

Historical Happenings

Newsletter of the Society for the Preservation of Physician Assistant History

Spring 2006 Vol. 4, Issue 4

Historic events occur in Durham

By: Pam Scott

I have often said that each time a PA sees a patient, assists in the OR, presents a lecture, or teaches a student a new skill, that PA is creating history for our young profession. As a profession, we are not even 40 years old. Yet, during that short time span we have seen the profession evolve from assisting the physician to practicing medicine with the physician, from working under very restrictive laws to regulations that permit the physician-physician assistant team to be better utilized, including delegated prescribing in 49 states now, and a gender change from an all male profession to one that is now >60% female. However, we have not yet fully matured as a profession. The best is yet to come.

Even though that is absolutely true, there are still events that are so significant that one just knows that they are going to be influential on the contin-



The SPPAHx strategic planning session members gather outside of the archives facilities of the organization.

ued growth, prosperity, and evolution of our profession. Such events occurred on February 25, 2006, in Durham, NC.

Probably the most significant event of the day was the official dedication ceremony for the Eugene A. Stead Jr. Center for Physician Assistants, in Durham, NC. This is the first private headquarters for any of our constituent organizations (For more details, please see related article on page 6.)

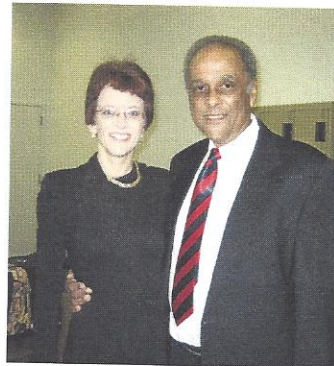
The PA History Center

SPPAHx also unveiled their new office space and displays during the event.

Additionally, the SPPAHx held a strategic planning meeting with some of our board of directors members, senior staff, and invited guests from our partner organizations to discuss the future of the SPPAHx and how we could best meet their needs while remaining true to our core mission to "preserve, study and present the history and legacy of our profession." (For more details, please see the related article on page 3.)



SPPAHx planning meeting attendees at the opening of the Stead Center



SPPAHx President-elect Scott and Dr. Smith discuss the past

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Upcoming events:

- Committee Meetings**
5/29/06 1:00 to 1:50 PM
- Strategic Planning Committee**
5/29/06 2:00 to 2:50 PM
- Board of Directors Meeting**
5/29/06 3:00 to 3:50 PM
- General Membership Meeting**
5/29/06 4:00 to 4:50 PM

All meetings are open to all members and will be held in:
Golden Gate Room A3
San Francisco Marriott

In conjunction with:
AAPA Annual Conference
San Francisco, CA
May 27-June 1, 2006



**SPPAHx 2005-2006
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**Historical
Happenings**

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Editor: Pam Scott, MPAS, PA-C

President's Perspective...

Witnessing PA History in the making.....



Ruth Ballweg, MPA, PA-C
SPPAHx President, 2005-06

By: Ruth Ballweg

The opening of the PA History Center in the Research Triangle was a huge "moment" in PA History! In addition, representatives of all of the PA organizations—along with your Society's board members—had the opportunity to visit the archives and also to discuss our future. The participation of Dr. Richard Smith — as our sole living "founder" added important context for us!

Our day began with a visit to the Society's archives—housed in the DUMC archive facilities. We saw a wide range of donated items—including a Navy hospital corpsman uniform of an early Duke graduate and the original drawings for the Gasoline Alley cartoons that traced Chipper's transition from an ex-military corpsman to Physician Assistant.

We've all been impacted by Mira Waller's enthusiasm for the archiving process — but

seeing the finished product was extremely energizing. I think we all left the archives with new plans for saving not just the past but also the present!

The strategic planning discussion with organizational representatives gave us a chance to show what we've done as well as the opportunity to talk about our dreams. The universal feedback that we got was that we need to "focus." We're an organization of big-thinkers with a constant flow of new and exciting ideas. However, we need to better define our projects. We also need to create defined "products" that can be funded by outside groups. Our partnering organizations reaffirmed their interest in continued involvement in our Society!

We also reviewed our membership campaigns designed to create ongoing support by PA programs, constituent chapters and other PA organizations. We've made good progress but there's still a lot more to do. If, as you read this, your organization has not yet become involved, we encourage you to ask them to join our efforts to preserve our history.

Finally, we were all inspired by the dedication of the North Carolina Academy's Stead Center. The vision of the Academy in developing

and funding their own building sets a high standard for other state academies. Our move to this facility creates some opportunities for us to once again be clear that the Society exists to preserve the history of the PA profession as a whole and not just the Duke Program. With our own essentially free-standing facility, we invite you all to see the Society as encompassing all PA programs and all PA organizations! We also need to create defined "products" that can be funded by outside agencies. What an exciting future we have before us.



