



America's Finest

Outgoing Student Editor: 1LT Christopher M. Mueller
Incoming Student Editor: CPT Joanna Robertson

Class 2-10 Graduation

Points of Interest

- Ultrasound Training
- Research Symposium
- SAPA
- Master Presentations
- Journal Club
- "One-On-One" preceptor interview
- "Just for Fun" - History & Movie
- (MAY/JUN/JUL)Birthdays:
 - May 9th—Grambusch
 - May 18th—Robertson
 - May 30th— Latham
 - Aug 24—Williams
 - Aug 30—Salazar

Fort Bragg, NC—Womack Army Medical Center Interservice Physician Assistant Program (WAMC IPAP) Class 2-10 graduation was conducted on the 18th of May 2012 at Weaver Auditorium, WAMC. There were four graduates who received a Master's in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. There were also three graduates who were commissioned to the rank of First Lieutenant during the ceremony. The graduates and their first assignments as PAs are:

- 1LT Andrew Allman, 44th Med Bde , Fort Bragg, NC
- 1LT Steven Davis, Fort Sill, OK
- 1LT Christopher Mueller, Fort Drum, NY
- 1LT Brandon Penebacker, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC

The guest speaker was MAJ John Detro, PA-C a former IPAP Phase I instructor and current commander of the 240th Forward Surgical Team (ABN).

COL Scott Barnes graciously accepted the Distinguished preceptor award on behalf of Dr. (COL) Robert Carroll, the Chief of Ophthalmology Services. Rotation of the Year honors were presented to the Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation (DOR). LTC Daniel Jayne, the Acting Chief of DOR accepted the award. The graduates were also awarded the Army Achievement Medals (AAMs) for their outstanding performance in Phase 2 for their accomplishments beyond their clinical requirements. The reception was held at SportsUSA where the new graduates celebrated with friends and family.
CONGRATULATIONS Class 2-10!



COL Brian Canfield and CSM Jeffrey Miller with the graduates as they hold their Army Achievement Medal certificates.



MAJ John Detro, OPA-C, 240th FST Commander, provided the graduates advice on how to be a successful physician assistant and leader.



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

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WAMC IPAP Faculty and Students

Make their Mark with Poster Presentations and Attendance at the 2012 Society of Army Physician Assistant Annual Refresher Course

Fayetteville, North Carolina – The Society of Army Physician Assistant Refresher Course was held from 23-27 April 2012 where MAJ Amelia Duran-Stanton, six Womack Army Medical Center Interservice Physician Assistant Program (WAMC IPAP) students and MAJ Winnie Paul, a Senior PA Pilot Program attendee, participated in several events and one of them was by presenting fifteen posters based on their abstract submissions for the poster competition that were displayed throughout the week.

OC Christopher Mueller, Class 2-10, who was working on a bench project for the Stead Center in Durham, NC received additional funding from SAPA members. WAMC IPAP will go to the Stead Center during PA week this year tentatively for 10 October 2012 to present the bench on behalf of IPAP and military PAs.

The students attended several lectures and participated in membership events. The guest speaker was Mr. Hal Slusher, the Distinguished Honor Graduate from the first Army PA course who spoke about the history of the first two classes that graduated in 1973 and 1974. The winners for the poster competition were also announced during the banquet. These are the results from the poster competition:

1st Place: MAJ Amelia M. Duran-Stanton, “Just a Click Away: Missed Teachable Moments in Tobacco Cessation Counseling in Orthopaedic Patients”

2nd Place: OC Andrew Allman, Class 2-10, “HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa”

3rd Place: MAJ D. Alan Nelson, PhD candidate at the University of Chicago, “Clinical Prediction of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder-Related Disability Among Active Duty U.S Army Soldiers”

From interviewing the seasoned PAs during the banquet when asked what wisdom they could impart to the PA students, the key themes were for the students to be grateful to those who paved the way before them and to mentor future generations of physician assistants.

Overall, the refresher course was a great way to network with other physician assistants, to learn new evidence based medicine, and to get up-to-date information from senior Army PA leaders. The next SAPA conference is 22-26 April 2013 and we hope to see you there!

By OC Brandon Penebacker
and MAJ Amelia M. Duran-Stanton



OC Andrew Allman during his poster presentation at the SAPA Refresher Course. OC Allman won 2nd place.



OC Christopher Mueller with his Stead Center bench project that is now fully funded. It will be presented on 10 OCT 2012 during PA week.



