

# Historical Happenings

## Newsletter of the PA History Society



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### Message from the President

Robert S. Smith, DHSc, MS, PA-C, DFAAPA



This year's Spring PAHx Board of Trustees Meeting brought us a spirit of newness and opportunity. The Trustees formally welcomed our two newest Trustees - [Randy Danielsen](#), PhD, DHL(h), PA-C Emeritus, DFAAPA, and [Alec Williams](#), PA-S, to our Board. They both bring a wealth of knowledge, fresh ideas, and positive energy.

The opportunity for the future was set as we continue to strive to be as efficient as possible with this year being no exception. We started our Board weekend with our workshop activities on Saturday followed by our formal board meeting on Sunday morning. The Saturday sessions included a preview of the Society's AAPA CME presentation provided by our Historian, Tricia Marriott. "*Become A PA Historian: Preserving PA History*" will be provided as a small group interactive session which will give AAPA participants a foundation on how to gather and preserve their organization's history.

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### RSVP for the PA History Society's CME Session at AAPA

The Society is excited to offer our first small group interactive CME session during the [AAPA Conference in Houston](#). "[Become a PA Historian: Preserving PA History](#)" will be held on **Tuesday, May 21 at 2pm (CT)**. **This session is free, but space is limited, so you are required to RSVP on the AAPA conference website/app.** Participants will learn the value of saving historical materials, the need for recording their organization's leadership and historical events, and how to identify what needs preserving. This session will introduce basic archival guidance for documenting your state chapter, PA group, or program's history. This session will also include activities

that highlight how to share the unique history of your organization, such as creating a historical timeline to be published on a website, writing biographies of important figures in your organization's history, conducting mini-interviews about crucial events and ensuring special events are photographed and recorded.

**Connect with the PAHx in Houston!**



Sat., May 18: 8am – 3pm  
**AAPA's Pre-PA Workshop**  
 Marriott Houston Hotel  
 4th Floor, Texas Ballroom A-C

Sat. May 18 thru Tue. May 21  
**PAHx Booth**  
 George Brown Convention Center  
 3rd floor near the escalators



Stop by either booth to see what's new in PA history and pick up some PAHx swag!



**Are you are searching for a volunteer position?**

**Do you enjoy writing and have a passion for PA history?**

The PA History Society is accepting applications for a Full-Term Trustee and a Student Trustee for 2025! Interested Candidates should visit the PAHx website for Instructions and Application Materials: [www.pahx.org](http://www.pahx.org) If you have any questions, please email us at: [contactus@pahx.org](mailto:contactus@pahx.org)

The deadline to submit your application is Monday, August 19, 2024!





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

The second part of our PAHx spring Board workshop was presented by President-Elect [Rich Vause](#). He led the Trustees in a focused session on the Society's process of capturing and writing biographies of people who have contributed to the history of the PA profession. During this workshop, the Trustees had time to work on the biographies they are currently drafting.

I led our final Board workshop which explored the concept of creating regions for Trustees to conduct targeted communications to specific PA state chapters and organizations within a specific region. During this session, the Trustees discussed connecting with a larger segment of the PA population to share the Society's wealth of historical resources and to assist these groups with capturing their own history. The Trustees agreed to establish a workgroup charged with creating a functional plan that includes measurable goals and a timeline for implementation. I will be sure to keep you updated on the progress of this exciting new project!

The Society's business meeting on Sunday was no different in terms of productivity and high energy. The Trustees reviewed the current three-year Strategic Plan and the Committee Chairs provided their reports and activities from the first quarter along with their plans for the remaining year in their respective roles. This year, one of our new business ideas focused on improving our internal and external infrastructure for communication with Trustees and the PA community. Additionally, the Board is planning to have some specialized training at our next meeting to address some of the current health issues our country is facing today and how the PAHx can capture these stories of PAs who are making history by making a difference in their communities.

The meeting ended in a timely manner, with all the Trustees fully energized and focused to work on *all things PA history* for the remainder of the year! A special thanks to our PAHx staff, as their efforts cannot be fully stated. Wishing everyone throughout the PA community a wonderful springtime!



