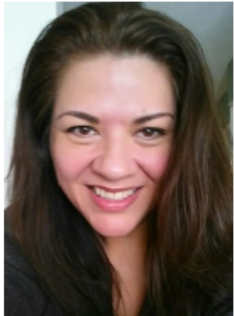




Historical Happenings

Newsletter of the Physician Assistant History Society



Message from the President

Karen Mulitalo, MPAS, PA-C

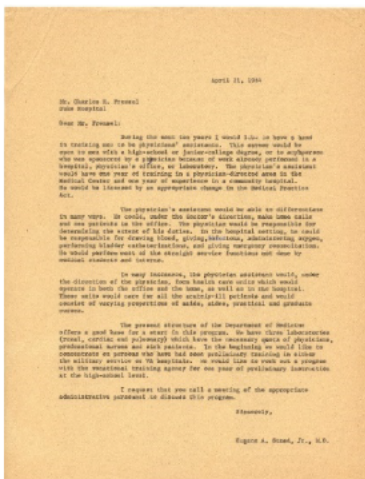
Welcome to 2017, and let's begin to celebrate the **PA profession's 50th Anniversary!** Our profession has experienced incredible growth during the past

half-century, and we honor the pioneering PAs and physicians who blazed the trail before us. Dr. Stead, with his vision for a physician assistant, and those first PA students (Navy corpsmen Victor H. Germino, Kenneth F. Ferrell and Richard J. Scheele) were innovators who changed the landscape of healthcare in the United States forever. Germino, Ferrell and Scheele enrolled in the inaugural PA program at Duke University in 1965 and graduated as the first PAs on Oct. 6, 1967.

As certified PAs, PA educators, and PA students begin to celebrate this landmark anniversary, I would like to encourage everyone to visit the **Society's website** to learn more about the interesting stories of the people and events that have shaped the PA profession into the "most valuable Master's degree"

(*Forbes*, June 2014).

Some of the fascinating items you can find on our website include this first letter (image left) written by Dr. Stead in 1964 regarding his intent to begin a formal education program for physician assistants at the Duke University Medical Center.



Inside this edition:

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The PA History Society has also been working on several **50th Anniversary projects** to honor the pioneering PAs and to celebrate the important healthcare provided by PAs around the globe today. You can read about the special PAHx anniversary projects in this edition, which include:

- a **special edition *Gasoline Alley* comic book** featuring the adventures of Chipper Wallet (pg. 6)
- April dedication of the renovated **Veterans Memorial Garden** at the Stead Center (pg. 2)
- a **50th Anniversary Toolkit** for PAHx Associates (pg. 4)
- the PA profession **traveling banner exhibit** in partnership with the National Library of Medicine (pg. 7)

(President's Message continued on page 2)

(President's Message continued from page 1)

This year also marks the **15th Anniversary of the PA History Society!** The Society for the Preservation of Physician Assistant History, Inc. (or more simply, the PA History Society) was incorporated on January 17, 2002. The organization was established by Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA and J. Jeffrey Heinrich, EdD, PA-C, to preserve and share the history of the development of the PA profession, and illustrate how PAs continue to make a difference in American society. Over the past 15 years, the PAHx archives have grown to include:



- over 50 processed collections that consist of organizational records and personal papers
- 112 oral histories
- 200 digital videos and analog media materials
- Over 2,500 photographs
- 200 museum pieces (uniforms, conference giveaways, Eugene Stead, Jr. estate items)
- Over 1,700 items in the Society Library (articles, books, journals)

Please visit the [PAHx website](http://PAHx.org) which opens the door to all things PA history!

To celebrate the Society's anniversary, a new interactive, illustrated website is being developed to provide users better functionality and search capabilities. The new site is scheduled to launch February 1st.

