



Connecticut PA

A Publication of the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Justin Champagne, PA-C

In case anybody was wondering, winter is upon us! Between all the cold weather, snow, and ice, I guess it's hard not to notice. I think I've heard the word "Nor'easter" enough times this winter to last me quite some time. As I see many people cleaning off their roofs with roof rakes (or even up on their roofs with shovels) to remove seemingly four feet worth of snow from the tops of their houses, I am reminded of the best kind of medicine: preventative medicine. Prophylactically, ridding our roofs of all that heavy snow and ice not only prevents roofs from collapsing but reduces the risk of leaks, as the water from the melting snow and ice finds its way into the house by bypassing those iced-over gutters. This affords a good time to remind ourselves how crucial a role we PAs can be in promoting preventative medicine to our patients. This can be accomplished by encouraging timely colonoscopies or mammograms, ordering Pap smears and PSAs, stressing the importance of a healthy diet and exercise, administering appropriate vaccinations, etc.

To that end, ConnAPA has been looking forward as well and preparing for the future by completing our strategic plan. I wrote to update you earlier on this endeavor as we embarked on it, and after a fruitful planning session and some conference calls to hash it all out, the Board has now adopted its three-year strategic plan for 2011-2013. Our leadership is proud of the plan and hopeful that it will guide our future decisions to make this organization stronger and better suited to represent our profession and our members.

At the risk of getting too far into the details, suffice it to say that we have a plan laid out that will be focusing heavily on membership and public relations (PR) initiatives. From a membership standpoint, we will be developing plans to increase our membership numbers and striving to add more member benefits (tangible and intangible). With the PR tasks and goals, we'll be aiming to increase our public presence in exhibit shows, philanthropic type of events, and in the media.

As always ConnAPA is working hard on your behalf to promote our profession. We are already busy and in full swing for this year's legislative session, so please stay alert for future government affairs emails asking for your help in contacting your legislators. In the meantime, stay warm, stay dry, and be safe.



Justin Champagne, PA-C

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ConnAPA Sees Busy Legislative Session	2
Action Required by All PAs in CT Who Use (or plan to use) Fluoroscopy	3
A Commitment to Hope and Healing	4
Honoring National Kidney Month	5
Yale PA Program Update	6
Quinnipiac University PA Update	8
Classifieds	10
A Few New Twists at COC	11
COC Save the Date	12

**2010-2011
Board of Directors**

OFFICERS

President

Justin Champagne

Justin_Champagne@hotmail.com

Vice President

Danielle Tabaka

Danielle.Tabaka@att.net

Imm. Past President

Jeanine Sico

jeanineon@yahoo.com

Secretary

Jennifer Violette

jennifer_spada@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Terry O'Donnell

Terry.ODonnell@quinnipiac.edu

Executive Director

Michael Thompson

mthompson@ssmgt.com

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 1

Marc Benjamin

mbpac97@aol.com

Region 2

Peter Juergensen

pdjuergensen@cox.net

Region 3

Sarah Fountain

sfountain13@hotmail.com

Region 4

Andrew Barlow

abarlow@opthc.org

Region 5

Andrew Turczak

aturczak@srhs.org

STUDENT REPS

Quinnipiac University

Robert Pandolfe

Robert.Pandolfi@quinnipiac.edu

Yale University

Daniel McNamara

Daniel.Mcnamara@yale.edu

Tia Ferrarotti

Tia.Ferrarotti@yale.edu

**Please email editorial
submissions to:**

**Dawn Colomb-Lippa, PA-C,
Editor**

Dawn.Colomb-Lippa@quinnipiac.edu

CONNAPA SEES BUSY LEGISLATIVE SESSION

*By: Jonathan Weber, Legislative Chair & Linda Kowalski of the
Kowalski Group, LLC*

The ConnAPA legislative team is working hard to promote the goals of our organization to the 187 members of the Connecticut House and Senate in the 2011 legislative session.

We are actively pursuing three changes to the Physician Assistant practice act—changes we believe will make the system work more efficiently while improving care for our patients. These changes include:

Lifting the statutory cap on the number of PAs who can be supervised by a physician. The current limit is six PAs.

