

Historical Happenings

Newsletter of the PA History Society



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Message from the President

Richard C. Vause, Jr., DHSc, MPAS, PA-C Emeritus, FCPP, DFAAPA, CAPT. USPHS (retired)



I think we'll all agree, this has been a historical summer. We have had 100-year floods, excessive heat warnings and alerts, record setting temperatures in the southwest and east coast, tornados, wind events and wildfires. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by these events. Our booth at the AAPA in Denver was a great success. All our swag was gone by the second day. With special thanks to Bill Kohlhepp, I

was given the opportunity to address the House of Delegates to update them on the resources available through the PA History Society (PAHx) and encourage the constituent organizations to become Associates for access to these resources.

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A Brief History of U.S. PAs featured in German Book

The PA History Society was asked to contribute a short history of the PA profession in the U.S. for a book about the PA profession in Germany. PAHx Historian, [Tricia Marriott, PA-C, MPAS](#), wrote the chapter which was recently published in *Physician Assistants in Deutschland*. A former PAHx Trustee who was born in Germany and moved to the U.S. as a young adult, [Maha Lund, DHSc, PA-C](#), proofread the English to German translation for the History Society.

As the PA and PA equivalent roles continue to expand globally, the Society welcomes the opportunity to share our resources and contribute to publications about the history of the PA profession in the U.S. Not only is the Society

dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the PA profession in the U.S., but it also focuses on documenting the history of the profession's international growth. *Physician Assistants in Deutschland* is available for our German speaking PAs from the publisher [at this link here](#). The English translation of the one chapter written by Historian Marriott featuring a brief history of PAs in the United States from this textbook can be found on the [PAHx website here](#).



(President's Message continued from page 1)

I must also give a special shoutout to Lori Konopka-Sauer, Michelle Schabowski, Connie Mara and Tricia Marriott. It was their tireless efforts that made our presence in Denver so meaningful. These ladies have my deepest thanks and appreciation.

Great progress is being made with the new learning modules and our thanks go out to Michelle Schabowski and Tricia Marriott for their outstanding job in putting this all together. We will be debuting them at the PAEA Educational Forum in San Diego this fall in one of only five product theaters being held. I invite everyone to attend this session as we all believe these modules will be a tremendous aid in teaching the history of our profession. These modules have been specifically designed for today's learners with concise lessons, interactivity, and knowledge checks throughout each module.

Speaking of educational material, we still have some copies of our "*PAs as Social Innovators in Healthcare*" book. This text "is an authoritative, essential, and thoroughly readable work." Many of your colleagues helped in the development of this text.

Sadly, we had to say a final farewell to many of our friends and colleagues including [Edward Williams](#), [Richard Davis](#), and [Charles Bearden](#). All were standouts in the profession both clinically and academically. They will be greatly missed.

Finally, as we look toward fall and cooler weather, the start of a new academic year and getting back to work, remember, PAs make history every day. We are a dynamic profession that has grown exponentially over the past 58 years. While our generation of PAs stood on the shoulders of giants - like Bill Stanhope, Dave Gwinn, Ed Williams, Paul Lombardo, Ann Elderkin, Tom Lemley and Judy Willis - today's PAs are the shoulders for the next generation. If you have not yet submitted a brief biographical history to the PAHx, please consider doing so. Any member of the Board of Trustees will be happy to assist you in its preparation.

You may read through our large library of biographies featured on our website [here](#), as well as watching our oral history [interviews here](#). There is also a vast collection of photos dating back to the beginning of our profession and illustrating our fascinating origin story. A quick trip down memory is always good for the soul; it might bring back some special memories and help rekindle past friendships that time and distance have dimmed. Hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, and I'll see you in San Diego at the PAEA Educational Forum.

**Do you...**

- **love PA History?**
- **enjoy writing about PA history?**
- **appreciate volunteerism?**
- **want to get involved with the profession?**

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, then the PA History Society has a job for you! The PA History Society is accepting applications for a Full-Term Trustee (January 2026 – December 2028) and for a one-year Student Trustee (2026)!