Robert S. Smith, DHSc, MS, PA-C, DFAAPA  
PAHx Board President

**In His Own Words:  
Randy Danielsen, PhD, DHL(h),  
PA-C Emeritus, DFAAPA  
PAHx Trustee**

*By Bruna Varalli-Claypool, BBA, MHS,  
PA-C, DFAAPA, PAHx Trustee*



**You've been a board member of both AAPA and NCCPA. Tell us how those experiences were the same, but different.**

I served on the AAPA board 1979-81 when I was a young PA, so my experience was one of listening and learning. This was still in the early days of the profession. I learned the value of communication and passion and had many mentors in those early years. I served on the NCCPA Board in the late 1990s and early 2000. By this time, I was an experienced PA leader and felt comfortable in speaking up and finding solutions. Being a volunteer board member of a professional association (like AAPA and NCCPA) can provide valuable learning experiences and opportunities for personal and professional growth. Serving on both boards helped me develop and enhance my leadership skills, in particular decision-making, communication, strategic planning, and conflict resolution.



*AAPA Leaders, 1980*

**(Continued on page 5)**

## The Fall of an Icon

By [Steven D. Wilson, PA-C](#)  
PAHx Past-President

*"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times...."*

On August 31, 2023, Alderson-Broaddus University (AB College) closed its doors on an institution founded in 1871. That closure included the end to one of the most storied physician assistant programs in the country. Dr. [Hu Crim Myers](#), a surgeon, with the support of Dr. Richard Shearer, President of Alderson-Broaddus College, embarked upon the initiation of the first 4-year baccalaureate degree program for physician assistants (PAs) in the fall of 1968.<sup>1</sup> This was just one year following the two-year certificate program at Duke University had graduated their inaugural class. The AB program complemented the 4-year degree programs of nursing, radiologic technology, and medical technology already offered at this rural West Virginia college. The clinical capabilities of its graduates were well recognized. The professional leadership it spawned has been recognized on all levels and included five presidents of AAPA – three of them for multiple terms. Unfortunately, this "Light on the Hill"<sup>2</sup> is now extinguished. The cause of its demise will be debated and studied by academics and administrators eager to avoid a similar fate.



Alderson-Broaddus First PA Class, 1968

There is irony to be found in the college's/university's beginning and its end. In the 1920s, Alderson Academy in West Virginia and Broaddus Institute, which originated in Virginia, faced financial difficulties. Their merger was intended to abate their economic concerns and Alderson-Broaddus College opened its doors in 1932.<sup>3</sup> While finances are always a particular concern for small private liberal arts colleges, the school did continue to grow and thrive though enrollment stayed below 1,000 stu-

dents per year for decades. It was its longest serving president, Dr. Richard Shearer, who from 1951 to 1983 helped ensure its financial security while embracing development of healthcare professional career options within the college, such as it did with Dr. Hu Myers.

Unfortunately, in the years to come, AB, like many small liberal arts colleges, would face insurmountable financial pressures. Indeed, the challenges faced by small colleges in general have been documented in recent years. In 2018, Moody's Investor Services reported that 11 colleges per year closed between 2015 and 2017. That was more than double the average.<sup>4</sup> In 2018, Moody's also reported that at least 25% of private colleges were running deficits.<sup>5</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic has also had a significant impact. According to data from the National Student Clearinghouse, college enrollment dropped 8% from 2019 to 2022.<sup>6</sup> In March of 2024, Bloomberg identified high acceptance rates, falling enrollment, and repeated years of operating losses as signs that would endanger over 200 schools of less than 5,000 students.<sup>7</sup> As with AB, these statistics reflect an issue that has taken years to develop.

Maybe, the 1995 loss of accreditation by the PA program was a bellwether for the future demise of the university. The accreditation history of the Alderson Broaddus University gives some evidence of a storied program having difficulty in meeting certain standards. Of note is that the class size in 2001 was 135. By 2013, it had been reduced to 36 students.<sup>8</sup> Despite what must have been some significant issues to overcome, the program remained a success to the end. Over 2,600 PAs have graduated from the AB PA Program. According to information previously provided publicly by the school, over the years of the program's existence its students had a 96% pass rate for PANCE which exceeded the national pass rate of 93%.<sup>9</sup> In recent years, AB graduates celebrated a 100% pass rate for their classes.<sup>9,10,11</sup> This was undoubtedly due to the support and dedication of professors, clinical instructors, and staff as well as the unwavering focus of the students.