Deleting a requirement that the supervising MD meet with the PA on patient matters at least once weekly.

Loosening the requirement that an MD countersign a PA-written script /order for a schedule II or III drug within 24 hours.

ConnAPA believes that these three elements are overly prescriptive and are best left to the discretion of the supervising M.D. We are currently advocating these changes to members of the Public Health Committee, who will make the initial decisions on the matter.

Meanwhile, ConnAPA has been busy attending public hearings, submitting testimony to legislative committees and making sure that legislators know our positions on important legislation. We are concentrating on the following bills:

Legislation is moving forward to create the Sustinet Health Plan, a publicly sponsored health insurance plan that will be offered on the state's health insurance exchange in 2014. ConnAPA submitted testimony at the hearing on this bill to reiterate that Physician Assistants can play a key role in preventive care and ensuring effective care for individuals who will be enrolled in the policy.

A bill has been proposed to restructure the Medical Examining Board. While that is not necessarily a bad thing, the problem with the proposal is that it deletes the current appointment of a Physician Assistant and an M.D. who is supervising one or more Physician Assistants. We believe these specific appointments should remain and have testified as such to the committee.

Finally, a bill has been resurrected from last session that would change how Scope of Practice decisions are made. Currently, these scope decisions are made by the General Assembly. The bill will create a role for the Department of Public Health in this process. That's also not a bad thing, but ConnAPA believes this should be advisory in nature. Final decisions on important Scope of Practice issues should remain vested in the hands of our elected legislators in the House and Senate.

Much of the attention of legislators will now be focused on the state's troubling budget situation. As you all know, Connecticut's budget is in the red to the tune of \$3.5 billion—an astounding level that equals 20 percent of all expenditures. Governor Malloy has proposed a multi-faceted plan to eliminate this budget deficit through a combination of spending cuts, state employee concessions and tax increases. Now the General Assembly will have their say. As this process unfolds, we'll be sure to keep you informed as the session moves to adjournment on June 8.



Join ConnAPA's Facebook Page!

ACTION REQUIRED BY ALL PAS IN CT WHO USE (OR PLAN TO USE) FLUOROSCOPY

By: Justin Champagne, PA-C

The Law:

Physician assistants (PAs) in Connecticut (CT) may well remember the legislative victory that ConnAPA enjoyed during the summer of 2009, in which PAs were legally given the right to use fluoroscopy for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. For the many years up until this legislation, PAs were already using fluoroscopy for many procedures under the auspices of Chapter 370 of the General Statutes, which gives supervising physicians the authority to delegate to PAs the ability to order and perform diagnostic tests and therapeutic procedures, presumably including procedures that use ionizing radiation. State medical imaging laws, however, permitted only licensed radiologic technologists (RTs) and a handful of other occupations the ability to use ionizing radiation. PAs were not on that short list of occupations that could use fluoroscopy, so we successfully fought to be included on that list, essentially closing the gap between our state's actual PA practice environment and the state's provisions that regulated medical imaging.

ConnAPA fought long and hard to win this legislative battle, but work has been ongoing...and **there is still work to be done**...by all PAs in CT who use or plan to use fluoroscopy. The CT law that gave PAs the ability to legally use fluoroscopy came with the stipulation that PAs receive 40 hours of didactic instruction on radiation safety, radiation biology, radiation physics, and radiation management applicable to fluoroscopy AND that PAs take and pass an exam that covers those topics by October 1, 2011. A PA can challenge the exam without taking such a course prior to the deadline, but those PAs who fail that test and all PAs taking the exam after the deadline would be required to take the 40 hours of didactic work and then pass the test prior to using fluoroscopy. Until October 1, whether a PA has taken the exam or not, they can continue to use fluoroscopy as delegated.