Archival Storage Facility



Charles Lewis' Hospital
Corpsmen Uniform

SPPAHx Holds Strategic Planning Meeting

By: Pam Scott

In addition to other activities held at the Stead Center on February 25th, the SPPAHx held a strategic planning meeting that included members of the Society's current board of directors, past-presidents and staff, and representatives from our partnering organizations who have been supportive from the beginning. These organizations are the Academy (AAPA), the PA Foundation, the Commission (NCCPA), the Association (PAEA) and the NC Academy of Physician Assistants.

One person who participated in the day's activities made it an even more memorable day for us all. Dr. Richard (Dick) Smith is our profession's sole living founder. His continued interest in our profession and our goals as a Society was inspiring and we all sensed his charm and ability as a visionary to get the job done.

The meeting consisted of an open and honest exchange of ideas by all that focused on ensuring the future viability and growth of the work of the PA History Center and SPPAHx enabling PA history to be persevered for generations to come.

The group recognized Ms. Mira Waller, the society's first archivist, for her professionalism, willingness to take on any task, commitment to quality, detail and the PA profession. Her contributions to the Society and her friendship will long be remembered. We wish her the best as she departs for a new position at DUMC.

Executive Director Carter summarized the meeting as follows: "The planning meeting was enriched by the insight, candor and advice provided by representatives of our partnering organizations. We all agreed that preserving our history is a task for everyone and that the Society needs to teach PA faculty and PA leaders



President Ballweg presents Waller best wishes and gifts of appreciation.

how to do this to archival standards. Our society members need to be active in its mission, not just bystanders. There is too much for one person to do. It is important that we remain focused on our priorities and provide products and services that meet the need of current and future generations of PAs. We owe it to ourselves and the future development of the PA profession."

President Ballweg concurred and added, "Our biggest problem --- and our greatest challenge is to

greatest strength, too—is that we're too ambitious—we want to do more than we can possibly do!" However, it was probably Dr. Smith who summed it up best when he remarked, "I feel the spirit of collaboration that I remember from the old days."



President-elect Scott also presents Waller with a "gag gift". For those of you who recall Freddie's traveling woes to Puerto Rico, you'll rest easier knowing he has a permanent home with Mira. (And yes, he did make the trip this time in the carry-on.

remain focused on the task at hand." Those participating in the meeting included Ruth Ballweg, Jeff Heinrich, Pam Scott, Gloria Stewart, Don Peterson, Jim Cawley, Reg Carter, Sherry Carter, Mira Waller, Dawn Morton-Rias, Wayne VonSeggan, Sue Reich, Dick Smith, and Steve Crane.

The SPPAHx sincerely thanks the participants for contributing their time, efforts, and energy to helping us plan our future to ensure that our professional history is not forgotten.



Participants listen intently during discussions at planning meeting

Raiders of the Lost Archives

By: Pam Scott

Well maybe the archives aren't lost, but just not that well known. Prior to attending the planning session, the group toured the DUMC campus and visited the archives building containing the Society's collection.

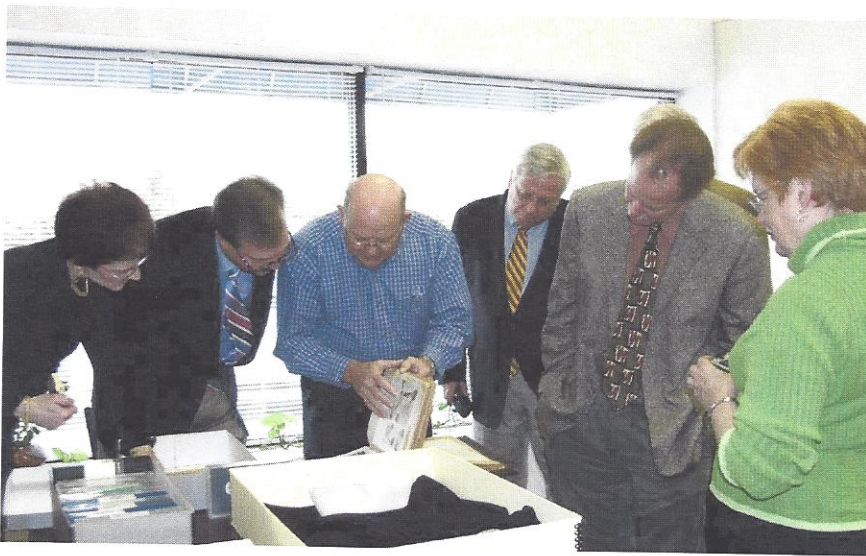
We had the privileged to see the original *Gasoline Alley* renderings that featured "Chipper"; original letters from early PA founders and leaders; conference programs from the AAPA, before it even was known as the AAPA and an authentic Navy Hospital

corpsman uniform - just to name a few.