Interested Candidates can access the instructions and application materials from the PAHx [website here](#). If you have any questions, please email us at: contactus@pahx.org

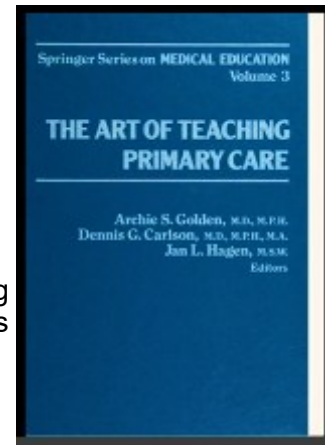
A Brief History of the Johns Hopkins Health Associate Program

By [Reginald Carter, PhD, PA](#)

A new essay providing a brief history of the Johns Hopkins Health Associate Program (JHHAP) is available on the Society's *Historical Perspectives* webpage at [PA Historical Perspectives](#). The coauthors, [James Cawley, MPH, PA-C Emeritus, DHL \(hon\)](#), [Henry Perry, MD, PhD, MPH](#), and [Reginald Carter, PhD, PA](#), describe the establishment of the program during a period of curricular experimentation and innovation in physician assistant/physician associate (PA) education.

[Malcolm Peterson, MD](#), was appointed dean of the newly established School of Health Services in 1970, which aimed to educate nurses at the graduate level and develop educational programs for new health professionals, including physician assistants and nurse practitioners. [Archie Golden, MD, MPH](#), was subsequently appointed as the director of JHHAP. Although situated within a prestigious university not traditionally centered on primary care, the program provided the faculty at Johns Hopkins an opportunity to explore healthcare subjects often excluded from conventional medical or PA school curricula at that time. These topics included evidence-based medicine, epidemiology, behavioral and social sciences, arts, and humanities. The Health Associate Program ran from 1971 to 1978, graduating 150 students over five cohorts. The program aimed to prepare competent care providers who also served as social workers, counselors, health educators, and managers. Modules covered health issues across life stages, with increasing clinical work in Baltimore hospitals and health centers. The program significantly contributed to medical education through the publication of [The Art of Teaching Primary Care](#) based on the experience of developing and evaluating the effectiveness of teaching primary care skills and knowledge to health associate students. The innovative approach taken by

Hopkins to train Health Associate students for primary healthcare needs remains a notable and thoughtful, yet controversial, effort. It is recognized as a significant initiative by one of the leading academic institutions in medicine, addressing critical healthcare needs that were prevalent in the 1970s and continue to exist today.



ConnAPA Celebrates 50 Years: Part II

By [Tricia Marriott, MPAS, MJ, CHC, PA-C, DFAAPA](#)

[PAHx Historian & ConnAPA Director-at-Large](#)



In the Winter issue of *Historical Happenings*, we previewed the Connecticut Academy of Physician Associates (ConnAPA) 50th anniversary celebrations planned for 2025. Last month, ConnAPA held its

annual membership meeting to coincide with a celebratory dinner and program reflecting on the first 50 years. If you are interested in the proceedings, you can visit the [ConnAPA website](#), the ConnAPA Facebook page, or the many posts on LinkedIn. There were proclamations from Governor Lamont honoring [Bill Kohlhepp](#) and [Jason Prevelege](#). Four of the AAPA Past Presidents were in attendance (*image on next page*) who started their journey as ConnAPA leaders (there are many more). ***This article, however, has another story to tell.***

(Continued on Page 4)

(ConnAPA Celebrates continued from page 3)



[Patrick Killeen](#), [Cindy Lord](#), Jason Prevelege, & Bill Kohlhepp

As the PAHx Society historian, the historian for ConnAPA, a 40-year member of ConnAPA, former ConnAPA president (x2), legislative chair, and current director-at-large, I feel compelled to share how ill-prepared we at ConnAPA were to celebrate our 50 years. As we attempted to develop our timeline, find important photos and newspaper articles, and select content for our banners celebrating the five decades, we were faced with boxes of albums, loose photos, newsletters and some framed documents. Photographs were labelled with names but no dates. Some were labelled with a date but no names. My favorite identifying clue on the back of one photo simply stated “You know who”, which, sad to say, no one did! Today, those items are strewn about my dining room table, completely breaking the hearts of archivists everywhere.