The Curriculum:

The American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) teamed up to develop a curriculum that PAs could follow that would sufficiently train them to safely use fluoroscopy and to understand the effects of radiation. This AAPA/ASRT project was a national endeavor; that is, it wasn't created specifically to satisfy CT statute because the two organizations knew that the fluoroscopy issue was germane not only to CT but also to many other states as well. This curriculum can be found at: <http://www.aapa.org/advocacy-and-practice-resources/trends/1562>. This program of study goes a bit beyond what CT statute requires (i.e. 40 hours of didactic work followed by the exam). The AAPA/ASRT framework calls for 40 hours of didactic education, followed by another 40 hours of supervised clinical practice, and then the exam.

The Exam:

The timing of when the exam becomes available is critical, which we are told will be March 2011. The test has been created but is awaiting final approval by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT). The Department of Public Health (DPH) in CT will need to approve this examination prior to allowing PAs to take it. If the exam becomes available in March, as expected, that will give PAs who use fluoroscopy a 4-5 month window to take the exam. Since the national framework created by AAPA/ASRT goes beyond what CT state law requires in the didactic component (plus it requires a 40-hour clinical component), we need to get assurance that the ARRT will allow PAs from CT to take the exam without the course for those first few months.

Work to be Done:

In the meantime, many PAs are wondering when an actual course will be available that will teach the framework laid out by AAPA/ASRT. Efforts at this are ongoing, as the AAPA has spoken with a number of interested parties. If a PA in CT needed to take the course, then certainly the AAPA/ASRT curriculum would satisfy the requirements of CT statute...and then some. If someone in CT is able to develop a course that just meets the 40 hours required by state law, and not the 40

(Continued on page 4)

**Willing to provide
job shadowing to an
aspiring PA?**

Contact the ConnAPA
Executive Office
860.243.3977
ConnAPA@ssmgt.com



**Want to do more to
support your
profession?**

JOIN A COMMITTEE!

Membership

Danielle.tabaka@att.net

CME/Conference Planning

Pn2bns@yahoo.com

Government Affairs

Jonathan.Weber@yale.edu

Communications/Public Relations

Justin_Chamagne@hotmail.com

Attention Recent PA Program Graduates

If you have not yet done so, please contact the ConnAPA Executive Office with your updated contact information.

Call: 860.243.3977, or email
ConnAPA@ssmgt.com



"...who is Burdeen Camp? The short answer – one of the brave few who paved the way for future PAs..."

ACTION REQUIRED BY ALL PAS IN CT WHO USE (OR PLAN TO USE) FLUOROSCOPY(Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

hours of supervised clinical practice that is part of the AAPA/ASRT course, then a PA could certainly take that instead and would still satisfy CT state law. But again, we'll need to assure that ARRT will allow PAs who have complied with state laws to take the exam, even if state law is different than the AAPA/ASRT educational framework. In the event that a group cannot be obtained to offer a course to teach this curriculum in time, though, it is the responsibility of the PA to prepare himself/herself for the test by October 1.

Rest assured that ConnAPA is working with the AAPA and will keep you informed of any new developments.

A COMMITMENT TO HOPE AND HEALING: HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BURDEEN CAMP, PA

By: Tia Ferrarotti

When I was first approached to compose an article honoring Burdeen Camp, I felt a twinge of panic. Other than the fact that she is a retiring PA, I thought, who is Burdeen Camp? The short answer – one of the brave few who paved the way for future PAs such as myself. The title of this article was actually derived from the motto of Ms. Camp's Cancer Center at Saint Raphael's and I found it entirely applicable to her career as a whole.

After simply "google-ing" her, I immediately was awed and humbled by the massive amount of information my search returned. How was I, a lowly first-year PA student, supposed to do justice to the career and contributions of a woman whom, without which, my colleagues and I would have two less footsteps to follow in?

Ms. Camp started along on the healing arts career path for the same reason most of us do – because of a desire to take care of people. However, the specific choice of the PA route through Yale took some research, she says. "I didn't know I specifically wanted to be a PA because

I, like everybody else in 1970, didn't know what a PA was. It just really evolved. But the profession is a concept that I came to believe in strongly." While most of us PA students today see our primary challenge as becoming proficient medical practitioners, Ms. Camp had both "gender and PA wars" to battle as well. She remembers, "There were very few female physicians when I was a student. My second year there were only 3 female interns in the entire medical-surgical staff at Yale and when I graduated there were less than 250 PAs and 3 women PAs in the country."