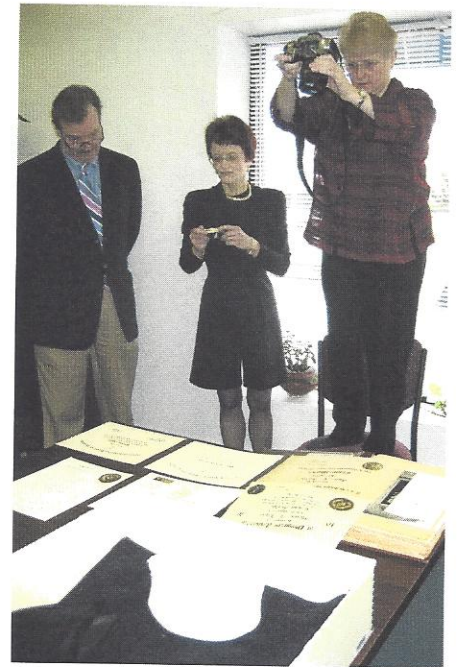
We were informed of the necessity of proper climate control to preserve different types of documents and what else the archiving process entails. We saw an extensive amount of processed materials related to our history and even a greater amount of unprocessed materials. These materials will be processed and added to the collection as soon as funds can be obtained to support our preservation efforts.



Dr. Carter and Mira Waller reveal cartoonist Dick Moore's original drawings from the comic strip, *Gasoline Alley*.



The PA History Buffs were like kids in a candy store trying to absorb all the archives' material.



Photographer Gloria Stewart will do anything to get the perfect shot

PAF Donates Combat Medic Sculpture

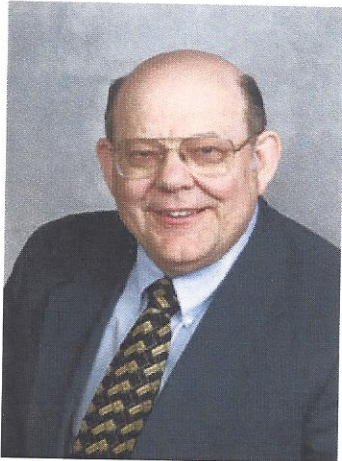
By: Pam Scott

On behalf of the Academy's PA Foundation, President Don Pederson, presented a desktop version of the Combat Medic Memorial Sculpture to President Ballweg and Executive Director Carter during the day long activities.

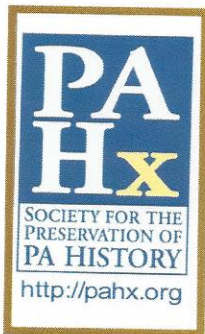
The sculpture is on display in the Resource Reading Room that the Society has filled with first edition texts, reprints and journals. These items are available for individuals doing research on the PA profession. (See related article by Jim Cawley on page 10).



From left to right is Pederson, Carter, and Ballweg during the presentation of the Combat Medic/Corpsmen sculpture



Reginald Carter, PhD, PA-C
Executive Director



Thank-you!

The SPPAHx BOD and staff would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to the following individuals for providing photographs for use in this edition of Historical Happenings:

Ruth Ballweg
Reginald Carter
Stephen Crane
John Elkins
Pam Scott
Gloria Stewart

Executive Directions...

By: Reginald Carter

After completing graduate school, Sherry and I moved to Hillsborough, a small rural community located about 12 miles east of Durham, North Carolina where Duke University is located. I spent a year as a research fellow, joined the faculty the next year and began teaching physiology to a new category of students on campus – physician assistants. As they say, “the rest is history.”

We had a one-year old daughter and knew no one in the community. By chance (or Providence), we rented a house next door to a wonderful elderly couple - Mr. and Ms. George Tapp. Soon our daughter was calling them grandpa and grandma and Sherry was providing transportation to buy groceries, visit the doctor, etc. – using their car. The relationship benefited us all. Mr. Tapp didn’t say much, but when he did, you listened. While working together in his garage one day, he said, “You know what it all comes down to in the end?” I hesitated a moment and asked “What”? He said, “Family, good friends and memories.”