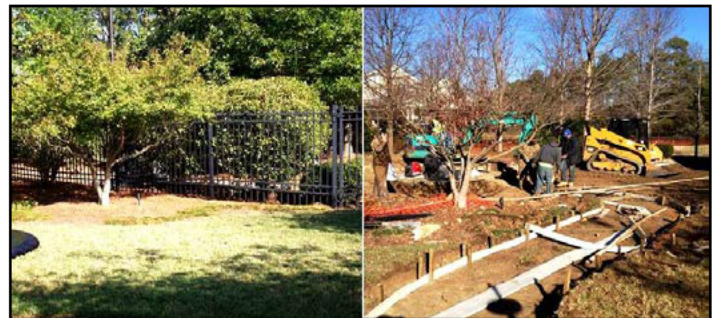
As always, we appreciate your feedback and questions; please email us at contactus@pahx.org.
Wishing PAs everywhere, a happy 50th Anniversary!!

50
YEARS

**PAs.
Healthcare
You Trust™**

**Celebrating the PA Profession's
50th Anniversary:
Veterans Memorial Garden
Dedication -- Honoring Veteran and
Uniformed Services PAs
Construction is Underway**
Lori Konopka-Sauer, BS

In celebration of the PA profession's 50th Anniversary, the renovated **Veterans Memorial Garden located at the Stead Center** in Durham, will be dedicated on April 8, 2017. Fundraising continues. Your tax deductible donation will support the efforts of the PA History Society and North



Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants to expand and update the PA Veterans Memorial Garden as a "place of remembrance" for veteran and uniformed services PAs.

Your gift will help us fence in the area, add a walkway and patio area surrounding the bronze statue and flagpole, and add brick benches and a brick wall of remembrance with bronze plaques representing each branch of the uniformed services.

In addition, brick pavers will be embedded in the wheelchair accessible walkway and the patio area.



(Veterans Garden continued on page 4)

New Trustees Begin Service New PAHx Officers in 2017

The Board of Directors of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants approved three new members of the PA History Society's Board of Trustees at their November 4, 2016 meeting. The new board members will fill two vacancies created by Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD, and Raisa Polacek, MPAS, PA-C (whose terms of service concluded at the end of 2016) and fill a new student position approved by the PAHx Board of Trustees earlier in 2016.

Leslie A. Kole, PA-C, has been a PA for 36 years, graduating from the University of Wisconsin PA Program in 1980. She was the first full-time PA employed at AAPA as the founding editor of the *Journal of the AAPA (JAAPA)*, in 1987. She lived and documented



our PA history, working as editor in chief for 17 years until 2003. Since then, Leslie has worked in primary care, preventive medical services and counseling in homeless shelters and clinics for the uninsured and underinsured patients.

Maha B. Lund, DHSc, PA-C, grew up in Osnabruck, Germany. After moving to the U.S. and earning two degrees in German and German Literature at Brigham Young University in the early 90's, she pursued a career in medical and technical translation. Like many PAs, she decided to become a PA after some life experience. She graduated in 2001 from Chatham University PA Program, Pittsburgh, PA. She moved to the Boston, MA area and became a full-time hospitalist PA, first at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center and later at Brigham and Women's Hospital. In



2004, her career in PA education began at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS) University as a lecturer. She was appointed the MCPHS PA Program Director in 2011. In 2014, Maha moved to Atlanta to be the Emory University PA Program Director.

Courtney Amburgey is a second year student at Jefferson College of Health Sciences in Roanoke, VA. She will fill a new Board of Trustees seat specifically for a PA student. Prior to starting her PA studies in 2015, she graduated *summa cum laude* from Longwood University, Farmville, VA with a BS in Biology. After graduation, she worked for a year in pharmaceutical product development with a vaccine team in Richmond, VA. While studying in her PA program, Courtney has served as the external affairs officer of the Captain Sean Grimes Student Society, overseeing the planning and logistics of all events and communication between the students and the Roanoke Valley community.



Ms. Kole and Dr. Lund will each serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019 with the option to serve a second three-year term. As student Trustee, Ms. Amburgey will serve a one-year term with the option to serve a second one-year term.

