



# America's Finest

Current Student Editor: CPT Joanna Robertson, 1-11  
Incoming Student Editor: OC Juan Grado, 2-11

## Class 3-10 Graduation

### Points of Interest

- Master Presentations
- Journal Club
- New Additions
- 5th Wednesday
- Hail and Farewell
- Journal Club
- Guest Speakers
- "One-On-One" preceptor interview
- (Aug/Sep/Oct )Birthdays:
  - Aug 24—Williams
  - Aug30—Salazar
  - Oct 8—Trosper

**Fort Bragg, NC**—7 September 2012 was a memorable day for three graduates of the Womack Army Medical Center Interservice Physician Assistant Program (WAMC IPAP). Members of Class 3-10 completed their clinical rotations and received their hard earned Masters in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Additionally, two graduates were commissioned to the rank of First Lieutenant during the ceremony.

The guest speaker was LTC William "Dave" Thompson MPAS, APA-C. LTC Thompson is a physician assistant at Fast Med Urgent Care in Winston-Salem, NC and is the commander of the 7236th Medical Support Unit, USAR, at Fort Bragg, NC. Mr. Joseph Cohen, PA-C, of the WAMC Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, graciously accepted the "Distinguished Preceptor" and "Rotation of the Year" honors awarded to the Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation (DOR). "Staff Member of the Year" was awarded to Mr. Sonny Meek, LPN for his outstanding work in the Wound Care Clinic. The graduates were awarded medals for their outstanding performance in Phase 2 for their accomplishments beyond their clinical requirements. The reception was held at McKellar's Lodge where the new graduates celebrated with friends and family.

The graduates and their first assignments as PAs are:  
 -1LT Donald Grambusch, Fort Bragg, NC  
 -1LT Garrett Latham, Fort Lewis, WA  
 -1LT Jason Adams, Fort Stewart, GA

**CONGRATULATIONS Class 3-10!**



Congratulations to our new Army physician assistants from Class 3-10: 1LT Grambusch, 1LT(P) Latham and 1LT Adams



Fort Bragg physician assistants, students and WAMC leadership pose for a picture after the graduation ceremony



1LT Latham, 1LT Adams and 1LT Grambusch cut the cake at their IPAP graduation reception at McKellar's Lodge

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# WAMC IPAP Students Master's Presentations

Research is a core element of the Interservice Physician Assistant Program curriculum. In order to practice medicine in the fast-paced military environment, it is important to utilize principles of research methodology and evidence-based medicine. Students are exposed to the principles of research methodology and biostatistics early on in the didactic phase while taking the course "Introduction to Research." Each student is responsible for researching and preparing a master's thesis paper on a topic of their choice.

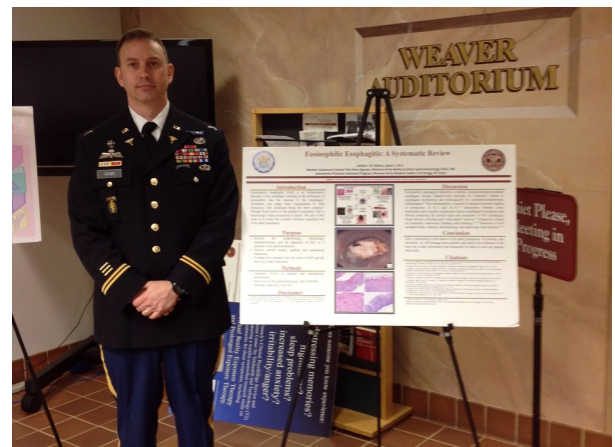
The course culminates in each student donning their Army Service Uniform (ASU) and presenting their master's thesis to an audience of medical professionals. The audience includes their individual mentors, IPAP Fort Bragg Medical Director Dr. Y. Sammy Choi, IPAP Phase 2 Clinical Coordinator MAJ Amelia Duran-Stanton, hospital staff, residents, interns and fellow PA students.

The presentation entails a large amount of preparation such as designing an abstract poster for display, preparing a formal slide briefing, and coordinating the date, time and location for the presentation. Following their presentation, each student fields questions from the members of the audience and is their opportunity to shine as subject matter experts. This process prepares the students for future endeavors in research as a physician assistant.