As I see it, history is nothing more than a collection of individual memories. Reports and minutes of meetings are helpful, but it is the correspondence and oral histories that give a researcher insight into

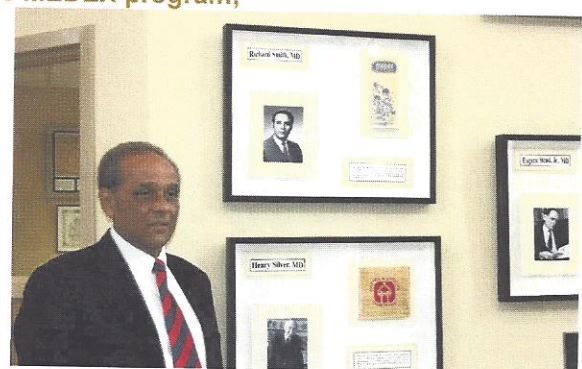
what really was going on, how people felt or struggled with an issue or event. Memories are best when they are experienced and shared with others. Sixteen of us were lucky enough to be together on Saturday, February 25th, to tour the DUMC archives, visit the Duke campus, lunch and meet at the Stead Center and join others for an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony that evening. It was a day to remember. Here are a few memories of the day that I will cherish for the rest of my life:

- Being in the archives and looking together at Dick Moore’s original drawings of the Gasoline Alley comic strip featuring Chipper Wallet’s decision to become a physician assistant.
- The wonderful surprise of having Dr. Richard Smith spend the day with us; his stories about Dr. Amos Johnson calling him weekly to find out how things were going with the MEDEX program;

and seeing him stand beside the wall exhibit honoring him as a founder of the PA concept.

- On behalf of the PA-Foundation, Don Pedersen presenting the Society a bronze statuette of the medic attending the needs of a fallen soldier, “life savers then, care givers now.”
- The Stead family cutting the ribbon to open the Eugene A. Stead, Jr. Center for Physician Assistants and their looks and words of approval for the Society’s role in recreating the Stead Office Museum in the new building.
- The look of pride on the faces of those attending the ceremony, the spirit of collaboration shown during the planning session and the kind words of appreciation and encouragement directed towards me, Sherry and Mira. Family, good friends and memories – can I say more?

Memories



Dr. Smith standing by his tribute on the “Founders” Wall at the Stead Center

SPPAHx Participates in Stead Center Dedication Ceremony

By: Pam Scott

The highlight of the February 25th events was the dedication of the Eugene A. Stead Jr. Center for Physician Assistants.

This was truly a historic event since it represented the establishment of the first private headquarters by an AAPA constituent chapter.

The NC Academy of PAs (NCAPA) began planning the building of this multi-million dollar facility over two years ago. About half of the 7,200 square-foot building is currently home to the NCAPA administrative offices. The other half compromises office space leased to the SPPAHx and History Center; an elegant, spacious lobby with displays recognizing the founders of our profession as well as our national PA organizations, a museum quality replicate of Dr. Stead's office; a resource room, supplied with many first editions of books, magazines, and correspondence regarding the early days of the PA profession or written by PAs; and a library containing many additional resources and a relaxing atmosphere. All of these areas were created and

maintained by the SPPAHx and History Center.

The remainder of the facility is compromised of the E. Harvey Estes Conference Center which contains a full-size professional kitchen and meeting space that the NCAPA plans not only utilizing for their meetings, but also to generate revenue for the organization by hosting events for local organizations and groups.



Dr. Stead's family cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremonies

Executive Director, Reginald Carter. Dr. Carter's profound statements best summarized the event. He stated, "This building represents the vision and passion of the founding physicians, legislators, and community activist who saw health care as a right, not a privilege. We truly stand on the shoulders of giants."



President Ballweg addresses the group

The opening ceremony was attended by over 100 individuals. It commenced with a ribbon cutting ceremony by Dr. Stead's family.

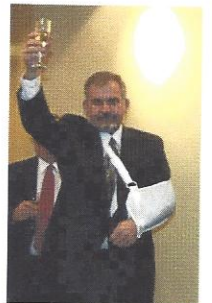
Several other individuals addressed the attendees including SPPAHx President, Ruth Ballweg and



Dr Carter making remarks at the opening



Guests enjoy a delicious array of foods



NCAPA offers toast



SPPAHx BOD and staff enjoy the festivities.



Dr. Smith making remarks



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Interested in committee service?

The SPPAHx can use more volunteers on most of our committees. If you are interested in serving on a particular committee, please feel free to contact the chair or one of the co-chairs of that committee at the above e-mails or Dr. Carter at exdir@pahx.org to let us know of your interests, talents, and desires to serve.

Thank-you!

