



Connecticut PA

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

President's Message



**Mark Turczak,
MHS, PA-C**
ConnAPA President

As my time as ConnAPA President comes to an end, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the challenges and successes we

have experienced together over the past two years. Back in 2019, we held frequent in-person board meetings, large social gatherings and conferences. And personally, I had never heard of a Zoom meeting before.

Never would I have expected our world to have been shut down by a global pandemic. But ConnAPA and the great PAs of Connecticut showed our true character and resilience. To take on new roles and responsibilities, to lead and educate those around us and to be there to support our patients, families, and colleagues during difficult and challenging times.

We are now beginning to see the positive results of these efforts. With some of the highest vaccination rates in the country, and decreasing hospitalizations, we can all look forward to a summer filled with fun activities, reconnecting with family and friends, and getting back to pre-pandemic normalcy. All while remembering those lost and affected by the virus.

We also continue to make advancements legislatively due to the hard work of our legislative team. Over

the past two years our team met with key stake holders including the Connecticut Hospital Association, State Medical Society, and several state representatives and senators to address barriers to care for our profession. This included providing testimony at several public health committee hearings, often virtually during the pandemic. There are several bills in process right now and we hope to update you with final results in the coming weeks.

Over this past year ConnAPA also adapted as an organization. Adapting to a new challenge, we embraced the capabilities of virtual meetings and strategic planning. We were able to host two successful virtual conferences over the past year and stay connected with our membership. We were able to have current and past AAPA presidents share their knowledge with our membership, and also showed our National Organizations what a strong group of leaders we have here in Connecticut. The astounding number of student leaders and other ConnAPA leadership holding office at the national level, along with local leadership within hospital networks helps solidify the fact that PAs will continue to lead and have a seat at the table.

The ConnAPA board also was able to reflect on many of the strengths of our organization and the challenges we will face in the years to come. We have developed a 5 year strategy to continue to bolster the strengths of our organization, while expanding upon our membership experience, improving communication, embracing technology, advancing PA legislation, and most

importantly, representing all the PAs of Connecticut.

Over the years, ConnAPA has continued to grow into a well-positioned organization, and our next Board of motivated PAs bring a wealth of knowledge to the table. ConnAPA will continue to play a large role in my life— personally and professionally, and I thank all of you for the privilege and honor to serve as your President these past two years.

Sincerely,

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Another Virtual COC Success!

That's a wrap! The 34th Annual Charter Oak Conference was held April 8-10th marking another great year of speakers, student poster presentations and exhibit hall attendees.

Over 100 PA's virtually attended for 20+ Category I CME's in a variety of topics such as Racial Disparities in Healthcare, Immunization Decisions in Older Adults, Mindfulness and Medicine and LGBTQ+ Inclusive Sexual History. All lectures were well attended, and real time Q&A created for lively speaker engagement during the lecture sessions. We were honored to have AAPA President Beth Smolko join us with a professional update in addition to NCCPA representative Greg Thomas with a certification requirement review.

The exhibit hall was buzzing with sponsor engagement and the student poster presentations. Each Connecticut PA program was well represented with video presentations on interesting case studies like chronic traumatic encephalopathy and inner-city health literacy. So great to be able to see what the students are up to on rotation and engage our future peers. Some great prizes were awarded to the top scorers in our Exhibit Hall bingo- a big thanks to those that participated.

CT PAF held a virtual beer/cocktail pairing to raise money for this PA student scholarships. The event was well attended and entertaining. Will Cushing, Executive Director of Hospitalist Services at Yale New Haven Hospital was announced as ConnAPAs PA of the year during Mark Turczak's President's speech which aired on Friday during conference. Thank you for all you do for your profession, patients and peers Will!

Planning is underway for the 35th Annual Charter Oak Conference which is being held April 3-6, 2022. Hopefully we'll get to see each other in person, so save the date! Anyone interested in lecturing or joining the conference planning committee, please email klongley@ssmgt.com. Looking forward to learning with you all safely and in person in 2022.