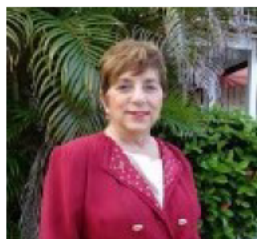
PAHx board members provide leadership and vision for the organization as well as doing hands-on projects as a working board.

The three new board members will join 9 other board members and two historians.

At their November 5, 2016 meeting, the PAHx Board of Trustees elected a President Elect and Secretary-Treasurer who began serving January 1, 2017.

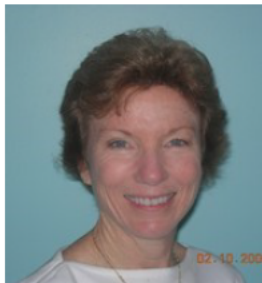
(New PAHx Officers in 2017 continued on page 4)

(New PAHx Officers in 2017 continued from page 3)



President Elect Maryann F. Ramos, MPH, PA joined the PAHx Board of Trustees in 2015 and served the organization as secretary-treasurer last year. For more details on [Maryann](#), [access her biography at this link](#).

Secretary-Treasurer Deborah Atherton Gerbert, MS, PA-C began her PAHx Board of Trustees in 2015. For more details on [Debi](#), [access her biography at this link](#).



(Veterans Garden continued from page 2)

The 9x9 inch brick pavers, which honor PA veterans and PAs on active duty in the Uniformed Services, are available for \$100 each.



The pavers are a great way to celebrate our 50th anniversary

and honor our PA veteran colleagues, especially those who are no longer with us.

To order an engraved brick paver, [click here for the Bricks R Us site](#).

Your **general tax deductible donation** for the Garden can be made online via [PayPal](#) (you do not need a PayPal account) or you can mail a check payable to the PA History Society with “Veterans Garden Project” in the memo line to:

PA History Society
12000 Findley Road, Suite 100
Johns Creek, GA 30097

Visit the [PAHx website](#) or [Facebook](#) page for the latest updates on the Veterans Garden project and our fundraising efforts. Thank you for your support!

Celebrating the PA Profession’s 50th Anniversary:

The PAHx 50th Anniversary Toolkit Available in March!

Lori Konopka-Sauer, BS

The PAHx is creating a Toolkit for PAHx Program Associates to use as they celebrate the PA profession’s 50th anniversary this year. The Toolkit will include the following materials for educational and celebratory events:

- ❖ Power Point slide presentation
- ❖ PA Profession Timeline Banner set (PDF)
- ❖ 50th Anniversary Poster
- ❖ 50th Anniversary Bookmark
- ❖ Generic Press Release
- ❖ Chipper Wallet Cut-Out (PDF)
- ❖ Chipper Wallet 50th anniversary Poster

PAHx Program Associates will receive the Toolkit materials with their paid 2016-2017 Program Associate fee.

If your PA program or constituent organization is not yet a PAHx Program Associate, please contact the PAHx Office for details.



Two other PAHx Toolkits are currently available to Program Associates:

1. the *Educational Toolkit*, a compendium of PowerPoint slides, photographs, and short videos that can be integrated into personalized lectures; a series of self-directed learning modules; and a syllabus of major themes that can be explored using the PAHx website.

(50th Anniversary Toolkit continued on page 5)

(50th Anniversary Toolkit continued from page 4)

2. the *Historian Toolkit* designed to help PA educational programs, student societies, AAPA constituent organizations and other PA organizations identify, gather, organize and maintain materials that document the history of their organization. This toolkit includes seven fact sheets that provide basic information on specific topics that help Associates preserve their institutions history and legacy.



PA History Society Celebrates 15 Years: 2002-2017

Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA

The PA History Society was incorporated on January 17, 2002 for educational, research and literary purposes. In the 15 years since, with the guidance of highly respected and knowledgeable leaders, the Society has grown an extensive archive, library and museum collection of relevant original and digital historical materials. The archive collection contains subsets of organizational records, personal papers, photographs, videotapes and oral histories. Users of the Society's website can access these materials online and read biographies, peruse a timeline of the profession, explore exhibits and find a bibliography of suggested readings.