The program produced countless national and state organizational leaders. Past AAPA Presidents included [Bill Stanhope](#)<sup>12</sup>, [Roger Whittaker](#)<sup>12</sup>, [Glen Combs](#), [Sherrie \(Borden\) McNeeley](#), and [Pam Moyers Scott](#). PAEA Presidents included [Albert Simon](#) and [Gloria Stewart](#).

(Continued on page 7)



*(In His Own Words continued from page 3)*



1973

**How did you choose PA? Or did it choose you?**

During my third year in the U.S. Air Force as a senior medic, Dr. Art Mollen, the officer in charge of the physical exam section, urged me to consider a new profession known as "Physician Assistant." Following his advice, I applied to the University of Utah MEDEX Program, originally called the Utah MEDEX Demonstration Program, with a rich history dating back to the early 1970s. I was accepted into the program's class IV in 1973. It was a perfect fit for the skills I had learned in the Air Force.

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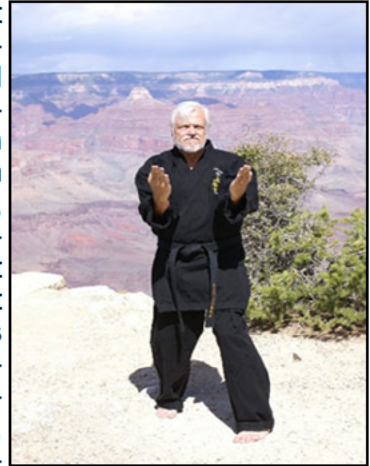
**If you could have a superpower, what would it be and why?**

If I could have a superpower (being a Star Trek fan), I think I would choose the power of teleportation. I would love to be able to instantly travel to any location in the world, allowing me to explore different places and cultures without the time and expense of traditional travel. It would also make it easier to visit loved ones who live far away and to quickly respond to emergencies or disasters. Overall, I think teleportation would be a practical and exciting superpower to have, especially at my age!

**You are a second-degree black belt and instructor. How did that come about?**

In the mid-1980s, my son John came home from grade school excited about a new karate school opening for kids his age. I was skeptical, urging him to stick with soccer instead. Unsure of what karate entailed, I agreed to attend the first class with him. Surprised by the discipline and respect displayed by the young students, I was impressed by the instructors' knowledge and authority. After witnessing the positive impact on my son, I eventually joined the adult class myself. Over the years, I progressed through the ranks, earning a first-

degree black belt and later second-degree. I learned the value of traditional karate which lies in its focus on discipline, respect, humility, and self-improvement. It taught me important life skills such as self-defense, self-control, and perseverance. Ultimately, the value of traditional karate helped me to become a better version of myself both physically and mentally.



**Best vacation to date?**

Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Bavaria, Germany was a great vacation spot. It has stunning natural beauty, wide range of outdoor activities, cultural attractions, wellness facilities, and a convenient location. This is a place that lots of military and retirees visit for relaxation.

**What has surprised you in your role as a PA faculty member, versus your role in clinical practice?**

I thought moving from practice to academia would be easy, but it was not! One of the surprises for me regarding being a PA faculty member compared to clinical practice (after 25 years) was the shift in focus from patient care to teaching and mentoring students. In clinical practice, we primarily focus on providing direct patient care and managing medical conditions. In contrast, PA faculty members are responsible for educating and training the next generation of PAs, which requires a different skill set and approach. As a new faculty member, I encountered challenges related to curriculum development, assessment of student learning, and teaching responsibilities. These aspects are different from the day-to-day activities of clinical practice and require additional training or support. It can be a rewarding experience to share knowledge and expertise with students, but it also requires adapting to a new professional identity and set of priorities, particularly

## From the Archives: The Hu Myers and Alderson-Broaddus Collection

By Michelle Schabowski, MSIS, CA  
PAHx Sr. Archivist

Alderson-Broaddus College's PA Program has earned its place in the history of the PA profession as being the first program to offer a baccalaureate. The program was founded in 1968 by Dr. Hu Myers. It was Dr. Myers' hope that by offering a PA program in Phillippi, West Virginia, it would encourage graduates to stay and help the impoverished, medically underserved area.