Following completion of her studies at Yale as part of the inaugural class of only five students, she took a position at the Yale New Haven Medical Center in Medical Oncology and remained for ten years. She and her colleagues felt it necessary to provide some continuity for future PAs: "I had not had a role model as a student myself and a few of us wanted to provide that for those following us. We also had a lot of work to do getting the profession established. We were trying to establish a profession of thinking decision makers. It was not easy – not only did we need to educate ourselves but we needed to educate physicians on how best to utilize a PA's talents." Despite the struggles she faced throughout her career and during the overall establishment of the PA profession in New Haven, Ms. Camp reflects back on the memories of her first job fondly: "I don't think any PA will have as much fun as I did because there is a lot of ability to influence the future when you are helping to shape a profession. I think although I have always and still do enjoy taking care of people, the best part of my career was being the beginning of something great." She most definitely left her mark, evidenced by the numerous

A COMMITMENT TO HOPE AND HEALING (*CONTINUED*)

(Continued from page 4)

awards and publications that are literally too extensive to list.

Her next and final job was across town at the Hospital of Saint Raphael in the Hematology-Oncology Department, where she has maintained a laundry list of leadership positions over the past twenty-eight years. She began as the coordinator for the Community Clinical Oncology Program and then, after the program ended in 1988, became the manager of the Hematology Oncology Infusion Therapy Unit, while concurrently maintaining positions on multiple advisory committees and professional organizations – many of which she was a founding member.

After having such a poignant career and contributing to the foundation of a now exponentially-growing profession, my next question of Ms. Camp was, of course – what next? “First is always Special Olympics,” she replies easily. While future PAs like myself see Ms. Camp herself as inspiring, she is continually moved by Special Olympics Connecticut (SOCT). She explains humbly, “SOCT is a mass of positive energy that continues to inspire me.” She’ll be able to devote more of her time after retirement to the organization as a provider and coordinator of medical coverage for Connecticut competitions. Additionally, she will continue serving as the Progress Committee chair for the Yale PA Program as well as interviewing applicants and proctoring exams at the Quinnipiac PA Program, with plans to become even more involved with both programs. Add four vacations a year to that agenda and it sounds to me like an ambitious retirement plan.

Her advice to aspiring PAs? “Perseverance and hard work do pay off, and I cannot think of a more satisfying career than participation in the healing arts because there is still so much art left in the practice of medicine. I am afraid too many non-PAs only learn the science, while I believe we also learn the art.” She adds, “We are not yet universally accepted for the professionals we are. I leave that to your generation.”

HONORING NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH - MARCH 2011 *By: Danielle Tabaka, PA-C*

Kidney Disease impacts large numbers of patients in our country- 26 million Americans have been diagnosed with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD); approximately 500,000 people have been diagnosed with End-Stage Renal Disease; and 80,000 people are awaiting kidney transplants.

March is National Kidney Month with March 10th being World Kidney Day. The hope is to raise awareness about kidney disease and educate people on reducing the risk of developing kidney disease.

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Serving Connecticut will be hosting several events in March:

World Kidney Day will be honored on Thursday, March 10th with a Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP) at Bella Vista Senior Housing in New Haven. The KEEP is FREE for patients and will include a review of the patients’ medical and family histories; and screening for hypertension (blood pressure), diabetes (blood glucose and HgBA1C), obesity (height and weight), and kidney disease (creatinine, eGFR, urinalysis, and urine for microalbumin). The patient will then meet with an MD or PA at the end of the screening to discuss his/her risk factors for kidney disease. If you would like to help with this event or want more information, please contact the NKF at 860-257-3770.

On Tuesday March 22nd, the NKF will host a wine tasting at the Peabody Museum in New Haven from 6-8:30pm. They are asking for a donation of \$20 for the cause. The evening will include wine, cheese and a variety of appetizers. For more information, please contact the NKF at 860-257-3770.



ConnAPA Envisioned Future

The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants is the leading voice, resource, and advocate for PAs and the PA profession in Connecticut.