ConnAPA is a state organization that is known for producing leaders, for PA advocacy at the state and national level, and for seemingly having its act together. These things get done as volunteers work together, in addition to their clinical, administrative, faculty and family responsibilities. **Nonetheless, if PAs don't tell their story, who will? ConnAPA's story is a cautionary tale for every PA organization to think about preserving their history today. Where is your stuff? What is important? Who is still around that remembers?**

Luckily, ConnAPA is blessed with many long-time and loyal members with good memories and saved photos to share.

Over the course of several weekends, a timeline emerged with milestones, legislative victories, conferences, awards, and PA program openings. ConnAPA's President Cayla Daniele created a beautiful banner display, inspired by the [PA History Society and National Library of Medicine travelling display](#), commemorating ConnAPA's five decades. The banners are universal and will be displayed at ConnAPA events for years to come.

Meanwhile, Alec Williams, ConnAPA's 2024 PA Student of the Year, former PAHx Student Trustee and current ConnAPA fellow member, added a 21st century media component to the event. Alec created a [wonderful video](#) interviewing several key ConnAPA members, including Charlie Park, the first ConnAPA president and the recipient of CT PA License #00001. The celebration was a multimedia success, pulled together by ConnAPA members committed to their rich legacy.

As for the piles of memories strewn about my dining room, **ConnAPA's Board of Directors is looking into digitizing, cataloging, and properly archiving the materials from the first 50 years. The next step will be to develop a plan to digitally identify and preserve the important documents, newsletters, photos and memorabilia in real time.** It will be an investment in preserving Connecticut PAs making history for the next 25 years in anticipation of ConnAPA's 75th anniversary celebration in 2050.

If your state chapter or PA program is celebrating its golden anniversary and you would like to draft a short article for the PAHx's *Historical Happenings* newsletter, please email the Society: ContactUs@pahx.org. Also, send us your organization's anniversary website link to be featured on the Society's [Celebrating 50 webpage!](#)

Don't forget that the annual PAHx Associates have access to excellent resources for planning your big event (PAHx Celebration Planner) and tools for preserving your important history (Historian Toolkit) – check out the [PAHx Associate webpage!](#)



From Seven Pioneers to Legislative Powerhouse: ASAPA Celebrates 50 Years

By Randy Danielsen, PhD, DHL (hon), PA-C Emeritus, DFAAPA, Past President ASAPA

The Arizona State Association of Physician Assistants (ASAPA) celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024, marking five decades of advocacy and groundbreaking legislative achievements that positioned Arizona as a national leader in progressive PA practice.

Humble Desert Beginnings

ASAPA's remarkable journey began on Oct. 5, 1974, when seven pioneering PAs gathered at San Manuel Division Hospital following a letter from Buddy Woolbright recognizing the need for professional unity. Those founding members—Lynn Gilbert, Pat Spangler, Marcy Cookman, Tom Griffith, Jerry Gruber, Bruce Alter, and Buddy Woolbright—elected Bruce Alter as the first president, establishing what would become one of the nation's most influential constituent chapters.

The timing was perfect. Arizona had codified the PA profession in 1972 through House Bill 2229, making it an early adopter of this innovative healthcare role. Michael E. Goodwin became the first PA licensed by the Arizona Board of Medical Examiners in August 1973.

Building Professional Infrastructure

ASAPA held its inaugural conference on Jan. 10, 1976, at Scottsdale's Doubletree Inn, featuring clinical presentations and remarks from Arizona House Majority Leader Burton Barr. This successful gathering established a tradition of annual meetings providing continuing medical education for Arizona PAs.

The following year brought two pivotal developments: ASAPA achieved official chartered membership within the American Academy of PAs, and the Arizona legislature enacted Senate Bill 1372, landmark legislation that broadened PA scope of practice in rural communities while establishing prescriptive authority—a historic first for Arizona PAs.

(Continued on Page 9)

We'll See You in San Diego During the PAEA Forum!