A Brief History

J. Jeffrey Heinrich and Reginald Carter, the Society's first elected president and appointed executive director, wrote the bylaws that shaped the organization at its start. The Society began as a membership organization and later became a supporting organization first of the American

Academy of Physician Assistants and then of the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (which remains the primary financial supporter of the History Society today).

Until 2011, the Duke University Medical Center Archives processed and maintained the Society's growing collection of historical items. Over time the Society's administrative office has moved from Durham, NC to Alexandria, VA to its current location in Johns Creek, GA. Today the Society's staff includes a full-time managing director, a full-time archivist and a part-time administrative assistant. The Society's Board of Trustees and Historians are actively engaged in the Society's mission to preserve, study and tell the story of the PA profession. They do this through the Society's illustrated history website, quarterly newsletter and PA professional publications.

Society Presidents: 2002-2017



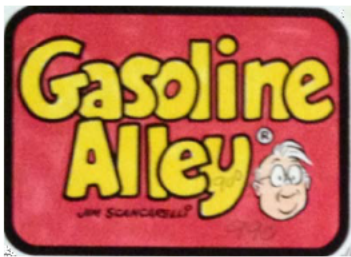
The Society thanks its founding members and those who have served as officers, board members and those who have volunteered their time and historical artifacts. The Society's success is *your* success!

All things PA History can be found on our website at www.pahx.org!

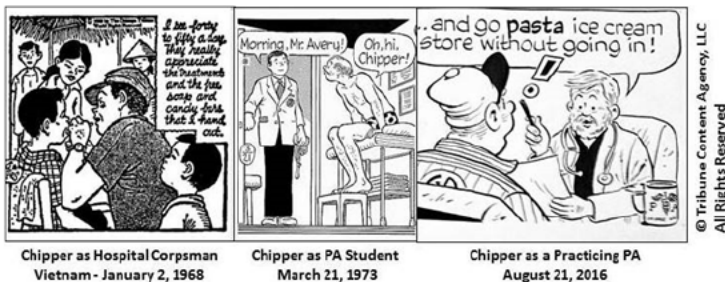
Celebrating the PA Profession's 50th Anniversary:

Gasoline Alley Special Edition Comic Book
Reginald D. Carter, PhD, PA

The PA History Society has signed an agreement with the Tribune Content Agency to produce a special edition comic book featuring Chipper Wallet of *Gasoline Alley*® to help celebrate the PA Profession's 50th anniversary.



The comic book follows Chipper over the span of 50 years from his years of service as a hospital corpsman in the US Navy (1967-1970), his decision to become a physician assistant (1970-1973) and his return to the comic strip as a pioneering physician assistant (2016-2017). Since Chipper's story historically parallels that of other former military corpsmen who became PAs and since the comic strip drew national attention to the PA concept in its formative years, publishing Chipper's story as a special edition comic book will assure this connection to pop culture endures.



Having the strips compiled and published in one document will provide a coherent presentation of Chipper's experience in the military, as a PA student and as a pioneering PA working in a family practice clinic in his home town. Cartoonist Dick Moores drew the comic strips of Chipper as a hospital corpsman and as a student. *Gasoline Alley*'s current cartoonist, Jim Scancarelli has drawn the final set of comic strips that began appearing in national

newspapers in the fall of 2016. Plans are to have the special 50th Anniversary Edition available for purchase by May 1, 2017. *Gasoline Alley*® Chipper Wallet © 2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

The PAHx's Social Media Outlets – *What Are We Up to? Follow Us and See!* Michelle Schabowski, MSIS

With so many exciting things unfolding as we celebrate 50 years of the PA profession, there's never been a better time to **follow the History Society on social media**. There we keep you updated on how we are helping PAs celebrate the profession's 50th anniversary, the construction of the PA Veterans Memorial Garden, the whereabouts of our joint collaboration with the National Library of Medicine PA profession banner exhibit, and a host of exciting new projects. We also inform about the additions to our website and archives, museum, and library collections as we regularly add biographies, oral histories, and photographs to our collections. Every Thursday the Society celebrates #ThrowBackThursday (#tbt for short) where we highlight a historic photograph from our collection. It is a fun way to stay in touch with the history of the profession.