ConnAPA Mission Statement

The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants is committed to the professional development of physician assistants and the physician/PA team; to quality, cost-effective, patient-centered, and accessible health care; and to advocating for the PA profession.

- Promote the delivery of quality health care.
- Act on behalf of physician assistants regarding legislation pertaining to physician assistant practice, licensure, and other matters deemed pertinent to the profession.
- Promote and provide continuing medical education.
- Promote and provide public education regarding the physician assistant profession to other medical professionals and the general public.
- Maintain liaison relationships with other health care organizations.

YALE PA UPDATE

By: Dan McNamara PA-S and Tia Ferrarotti PA-S



The "Coveted bowtie donated annually by anatomy Professor William Stewart pictured above at the Hunger and Homelessness auction.

To finish off 2010, first year PA students raised an impressive \$1,325 at the most recent Hunger and Homelessness auction. Fortunately, this was enough to secure the coveted bowtie donated annually by anatomy professor Dr. William Stewart. The auction took place on November 18, 2010 and raised a total of over \$20,000. Proceeds will be donated to local non-profit organizations including community healthcare organizations, homeless shelters, and food assistance programs.

With the advent of the new year comes the bittersweet completion of the human anatomy course for first year PA students. However, the students have the annual service of gratitude to look forward to. The Service of Gratitude is a student-run event and its purpose is to provide first year medical and PA students the opportunity to show appreciation to the donors who sacrificed their bodies to science. Every year, students come

together to create something to honor the donors and make donations to charity.

Outside the classroom, many students continue to volunteer at the HAVEN Free Clinic. Since the end of September 2010, they have been working alongside healthcare professionals to provide care to those without health insurance. Second year PA student Evie Rodriguez took it upon herself to produce a performance of the Vagina Monologues in order to raise money for the clinic. The show is set to take place in early Spring 2011.

Aside from the fact that it will take place in Las Vegas, Yale PA students are excited about the annual AAPA conference because Vanessa Meiser, PAS-1 and Susan Carilla, PAS-2 will be two of only sixteen students nationwide selected to serve as student delegates at the house of delegates. Kelsey Moore, PAS-2, was selected to serve as an alternate. Students also look forward to competing in the National Medical Challenge bowl. The bowl is a friendly competition coordinated by the Student Academy and is organized in a "Jeopardy" style. Forty-eight teams, with three PA students to a team, compete to answer medical-related questions.



First Year PAs: Human Anatomy Class

Current second year PA students are in the midst of their clinical rotations and are developing their thesis proposals. Two students have had the honor of being selected as Downs Fellows and will be conducting their research projects within the coming months. Benjamin Olmedo will be traveling to Peru in March and Kathleen Boyle will venture to Tanzania, Africa near the end of January. The Downs Fellowship supports graduate and professional Yale students who undertake health-related research primarily in low- and middle-income countries.

Despite the challenges presented by clinical rotations, heavy course loads, and mother nature, Yale PA students continue to reach beyond the classroom this year through volunteer work and leadership in PA student organizations.



CT PAF BOWL-A-RAMA

FRIDAY, MARCH 11TH

7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.



AAPA GIANTS

VS.



CONNAPA PATRIOTS

**DUCKPIN BOWLING AT JOHNSON'S DUCKPIN LANE
2100 DIXWELL AVE, HAMDEN, CT**

Bowl with your PA colleagues, friends and family as we raise money for the **CT PA Foundation scholarships**.

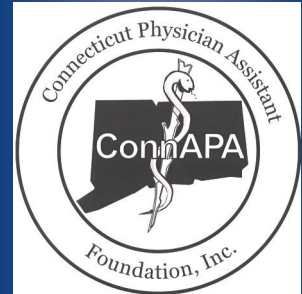
\$15 for PA Students and their friends, \$50 for graduate PAs and \$25 for their friends and \$100 for a PA family

Contact one of the CT PAF or ConnAPA Board members for tickets, or purchase them at the door.



DONATE TO PAF

http://ssman3.ssmgt.com/ssm/CAPA/members_online/members/donations.asp



**Ride for
Education**

June 25-26, 2011

The Connecticut PA Foundation invites you to a Two-Day Bike Ride from New Haven to West Suffield to help raise money for it's Annual Scholarships.