Glen Combs (seated), Shelly Combs standing to left, 1971.

With the sudden closure of the Alderson-Broaddus (AB) University in 2023, the historical records of both the AB PA Program and its founder Dr. Hu Myers were imperiled of being lost forever. Thankfully, several PAs banded together to make sure that these precious materials were saved and given new homes, either at the local Phillippi, West Virginia Historical Society or with the PA History Society.

In April 2024, PAs Glen and Shelly Combs, both alumni of the AB program, drove down from North Carolina to the Society's office in Johns Creek, GA to deliver four large boxes for the archives. Glen and Shelly then helped PAHx staff sort through some of the contents of the boxes, pausing to reminisce over photographs and artifacts.

Glen pointed out a black and white photograph that was taken in 1971 (photo above). The photograph shows students of the AB PA program waiting on the PA building's steps. Glen and Shelly explained that the students (two of which were them) were waiting to be filmed by NBC for a segment on the AB PA program. Glen smiled as he remarked that this was when he and Shelly first met. They are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup>

wedding anniversary this year.

It will take months to process and catalog the Hu Myers and Alderson Broaddus Collection, but the Society will announce when it is finished and ready for students, educators, or others to request the digitization of documents pertaining to their research.

To learn more about the Alderson-Broaddus PA Program and Hu Myers:

[Remembering Philippi, West Virginia, Alderson-Broaddus College, and Dr. Hu Myers](#) by R. Carter, W. Stanhope, and G. Combs

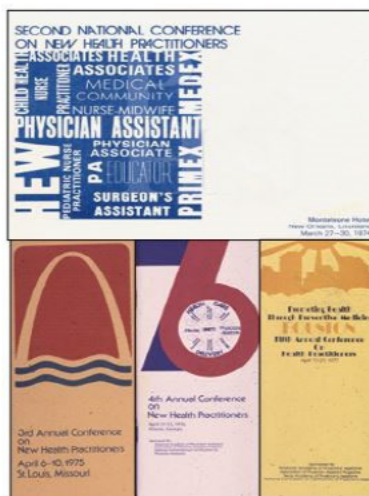
[Reflections on Hu Myers Oral History Interview](#) with William Stanhope and Glen Combs [Audio Only].

[The Day NBC Came to the Hills of West Virginia](#) by R. Carter and M. Holt.

## 1978: A Pivotal Year

By Reginald Carter, PhD, PA

Most PA history buffs know that the first national conference on "New Health Practitioners" was held in 1973 at Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, TX. Although sponsored by the American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA) and the Physician Assistant Association (then the Association of Physician Assistant Programs, APAP), the title "New Health Practitioners" chosen used to be inclusive of other advance health practitioners. The title was used for the next five conferences with the exception that the word "NEW" was dropped from the title for the fifth conference held in Houston, TX in 1977.



(Continued on page 7)



*(Pivotal Year...continued from page 6)*

The title was changed to the “Physician Assistant National Conference” for the sixth conference held in Las Vegas in 1978. This sixth annual conference had 1,940 PAs in attendance, offered 13 hours of CME, and hosted 72 exhibitors. This was a major increase from the 235 who attended the first conference, which offered only a few hours of CME and hosted no exhibitors.

It was at this conference that the House of Delegates was officially established to be the policy-making and legislative body of the AAPA. The first Speaker of the House elected was William Hughes; [Dan Fox](#) was President of the Academy for the 1977-78 leadership year.

1978 was also the year that the US Air Force approved appointing PAs as commissioned officers, establishing a precedent for the uniformed services. [George McCullough](#) was the first PA to be commissioned by the US Air Force. The commissioning ceremony was held in the White House where he served as the first PA on the medical staff during the Carter administration.