This quarter we had the opportunity to listen and learn from IPAP Class 3-10 on their various master's thesis topics. OC Jason Adams gave his presentation on "Eosinophilic Esophagitis." His mentor was Dr. (LTC) Viet-Nhan Nguyen, WAMC Gastroenterologist. His discussion evaluated new research into the cause of EoE, the most current evaluation and diagnostic techniques, and the dietary, medical and mechanical treatments available. 1LT(P) Garrett Latham discussed "Clavicle Fractures and the Evolution of Treatment Strategies." His mentors were Dr. (MAJ) Josef Eichinger and Dr. (MAJ) Stephen Parada, WAMC Orthopaedic Surgeons. OC Adams and 1LT(P) Latham were both selected to present during the poster competition at the 2012 Society of Army Physician Assistant (SAPA) Conference in Fayetteville, NC. OC Donald Grambusch gave a presentation on "Unforeseen Risk: Leptospirosis and the Special Operations Community." His mentor was Dr. (LTC) Michael Henry, the USA SF Command Surgeon. His article was also published by the Journal of Special Operations Medicine and his poster was selected for presentation at the 2012 Special Operations Medical Association Conference. All three students did a fantastic job with their presentations and received high praises for their research.



1LT(P) Garrett Latham poses next to his poster on "Clavicle Fractures"



OC Jason Adams poses next to his poster on "Eosinophilic Esophagitis"



OC Donald Grambusch presents his Master's Thesis on "Leptospirosis" in Weaver Auditorium

## New Additions!

The WAMC IPAP program is happy to welcome the latest additions to the IPAP family - Baby Benjamin Latham was born to Garrett and Elizabeth Latham at 1955 hours on the 4th of July, 2012. He was 6 lbs 15 ounces and 20.5 inches long. Baby Ben was born happy and healthy and ready for the fireworks! There is something magical about being born on the Fourth of July. Independence day marks a special new beginning for America and what better way to celebrate the beginning of a life. There will always be cookouts and fireworks to mark the day. Benjamin shares a birthday with former President of the United States Calvin Coolidge, Malia Obama, Geraldo Rivera, George Steinbrenner, and advice columnists Ann Landers and Abigail Van Buren (Dear Abby).

OC Jason Adams and his wife Amy welcomed their son Jacob Ryan Adams, into the world on 26 Aug 2012. He was born 8 lbs. 12 oz. and was 21 inches long. The baby came just in time for Dad's graduation and move to Fort Stewart, GA. Baby Jacob shares a birthday with Mother Theresa, Geraldine Ferraro, Jamal Lewis and Macauley Culkin.



Garrett and Elizabeth Latham with the newest member of their family  
"Benjamin"



Jason and Amy Adams with the newest member of their family  
"Jacob"

## 5th Wednesday/Hail and Farewell "Just 4 Fun"



IPAP Students and their families gather for a Hail and Farewell on 29 Aug 2012

WAMC IPAP had another Hail and Farewell. This time we said welcome to the incoming class consisting of OC Jared Breese, OC Juan Grado, CW3 Antonio Ruiz, and OC Jennifer Trospen. They were all happy and eager to finally start their clinical phase. We also said farewell and congratulations to the graduating of Class 3-10 consisting of OC Donald Grambusch, OC Jason Adams, and 1LT(P) Garrett Latham. They are heading off to do bigger and better things but they will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

There was a great turn out where the students and their families were able to spend time with each other in a relaxed atmosphere. It was a great time to bond and learn about each other outside the hospital setting.



## Journal Club



IPAP and Methodist students play volleyball after Journal Club



1LT(P) Garrett "Barefoot" Latham prepares for an intense match



OC Jared Breese discusses an article on Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS)

On Wednesday, 25 July 2012, the Interservice Physician Assistant Program's (IPAP) PA students engaged their civilian PA student counterparts from Methodist University for a friendly game of volleyball after discussing various articles for this month's journal club meeting. The students each researched and chose an article that pertained to the genitourinary (GU) system. The students from each school met at the Methodist University Physician Assistant Program's campus to discuss the significance of these articles and how they are pertinent to their learning environment. Discussion ensued pertaining to the relevance of each article and how the topics were applicable to their practice. Upon completion of discussing eight different articles, the students then engaged in a question and answer session regarding the GU system. It was a great way to delve into scholastic conversation while breaking the monotony of their Phase 2 schedules. The two programs then began several rounds of volleyball where everyone enjoyed the environment and engaged in friendly competition. Not only did it reveal that some students are great volleyball players (and some are not!), the games inevitably helped facilitate camaraderie between the two programs and strengthened the bonds that the IPAP students already cultivated with one another.