Command center on Day 1 of the Virtual COC. Board members who also serve on the Education/Conference committee assisting attendees during the conference. From l to r, Mick Devanney, Immediate Past President, Kirsten Longley, Assistant Executive Director, Mark Turczak, President and Sarah Adams, Conference Chair.



ConnAPA's PrePA Symposium Wrap Up!



ConnAPA successfully hosted our first ever Pre-PA Student Symposium on Saturday, April 10th at the conclusion of the Charter Oak Conference. The symposium had a great turnout with over 75 Pre-PA students from Connecticut and across the United States participating in the event.

Students learned about resume writing, the application and interview process, as well as social media pitfalls. At the conclusion of the symposium students were able to ask questions in our live question and answer panel that featured practicing PAs, new graduates, PA students, and PA school faculty.

We had incredible support from ConnAPA members who showed students what life is like as a PA. This encompassed many specialties and roles including emergency medicine, women's health, urgent care, hospital medicine, neurosurgery, education, and administration.

We also had fabulous students from every PA program in Connecticut participate. These current PA students were featured in a segment called: "A Day in the Life of a PA Student" and showed the ins and outs of life in the didactic and clinical year. The students also shared words of wisdom and encouraging advice for current pre-PA students.

We thank those of you who volunteered your time and energy and look forward to working with more of you for next year's symposium. Hopefully these students got a glimpse of what their futures will look like as PA students and PAs!

Many of the pre-pa student participants became Pre-PA Student members of ConnAPA, so we would also like to welcome them to the organization!

ConnAPA Announces PA of the Year: Will Cushing



-Tell us about your education and clinical training to become a physician assistant.

I graduated from Yale's PA program in 2002 and had an outstanding

experience as a student. I was impressed and inspired by all the PAs who were part of my clinical training. Being surrounded by so many great PA mentors was a constant source of motivation for me to keep growing academically and professionally. I finished my training being very happy with my decision to become a PA and that choice continues to be validated as my career evolves.

-What made you choose to become a physician assistant?

This question makes me feel like I am back interviewing for PA school again! As I look back at my path to choosing the PA career, it was a combination of factors. Like many health care professionals I had an interest and passion for patient care. For me this started volunteering as an EMT and in skilled nursing facilities as an undergraduate student. The other professional interest I had was in education. I quickly realized that being a PA involved educating individual patients and also provided the opportunity to be involved with teaching other health care professionals. The PA profession stood out to me because of the focus on patient care while also offering opportunities to be involved in other aspects of health care.

-What are the challenges of physician assistants and the American/Connecticut Academy of PAs face in the near future and what is being done to meet them?

I am very optimistic about the PA profession. Many healthcare professions face issues such as the rapidly changing health care landscape, scope of practice, reimbursement and regulation. Despite these shared challenges, I think the PA profession is incredibly well positioned to meet the current and future demands. PAs are an increasingly vital part of health care delivery in Connecticut and across the country. We will continue to see our influence grow in both the outpatient and inpatient settings. The clinical expertise and value of our profession was on full display during the COVID pandemic we will be able to leverage that value as we collectively advocate for the future of the profession.

-What does an average day in your work life look like?

My current position at YNHH allows me to be active in clinical care, administration and education.

Clinically I work as a Hospitalist PA. In this role I take care of patients admitted to the internal medicine service at YNHH. Hospital medicine is a dynamic field that involves caring for a broad spectrum of patients. YNHH is an academic medical center so our case mix is diverse and this provides a challenging yet rewarding experience.

My administrative title is Executive Director of the Hospitalist service. This role allows me to work closely with physician colleagues and hospital leadership to oversee the clinical enterprise of one of the largest inpatient services at YNHH. Our team includes almost 200 MDs and APPs and we care for over 30,000 discharges annually. While administrative work is different from clinical care, I have been encouraged to see so many PAs taking on these additional responsibilities. Our training and clinical experience empowers us to be very effective members of leadership teams within health care organizations.