*Note:* The above information came directly from the PA History Society’s website which contains the dates, locations, and attendance of all the [National PA Conferences](#), a list of past leaders of [National PA Organizations](#), and a list of the [AAPA Leadership Roles](#). Images of the conference pamphlets and 1978 conference mug are courtesy of the PAHx Society Archives.

*(The Fall of an Icon... continued from page 4)*

Ms. Stewart also served as Chair of ARC-PA. The prestigious “Hu C & Avenelle Myers Award” given to AB alumni in recognition of achievement and leadership in the PA profession honored [Glen Combs](#), Rodney Moser, Sandra (Nettrour) Rothwell, [Pam Moyers Scott](#), [Albert Simon](#), Alice Stanley, [Gloria Stewart](#), Mary Vakala, Cynthia (Talbot) Vincent and myself ([Stephen Wilson](#)). Other AB graduates featured in the PA History Society biographies include [Joseph Varano](#), [Edward “Chip” Hedrick](#), and [Brad Schwarz](#). Listing those who have contributed to advance local, regional, and national PA endeavors are too numerous for this article. Those AB graduates that provided much needed care will always be remembered by their patients.

The “Light on the Hill” has dimmed but like a lighthouse on the shore that no longer guides and warns ships at sea, AB’s PA program and the college/university have well served humanity. AB forever changed the journey of the PA profession. The vision of Dr. Hu Myers and his wife Avenelle was ahead of its time. In his book “*The Physician’s Assistant: A Baccalaureate Curriculum*” Dr. Myers summarizes the background, philosophy, curriculum, and results of the pioneer baccalaureate degree program. Dr. Myers embraced the value of a liberal arts education with a professional endeavor. Those enrolled in the program began going to Saturday morning “Grand Rounds” and took classes like “History, Philosophy, and Ethics of Medicine” as well as the sciences in their first year. While primary care was the emphasis for all programs of that era, the value of a PA in surgery could not have been lost on this talented surgeon. Dr. Myers advancement of the profession was continuously embraced by the program faculty and staff. The PA program bestowed the college’s first graduate degree when it became a master’s program in 1991. They later initiated fellowships in rural health and emergency medicine. The academic accomplishments of the program have seen several generations of providers enter successfully into the ever-changing world of healthcare. Like the knowledge they have stored away, so too will be the memories of their time on the Hill.

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Exploring the Evolution of Doctor of Medical Science Programs in the United States: The Consortium View

by Randy D. Danielsen, PhD, DHL(h), PA-C Emeritus, DFAAPA, PAHx Trustee

The Physician Assistant (PA) profession has experienced significant growth over the past fifty years. Approximately thirty-five years ago, PA programs began transitioning from a bachelor's degree to a master's degree. The move was driven by the desire to increase the level of education and clinical training for PAs. There are currently 309 PA programs in the United States, with more in development. The increasingly complex healthcare system in the U.S. relies on quality improvement, advanced leadership skills, interprofessional collaboration, patient outcomes, health policy legislation, and advocacy. These factors go beyond traditional master's-level education, leading to the need for PAs to acquire additional skills.<sup>1,2</sup>

Research by Taylor and Maxwell and Lee, Green, and Brennan suggests that workplace demands require practical knowledge for daily professional duties. This led to the development of doctorate-prepared practitioners who can apply theory to real-world problems. Doctorate degrees provide advanced training for practitioners to offer specialized services in complex environments.<sup>3,4,5</sup>

Introducing professional doctorates, such as the Doctor of Medical Science (DMS or DMSc), has become a popular alternative to traditional research-focused doctoral programs for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and nursing. These programs prepare practitioners to address practical issues in their field rather than focusing solely on academic research. The emergence of DMSc programs began approximately ten years ago, and there are currently twenty-three programs in the United States offered to PAs today. (See Table 1).