The PAHx team will be in the PAEA Exhibit Hall on Wed. Oct. 9 and Thu. Oct. 10 at **Booth 106**. Please stop by to see what's new in PA history and take a **quick PA educator survey** to get a cute, cuddly prize!



and Senior Archivist Schabowski will demonstrate the Society's new Educational Learning Modules for educators who teach the history of the profession to their PA students. The PAHx will showcase these easy-to-use resources on our **LMS dashboard** launching this October.

If you miss the product theater, please stop by our booth to learn more!



This PAEA, the PAHx will reveal our new interactive **Educational Learning Modules** during our **Product Theater session on Thu., Oct. 9 at 11:30am in the Exhibit Hall**. During our presentation, Historian Marriott

Ask an Archivist: Why Should I Digitize My Organization's Historical Materials?

By Michelle Schabowski, MSIS, CA,
PAHx Sr. Archivist

Digitizing materials, such as photographs and documents, is a good way to save space and easily pass on your "archive" to your organization's next "historian".

There are plenty of businesses that will digitize materials in bulk for you if you want to outsource it. There are even businesses that will digitize older media formats, such as reels, VHS, and cassette tapes.

While sending the materials out to be professionally digitized is the easiest method, it is not always the most cost effective. You can easily make do with a good quality at-home scanner.

Scanning items yourself is very time consuming, so plan accordingly. First, separate materials into categories. Items that will be the most used and requested or materials that are the most fragile should be the ones to focus on first.

When digitizing, scan each item individually. Yes, that means each page of a document. Running photographs or documents (especially fragile documents) through the auto feeder can end up with the item damaged beyond repair. Paper jams happen.

When naming the digitized copy of the item, try not to use spaces, punctuation or symbols. Files that use these are more likely to become corrupted. Instead use underscores between words.

To adequately capture information for photographs, such as who, what, when, etc., it might be prudent to create a numbering system to use as the photograph files title. Then in a separate document, like a spreadsheet, record the photograph's number and the information and descriptions that go along with it.

The last bit of advice is to always keep multiple copies. In the archives biz we have a saying: LOCKSS – Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe. A good rule is to have a copy of your digital materials in a second location – if your materials are on an external hard drive, also have them in a cloud storage program, etc.

If you have any questions on how to preserve materials, even personal collections, please email me at: contactus@pahx.org.

Ruth Ballweg's Letter from Chipper Wallet

By Reginald Carter, PhD, PA



Ruth Ballweg Reading Chipper's Letter

The late [Ruth Ballweg, MPA, PA-C Emeritus](#), a former president and historian of the PA History Society, had admired [Chipper Wallet](#), since she was a young PA. Chipper Wallet is a character in the comic strip [Gasoline Alley](#), who became a PA after serving as a hospital

corpsman in the Vietnam War. Ruth was delighted when the PA History Society began collaborating with Gasoline Alley's current cartoonist, Jim Scancarelli, and Tribune Content Agency, LLC, to publish a comic book detailing Chipper Wallet's experiences as a corpsman and PA as part of the PA profession's 50th anniversary celebration. Knowing of her "crush" on Chipper, Reginald Carter, the Society's historian emeritus, collaborated with Jim Scancarelli to draft a letter from Chipper to Ruth acknowledging her exceptional contributions to promoting the PA profession. Ruth read the letter during the PAHx Board of Trustees meeting on November 6, 2016. The reading elicited chuckles as Ruth presented it alongside a cutout of Chipper in the background. The letter became one of Ruth's valued possessions and is preserved in the PA History Society's archives.

From the Archives: Research Topics

by Michelle Schabowski, MSIS, CA

Are you getting a doctorate degree and need primary sources for your dissertation? The PA History Society has you covered! We have over 60 collections of personal papers and organizational records from the early days of the profession, not to mention library materials consisting of articles, books, and PA journals that go back to the 1960s.

Need photographs to spice up a presentation? Look no further! We have over 2,000 digitized photographs in our collection.

Below are some of our popular research subjects from a few collections that could assist in further research into that topic. Click on a collection name to be taken to its finding aid. Toward the bottom of the finding aid is the Container section. The Container section is a listing of all the folder titles in that collection.