From an educational perspective I am fortunate to have a clinical faculty appointment at the Yale School of Medicine. In my role as an assistant clinical professor I serve as a preceptor for the Inter-professional Longitudinal Clinical Experience (ILCE) at the Yale School of Medicine. This program involves working with first year PA, NP and Medical students on developing their clinical skills. In addition to working with students I am also involved with internal medicine residents who choose an elective in Hospital Medicine. Most of my involvement with residents involves teaching bedside procedures (i.e. lumbar punctures, paracentesis, ultrasound guided venous access, etc.) which is an area of medicine where PAs are increasingly called upon to share our expertise.

-Do you have any advice for any PAs who are interested in becoming more involved, but are not sure how?

We recently celebrated 50 years of the PA profession and the national theme of this celebration was "care and collaboration". PAs are by nature collaborative and I would encourage any PAs who are interested in

becoming more involved to start by taking advantage of the relationships they have already established. There many local, state and national opportunities to advocate for the profession but I have found that using your personal network (from classmates during PA school to current colleagues) is often the best way to start. Those connections will make your involvement more meaningful and over time they will foster a larger support network that will allow you to be increasingly impactful.

Connecticut is a great state to work in as a PA. If you are looking for ways to become more involved with education feel free to contact any of the local PA programs. They have outstanding faculty and leadership who would be happy to help. If you are more interested in advocacy you can reach out to any member of ConnAPA and they can help connect you with other PAs who share your enthusiasm for the profession.



Is your office or department hiring?

Post your listing online for 45 days using the ConnAPA Job Board. Visit <https://connapa.org/post-a-job/> for more information and pricing.

Members..

Are you looking for a new job? The ConnAPA Job Board is available as a member benefit. New positions are posted all the time. Check out what's new on the job board!

Membership Update

**Sheree Piperidis, MHS, PA-C,
Membership Chair**



As the chair of the ConnAPA membership committee, I would like to thank you for your continued membership and support of ConnAPA. Our organization works tirelessly to ensure that Connecticut (CT) PAs can work at the top of our licensure providing safe and cost

-effective healthcare for patients throughout Connecticut.

It is through our membership fees that we are able to support our lobbyist group who helps fight for PA practice advancement. Thanks to the support of our fellow members, in 2019, Senate passed a bill HB6942 that changed the 'dependent' relationship to a 'collaborative' relationship with physicians, which better reflects our day-to-day interactions. In 2020, our team met with our Senators, who voted to allow PAs to order home healthcare, which was included in the COVID19 relief legislation.

Our organization is committed to providing quality category 1 Continuing Medical Education (CME) to you each year. Our conference committee quickly adapted to the ever-changing climate of CME delivery by converting our in-person conference to full virtual delivery in 2020. The conference was so well received that we proceeded with a fully virtual conference in 2021. Once again, this conference was a great success.

In addition to keeping our CT PAs as a top priority, we saw the opportunity to reach our current and pre-PA students by holding our first pre-PA student symposium on April 10, 2021. Additionally, at our virtual Charter Oak Conference, students representing all 5 of the CT PA programs presented their work at our annual PA student poster session.

Beyond lobbying and CME, ConnAPA membership offers a myriad of other benefits that can be reviewed on our website: <https://connapa.org/membership/why-be-a-member/>.

We cannot continue this work without your support, so please join or renew your ConnAPA membership today: <https://connapa.org/membership/membership-categories/>. There are over 3,000+ practicing PAs in the state of CT, and only 354 are fellow

members of ConnAPA! We have to do better, and it starts today. You can join as an individual fellow member or with your PA team to enjoy a group discounted rate.

Legislative Update

**Jason Prevelige, MHS, PA-C, MBA
Membership Chair**



The first half of the year has flown by, and with it, the legislative season. This was a very busy legislative season, as there was much to accomplish due to the standstill brought on by the pandemic last year. All the efforts that

we expected to move through in 2020 had to wait until this year.