Participants can ride their bike, walk, or even rollerblade!

For more information, please contact Rick Pope at pop5rjhjc@aol.com





Save the Date

April 9, 2011

Quinnipiac Annual
5K Run & Cow Chip
Bingo Raffle

Contact: RobertPandolfe@quinnipiac.edu



QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY PA PROGRAM UPDATE

By: Robert Pandolfe, PA-S

On January 2 - 8, twelve QU PA students accompanied a group of five physicians to the Puerto Plata region of the Dominican Republic for a medical mission. Over the past few years, QU has partnered with non-profit Health Horizons International (HHI) to improve community health and expand access to quality health care in rural and underserved communities of the Dominican Republic. On this trip the team supported the operation of a series of primary care field clinics that served over 430 patients in HHI's four partner communities. Each day the team went to a village and set up a primitive, yet functional clinic inside somewhat vacant buildings using sheets, clothes pins and chairs. Some of the QU student responsibilities included medical translation, completing patient intake, taking vital signs and working alongside a physician in clinical assessment, diagnosis and treatment plan development. Through various fundraising projects prior to departure, the team raised over \$4,000, which was donated to help provide care for patients requiring follow-up and ongoing care. Overall, the experience was one that left lasting impressions on the participating QU students and strengthened their bonds as classmates. Trip participant and 1st year PA student Mindy Busby, affectionately nicknamed "Pichon" (meaning "little one") by the local Dominicans reflected on the trip saying, "Being able to provide quality care to those in need reinforced all the reasons why I decided to join the medical profession. I was inspired to see that although these communities lacked many of the basic human needs the people were genuinely content with life and their spirit was unwavering." To find out more about how to help volunteer on a future mission or to donate please contact Stephanie Dubuc-DeFlavio at Stephanie.Dubuc-DeFlavio@quinnipiac.edu.

Without fail on the first Monday of every month, a group of 6-8 QU PA students supply eggs, make egg salad sandwiches, provide toiletries, and donated clothes to the homeless men of the Immanuel Baptist Shelter. For the first time this year, the QU PA Class of 2012 conducted a health fair at the shelter. Basic services and education provided by the students allowed the men an opportunity to have their blood pressure and blood sugar levels checked. They were also able to receive education on dental care, smoking cessation, preventative vaccines, nutrition advice, and learned the importance of prostate exams and how to do self-testicular exams. On December 21, 2010, a large group of 1st and 2nd-year QU PA students along with Professors Lord, Barrett, and O'Donnell served the men a homemade Christmas dinner.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Second- year QU PA student Carly Arena donated a new pair of socks and underwear for each man for the holidays.

On December 17, 2010, Santa and his elves made a visit to The Hospital of St. Raphael Pediatric Outpatient Clinic and Pediatric Inpatient Psych Unit. Eight PA students from the Class of 2012 and two nurse practitioner students, dressed in their best red and green elf outfits, delivered over 150 gifts to children of all ages. Gifts were generously donated and wrapped by each Quinnipiac 1st-year PA students and staff members. "It was unbelievable to see how happy the kids got and that we could make a difference in their lives, if even for a minute," noted Lane Shepard a participating 1st-year QU PA student.

The first KEEP of the year is on Thursday, March 10, 2011 which is also World Kidney Day (WKD). The 2011 World Kidney Day theme is "Protect Your Kidneys: Save Your Heart." The KEEP will take place at Bella Vista Senior Housing in New Haven from 9:30-2:30PM. Quinnipiac students participate by taking vitals, assisting with registration, and performing phlebotomy, urinalysis, and blood glucose checks. For further information and how you can help please visit www.kidneyct.org.

