



## CHA/PA Newsletter

CHA/PA students are involved in projects in Peru through the Global Health track as well as local projects involving the homeless and camps which expose CO high school students to healthcare professions. A faculty member's work with 9News resulted in a Heartland Emmy! We also had a our first White Coat Ceremony. Read on to learn more!



## CHA/PA Graduate Serves as Program Director for a UK PA Program

**Karen Roberts** graduated from CHA/PA in 2004 and spent her subsequent years practicing in family medicine in Thornton. Karen has had a passion for the United Kingdom since she was a teenager. She loves the history and tradition of the country, as well as the diversity and tolerance of the people. She decided to take the leap in 2007 and moved to the UK. Karen practices as a surgical PA and also accepted the role of Program Director for the Physician Assistant Program at St. Georges University in London in September. The PA profession is quite different in England. The main challenge is that PA's are not licensed, thus they do not prescribe medicine or request imaging. The UKAPA (UK Association of PAs) is working hard toward expanding PAs scope of practice, and Karen is optimistic that these issues will be resolved in the future. In

## Jacqueline Sivahop's Workgroup and 9News Awarded Heartland Emmy

Faculty Member **Jacqueline Sivahop** has been a member of The Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) Prevention Workgroup at Children's Hospital Colorado since 2010. She is now a co-chair of one of the SBS subcommittees and has been involved in public service announcement commercials on Channel 9 and television interviews on the topic. The SBS Prevention Workgroup was excited and honored to learn of the recent award of a Heartland Emmy to their community partner, KUSA – 9news for the public service announcement “Never Shake a Baby”. The SBS workgroup works in collaboration with 9news to create public service announcements on this important topic. Jacqueline is currently working with our 2<sup>nd</sup> year students to train them on the

other ways, medical providers have much more freedom in the UK. All residents have access to medical care; there is no charge for receiving services. Karen loves that insurance is not a limitation. She can focus on patient need, rather than preferred insurance medications.

As a practicing PA, Karen enjoys establishing relationships with her patients and helping them to lead healthy lives and cope with ongoing health issues. As Program Director at St. Georges University of London, she loves being on the forefront of educating PAs that are competent, enthusiastic and caring. Karen also is passionate about advocating for the importance of PAs within the National Health Service medical system. She hopes to see specialty care and training programs expand in the UK over the next decade. The number of PAs in the UK has increased from 30 when she arrived in 2007 to currently over 170. One of the main reasons Karen moved to the UK is to grow the

adolescent education on “How to Calm a Crying Baby” created by her SBS subcommittee. The students will be presenting this material to adolescents throughout the Denver area this fall semester.



### **Working with the CO Coalition for the Homeless**

This summer, CU UNITE and LEADS provided me with a stipend to work as an intern at the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH). At CCH, I conducted a project to evaluate a new trauma screening tool, namely: the Life Events Checklist (LEC). This client survey will be part of the coalition’s initiative to become a “trauma-informed organization.”

profession and we're excited to have a CHA/PA grad as part of the PA movement in the UK.



### A Student's Rotation in Peru

As a participant in the Global Health Track offered by the CU PA Program, I had the opportunity to complete one of my third-year clinical rotations in an international location. I have been involved with a student-run non-profit organization called Comunidades Unidas Peru for the past 3 years and was eager to spend the month working on this project. The goal of Comunidades Unidas (or CU Peru) is to improve the quality of life of the people who live along the Peruvian Amazon by training local volunteer healthcare workers in the region. Our group spends the

Trauma-informed care is a model which prioritizes understanding a client's trauma history before providing health care or social services. The assumption is that by understanding a client's trauma history, staff can best meet clients' needs. My work also explored the relationship between trauma and the development of chronic disease in homeless individuals. This is an expansion on the topics explored by Kaiser Permanente through their Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (Felitti, 1998).

In conducting this project, I conducted 26, hour-long interviews with homeless individuals in Denver. This experience was humbling and intensely informative. The clients often suffered from severe physical disabilities, mental health problems (such as schizophrenia, depression, and bipolar disorder), and extensive child and adult trauma histories. There was incredible wisdom in these interactions as they shared stories of

majority of the year in Colorado preparing for our summer trip to Peru and then travels to the Loreto region of Peru for 1–2 months every summer. For the first week I was in Peru, our group worked with a team of Peruvian medical students and a public health student from Colorado to conduct a needs assessment survey in Iquitos, Peru and in the nearby villages. During the second week, we hosted approximately 85 local healthcare workers or "promoters" at multi-day trainings. Our curriculum focuses on patient assessment and triage as well as a number of public health topics including water-treatment, hand-washing, and nutrition. The last two weeks of my trip were spend in following up with promoters in their communities along the river. We spent this time in the villages reviewing curriculum from the trainings and teaming with the community members to complete projects like building latrines and

their childhood, how they lost their housing, experiences in psychiatric facilities and/or prison, and how they have been treated by health care providers.

