboration, growing, learning and doing."<sup>1</sup> The pair ultimately retired together in 2013 and have remained close to one another as James is the godmother to Carson's three children - a testament to their longstanding friendship.



Carol James,  
Dr. Ben Carson and  
Dr. Patti Vining  
retirement, 2013<sup>1</sup>

Ben Carson and his wife, Candy, shared many positive things about Carol James in their books, *Think Big: Unleashing Your Potential for Excellence* and *A Doctor in the House: My Life with Ben Carson*. Dr. Carson writes, "With the exception of my wife and mother, Carol James knows me better than anybody else in the world."

(Carol James continued on page 6)

*(Carol James continued from page 5)*

Dr. Carson mentions that “she [Carol] spends time with each patient. There is no way that I can spend the same amount of time with everyone, explaining the complex operations, all the ramifications and contingencies, yet Carol will take endless hours sitting down with families, explaining the pros and cons, reassuring them, and answering all their medical questions. She has an intuitive sense of just how to handle each person. Sometimes she draws diagrams, or will bring in dolls to explain, or show them an actual shunt.”<sup>2</sup> As Carson described, Carol James was extraordinary at providing compassionate, patient-centered care - qualities that embody the PA profession.



*Carol James with Ben Carson<sup>4</sup>*

*References:*

1. Johns Hopkins Medicine. (2013). A Fond Farewell. *NeuroLogic*.  
[www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/publications/neurologic/neurologic\\_spring\\_2013/a\\_fofo\\_farewell](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/publications/neurologic/neurologic_spring_2013/a_fofo_farewell)
2. Carson, B., & Murphy, C. (1992) *Think Big: Unleashing Your Potential for Excellence*. Zondervan.
3. Carson, C. (2016). *A Doctor in the House: My Life with Ben Carson*. Sentinel.
4. Belluck, P., & Eder, S. (2015, November 15). With Ben Carson, the Doctor and the Politician Can Vary Sharply. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/23/us/politics/with-ben-carson-the-doctor-and-the-politician-can-vary-sharply.html>

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

## PA History Society Trustees and Staff

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Stephen D. Wilson, PA-C

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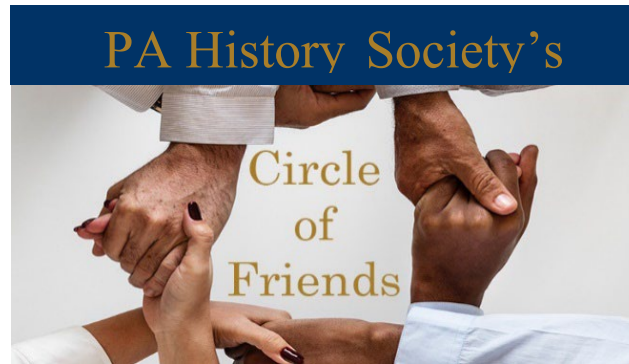
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*Senior Archivist*

PAHx Office: 678-417-8682





## Join Your Colleagues and Become a Friend of the Society

***Lifetime Circle of Friends:*** Ruth Ballweg, Reginald Carter, Gail Curtis, John Davis, Marilyn Fitzgerald, Gino Gianola, Kenneth Harbert, J. Jeffrey Heinrich, William C. Kohlhepp, William Marquardt, Maryann Ramos, Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., Blair L. Sadler, Shepard Stone, Greg P. Thomas, Bruna Varalli-Claypool & Stephen D. Wilson

Help preserve PA history by becoming a ***Lifetime Friend*** of the Society. ***“Lifetime” Circle of Friends Giving Levels:*** a one-time donation of \$2,000 or more from individuals under the age 65 years or a one-time donation of \$1,000 or more from individuals retired or age 65 years and older.

If you’re not in the “Lifetime” category ... don’t worry, you can still support the work of the PAHx and join the ***“Annual” Circle of Friends*** with a donation of \$100 or more each year.

***2022 Annual Circle of Friends:*** Daniel Beaulieu, Kaesa Footracer, Debi Gerbert, David Grega, Kristine M. Healy, Suellen Heinrich, Christopher LaPoint, Becky Lehman, Cynthia Lord, Maha Lund, Dawn Morton-Rias, Dick Rensch, Gloria Stewart & Robert Wooten

## Honor the PA Profession with a Lasting Gift to the ***PAHx Legacy Circle***

By planning your future gifts now, you are helping to ensure that the history of the PA profession is never forgotten. Legacy gifts – whether large or small – combine to create a vision for the future of the PA History Society, ensuring the continued vitality of its mission. ***Types of planned giving:*** Bequest specified in your will or trust; qualified retirement plan; or life insurance policy.