The QU PA Student Society will be hosting its biggest fundraising event of the year on April 9, 2011. The "5K Run For Your Life" and "Cow Chip Bingo" event will be held on the grounds of the beautiful Quinnipiac University North Haven campus. This year, the proceeds will be used to benefit the PAF Host City Prevention Campaign and the QU PA Student Society Children's Literacy Campaign. The day will kick off with the 5K Run at 8am followed by the Cow Chip Bingo Raffle. Awards will be given to the fastest runners in the different age categories for males and females. Cow Chip Bingo raffle winners will receive \$1500 for 1st place, \$1000 for 2nd place and \$500 for 3rd place. Tickets for Cow Chip Bingo are \$10 each. For ticket information please email Rob Pandolfe at Robert.Pandolfe@quinnipiac.edu This years PAF Host City Prevention Campaign benefits 'The Shelter Tree', a shelter for battered women and children in Las Vegas, NV. The QU PA Children's Literacy Campaign buys books for St. Raphael's Pediatric Clinic and the ACES student reading program.



Eight PA students from the Class of 2012 and two nurse practitioner students, dressed in their best red and green elf outfits, delivered over 150 gifts to children of all ages. Gifts were generously donated and wrapped by each Quinnipiac 1st-year PA students and staff members.



On December 21, 2010, a large group of 1st and 2nd-year QU PA students along with Professors Lord, Barrett, and O'Donnell served the men a homemade Christmas dinner.

**Interested in
placing YOUR Ad
in the Next issue of
*Connecticut PA?***

Contact the ConnAPA
Executive Office for
details.

**Connecticut Academy
of Physician Assistants**

One Regency Drive
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Phone: 860-243-3977

Fax: 860-286-0787

Email:

ConnAPA@ssmgt.com

CLASSIFIEDS



**Primary
Care
Coalition of
Connecticut**

**PRIMARY CARE
COALITION OF
CONNECTICUT
LIAISON**

Are You a PA Working in Primary Care?

ConnAPA is looking for a physician assistant to serve as its new liaison to the Primary Care Coalition of Connecticut (PCCC). The PCCC serves as a unified voice for the essential role of primary care in reforming the healthcare system in our state. Their core membership represents the broad spectrum of providers throughout primary care. They advocate with legislators, payers, employers and citizens for a well organized primary care foundation as the best way to achieve universal access, improve quality, and control costs. They promote efforts to transform our current primary care structure into a more effective model, including the principle of a medical home for all people.

The liaison is responsible for attending PCCC meetings and reporting back to the ConnAPA board with issues, concerns, tasks, or questions. PCCC meetings take place on the fourth Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at ProHealth Physicians in Farmington, CT. Please contact ConnAPA staff at connapa@ssmgt.com for more details or to learn how to volunteer.

Backus

Where care, respect and
innovation serve our patients and our community.

**Join The
William W. Backus
Hospital team!**

Physician Assistants – Surgical Services

At Backus Hospital, the caregiver's choice in Eastern Connecticut, patient-focused care is our number-one priority. Backus is a 213-bed facility providing surrounding communities with a broad range of medical services. This is a very PA friendly hospital and a great place to work. Located in Norwich, Backus is conveniently located between Boston and New York City, and close to the nearby beaches on the Long Island Sound.

- Full Time and per-diem positions available
- Variable Shifts includes Weekends and paid Call Rotation

The PA is assigned to the Department of Surgical Services. Primary responsibilities include surgical first assist; preoperative exams and pre/post-procedure follow-up, and patient rounding. Participates in quality assurance and improvement; supports and contributes to a team approach to the delivery of exceptional patient care within the department, service line and the hospital. Comprehensive training program offered in all surgical specialties.

Backus offers a very competitive salary and comprehensive benefits program. Qualifications include current licensure in good standing in the State of Connecticut. Certification from the NCCPA, BLS and ACLS Required. New Grads must possess a temporary permit and are subject to the applicable provisions of CT State law.

For immediate consideration, please apply online or send your cover and resume to:
**Mike Moran, Recruiter, The William W. Backus Hospital, 326 Washington Street, Norwich
CT 06360 Email: mpmoran@wwbh.org Fax 860-886-1219 EOE**

backushospital.org

A FEW NEW TWISTS AT COC

By: Jonathan Pinto, PA-C; COC Chairperson

ConnAPA's CME and Conference Planning Committee has been hard at work both organizing the 2011 Charter Oak Conference and developing a few new twists for the yearly event, being held again this year at the Mystic Marriott from April 10th – 13th, 2011. From the addition of a student leadership track, to the after-hours round table discussion sessions, to the new workshop topics, the 24th annual COC looks to add to its educationally packed event where participants can earn up to 31 category I CME credits. We're looking forward to your attendance and encourage you go to connapa.org and register now for the early-bird pricing and don't forget, the room block at the Marriott ends March 15th.