Several DMSc/DMS PA leaders established the Consortium of DMSc/DMS Programs a little over a year ago to promote collaboration and knowledge-sharing among DMSc programs. This collaboration was created to work toward standardizing the curriculum, share best practices, and provide networking opportunities for faculty members. By fostering a community of educators and researchers, the Consortium aims to improve the quality of post-professional PA education. The Consortium is currently gathering program information, including

current student and alumni data that will be reported at the Fall 2024 Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) meeting.

*[For a list of the current Doctoral Programs, please see page 9]*

The Consortium's impact extends beyond individual institutions to enhance the PA profession. Well-educated and skilled PAs can improve patient care outcomes, institutional leadership, and healthcare research. As healthcare regulations and costs drive the industry, PAs with doctoral-level training are uniquely positioned to advocate for diverse patient populations and effectively direct their care.<sup>6</sup>

### References:

- <sup>1</sup> Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate. Founding literature. <http://www.cpedinitiative.org/>
- <sup>2</sup> Costley C, Lester S. Work-based doctorates: professional extension at the highest levels. *Studies in Higher Education*. 2012;37(3):257-269.
- <sup>3</sup> Taylor N, Maxwell T. Enhancing the relevance of a professional doctorate: the case of the Doctor of Education degree at the University of New England. *Asia-Pacific J Coop Edu*. 2004;5(1):60-69.
- <sup>4</sup> Lee A, Green B, Brennan M. Organizational knowledge, professional practice, and the professional doctorate at work. In: Garrick J, Rhodes C (eds). *Research and Knowledge at Work. Perspectives, Case-studies, and Innovative Strategies*. London: Routledge; 2000.
- <sup>5</sup> Maxwell T. From first to second generation professional doctorate. *Studies in Higher Education*. 2003;28(3):279-291.
- <sup>6</sup> Danielsen R. The Professional Doctorate: What are we waiting for? *Clinician Reviews*. June 2017;79.

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



DMSc / DMS Programs	Location	Website
A.T. Still University	Mesa, AZ	<a href="http://www.atsu.edu/dmsc">www.atsu.edu/dmsc</a>
Butler University	Indianapolis, IN	<a href="https://www.butler.edu/pharmacy-health/doctor-medical-science/">https://www.butler.edu/pharmacy-health/doctor-medical-science/</a>
CBU College of Health Sciences	Riverside, CA	<a href="https://calbaptist.edu/academics/programs/online-doctor-of-medical-science/">https://calbaptist.edu/academics/programs/online-doctor-of-medical-science/</a>
College of Idaho	Caldwell, ID	<a href="https://www.collegeofidaho.edu/academic-programs/graduate/doctor-medical-science">https://www.collegeofidaho.edu/academic-programs/graduate/doctor-medical-science</a>
Eastern Virginia Medical School	Norfolk, VA	<a href="https://www.evms.edu/education/doctoral_programs/doctor_of_medical_science/">https://www.evms.edu/education/doctoral_programs/doctor_of_medical_science/</a>
George Fox University	Newberg, OR	<a href="https://www.georgefox.edu/dmsc/index.html">https://www.georgefox.edu/dmsc/index.html</a>
High Point University	High Point, NC	<a href="https://www.highpoint.edu/doctor-medical-science/">https://www.highpoint.edu/doctor-medical-science/</a>
Lincoln Memorial University	Harrogate, TN	<a href="https://www.lmunet.edu/school-of-medical-sciences/dms/">https://www.lmunet.edu/school-of-medical-sciences/dms/</a>
Northern Arizona University	Phoenix, AZ	<a href="https://nau.edu/physician-assistant/doctor-of-medical-science/">https://nau.edu/physician-assistant/doctor-of-medical-science/</a>
Northeastern University	Boston, MA	<a href="https://bouve.northeastern.edu/programs/doctor-of-medical-science-in-healthcare-leadership-dmsc/">https://bouve.northeastern.edu/programs/doctor-of-medical-science-in-healthcare-leadership-dmsc/</a>
Pacific University	Forest Grove, OR	<a href="https://www.pacificu.edu/doctor-medical-science">https://www.pacificu.edu/doctor-medical-science</a>
Rocky Mountain College- MT	Billings, MT	<a href="https://rocky.edu/academics/academic-programs/dmsc/">https://rocky.edu/academics/academic-programs/dmsc/</a>
Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions- UT	Provo, UT	<a href="https://rm.edu/dmsc/">https://rm.edu/dmsc/</a>
Shenandoah University	Winchester, VA	<a href="https://www.su.edu/physician-assistant/doctor-of-medical-science/">https://www.su.edu/physician-assistant/doctor-of-medical-science/</a>
South College	Knoxville, TB	<a href="https://go.south.edu/online/doctor-of-medical-science/">https://go.south.edu/online/doctor-of-medical-science/</a>
Southern California University of Health Sciences	Whittier, CA	<a href="https://www.scuhs.edu/doctoral-degrees/doctor-of-medical-science/">https://www.scuhs.edu/doctoral-degrees/doctor-of-medical-science/</a>
Southern Illinois University	Carbondale, IL	<a href="https://www.siumed.edu/dmsc">https://www.siumed.edu/dmsc</a>
Springfield College	Springfield, MA	<a href="https://springfield.edu/programs/medical-science-dmsc">https://springfield.edu/programs/medical-science-dmsc</a>
University of Lynchburg	Lynchburg, VA	<a href="https://explore.lynchburg.edu/doctor-of-medical-science/">https://explore.lynchburg.edu/doctor-of-medical-science/</a>
University of Maryland-Baltimore	Baltimore, MD	<a href="https://www.graduate.umaryland.edu/dmscpa/">https://www.graduate.umaryland.edu/dmscpa/</a>
University of Nebraska Medical Center	Omaha. NE	<a href="https://www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth/academics/programs/pa/dmsc/">https://www.unmc.edu/alliedhealth/academics/programs/pa/dmsc/</a>
University of Saint Francis- IN	Fort Wayne, IN	<a href="https://www.sf.edu/programs/doctor-of-medical-science-dmsc/">https://www.sf.edu/programs/doctor-of-medical-science-dmsc/</a>
Wake Forest University School of Medicine	Winston-Salem, NC	<a href="https://school.wakehealth.edu/education-and-training/pa-studies/dmsc-program">https://school.wakehealth.edu/education-and-training/pa-studies/dmsc-program</a>