One of the biggest efforts has been to move through a bill to "harmonize" current state statutes. In other words there are many statutes that pertain to things that PAs do every day. They historically have not necessarily stated that a PA can perform a function, just physicians. We have provided those services under the auspices of our delegation agreements, as have APRNs via their collaborative agreements. With some of the APRNs in Connecticut now having "independence," the APRN legislative leaders have led efforts to insert APRNs into all of those areas of statute. As a result, there has been increasing reports of PAs being told that they cannot perform a function because the statute does not list PAs, even though there is technically nothing stopping PAs since our delegation agreements should allow such functions. Ensuring that PAs are included reduces administrative burdens of extra appointments or the seeking of physician approvals, and increases patient access to care.

Beginning in 2019, the ConnAPA legislative team began a series of meetings/calls with several stakeholders at the urging of the legislative Public Health Committee, to work to come to agreement on areas of PA inclusion. Some 120 areas had been identified by ConnAPA as non-inclusive of PAs. Nearly all were agreed upon by hospital and physician stakeholders as areas that PAs certainly do

and should be performing. Some areas were restricted by federal regulations at the time (primarily in regard to home healthcare and hospice). That bill was introduced in 2020, but died with the essentially non-existent legislative session.

It was reintroduced this year, to update about 80 areas of statute, and has had good support from the legislators. There has been some opposition to this bill, and I urge you to go to the Connecticut General Assembly website, look up SB 1028 from 2021 and review the oppositional testimony. It is important for all of us to know what is out there and being said about us and our ability to practice medicine.

As happens often, there are regular amendments to bills. At the time of this writing, I am excited to announce that SB 1028, which became SB 1083, was then rolled into SB 1070, which unanimously passed the Senate on May 20th. It now will go to the House for their approval. If it does, then it will be signed by Governor Lamont. Originally SB 1070 was a bill that would make state statutes regarding PA and APRN authorization of home healthcare and hospice consistent with federal CMS regulations. CMS authorized PA and APRN orders for home healthcare last year after passage of the CARES Act. That was subsequently moved out of SB 1070 and into HB 6666. Other bills that pertain to PAs this year have included the elimination of religious exemptions to vaccinations, issuing of emergency certificates to remove firearms from those that pose a risk to themselves or someone else, and extension of telehealth regulations that were enacted during the public health emergency. As well, the ConnAPA legislative team has been busy meeting with legislators, testifying on a number of bills such as to ask for inclusion in the ability to certify medical marijuana, in support of above mentioned bills, and to ask to ensure that PAs are included in bills that inadvertently do not include us.

The legislative session will end on June 9th, so we will look forward to seeing where things stand at the conclusion of the session. At that point the ConnAPA Legislative Affairs team will turn all focus to next year's efforts to continue to revamp our statutes to eliminate unnecessary administrative burden and improve the ability for PAs to work to the fullest extent of our training and education, picking up on efforts that began years ago.

In Memoriam



ConnAPA mourns the loss of Past President, Joseph R. Varano. Joe passed away on Monday, May 3, 2021, at his residence in Hartford. He served as

President of the Connecticut Academy of PAs in 1993, 1997 and 2003.

He was born at Shamokin State General Hospital, in Coal Township, July 13, 1948, a son of the late Joseph N. and Patricia (Mellowship) Varano.

Joseph was a 1966 graduate of Mount Carmel Area High School, a 1969 graduate of the Geisinger Medical Center School of X-ray Technology, a 1973 graduate of Alderson Broaddus College, where he earned a

bachelor's degree in medical science, and a 1986 graduate of the University of Hartford, where he earned a Master of Science degree.

He was a member of the Cathedral of St. Joseph's Church, in Connecticut, and the Church of the Holy Angels, in Kulpmont. He was also a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants, a founding member of the Society of Physician Assistants in Pediatrics, a former president of the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants, a fellow member and past president of the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants, a delegate to the House of Delegates for the American Academy of Physician Assistants, and an associate member of the National Association of Neonatal Nurses and the Connecticut Association of Neonatal Nurses.

Joseph is survived by his sister, Deborah Shearn and her husband, John, of Frackville; a brother, Kevin Varano and his companion, Joanne Hagen of Lancaster; two nephews, John Shearn and Tim Shearn; a niece, Rebekah Shearn; three great nieces, Jossi, Madi, and Morgan Shearn; and many cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Donations can be made to the Physician Assistant Foundation, 2318 Mill Road No. 1300, Alexandria, VA 22314.