Our [WordPress blog is the most](#) recent addition to our social media outlets. The blog enables us:

- to make more in-depth posts than we can on our Facebook and Twitter pages
- to interact with our readers
- to provide more details on the Society's current and upcoming projects
- to inform readers what the archives and collections hold, how to access them, and how to use them in classrooms and for research.

Help us bring and keep PA history alive and inspire the next generation of PAs, patients and policymakers. Please follow us and take part in our online community by liking, sharing, retweeting, and commenting on our posts!

Celebrating the PA Profession's 50th Anniversary:

"Physician Assistants: Collaboration and Care"

Banner Exhibition begins five-year travels across the U.S.

Lori Konopka-Sauer, BS

The Physician Assistant History Society, in partnership with the National Library of Medicine, recently launched *Physician Assistants: Collaboration and Care*, a traveling banner exhibition supported by online educational modules. The six-banner exhibit will travel to 50 sites across the country over the next five years (2017-2021).



During the first six months of 2017, the Banner Exhibit will be on display at these locations:

January 16 – February 25: National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD and Boston University, Alumni Medical Library, Boston, MA

March 13 – April 22: University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL and The Stead Center/NCAPA, Durham, NC

May 8 – June 17: Touro University-Nevada, Henderson, NV and Duke University, Durham, NC

May 15 – May 19: AAPA Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV

Please visit the NLM [Traveling Exhibition Services Web site](#) to see the complete tour itinerary and to [find this exhibition near you](#).

Physician Assistants: Collaboration and Care describes how the profession developed as a solution to meet the social and healthcare needs of the mid-20th century and continues to evolve today. The exhibit features stories of PAs in communities all over the world and on the front lines of health crises, like the recent Ebola epidemic. It also features PAs from the highest echelons of government, including Congresswoman Karen Bass from California and George McCullough, the first White House PA.

The *Physician Assistants: Collaboration and Care* [online exhibition](#) offers [resources](#) for educators and students, including lesson plans for middle school and high school classrooms, a higher education module, an online activity and a robust selection of related links and suggested readings.

In Appreciation – Fred Sadler

Marilyn H. Fitzgerald, Honorary PA

On December 31, 2016, Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD, completed seven and a half distinguished years of service on the PAHx Board of Trustees.



I first “met” Fred via a formal portrait photograph and his book, [The Physician's Assistant: Today and Tomorrow](#) (the first book about the PA profession, written with Blair L. Sadler, J.D. and Ann A. Bliss, RN, MSW) in the American Academy of Physician Assistants/Association of Physician Assistant Programs National Office library when I joined the AAPA staff in 1977.



At that point, Fred was an AAPA honorary member (awarded 1975) and a revered “pioneer” in a profession that had been in existence less than a decade.

Fred Sadler (right) with identical twin brother, Blair L. Sadler, J.D. at a Conference on Organ Transplantation, in Italy (1969)

(In Appreciation: Fred Sadler continued on page 8)

(In Appreciation: Fred Sadler continued from page 7)

He was a leader in laying the groundwork for the development of the PA profession in the early and mid-1970s:

- establishing initial PA legislation and regulations, educational curricula, accreditation standards and certification procedures;
- founding, organizing and leading PA organizations (APAP, the National Commission on Certification of PAs, the Yale PA Program);
- obtaining foundation support (with Thomas Piemme MD) to open a joint national headquarters in Washington, DC for AAPA and APAP; and
- organizing the first annual PA conference.