## Bringing PA History to the People

by Tricia Marriott, PA-C, MPAS, MJ, CHC, DFAAPA, PAHx Historian



PAHx Historian Tricia Marriott, ConnAPA President Sarah Adams, & PAHx Trustee Secretary/Treasurer Bill Kohlhepp

In the spirit and mission of the PA History Society (PAHx) to “share the history of the development of the PA profession and illustrate how PAs continue to make a difference in our society”, the PAHx supports PAs, PA organizations, PA programs, and the profession in many ways. The PAHx website has been updated with a new look and feel with better functionality. The [Historian Toolkit](#) (available to PAHx Associates) has been revised to include additional resources. The recently published “[PAs as Social Innovators in Healthcare](#)” book (PAHx 2022) is being integrated into the PA curriculum at many PA programs across the country. New this year, the Society is providing a small interactive session (SIS), approved for Category I CME, at AAPA’s Annual Conference in Houston on May 21, 2024 to help PAs get started on preserving their own PA history. (See more information on page 2.) The PAHx believes that the best people to tell the PA story are PAs themselves.

As an excellent example of a state chapter’s commitment to preserving and supporting PA history, the Connecticut Academy of Physician Associates (ConnAPA) used their annual Charter Oak Conference, held in March 2024, to highlight the rich history of the PA profession by hosting the [PAHx-National Library of Medicine PA Profession Travelling Banner Exhibit](#). The six panel display (pictured right) held a prominent position in the main hallway outside of the lecture hall during the entire conference. PAHx Trustee Bill Kohlhepp and Student Trustee Alec Williams were also in attend-

ance. In addition, ConnAPA provided exhibit space for the PA History Society to interact with attendees and display available copies of the “[PAs as Social Innovators in Healthcare](#)” for purchase.