All donations to these PAHx giving programs assist the PA History Society with:

- ❖ Preserving the archives collection
- ❖ Developing educational materials (history books, toolkits)
- ❖ Scanning materials for digital use
- ❖ Expanding our biography and oral history collection
- ❖ Providing student scholarships to attend PAHx educational programs (example: PA Historian Boot Camp)



For more information about these programs, please visit our website [www.pahx.org](http://www.pahx.org) or send us an email [contactus@pahx.org](mailto:contactus@pahx.org).

## Support PA History by Becoming a *PAHx Associate*!

With your paid annual PAHx Educational Research Fee, Associates have access to these exclusive benefits:

- online *Educational Learning Modules with Test Questions and Instructor's Guide*
- online *Historian Toolkit*
- online *Anniversary & Celebration Planner*
- the opportunity to be recognized in a monthly feature on the PAHx website *home page*
- access to the PAHx Speakers Bureau
- PAHx digital images, free-of-charge
- recognition on the PAHx website *Associates page*
- a photograph of your first graduating class featured in an online exhibit

The PAHx Associate benefits are effective from July 1 – June 30 each year. For more information on becoming a PAHx Associate, please visit the Society's website at <https://pahx.org/how-to-support-us/> or email us at [contactus@pahx.org](mailto:contactus@pahx.org).

## PAHx Appreciates and Thanks our 2022 Associates:



### **Founder \$1,000 +**

Bryant University, Duke University, Hardin-Simmons University, Northeastern University, Point Loma Nazarene University, University of Southern California-Keck School of Medicine, University of South Carolina, Yale University Online PA Program



### **Historian \$500 - \$999**

A.T. Still University of Health Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine, Bethel University-Tennessee, Case Western Reserve University, Charles R. Drew University, Chatham University, Des Moines University, Dominican University of California, Florida Gulf Coast University, Lake Erie College, Marist College, Mary Baldwin University, Milligan University, Mount St. Joseph University, Nova Southeastern University-Ft. Lauderdale, Nova Southeastern University-Jacksonville, Nova Southeastern University-Orlando, Oregon Health & Science University, South College-Knoxville, South University-West Palm Beach, Touro University-California, University of Detroit Mercy, University of Dubuque, University of Iowa, University of the Pacific, University of St. Joseph-Connecticut, University of Texas-Southwestern, University of Utah, Utah Valley University, and Yale School of Medicine

*PAHx Associates continued next page*





### Scribe \$250 - \$499

Ashland University, Brenau University, Central Michigan University, Emory and Henry College, Gannon University-Florida, Gannon University-Pennsylvania, Gardner-Webb University, Marshall University, Mercy College of Ohio, MGH Institute of Health Professions, Mississippi College, Mississippi State University-Meridan, Missouri State University, Northern Arizona University, NOVA Southeastern-Ft. Myers, Pacific University-Oregon, Rosalind Franklin University, Sacred Heart University South University-Richmond, Stanford University, Sullivan University, Texas Tech University, Trevecca Nazarene University, University of the Cumberland Northern Kentucky, University of Dayton, University of Michigan-Flint, University of Oklahoma-Oklahoma City and Wayne State University

Annual sponsorship of the Society is available to all **PA constitutives** - Student Organizations, State Chapters, Caucuses, Special Interest Groups, federal service chapters, etc. who are interested in supporting the Society's mission and goals. The contributions we receive is instrumental to the sustainability of our efforts to preserve, study, and present the history of the PA profession.

#### *Levels of Giving for PA Constituent Organizations:*

<b>\$75</b>	<b>Less than 99 Members</b>
<b>\$150</b>	<b>100-249 Members</b>
<b>\$250</b>	<b>250+ Members</b>

#### *Associate Benefits include:*

1. Featured on PAHx website homepage in a Feature Box and on the PAHx Associates webpage
2. Historian Toolkit
3. Anniversary & Celebration Planner
4. Access to PAHx Speaker's Bureau
5. Digital images free of charge
6. PA Educational Learning Modules



### State Chapters, Constituent Organizations, Caucuses

Academia de Asociado Medicos de Puerto Rico, American Association of Surgical PAs, Association of Family Practice PAs & NPs, Connecticut Academy of PAs, PAs for Latino Health, Society of Dermatology PAs and Texas Academy of PAs

### 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 [Instagram](#).

### *PA History Society's*

**Mission:** To share the history of the development of the PA profession and illustrate how PAs continue to make a difference in our society.

**Vision:** The PA History Society brings PA history to life by inspiring the next generation of PAs, patients, and policymakers.