In coordination with the Connecticut PA school programs, ConnAPA will host all three schools during an afternoon leadership track. This track will discuss professional and leadership involvement, understanding the role ConnAPA can play in their development, and leadership opportunities within the profession, both at state and national levels. Additionally, the students will take part in a professional primer geared towards the growth of their careers as they graduate from student to professional PA.

The round table discussions have been utilized effectively at other regional CME events, and ConnAPA decided to schedule lectures with topics that would lead to further discussion in a smaller and more collegial manner. The three topics all lend themselves to further inquiry and discussion: Professional Liability for PA's on Monday; Billing, Coding, and Reimbursement: What PA's Need to Know on Tuesday; and the Latest on NCCPA Certification on Wednesday. And don't forget, Sunday night starts off the conference with a fantastic welcome reception.

Our workshops aim to please all attendees from all backgrounds, and this year adds a couple of topics we feel are excellent opportunities to learn: common eye problems and abdominal imaging. The eye can present with a variety of conditions to any provider, and hopefully this two hour interactive workshop on the most common eye problems will allow attendees to learn some new information for their own skills and techniques. Abdominal imaging can provide exceptional information in your evaluation of a patient, and this interactive workshop will teach all participants about MRI, CT, and U/S techniques, indications, and interpretations.

In addition to our other popular events like the Annual Business Meeting on Monday and our Exhibit Hall event on Tuesday, ConnAPA is also proud to present additional product theater talks during breakfast times. These 30 minute talks will provide you with vital new product information while you enjoy breakfast and earn category II CME credit at the same time.

This year's COC looks to be one of the best values in earning Category I CME credit and we look forward to your attendance. Please go to connapa.org to download the registration form or follow the link directly to our online registration page. Remember to take advantage of the ConnAPA rate and early-bird discount which ends soon, and if you're not a ConnAPA member, go the membership page and become a member today.

Don't miss out on the Early Bird Discount!
Register for the COC Today!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jill Abouljian, PA-C

Daniel Baxter, PA-C

Paige Birney, BSN, MHS, PA-C

Meredith Blundon, PA-C

Thea Cogan-Drew, PA-C

Juan DelPrado, PA-C

Jenifer Farina, PA-C, MHS

Denise Filosi, PA-C

Gail Fowler, PA-C

Victoria Furnelli, PA-C

Nicole Grilli, PA-C

Sarah Halloran, PA-C

Allison Hirschmann, PA-C

Courtney Howard, PA-C

Barbara Kohn, PA-C

David Kotler, PA-C

Jennifer Lardner, PA-C

Jaime Mobiglia, PA-C

Anthony Pandolfo, PA-C

Sabra Rabinko, PA-C

Stephanie Rivera, PA-C,
MCMS

Kristin Roberts, PA-C

Nya Rossi, PA-C

Taryn Shepard, PA-C

Jessica White, PA-C



ConnAPA's 24th Annual Charter Oak Conference

Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa
Groton, CT
April 10^h - 13th, 2011

***Reserve your room under the room block
by March 14th for rate of \$135/night!**

Conference Key Features:

- * Minimum of 30 approved Category I Credits
 - * Lectures offered every day
 - * Breakfast and lunch provided every day
 - * New Workshop Topics
 - * Roundtable Discussions

This year's lecture topics include:

Diabetes, Pain Management, Pediatrics, Sleep Medicine,
Smoking Cessation, Dyspnea, Ortho Fractures, Heart
Failure, Coding and Reimbursement, Ischemic Stroke,
Asthma, Anemia, Back Pain, Vascular Disorders
and more.

Visit www.connapa.org for more details

Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

One Regency Drive
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Phone: 860-243-3977 Fax: 860-286-0787 Email: ConnAPA@ssmgt.com