OC Jason Adams, Class 3-10, OC Christopher Mueller, Class 2-10, MAJ Amelia M. Duran-Stanton, WAMC IPAP Clinical Coordinator and MAJ Winnie Paul, Senior PA Pilot Program participant during the SAPA banquet accept the awards and certificates for the poster competition.

WAMC Annual Research Symposium

Fort Bragg, NC – The Womack Army Medical Center Annual Research Symposium was held on 20 APR 2012 which showcases research activities by staff, residents and students.

Officer Candidate Andrew Allman was chosen as a podium presenter for his topic on “HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa” and Officer Candidate Christopher Mueller as a poster presenter for his topic “An Introduction to the Rabies Virus and An Open Discussion on Prevention for Today’s Warriors.”

WAMC IPAP Faculty members were also podium presenters during the symposium: MAJ Amelia Duran-Stanton, OPA-C, WAMC IPAP Clinical Coordinator, MAJ George Barbee, EMPA-C, WAMC IPAP Deputy Clinical Coordinator, and Dr. Jennifer Yates, MD, the Family Medicine primary preceptor.



OC Andrew Allman during the WAMC Annual Research Symposium.

The WAMC IPAP requires all students for their master presentation to choose a subject-matter-expert mentor, prepare an announcement flyer, a poster, a one-page abstract, and present in a professional setting in their Army Service Uniforms with their mentor present. They are also encouraged to submit to professional meetings which prepare them as future leaders in the physician assistant and research communities.

By MAJ Duran-Stanton



Ultrasound Training

Fort Bragg, North Carolina—The Special Forces Medical Sergeant (SFMS) Course is the premier training facility in the Special Operations community. In 44 weeks, soldiers from all disciplines are trained to handle multiple casualties at all levels of trauma. In addition, these soldiers are taught basic and advanced surgical skills along with comprehensive clinical medicine. This training affords the Special Operations community skilled medical personnel who can effectively treat their team mates in all types of austere conditions, allowing mission success in all climates and conditions.



OC Mueller improves his psychomotor skills using the 3D ultrasound as CPT Jessica Larson and OC Stephen Witte observe.

As medicine evolves, so does training. One new instrument that is now deployed to the lowest level is a portable ultrasound machine. Soldiers attending the SFMS course are now being trained on how to properly use this machine in not only clinical situations, but also traumatic situations. The WAMC IPAP students were afforded the opportunity to take part in some of this ultrasound training by Mr. King, a retired Special Forces medic. Thank you, Mr. King!

By OC Jason Adams



Journal Club



MAJ Duran-Stanton discusses one of the articles as the students listen intently.

We had two Journal Club meetings during this time period in which very informative articles were discussed. For both Journal Club meetings we invited Methodist University PA students to partake in our discussions and hear their thoughts on the pertaining topics of the day. Afterwards the two programs took part in team building activities.

During the January Journal Club meeting the topic encompassed Endocrine. There were many interesting topics and key points discussed during this meeting, such as Testosterone does help with recovery....thanks OC Penebacker. Also having breakfast at the Haymont Grill wasn't bad either. Then we finished up with a round of bowling at the local lanes.



IPAP and Methodist students bowl after Journal Club.

The March Journal Club meeting was conducted at the Rainbow Café and the topic of this meeting was EENT (Eyes, Ears, Nose, & Throat). Again, a lot of good teaching points were brought up; especially with OC Grambusch's article supporting that three grams of sugar tabs help with smoking cessation. Afterwards we met up to hone our golfing skills at the local driving range.

By OC Christopher Mueller



OC Penebacker answers the Journal Club questions on his article on testosterone use.



OC Adams discusses his topic on otitis media as OC Allman and OC Grambusch look on.



Master Presentations

IPAP at WAMC continues to lead the way especially with the presentation of the students' masters papers. Even though it entails a large amount of preparation such as reserving a auditorium or conference room to present, making a abstract and poster, and everyone's favorite....getting into our ASU's, it does prepare the students for future endeavors of the academic portion of the Physician Assistant.