The next Journal Club meeting was on 26 September 2012 that pertained to musculoskeletal articles. It was conducted in the WAMC DFAC Atrium that was followed by discussions related to the musculoskeletal system. We then had lunch at Sports USA in a relaxed atmosphere. Next Journal Club is

28 November and the topic is Reproductive. We hope to see you there!



# Student Education Guest Speakers

## Mr. Ray Sterling on MC4/AHLTA-T

On 8 August 2012, Mr. Ray Sterling of MC4 provided a brown bag lecture to IPAP students on a valuable tool: AHLTA-T. AHLTA-T enables deployable medical staff to digitally document and update outpatient care and simple inpatient hold capabilities for forward resuscitative medical units via an MC4 laptop.

AHLTA-T may operate in a stand-alone or networked configuration. On an MC4 laptop or client-server environment, AHLTA-T will support documentation of clinical care regardless of network or Internet connectivity. Several laptops running AHLTA-T may be linked to form a local electronic health record (EHR) network.

On an MC4 laptop, AHLTA-T's store-and-forward capability enables medical data to be initially stored in a local database and, when Internet connectivity is available, forwards information to the Theater Medical Data Store (TMDS) and to the DOD's Clinical Data Repository (CDR), accessible to personnel worldwide. Access MC4 on the web at: <http://www.mc4.army.mil>



Mr. Ray Sterling, PA-C, poses with IPAP Clinical Coordinator, MAJ Duran-Stanton

## LTC Campbell on the Medical Evaluation Board and Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)

On 1 August 2012, LTC Arthur Campbell, Chief of the Department of Deployed Health, provided information on the new Medical Evaluation Board System known as IDES (Integrated Disability Evaluation System).

IDES is designed to effectively and efficiently determine fitness for duty as well as disability compensation, when necessary. It is a vital part of the military's dedicated to supporting Soldiers, family members, and units. Understanding the process is critical for PAs who will routinely encounter soldiers needing to go through this process.

LTC Campbell provided valuable insight into the management of MNR Soldiers, the new e-Profiles, MAR2 (formerly MMRB).

For the IDES Training Curriculum, check out <http://www.pdhealth.mil/hss/ides.asp> and receive CME credit.



LTC Campbell presents PAs, medical NCOs and IPAP students with a briefing on the Medical Evaluation Board and the Integrated Disability Evaluation System



# “One-on-One”



**OB/GYN Rotation**  
**Howard E. Franklin, Jr. , PA-C**  
**CPT (Ret.), USA**  
**Epidemiology and Disease Control (EDC) Clinic, WAMC**

**How long have you been a PA?**

I graduated from the Army Physician Assistant Program in 1990. So I have been practicing for 22 years. I actually graduated from the course two months early to deploy with 1st AD to Desert Storm and was awarded a Bronze Star. Then I served as the OIC for Troop Clinic 17 for the XVIII Airborne Corps on Ft. Bragg until retiring in 1997. After that I worked in the Family Medicine Clinic at WAMC for 14 years and was the longest serving provider at the clinic until 2008. I have been working at the EDC clinic ever since.

dier, and through the Army PA Program, I have been able to serve as a Chief-Warrant Officer 2 (CW2) and retired as a Captain (CPT).

**What are your thoughts about the IPAP?**

The program produces excellent providers. It selects only the best from across the services and tests them through trials of fire with only the most adept in abstract thinking graduating.

**What are the keys to success that students should take away from the clinic?**

There are two golden rules every PA should abide. The first is to always examine the patient. Never let a patient leave without having actually put your hands on the problem for which he/she has come to see you. And second, perform the right confirmatory tests to ensure your initial diagnosis is correct. A common mistake is for providers to treat a disease process that is not actually present.