After the formative years of the profession, Fred left the national scene to practice primary care, internal medicine and urgent care in Monterey and Salinas, CA, where he worked with and was a preceptor to PAs. He joined the PA History Society as a Trustee in 2009, serving as Historian in 2010-2011.



Fred with wife, Edi Matsumoto at their home in Carmel, CA (2015)

In 2010 he began working with PAHx

Board President William Marquardt, Immediate Past President Ruth Ballweg, and Thomas Piemme to seek funding from the NCCPA after AAPA announced they would no longer be able to support the Society. Their appeal was successful, and in May 2011, the PAHx became a supporting organization of the NCCPA.

I never met Fred in my 35 years at AAPA until shortly before I retired in 2012. He and Thomas Piemme visited the AAPA national office to share their PA History Society plans and ideas and to review primary source material for a book on the history of

the PA profession. I was struck by Fred’s positivity, organizing skills, diplomacy, and curiosity.

Fred was elected the PA History Society’s President Elect in 2013, and he served as President in 2014-2015 participating in countless PAHx projects that included co-authoring *The Physician Assistant: An Illustrated History* (with Thomas Piemme, Reginald Carter and Ruth Ballweg); and writing grants and proposals to ensure the financial stability of the PAHx.



Alfred M. Sadler, Jr., MD, oil portrait by his wife, Edi Matsumoto, NP (2015)

In 2015, after joining the PAHx Board of Trustees, I learned firsthand why Fred was such an admired “founding father.” When he spoke, we listened. I feel very fortunate to have worked with him for two years on PAHx projects, especially those related to the profession’s 50th anniversary celebration.



Fred’s last PAHx Board of Trustees Meeting, November 2016. Karen Mulitato, PAHx President; Fred Sadler, PAHx Past President; Dawn Morton-Rias, Executive Director & NCCPA CEO (2016)

Full of energy, wisdom, sparkle and adventure, how will Fred spend his free time, now that his Board service is complete? He hopes to continue to skydive; participate in Toastmasters International; live a full and happy life with beloved wife, Edi; contribute his ideas and energy to the PA profession wherever he can; and speak at PA program commencements, white coat ceremonies and history presentations.

We will certainly miss him at our Board of Trustee meetings. Thank you, Fred, for everything.

For more details on Dr. Sadler’s accomplishments, awards and career highlights, access his [biography on the PAHx website](#).

History Society Trustees and Staff

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Visit our website (www.pahx.org) regularly to see what's "new" in PA History!

You can read all of the PA History Society [Newsletters online](#).

Please be sure to "like" PA History Society on [Facebook](#) to receive updates and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)



Check out the Society's *new* **Blog**



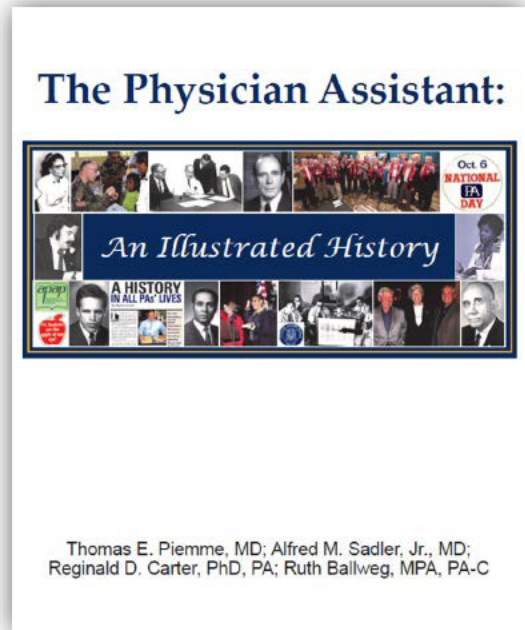
The Physician Assistant: *An Illustrated History*

A concise history of the people, places, and events that have propelled the concept of the PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT from its inception at Duke University in 1965 to its position as a major force in American medicine today.

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