SPPAHx staff does fabulous job with displays

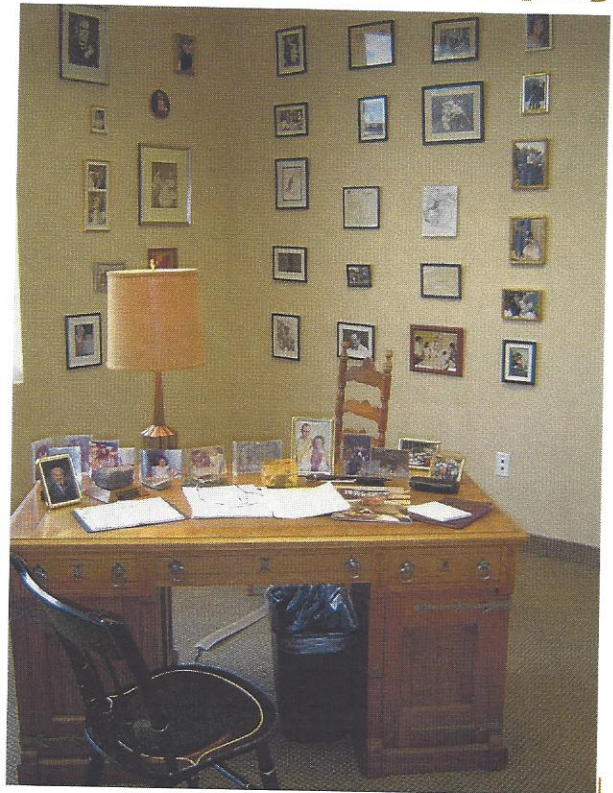
By: Pam Scott

In addition to all the details and stress involved with moving into our new offices at the Stead Center, the SPPAHx staff was also responsible for the establishment of the resource room and library, developing and following through with the lobby exhibits, and setting up the museum recreation of Dr. Stead's office.

The results are, using today's vernacular - awesome! Standing at the doorway to Dr. Stead's office you get the feeling that he has just gotten up and stepped away for a few minutes.

The displays in the lobby recognizing our founders and national PA organizations are meticulously arranged, tastefully done, and a laudable tribute.

Thanks for all the hard work, thought and effort that went into all of these.



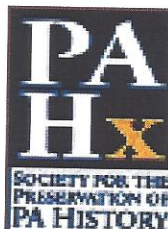
Authentic replica of Dr. Stead's office



Founders wall in lobby of Stead Center



Dr. Smith's display



Want to see something special?

Have a suggestion for newsletter articles, web exhibits, biographies, photographs, artifacts, memorabilia, oral histories, or more? Then please let us know and we'll do our best to accommodate your wishes.

Please send requests to:

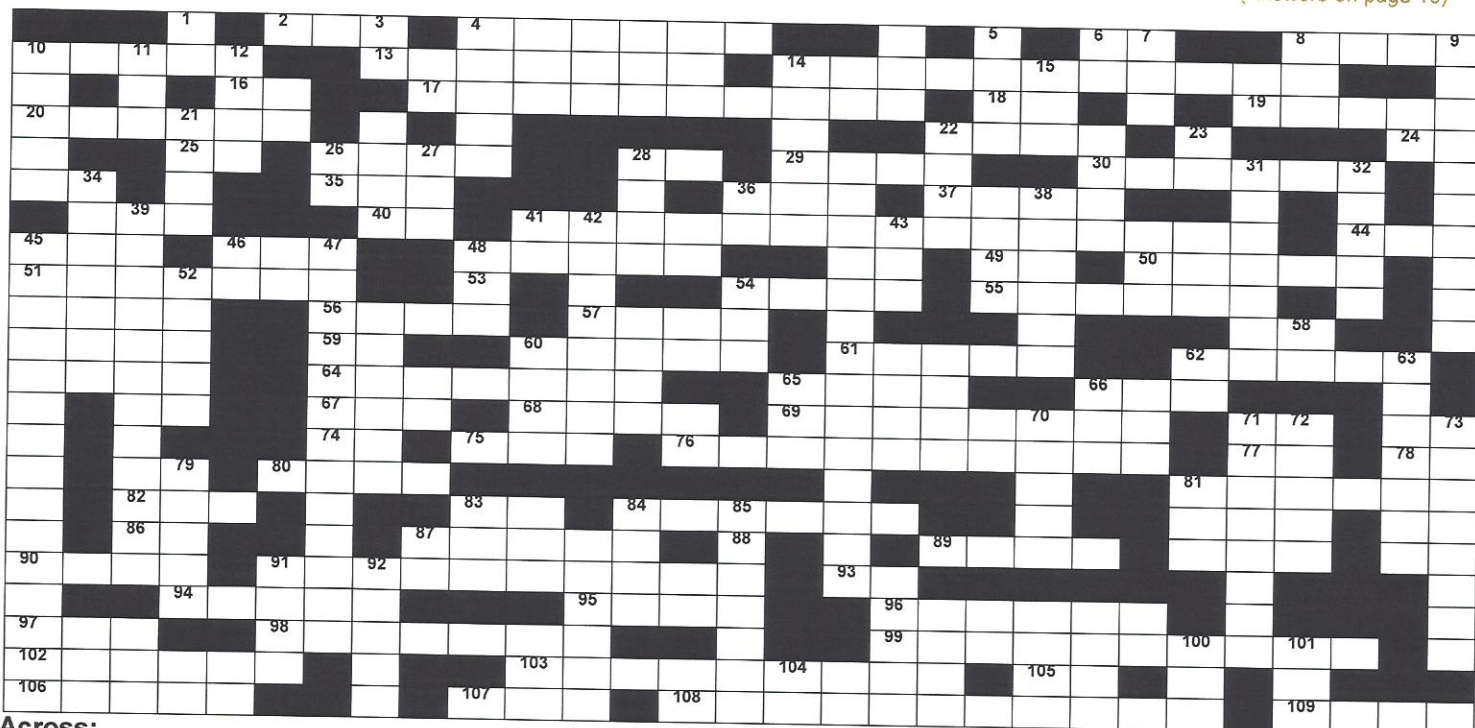
pahx@mc.duke.edu

PA IQ Challenge ...

By: Pam Scott

Even though Dr. Eugene Stead is credited for being the "father of the PA Profession", most experts in PA history credit the development of the profession to five individuals. These five founders established very different PA programs in terms of prerequisites, curriculums, focus, and length, at approximately the same time throughout the Country. Asking you to name all five of these physicians might have been enough of a PA IQ challenge for some; however, we went beyond. This jissue's PA IQ Challenge is a crossword puzzle that contains trivia questions about these individuals, Dr. Hu C Myers, Dr. Dick Smith, Dr. John Kirkland, and Dr. Henry Silver, their programs, and the PA profession in general. How much do you know about the founding fathers of our profession?

(Answers on page 10)



Across:

1. When combined with 21 down, and 20, 53, 65, 89, 95, and 106 across forms the title of the *1966 Look Magazine* article about Dr. Stead and the DUMC PA program
2. Greek prefix for "along with"
4. Felt PAs would be excellent for periodic pediatric examinations
6. State Dr. Myers was born
8. One of the initial government agencies to fund AB's PA program
10. Type of coverage received *Look* magazine featured Dr. Stead and the newly formed PA Program at Duke
11. Month Dr. Stead was born
12. City Dr. Myers was born
16. Abrev. placed after early Medex graduates signature
17. Dr. Silver's speciality
18. Direction Dr. Smith recently predicted the PA profession will go
19. Had to delay enrollment to medical school due to illness
20. When combined with 21 down, and 1, 53, 65, 89, 95, and 105 across forms the title of the *1966 Look Magazine* article about Stead and the DUMC PA program
22. Bowman-_____ was an early PA programs modeled after Duke
24. State Dr. Myers originally planned on attending medical school
25. At bedtime for all five
26. Worked with Dr. Silver
28. Some PA programs are associated with this kind of medical school
29. One of Dr. Myers' physician brothers
31. Background of students in Dr. Silver's program
35. Original length of Dr. Smith's program in years.
36. They developed a _____ HCP
37. Name Dr. Myers' was known by staff, patients, and students
40. Part of a hospital or a sexual problem
41. Dr. Smith is in search of the perfect one of these
44. What some say the ANA had on their face after seeing the early successes of the PA profession
46. Location of Dr. Kirkland's program
48. Where Drs. Stead and Myers went to medical school
49. Dr. Myers' other physician brother
50. Organization who just dedicated building to Dr. Stead
51. State where Dr. Smith's Indian Health Service experience was
53. When combined with 21 down, and 1, 20, 65, 89, 95, and 106 across forms the title of the *1966 Look Magazine* article about Stead and the DUMC PA program
54. The Robert _____ Johnson Foundation provided funding for AB's PA program
55. Degree initially offered by Dr. Silver's program
56. What Dr. Myers always encouraged you to do with patients
57. All 5 physicians are part of our _____
58. All encouraged PAs to _____ forth
60. Dr. Stead's program was this
61. All did this where no other person had do so before
63. Father invented a switchboard for the local telephone company to enable him to practice medicine without having to see patient
64. City where Dr. Stead and Dr. Myers went to medical school
65. When combined with 21 down, and 1, 20, 53, 89, 95, and 106 across forms the title of the *1966 Look Magazine* article about Stead and the DUMC PA program
66. Initials originally placed after the signature of graduates of Dr. Silver's program
67. Where body fluid analysis is done or a type of dog (abbrev)
68. All the members of the first Duke PA class were corpsmen from this branch of the military
69. Was known for his work in the field of cardiac surgery
71. Abbrev. all 5 docs taught students meaning "take by mouth or orally"
74. First PA program founded at a liberal arts college and not a medical school
75. Name of one of the students in Dr. Stead's first class
76. Along with 103 across was something that made Dr. Smith's program unique from the others at the time they were forming
77. To take at bedtime, is to take at _____
78. All needed the _____ ahead from their school's administration before starting their PA program
80. Program founded by Dr. Stead
81. Has a syndrome name after him
82. All these founders had to wear multiple ones of these to get their programs started (singular)