**Any words of wisdom for the new PA class that just graduated?**

Medicine can be a very rewarding field but also

intense at times. There will likely be many changes coming to the field in the next 5 to 10 years that will be very different from what you have experienced so far in your training and very different from what I have experienced over 22 years. New challenges in mastering the various forms of technology that are being developed and changes to the health care infrastructure will require you to maintain flexibility and keep an open mind.

Every year more emphasis is being placed on coding and ensuring you are getting the proper work load credits accurately documented. Additionally, guard your license with care! It is the only thing between you being a PA and a medic; it is your livelihood. Know the standard of care and always meet if not surpass it. If the hair on the back of your neck begins to stand up, then you know you are not doing the right thing. And lastly, always remember that medicine is a field where Murphy's Law predominates. If you are ever in doubt either confer with your supervising provider or pull out your books.

***"Thank you Mr. Franklin for those insightful words and your continued support of WAMC IPAP!"***

*Key to success during the OB/GYN Rotation: "Always perform a thorough physical exam!"*

*Howard Franklin can be reached at: (910) 432-9302 or howard.franklin@us.army.mil*



**What do you like/find rewarding about your job?**

Every day we are stomping out verified disease from the active duty ranks. Dermatology has always been a passion of mine since Phase 2 of IPAP, so it is very rewarding to apply these skills on a daily basis. We also manage the broad spectrum of heat and cold injuries and many infectious disease categories to which our soldiers are subjected. Being a PA has also allowed me to experience the full Army spectrum. I started my career as an enlisted sol-



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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 06-12 October—PA Week
- 10 October—Stead Center Visit and Bench Presentation
- 05-08 October—Columbus Holiday Weekend
- 09-12 November—Veteran's Holiday Weekend
- 14 November—Brown Bag Lecture on Diabetes Management, Mr. Jon Cucura
- 22-25 November—Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend
- 28 November—Journal Club, Topic: Reproductive, Location: TBD
- 05 December—Brown Bag lecture on "Red Eye" with Ophthalmology Resident CPT Filpo
- 22 December 2012-05 January 2013—Christmas/New Year Exodus
- 02 January 2013— Class 3-11 Arrive



### Serving America's Finest

### "Did you know?"

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### We are on the web:

<http://www.wamc.amedd.army.mil/dme/GME/ipap/Pages/default.aspx>

### Phase 2 Students

### Phase 2 Preceptors

#### These are our current students:

**Class 03-10** (see first page; graduated 07 Sep 2012)

**Class 01-11** (Arrived May 2012)

- CPT Jason Dillashaw—Class Leader
- CPT Joanna Robertson
- 1LT Roland Salazar
- 1LT(P) Larissa Williams
- OC Stephen Witte

**Class 02-11** (Arrived Aug 2012)

- OC Juan Grado
- OC Jennifer Trosper
- CW3 Antonio Ruiz—Class Leader
- OC Jared Breese

**Class 3-11** (Scheduled Arrival Jan 2013)

- Completing Phase 1
- Names to be posted

- Allergy— Dr. (MAJ) Jacob Turnquist
- Anesthesia-LTC Anthony Peverini, CRNA
- Cardiology—Dr. Scott Willis
- Dermatology— Dr. (CPT) Erin Spillane
- EDC— Mr. Paul Simcox, PA-C
- Emergency Medicine—Dr. Paul Kleinschmidt
- ENT—Dr. (MAJ) Matthew Grafenberg
- FM— Dr. (MAJ) Shannon Masneri
- GI—Dr. (LTC) Viet-Nhan H. Nguyen
- Internal Medicine—Dr. (MAJ) David C. Deblasio
- Long Term Care—Dr. (MAJ) Megan Belprez
- Neuro—Dr. Steven Lewis
- OB/GYN—CPT Jennifer Byer, PA-C
- OMFS— Dr.(COL) Jeffery Almony
- Ophthalmology—Dr. (COL) Robert Carroll
- Orthopaedics— Mr. Joseph Cohen, PA-C
- Pediatrics— Dr. (CPT) Nichelle Maraventano
- Podiatry—Dr. Asim Raja
- Pulmonology—Dr. (MAJ) Carl Pavel
- Behavioral Health—Dr. (MAJ) Judy Kovell
- Radiology— Dr. (MAJ) Daniel Martin
- General Surgery— Dr. (LTC) Peter Deveaux
- Urology—Dr. (MAJ) Jennifer Gurski