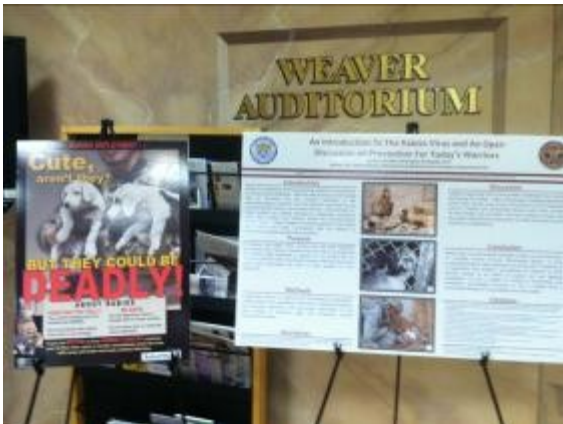
Thru this long pipeline, the students are able to find and experience "growing pains" of presenting medical topics to our medical peers. Nothing truly prepares a student more than actual experience; learning by doing.



OC Penebacker discussing the various points of forensic science.

During this time period we had the opportunity to listen and learn from IPAP Class 2-10 on their various presentations.

OC Brandon Penebacker discussed medical forensic science and its purpose within the military. OC Andrew Allman discussed about HIV/AIDs within Sub-Sahara Africa, in which he also discussed key points of the virus within the U.S. military. OC Christopher Mueller discussed the rabies virus and the possible need for a larger group of vaccination within the military. Finally 1LT Steven Davis discuss the training and utilization of physician assistants overseas.



OC Mueller's posters in front of the Weaver Auditorium.

By OC Christopher Mueller

"Just For Fun"

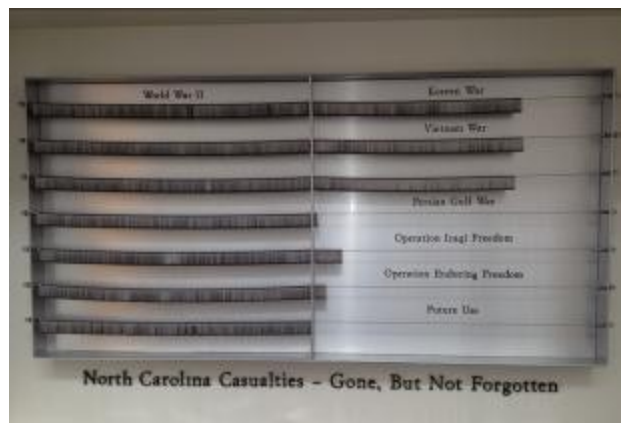
The Fort Bragg IPAP students were lucky this year in the fact that they were able to squeeze in an extra "5th Wednesday" event this year due to 2012 being a leap year. On the 29th of February the IPAP students were joined by a contingent of PA students from Methodist University for a tour of the Airborne Special Operations Museum in downtown Fayetteville.



IPAP and Methodist students at the Airborne and Special Ops Museum.

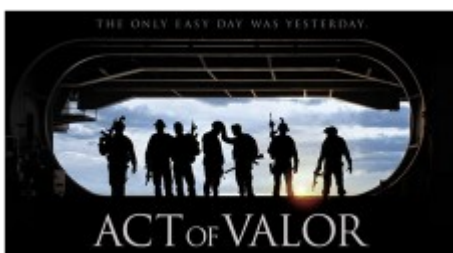
This provided a great opportunity for the IPAP students to familiarize their civilian counterparts with an important segment of our nation's military history.

At the museum, there was also a military technologies display along with special area that focused on American prisoners of war during the Vietnam War.



Dog tags indicating the number of North Carolinians deaths in combat

The camaraderie continued with lunch on the patio of a favorite local eatery, the Huske Hardware House; and culminated with an afternoon showing of the recently released film "Act of Valor." A special thanks to OC Jason Adams, class 003-10, for organizing the outing.



By OC Donald Grambusch



“One-on-One”



Ophthalmology/Optometry Rotation
with CPT Frances M. Silva OD, MS
Optometry Resident
Interview by OC Brandon Penebacker, Class 2-10

How long have you been a OD?

I am a recent graduate from the University of Houston College of Optometry (May 2011) and am currently the second optometry resident in the Primary Eye Care Residency at Womack Army Medical Center.

Where did you earn your OD degree?

UHCO

What was it like when you were a new MD or PA?

I was a little nervous at first, but gradually became more confident with my clinical skills as I progressed through the residency program.

Any words of wisdom for a new PA?

Always listen carefully to your patients, demonstrate that you care about their condition, and address their concerns while educating them in the process. I am a firm believe that the patient shares responsibility along with their provider with regards to their health

care.

What do you like about your job?