ConnAPA Leaders Attend AAPA LAS

On March 24, 2021 ConnAPA board members Mark Turczak, Jason Prevelige, Cayla Daniele, Sarah Adams, Becky Calabrese, and Adam Olsen, joined forces with PAs, PA faculty and PA students from across the state to advocate for our profession at a virtual Capitol Hill Day. The day was organized by AAPA as part of the AAPA's Annual Leadership and Advocacy Summit. Board members and participants attended AAPA LAS virtual sessions in advance to prepare for the virtual Capitol Hill visits. The AAPA highlighted two bills in particular for our efforts to focus on, S.800 – Access to Diabetic Shoes Act and H.R. 1956 – Increasing Access to Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation.

Currently, as PAs we can prescribe diabetic shoes to patients with private medical insurance carriers. However, under current law, a physician must be the provider treating the patient's diabetic condition and prescribing for any patients with Medicare/Medicaid. Many of the representative teams that we met with had already heard of this bill and agree with supporting our advocacy for PAs caring for

diabetic patients and prescribing diabetic shoes, regardless of the type of medical insurance the patient has.

H.R. 1956, Increasing Access to Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation was previously introduced in the Senate as S. 2842. PAs are currently unable to supervise or prescribe cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation. The need for cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation is only expected to rise given the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill was already set to take effect in 2024, however we requested support in having this passed sooner to overall assist with better health outcomes.

Attending LAS and meeting with our state legislature teams was overall an empowering experience. The legislative staff were all grateful for our efforts and for our role in the COVID-19 pandemic and the care we provide to patients every day. They were interested to talk to us and hear how we are doing as healthcare providers, and how the students in particular have adjusted during this unprecedented time.



During the Leadership and Advocacy Summit 2021, ConnAPA members and students spoke with House Representative Jahana Hayes who posted a snapshot to her social media from the meeting!

Follow ConnAPA on Social Media!

We're on FB and Instagram

Follow us 😊



From Around the PA Programs

Yale PA Online

The Class of 2021 completed finals and is ready to share their talents with the world after an unprecedented clinical experience. They were able to observe the medical

field from a distinct perspective during the pandemic, and learned how to be innovative, adaptive, and compassionate to all they served. Mary Elliott reflects on her experiences both as a student and a representative for ConnAPA: "We are at a point in medical education where we need to move beyond false hierarchies between 'online' and 'on-campus,' and come together to the table to talk best teaching practices and learning modalities, period. What can online and on-campus PA programs in Connecticut and nationwide teach one another about how students learn most effectively and efficiently, and what can programs learn from one another about how to teach?"

With questions such as these in mind, members across two cohorts gathered to listen to Stephanie Neary, MPA, MMS, PA-C, speak about her journey from an Exercise Science undergraduate to clinical professor at the Yale PA Online program. Her love of teaching evolved as her career progressed. She graciously shared with us her perspective on giving back to future educators: "Introducing the many different ways for new graduates to get involved in PA Education is an important part of the continued advancement of our profession. The Future Educator SIG [student interest group] allows students to interact with faculty from a variety of programs who all have different paths to education and it is exciting to see so many students sharing their interest in teaching in the future!"

With one cohort moving on, two cohorts moving up, and a new cohort up-and-coming, the Yale PA Online program continues to innovate and support the future of physician assistants across the country. We hope to inspire generations of future educators along the way.



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH CONNECTICUT

The University of Saint Joseph has had an exciting few months. The Class of 2021 graduated on May 14th, with a well-deserved masked and distanced celebration on campus. Their resilience over the

past 26 months has undoubtedly shaped them into the professionals they are today. They have an exciting future in the #1 profession in the United States.