Crossword (continued):

83. Location of one of the original Medex programs
84. City where Dr. Kirkland was born
86. Stead would often joke about founding the PA profession by saying, "What have we done? We really did _____."
87. Initially funding for the Duke program came from the National _____ Institute
88. Word not found in the team approach to medicine
89. When combined with 21 down, and 1, 20, 65, 89, 95, and 106 across forms the title of the 1966 *Look Magazine* article about Stead and the DUMC PA program
90. Another early location for a Medex model of education
91. Dr. Stead and Dr. Myers were both help their fathers sell this (singular)
92. Type of physician Dr. Myers' father was
94. Worked in the Surgeon's General Office in international health
95. When combined with 21 down, and 1, 20, 53, 65, 89, and 106 across forms the title of the 1966 *Look Magazine* article about Stead and the DUMC PA program
96. Occupation of Dr. Kirkland's father
97. Gave a very distinguished award to Dr. Silver
98. First name of physician who wrote initial grant for nonphysician training at Duke
99. Term Dr. Silver proposed for the profession
100. The physician in #98 across original grant was to train former medical corpsmen as non-physician hyperbaric _____ assistants
103. The "P" in PA is fthis
105. Another location of an early Medex sites
106. When combined with 21 down, and 1, 20, 53, 65, 89, 95, and 106 across forms the title of the 1966 *Look Magazine* article about Stead and the DUMC PA program
107. Oct. ___ commences

- National PA Week
108. Kind of physician Dr. Kirkland's father was
109. The Charles _____ PA program was another early Medex site.

Down:

3. Was prior healthcare experience a prerequisite for Dr. Myers' program?
4. Recently had a building named after him
5. Length of AB's initial PA program in yrs.
6. Where AB is located
7. Was in Duke's 1st. class
8. Actress who did a PSA for CAPA
9. First Medex program
10. Type of training program that is a contraction for medicine plus extension
11. What most soldiers called their medic
12. Had a prototypical PA that served as an example for both Stead and Smith
14. What Dr. Stead was always betting
15. Letters following a PA licensed in NY
21. When combined with 1, 20, 53, 65, 89, 95, and 106 across forms the title of the 1966 *Look Magazine* article about Dr. Stead and the DUMC PA program
22. Amount of previous health care experience required to enter Dr. Myers' program
23. Where you might find Dr. Myers or Dr. Kirkland
27. Supposed to have been Dr. Myers' favorite color
28. As a boy, Dr. Stead helped his father sell his product _____ to door
30. A book containing essays by Dr. Stead
32. Along with 81 down formed the name of Dr. Silver's first student
33. Believed he wouldn't (and didn't) live long enough to see the full evolution of the PA profession
34. Actress who appeared on the cover of the *Look* magazine that contained the PA article
36. Response from the National League of Nursing to support the training of nurses to become the first Pas

38. Where Dr. Smith went to medical school
39. Where Dr. Silver was born
42. What Dr. Myers, his father, and two brother established in Philippi, WV
43. Measurement of medication Dr. Myers recommended to his patients, "Just a _____."
45. Dr. Kirkland believed this existed instead of a true shortage of physicians in the 1960's
47. AB was the first PA program to offer this degree
52. What all these physicians trained their students to be on the lookout for referral to the physician (singular)
63. Area of specialty of Dr. Kirkland's program
66. Not the national network that came to cover the establishment of the PA program at AB
70. Because of the initials placed after their names, graduates of Dr. Silver's program were occasionally confused with these Alaskan healthcare providers, Community Health _____
71. Location of Alderson-Broadus College
73. Source of the majority of the students for the early PA classes, especially for Drs. Stead and Smith
79. In establishing the PA profession, these founder followed new _____
81. Along with 32 down formed the name of Dr. Silver's first student
85. Country where Dr. Smith served while in the Peace Corps
87. Initially most PAs could be considered a _____
92. The length (in yrs.) of Dr. Silver's program
100. The first PAs have been described as "laboratory _____" by some
101. What many of us would be if the PA profession was not established
104. Teaching media not available to these doctors when they started their programs (singular)

The SPPAHx thanks all our organizational sponsors!