My summer advocacy project at CCH is helping to inform their client practices. Furthermore, the information we gathered is providing avenues into further internal research regarding the health consequences of trauma across the lifespan. Lastly, I am currently the AAPA LGBT PA Caucus Student Fellow and hope to use the trauma-informed care platform to advocate for LGBT patients. My intention is to make the argument that trauma-informed care is increasingly important, especially with vulnerable populations, to include members of the LGBT community.

**Anna Christenson**

**Class of 2014**

pharmacies. It was encouraging to return to the communities in which we worked last summer and see the progress that is being made, and I am excited to continue my work with CU Peru this year as the director of finances and fundraising.

**Beth Hewes, PA-S3**



## Summer Health Careers Institute

This summer, second year PA students **Ryan Candee** and **Kelsey Klein** participated as leaders in the Summer Health Careers Institute.

This program was sponsored by AHEC (CO Area Health Education Center), with the goal of reaching out to high school students in Colorado who are interested in healthcare, specifically targeting kids from rural



## Back in the Saddle

**Joyce Nieman** has returned to our faculty team. Some of you may remember Joyce as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year clinical coordinator from 2005 – 2010. She briefly left the program to care for her parents and to work in healthcare quality improvement. She returned to the program this past summer and is now in the role of “Clinical Site Coordinator”, a new position whose primary mission is to provide ongoing support to existing preceptors and to recruit new clinical sites. The CU PA program has always valued its preceptors and on-site clinical staff, and now with the addition of a traveling faculty member, we are better able to provide one-on-one assistance to preceptors and students.

communities. The program invited 2 groups of sixty students to participate in one-week camps in June and July. As part of the program, they learned about various healthcare career options, how to write college admissions essays, and current healthcare issues, such as diabetes and obesity. They were also able to participate in training activities such as casting, suturing, health screening, CPR certification, and basic EMT training. Further, they came to AMC where they toured the animal research labs and learned about anatomy, including hands on cadaver activities.

As part of the students' anatomy education, Kelsey and Ryan designed an interactive lesson that highlighted major muscles, bones, and regions of the brain. The lesson was taught over a 2-hour block and included stations where students labeled bones and bony landmarks on skeleton posters, labeled muscles on one another, and learned cranial

If you would like a site visit or if you have any questions about precepting CU PA students, please send her an email at

[joyce.nieman@ucdenver.edu](mailto:joyce.nieman@ucdenver.edu).



## **Christina Robohm accepts Director Position at Carroll University**

**Christina Robohm** served as Associate Director of Admissions and Student Life beginning in 2008. She joined the faculty in 2000 and was involved in alumni affairs, admissions, and student organizations, such as the Silver Society. She became the Director of Physician Assistant Studies at Carroll University in September. We wish her all the best in her new position!

anatomy on synthetic skulls. In addition to designing the curriculum, Kelsey and Ryan had fun creating the posters and props, which will be used in future AHEC outreach programs.

In addition to teaching anatomy, Kelsey and Ryan were part of an interprofessional on-sight team of student leaders from various AMC programs, including the pharmacy, nursing, and medical schools. Each team leader was in charge of a group of ten high school students and led them in team building, educational, and reflective activities. Kelsey and Ryan really enjoyed participating in these camps, getting to know students from other programs, and lending their knowledge and expertise to students who may follow in their footsteps. Post-camp surveys by students were overwhelmingly positive about the entire experience, so it seems like a good time was had by all.



## White Coat Ceremony

CHA/PA had its first White Coat Ceremony for 1st Year Students on August 27th. This event commemorated the initiation of the students' clinical education. Dean Richard Krugman and Medical Director Celia Kay addressed the students. Invited Speaker Lorrie Kehmeier (Class of 1984) from the Fort Collins Youth Clinic shared her perspective on the life of a PA clinician. The ceremony concluded with the faculty presenting 1st Year Students with their white coats.



## Physician Assistant Week – October 6– 12

In response to an invitation from the CHA/PA Silver Society, Governor John Hickenlooper issued a proclamation that October 6–12, 2012 was Physician Assistant Week. We're honored that the proclamation was approved and officially recognizes the importance and contribution of Physician Assistants in Colorado. Our Silver Society's Diversity and Recruitment Committee members organized various events during PA



## Student Awarded a National Health Service Core Scholarship

**April Kennedy**, Class of 2015, received a National Health Service Core Scholarship. The NHSC Scholarship Program (NHSC SP) awards scholarships to students pursuing primary health care professions. In return for each school year, or partial school year, of financial support received, students



## CH/PA on Facebook

["Like" us on Facebook](#) to see more photos of our students at the Dental School and to keep up with the program!



**1st Year Students  
Learning about Oral**

Week to promote the PA profession. Students sent thank you cards to all preceptors from last year, including hand delivering thank you's to local preceptors. CHA/PA students also had a bake off to benefit Organic Health Response, a organization that raises money for Women's Health services on an island in Africa.

agree to provide primary health care services for one year at an NHSC– approved site located in a high– need Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) including urban, rural, and frontier communities across the nation. Many types of health care facilities are NHSC– approved sites. Additionally, the NHSC provides support to scholars while in school and offers tools and resources after graduation, during training, and while in practice. Congratulations, April!

## Health at the Dental School

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