The Class of 2022 participated in their White Coat Ceremony in May as well, an event symbolizing much more than their completion of the didactic year. It was a day where they were able to stand together as a class, reflecting on an atypical didactic year, but one that taught self-discipline and created a unique bond within the Class of 2022. As they venture out into their first clinical rotations, applying their skills and learning new ones we look forward to hearing about their opportunities and experiences when they return for that first call-back.



*USJ Class of 2022 White Coat Ceremony
Photo: Christopher Hall,
USJ Marketing & Communications*

For the Class of 2023, the summer semester will be packed with the cardiology and pulmonology modules, including BLS and ACLS training and certification when they return from their two week break. We are proud of how hard they have worked thus far and remain hopeful that the classroom and lab can return to normal as the world around us becomes vaccinated.

The best news of all is that the University of Saint Joseph PA Studies Program achieved continuing accreditation status from the ARC-PA. This accomplishment would not be possible without the support and dedication of the faculty, staff, students, and the administration. The University of Saint Joseph Physician Assistant Program looks forward to an exciting summer semester and a bright future.



Class of 2021: The class of 2021 graduated via a Zoom ceremony early in May! Students are preparing to take the PANCE and have job prospects lined up across the country. The UPAI is incredibly proud of them and we wish them nothing but success in the future.



Class of 2022: The class of 2022 began clinical rotations in March! Currently the class is split, with some students rotating and others finishing up their capstone projects. Rotation sites are finding creative ways to host students given the challenges that COVID-19 has caused. Many students are trying their hand at telemedicine! The class is excited for the clinical year ahead of them.

Class of 2023: The class of 2023 had a smooth start to didactic year and are now thriving. Though the class began their education in a hybrid format they are excited to have more classes in person in the coming summer term. The class is eager to continue their hard work.



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PA Programs, Cont'd

Quinnipiac UNIVERSITY

Happy summer from the bobcat nation! First and foremost, the QU PA program would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Brown for his amazing leadership, mentorship and friendship throughout the years. He will be missed, but we wish him the best on his next big adventure.

To begin the updates, the first years have stepped it up and logged over 271.66 hours of community service at local vaccination clinics, with the second years taking second place with 122.16 hours. The first years have also finished up their grueling spring semester, and with the short summer semester kicking off can see the clinical year in plain sight. Amelia Maurer, a QU first year, had a wonderful experience attending sessions with Alison Council, the Legislative aide for Senator Blumenthal, Representative Rosa DeLauro, and Representative Joseph Courtney. During these sessions, they had the opportunity to discuss upcoming legislation as it relates to healthcare. Beri Peyser, from QU's second year, was selected by the PAEA for one of the student health policy fellow positions and attended the AAPA HOD conference back in November 2020. 10 QU students had the pleasure of presenting their case reports at the AAPA conference in May, and four at the ConnAPA conference in April. Finally, 54 new first years have been selected and started May 17. We wish them the best of luck as their journey begins. As I draw this update to a close on an 80-degree day I'm reminded of a quote, "how could I possibly be expected to handle school on a day like this?" – Ferris Bueller. We at the QU family hope you have a fun and safe summer.



Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY

A Sunny Hello from Sacred Heart University Physician Assistant Program! We have very exciting news to share and we cannot contain ourselves. We are ecstatic to announce that Sacred Heart University's PA Program has been granted a 10-year Continued-Accreditation from the ARC-PA last month! It has been a long journey and a lot of hard work from the program faculty, but we can honestly say, it was worth it!

The Class of 2021 is progressing smoothly through their clinical year and are on their 7th block of clinical rotations. As true Pioneers, our students remain vocal and active in PA advocacy and leadership. Recently, just to name a few, Victoria Ho, Erica Ramos, Eryka Bradley and Karina Arrelucea attended AAPA's virtual Leadership and Advocacy Summit representing the SHU PA Program, the PA profession, and their respective home states. During the recent ConnAPA Inaugural Pre-PA Symposium, Erica Ramos, Eryka Bradley and Victoria Ho spoke to encourage the next generation of PA students to seek positions of leadership. Wait, there is more...several students from the Class 2021 had their Master's Capstone Poster Presentation's featured at the 2021 Virtual ConnAPA Charter Oak Conference. Karina Arrelucea and Gabriela Aparicio presented: *The Effects of Ayahuasca on Mental Health Outcomes: A Systematic Review*. Thomas Havens & Gaetano Innamorato presented: *Pharmacotherapy for Psychogenic Polydipsia*. Victoria Ho and Erica Ramos presented: *The Effect of Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation on Cognitive and Behavioral Functions in Adults with Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: A Systematic Review*. These students have a big appetite for knowledge, so they work tirelessly.