PA Educational Programs

Albany-Hudson Valley
 Arizona School of Health Sciences
 Butler University/Ciaran Health
 Central Michigan University
 Des Moines University
 Drexel University
 Duke University
 East Carolina University
 Emory University
 Gannon University
 George Washington University
 Hofstra University
 Jefferson College
 Loch Haven University
 Marietta College
 Marquette University
 MA College of Pharmacy
 Medical College of SC
 Methodist College of Health Sciences
 Midwestern University
 New York Institute of Technology
 Northeastern University
 Nova Southeastern University
 Oregon Health Sciences Univ.
 Pacific University
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 Philadelphia University
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Shenandoah University
 South University
 Southwest Missouri State University
 St. Louis University
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Without you, we would not be able preserve our past for the future.



Mira Waller, MLA
PA Hx Center Archivist

Archivist's Corner...

By: Mira Waller
In the past I have used this column as a vehicle to bring up topics, which are very important to me such as conservation, organization of materials, the importance of oral histories, and the need for the PA profession to save its history. In sharing my passions, tips, and viewpoints on these topics with you, I hope that I have tickled your own desire for preserving the past, and increased your awareness and knowledge of archival methodologies and practices. I know that I have learned a great deal from all of you, and benefited in many ways during the past year and a half.

While my resignation as the Archivist for the Society

Thank-you and Good-bye...

and the PA History Center has been effective since February 28, 2006, my support of the Society, as well as my belief in its mission remain unchanged. First of all the mission and goals of the Society speak to my fundamental belief that preserving the past is part of the life blood of any profession's ability to sustain and grow. Without knowing our past, our roots how can we know our purpose and learn from our mistakes? Secondly, the PAs who I have met have helped me to grow personally and professionally. While I cannot name everyone, I would like to thank Dr. Carter for his unfailing support, wisdom, guidance, and enthusiasm for history and archives. Finally, I have

faith that the seed that I have helped plant will grow into something, which will enrich the PA profession and add to our cultural heritage. It is a rare treat to be given the opportunity to not only document history, but to help make it.

Over the years I have come to realize that history is not concrete, and that much of what we take for fact is often hearsay. Oftentimes historians find themselves becoming detectives, hunting for clues that in all likelihood do not exist. What a wonderful opportunity the PA profession has been given, the ability to tell their story for future generations.

The SPPAHx BOD and Staff
would like to extend to Mira our

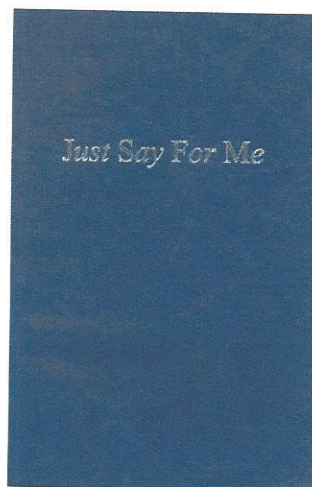


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Using the society's resources....

(con't from pg. 10)

of Health Education and Welfare (the precursor to the Department of Health and Human Services).

Roderick Hooker, PhD, PA-C has donated a vast collection of journal articles published on PAs and other nonphysician clinicians. His donation comprises hundreds of papers carefully assembled by year of publication and spanning the time frame from the early 1970s through the present.

It should be noted that the Harrison Reading Room collection is distinguished and separate from the

materials on PA history archived at the DUMC Archives, a separate facility located some ten miles from the NCAPA Stead building. The DUMC Archives contains a great deal of PA information as well, much of it obviously drawn from the files of the PA program at Duke, but also a fair amount of material on the Academy and APAP (now PAEA).

As one individual who has begun to use the resources of the Stead wing for scholarly purposes, it is a challenging and humbling experience to examine these materials. This collection presents a large amount of information and the

challenge is that it is a formidable task to approach and organize any form of book, record, or analysis of our history. One staggers from the amount of information that must be examined to cull the relevant from the trivial.

It is also humbling in the sense that these materials catalogue a movement that represents a seminal set of events in American medicine, the creation from scratch of a new health profession. One gets the sense that many of these materials were the works of pioneers and visionaries who were working to establish what has become

a remarkable phenomenon. A visit to the Harrison Reading Room and the adjacent Stead office replica are features of the Stead Center building that any PA would thoroughly enjoy visiting and treasure.

Professor Cawley is a member of the SPPAHx BOD. He is currently on sabbatical from his position at the PA/MPH Program in the School of Public Health and Health Services at George Washington University. He has been granted a visiting faculty appointment in the Department of the History of Medicine at The Johns Hopkins University.



Society for the Preservation of Physician Assistant History

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