People (Last Name, First Name)	Fitzgerald, Marilyn
Year Range from	1968
Year Range to	2018
Containers	<p>AAPA Board of Directors Members 1968-2010</p> <p>AAPA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, 1968-2012</p> <p>Articles of Incorporation, 1968-2011</p> <p>Board of Directors Board and Agenda Books, 1974-2014</p> <p>Board of Directors Monthly Conference Calls, 2003-2012</p> <p>Board of Directors Procedures Manual, 2009-2011</p> <p>Board of Directors Secretary Reports, 2005-2011</p> <p>Bylaws, 2009-2011</p> <p>Committees, 2008-2011</p> <p>Correspondence, 2010 September 10</p> <p>History, 2006</p> <p>PA History Society, 2006-2007</p> <p>House of Delegate Books, 1977-2018</p> <p>Internal Affairs Committee, 2002-2012</p> <p>International Committee, 2002-2006</p> <p>IRS Tax Status 501 c 6, 1998</p> <p>Issues, 1993-2010</p>

If something catches your eye, click on the “Send Us Feedback” button in the top right corner to request more information or digitized copies of a folder’s contents.

We have many more collections and resources than those listed below that could be of help.

If you would like help finding resources for your paper or presentation, please email the PA History Society at: contactus@pahx.org.

AAPA/Student Academy:

- [Marilyn Fitzgerald AAPA Collection, 1968-2012](#)
- [Stephen L. Joyner Papers, 1964-1991](#)
- [Thomas Piemme Collection, 1968-2014](#)

ARMY PA Program

- [Ray Reed Collection, 1970-1972](#)

Development of Early PA Programs:

- [Alderson Broaddus PA Program Records, 1968-1972](#)
- [Ruth Ballweg Collection, 1972-2019 \(MEDEX\)](#)
- [Hu Myers Alderson Broaddus College PA Program Collection, 1925-1998](#)
- [Don Pedersen Collection, 1968-2001 \(Utah University PA Program\)](#)

Development of First Computerized PA Self-Assessment Test:

- [Mr. TIB \(Test Item Bank\) Collection, 1980-1991](#)

Development of PA Legislation:

- [Dana Gray Papers, 1971-2007](#)
- [Roger Whittaker Collection, 1966-1990](#)

Early Days of the Profession:

- [American Academy of PAs Records, 1972-2001](#)
- [Hu Myers Alderson Broaddus College PA Program Collection, 1925-1998](#)

(Continued on Page 9)

(From Seven Pioneers Continued from Page 5)

Legislative Trailblazers

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, ASAPA achieved significant legislative victories. The 1984 legislative session brought House Bill 2449, establishing the Joint Board on the Regulation of Physician Assistants with two PAs appointed by the Governor. Key leaders like Michael Goodwin, Dave Larson, and Randy Danielsen emerged as transformational advocates, with Larson serving as president three times and Danielsen appointed by four different governors to serve on the regulatory board.

The 1990s marked transformative change with Senate Bill 1397 in 1993, removing the requirement for board approval of individual PA job descriptions and allowing supervising physicians to delegate healthcare tasks directly through streamlined "notice of supervision" forms.

Modern Breakthroughs

The most significant breakthrough came in 2023 with House Bill 2043, making Arizona the fourth state to remove the legal requirement for PAs to work under physician supervision. This landmark legislation, signed by Governor Katie Hobbs, permitted experienced PAs to practice without supervision agreements, established collaborative medical practice frameworks, and enabled direct payment to PAs.

Defending Legislative Intent

ASAPA's recent history demonstrates its commitment to defending legislative intent. When the Arizona Regulatory Board of Physician Assistants implemented rules for HB 2043 that ASAPA believed exceeded statutory authority, the organization successfully petitioned the Arizona Governor's Regulatory Review Council, which declared the contested rules void.

A Legacy of Leadership

Throughout its 50-year history, ASAPA has been led by 45 different presidents across 52 years, with Randy Danielsen and Dave Larson each serving three terms. Nan White-Sharp was the first female president and Joan Reynolds was

the first female chair of the regulatory board. Today, ASAPA represents Arizona's more than 3,000 PAs, operating a comprehensive Career Center, providing continuing medical education, and serving as the primary voice for the profession within the state. Arizona currently hosts six PA programs and two Doctor of Medical Science Programs.