Some have also been recognized for their scholarly achievements too - Karina Arrelucea was awarded the Joseph L. Kaplowe Jr. Memorial Scholarship and Victoria Ho, the Annual PAF Scholarship. In their spare time, this class remains active and maintains their presence in the community helping various organizations and participating in vaccination clinics to give back to the community.



CO 2022 helping with Food Drive for Person 2 Person in Darien

The Summer Trimester has already started for the Class of 2022. The short break between trimesters seem to fly by and these students are back in class refreshed and recharged to tackle various

modules starting with OBGYN, Population Health, Healthcare Delivery and Primary Care followed by Pediatrics, Oncology, HIV Medicine, Geriatrics, Emergency Medicine, and Surgery. This trimester is also bringing an exciting world of Clinical Skills and Procedures with the learning of important skills such as intubation, IV and central line placement, suturing and much more which these students are eager to master. The Class of 2022 enjoys volunteering and are frequently actively participate in various local events to help the community any way they can. Most recently students participated in Food Drive event for Person 2 Person and Handled with Care Dress Boutique event for Kids Helping Kids organization and many more events already planned for upcoming months. They also continue assisting at local vaccination clinics for SHU Medical Reserve Corps.



The Yale PA program is very excited to be starting a new semester this summer. For the Class of 2021, this is a continuation of clinical rotations and also more time to complete their thesis

projects. While some students are still working to complete their projects, some students have already finished. For the first time in the program's history Dr. Gonzalez-Colaso introduced an alternative thesis project in which students would actually be able to collect and publish data. With seven students having made the choice to do so, one of them - Rachel Blumel - had her data published in the American Journal of Cardiology!

For the Class of 2022, the didactic year is coming to an end and we are very excited to begin our clinical rotations in August. With opportunities to review our physical exam, history-taking, and charting skills, we are sure to have a great start soon. We've also seen successful lobbying in both Connecticut and Montana for APRNs and PAs to prescribe cardiac rehabilitation and diabetic shoes.

Though the Class of 2023 is not yet on campus, they have still been active and preparing for their new roles by creating a book club in which they discuss various books and readings regarding challenges in the medical field, social justice, and understanding minority experiences in healthcare. Thanks to Class of 2022 presidents Alex Hauptli and Betsy

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PA Programs, Cont'd

(Elizabeth) Hurtado, who spent a lot of time comparing survey results, every incoming student has been paired with a "big" - a current student who will be a friendly face, source of advice, and guide in their upcoming journey. With an amazing faculty, an army of bigs, and a short amount of time left to get in any last preparations/vacations, they are sure to have an exciting and successful transition to the busy life of a Yale PA student.



Anatomy class with beloved anatomy lab instructor, Dr. Stewart



Faculty and students attending an anti-Asian racism event



Save THE DATE

35TH ANNUAL
CHARTER OAK CONFERENCE

April 3-6, 2022
MYSTIC MARRIOTT
GROTON, CT

CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF PAS
CHARTER OAK CONFERENCE

Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants
ConnAPA

The graphic includes a stylized tree logo for the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants (ConnAPA), a photograph of the Mystic Marriott hotel, and a decorative bar at the bottom with blue, green, and blue segments.

ConnAPA Thanks U.S. Army for their COC Silver Sponsorship



**STEP FORWARD AND
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

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The advertisement features the U.S. Army logo on the left and a photograph of a smiling African American male soldier in camouflage uniform sitting in a medical setting.

Thanks for all that you do.
You are awesome!
Our Front-Line Heroes



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