I enjoy serving and educating patients regarding their ocular health and how it relates to their overall medical health. They are always surprised when I let them know that optometrists can identify if they have high cholesterol, diabetes, and hypertension simply after performing a dilated fundus exam.

What do you feel about the PA profession?

I feel that it is a beneficial occupation that allows health professionals provide continuous high quality care to their patients.

What is rewarding about being a PA preceptor (if not a preceptor but a PA, as a PA in general)?

I enjoyed teaching PAs regarding proper diagnosis and treatment for acute red eyes. PAs are always willing to learn and receptive to information that will assist them in providing quality care to their patients.

Do you feel our Ophthalmology/Optometry rotation is meeting expectations to produce competent PAs?

YES

What are the keys to success in the Ophthalmology/Optometry rotation?

Just be willing to learn, ask plenty of questions, and never forget the basics.

What do you recommend they should have for equipment?

Nothing new since PAs are already familiar with slit lamp microscopy and fluorescein which are huge tools for optometrists.

What do the students need to know prior to coming to the Ophthalmology/Optometry rotation?

Review the most common ocular conditions within our demographic population and come to the rotation with questions prior to seeing patients.

*Keys to success during the Ophthalmology rotation:
“Just be willing to learn!”*

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Hail and Farewell

Another class is leaving for bigger and better things and another class is about to begin long journey to become physician assistants. WAMC IPAP had another Hail and Farewell; this time we said welcome to Class 1-11 and said farewell and congratulations to the graduating of Class 2-10. It only seemed like yesterday when we were saying welcome to Class 2-10.

The incoming class consisted of CPT Joanna Robertson, CPT Jason Dillishaw, 1LT Roland Salazar, and 1LT Larissa Williams. They all were happy and eager to finally start their clinical phase.

We had a great turn out where the students and their families were able to spend time with each other in a relaxed atmosphere at Pope Park. The children were able to play and run around the park while watching the occasional C-130 perform "Touch and Go" on the airfield; a typical military family entertainment. It was a great time to bond and learn about each other outside the hospital setting.

OC Mueller had an exceptionally successful day due to the fact that he did not have to use his medical aid bag for unsuspected burns from the inferno called a barbeque grill.

By OC Christopher Mueller



OC Mueller's daughter, Emily, gives a smile of approval of one of the homemade desserts.



Class 2-10 telling "war stories" from their clinical year.



OC Witte and his wife talk "shop" with OC Grambusch's wife, Monica.



Class 1-11, MAJ Stibral and MAJ Duran-Stanton during the event.



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 25-29 May—Training Holiday—Memorial Day Weekend
- 30 May—5th Wednesday, Putt Putt and Italian Food
- 17 June—Father's Day
- 4 July—Independence Day
- 25 July—Journal Club, Theme: Genitorurinary
- 13-17 August—Gross Anatomy Class at Methodist University
- 31 August-3 September—Training Holiday—Labor Day Weekend
- 7 September—Class 3-10 Graduation
- 26 September—Journal Club, Theme: Musculoskeletal
- 6-12 October—PA Week
- 08 October—Memorial Day



Serving America's Finest

DID YOU KNOW?

IPAP Students are highly encouraged to apply for SAPA and AAPA memberships at discounted rates for early exposure to physician assistant activities and programs.

We are on the web:

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

SAPA

<http://www.sapa.org/>

AAPA

<http://www.aapa.org/>

Phase 2 Students

Phase 2 Preceptors

These are our current students:

Class 02-10 (18 MAY graduation)

- OC Andrew Allman
- 1LT Steven Davis
- OC Christopher Mueller
- OC Brandon Penebacker—*Class Leader*

Class 03-10

- OC Jason Adams
- OC Donald Grambusch—*Class Leader*
- 1LT Garrett Latham

Class 01-11 (arrived MAY 2012)

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

- Allergy— Dr. (MAJ) Jacob Turnquist
- Anesthesia-LTC Anthony Peverini, CRNA
- Cardiology—Dr. (MAJ) John Thomas
- Dermatology— Dr. (CPT) James R. Neiner
- 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-Nham H. Nguyen
- Internal Medicine—Dr. (MAJ) David C. Deblasio
- Long Term Care—Dr. (CPT) Megan Belprez
- Neuro—Dr. (MAJ) 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) Al Tsai
- Radiology— Dr. (MAJ) Daniel Martin
- General Surgery— Dr. (LTC) Peter Deveaux
- Urology—Dr. (MAJ) Jennifer Gurski