From seven pioneers to thousands of practitioners, ASAPA's journey reflects the broader evolution of the PA profession, ensuring Arizona PAs can practice to the full extent of their capabilities while providing exceptional care to communities statewide.

For the complete historical perspective on ASAPA's 50-year journey, visit our PAHx *Historical Perspectives* [webpage here](#).



Newspaper clipping picturing founders of ASAPA

Assigned to be the Historian for your PA organization? Those unorganized boxes in the closet got you down? Never fear, the PA History Society is here!

There's hope?!

Yes! Ask the PAHx about becoming an Annual Associate to access our Historian Toolkit today!
contactus@pahx.org

(From the Archives Continued from Page 7)

Indian Health Service PA Program:

- [Leland Fairbanks Papers, 1971-1978](#)

International PAs and PA Programs:

- [Ruth Ballweg Collection, 1972-2019](#)

NCCPA:

- [Robin Hunter-Buskey Collection, 1994-2007](#)
- [Don Pedersen Collection, 1968-2001 \(Utah University PA Program\)](#)

PAEA:

- [Paul Lombardo Collection, 1993-2005](#)
- [Anthony Miller Papers, 1993-2000](#)

PA Reimbursement of Medicare and Medicaid:

- [Dana Gray Papers, 1971-2007](#)

State Chapters and Other PA Organizations:

- [Association of PAs in OBGYN Papers, 1991-2010](#)
- [Georgia Association of PAs Papers, 1981-2014](#)
- [Alan Sams Collection, 1972-2009 \(Georgia Association of PAs\)](#)
- [Kenneth R. Harbert Papers, 1969-2016 \(Veterans Caucus\)](#)
- [PAs for Latino Health Caucus Collection, 1994-2009](#)
- [Gerald Simons Collection, 1993-2006 \(AASPA\)](#)
- [Robert Swanson Public Health Service Academy of PAs Collection, 1977-2010](#)
- [Clara Vanderbilt Collection, 1970-1987 \(NYSSPA\)](#)

Student Academy:

- [Student Academy of the AAPA Administrative Records, 1972-1982](#)

You may view all our archival collections with a brief synopsis of each by [clicking here](#).



PAHx Archives

Connect with the PAHx in Washington, DC!



Stop by the PAHx table booth during the Leadership & Advocacy Summit to see what's new in PA history, take a quick PAHx survey, and pick up some PAHx swag! We will be located in the foyer outside of the Ballroom.



**Thu. Sept. 18 – Sat. Sept. 20
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Don't forget to check out the [Society's website](#) regularly for 'all things PA history', including:

- * **375 inspiring biographies**
- * **257 oral history interviews**
- * **179 videos**
- * **2,500 photographs**
- * **and much more!**



PA History Society's Guiding Purpose

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

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

Stay in Touch with PAHx thru Social Media!

Please be sure to follow the PA History Society on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#) to receive updates on all things PA history!





Host this professional PA exhibit at your next event!
“Physician Assistants: Collaboration and Care”



PAHx-NLM Traveling Banner Exhibition

- In 2017, the PA History Society and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) teamed up to complete a special banner exhibition promoting the PA profession.
- Each of the six banners measure 7' high and 3' wide and requires approximately 20 feet of floor space to be displayed.
- The complete banner set and hardware is shipped in one large wheeled 48"H x 19"W X 19"D container weighing 70 lbs.
- PAHx Associates can host the banner exhibition for a total of 4 weeks at their location. Associates will incur a *one-way* FedEx 2-day Ground shipping cost.
- Non-PAHx Associates may also host the banner exhibition for 4 weeks, but are required to cover *round trip* FedEx 2-day Ground shipping costs.
- Federal Express 2-day Ground shipping is estimated at \$200-\$400 each way.
- Please contact the PA History Society office for further information or to reserve this professional exhibit for your next special event.

PA History Society
12000 Findley Rd., Suite 200 Johns Creek, GA 30097
678-417-8682 ContactUs@pahx.org www.pahx.org

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