ConnAPA, incorporated in 1975, was one of the early PA state chapters and has a rich history of producing PA leaders, including the PA History Society’s co-founder [J. Jeffrey](#)



ConnAPA Board Member Nick Patino and Award Recipient Quinnipiac University PA Student Alec Williams

[Henrich](#) who was a ConnAPA President in the early 80s. PAHx Trustee Bill Kohlhepp and Historian Tricia Marriott are also ConnAPA past presidents. Jason Prevelige, AAPA’s current President-elect, is also a 2-term ConnAPA past president. In keeping with ConnAPA’s tradition, PA History Society’s Student Trustee, Alec Williams, made his own history during the conference as he was named one of ConnAPA’s PA Students of the Year during the ConnAPA membership business luncheon held on March 25, 2024.

PA State, Specialty and Special Interest Constituent Organizations, PA programs, health systems and practicing PAs all have their unique journeys and stories to tell, from their origin story to today. The PAHx Society is ready to support those groups in their efforts. If you are interested in providing a biography, hosting the PAHx-National Library of Medicine Traveling Banner Exhibit or would like to learn more about preserving PA history, don’t hesitate to contact a PAHx [Trustee](#) or email us at [Contactus@pahx.org](mailto:Contactus@pahx.org).





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*(The Fall of an Icon ... continued from page 7)*

### References and Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup>[Remembering-Philippi-West-Virginia-Alderson-Broadus-College-and-Dr.-Hu-Myers.pdf \(pahx.org\)](#)

<sup>2</sup>[Light on the Hill: A Pictorial History of Alderson-Broadus College: Withers, Richard, Roy, Martha Rose: 9780898659597: Amazon.com: Books](#)

<sup>3</sup>[Alderson Broadus University - Wikipedia](#)

<sup>4</sup>[Why More Small Nonprofit Colleges Are Facing An Uncertain Future | WBUR News](#)

<sup>5</sup>[Will Half Of All Colleges Really Close In The Next Decade? \(forbes.com\)](#)

<sup>6</sup>[American colleges in crisis with enrollment decline largest on record | Fortune](#)

<sup>7</sup>[Distress Soars at Small US Colleges as Enrollment Declines - Bloomberg](#)

<sup>8</sup>[Accreditation-History-Alderson-Broadus-29.pdf \(arc-pa.org\)](#)

<sup>9</sup>[Alderson Broadus physician assistant graduates Achieve 100% certification pass rate \(mybuckhannon.com\)](#)

<sup>10</sup>[Alderson Broadus class achieve 100% PANCE Pass Rate \(wboy.com\)](#)

<sup>11</sup>[AB program graduates achieve 100% pass rate | News, Sports, Jobs - The Intermountain](#)

<sup>12</sup> Stanhope and Whittaker attended A-B to earn their bachelor's degree and provide teaching assistance after attending the Duke program.

This article was researched and written by Steve Wilson, AB class of 1974, and reviewed by Glen Combs, AB class of 1973.

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- An excellent resource for faculty and students!
- Kirkus Review April 2023 excerpt: "This illuminating history of physician assistants in the United States show how a novel medical profession took root and blossomed. "
- The book content may help address the ARC-PA curricular components such as B2.14(d) and B2.17 (b),(c),(e),(f) & (g) to help aid in teaching the history of the PA profession.



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## “Become a PA Historian: Preserving PA History”

Tue. May 21, 2024, from 2pm-3pm

Convention Center: Level 3, Room 351 D

The PA History Society is excited to announce a **small group interactive CME session** to be held at the AAPA Annual Conference in Houston this May. The PAHx session titled, “Become a PA Historian: Preserving PA History.” is for those who want to learn how to preserve the important history of the PA profession and memories of their PA program, graduating class, state chapter, or other PA-related group/organization.

Learn the value of saving historical materials, the need for recording an organization’s leadership and historical events, and how to identify what should be preserved. This session will introduce basic archival guidance for documenting the unique PA history, such as creating a historical timeline, writing biographies of important figures, conducting mini-interviews about crucial events, and ensuring special events are photographed and recorded, and so much more!

Space is limited for this free session which requires participants to register before attending the AAPA conference. Please register here: [AAPA 2024 website](#)

