**Connecticut Academy** of Physician Assistants



March 2012 Winter Edition

# **Connecticut PA**

A Publication of the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Danielle Tabaka, PA-C

I would like to thank all of our members who have renewed their ConnAPA membership and welcome our new members. We continue to strive to communicate with our members through various modalities to ensure PAs in the state are being kept informed of any issues affecting PA practice. The fluoroscopy issue, which has been ongoing since 2009, is of particular importance at this time as there are still many developments as we near the fast -approaching July 1st deadline to have CT PAs certified to use fluoroscopy. ConnAPA has been working diligently with the AAPA and DPH to resolve issues as they arise on this issue. We have also reached out to all PAs licensed in the state through mailings and e-mails; and to all hospitals with the help of the CT Hospital Association to ensure all PAs in the state would be abreast of any updates on this issue. I urge you to read the fluoroscopy update in this newsletter and to share it with your PA colleagues who may not be members.

In regards to where we stand on some of our other goals for the year:

- **Legislative**: As we reported in our last newsletter, ConnAPA was one of the few organizations chosen by the Department of Public Health to go forward with the new scope of practice process. This process is still ongoing and we will update you as more information becomes available.
- Education: Planning continues for the 25th Annual Charter Oak Conference and Gala to commemorate its 25th year- sign up today by visiting us at www.connapa.org! We will also continue to update you on any dinner programs in your region.
- **Communication**: We continue to send out our quarterly newsletters. We also have a Facebook page and Twitter account. Like us on Facebook to get our updates on upcoming events or follow us on Twitter @Conn\_APA.

Without the support of our members, we would not be able to achieve our goals. Please pass the word on to your non-member colleagues about the great things ConnAPA is doing and ask them to join today!





Danielle Tabaka, PA-C

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# FLUROSCOPY UPDATE: WHERE WE WERE AND WHERE WE ARE NOW

The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants (ConnAPA), worked very hard in 2008 and 2009 to have the legislature pass and governor sign two pieces of legislation that allow PAs to continue to use fluoroscopy. While no legislation is perfect, ConnAPA and the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) have worked together to ensure that PAs could continue to use fluoroscopy and provide care to their patients.

In 2008, radiologic technologists began reporting PAs who used ionizing radiation to the Department of Public Health (DPH). Even though PAs practice through physician delegation, because the laws governing ionizing radiation did not specifically mention PAs, the law was not clear on whether such services could be delegated to PAs. ConnAPA began working with various stakeholders, including the state radiologist association to build consensus for changing the law. Eventually, all stakeholders agreed to a compromise allowing PAs who had completed additional training to use fluoroscopy.

In Spring 2009, a bill was passed that set a deadline of October 1, 2011. Prior to the deadline, PAs who had been using fluoroscopy as delegated by a supervising physician could continue to do so. After October 1, 2011, PAs would need to complete a 40-hour course in radiation safety, radiation physics, and radiation biology followed by an examination. The statute required the DPH to designate an acceptable exam, and once the exam had been designated, but before October 1, 2011, the statute allowed PAs to take the exam without completing the 40-hour course. If they passed, they would then be exempt from taking the 40-hour course, even after October 1, 2011.

While this legislation was moving through the Connecticut Legislature, AAPA and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) were working towards – but had not yet reached agreement on – the development of a national consensus curriculum designed for PAs who needed additional training to use fluoroscopy. While the CT legislation did not name a specific course or exam, all parties informally agreed that the DPH Health would use the AAPA-ASRT course and exam to satisfy the requirements of CT state law. One reason the deadline was set at October 1, 2011, which seemed like the distant future at the time, was to allow time for the national consensus curriculum and subsequent examination to be developed.

AAPA and ASRT officially agreed to the consensus curriculum in December 2009. With the curriculum set, a committee was immediately formed to develop the exam. This committee consisted of experts from across the country. They held weekend meetings approximately once every other month, and supplemented those meetings with conference calls as needed. They finalized the exam in December 2010, which was actually slightly ahead of the anticipated schedule. But it was not until March, 2011 that the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists' Board of Trustees formally approved the exam.

As soon as that happened, ConnAPA worked with the DPH to contact ARRT and make the exam available to PAs in CT as soon as possible, consistent with state law. When DPH contacted ARRT, they were told that even though CT state law specifically authorized PAs to take the exam without taking the course if they did so prior to October 1, 2011, ARRT would not allow any individual to take the exam without first completing the course required by the AAPA-ASRT consensus curriculum. This was unfortunate, but in looking at the curriculum that was developed, it would actually behoove PAs in the state to take the exam was based, is much more comprehensive than what PAs in CT need to know to do fluoroscopic-guided procedures.

Since the test was not approved until March 2011 and since the course, based on the proposed *(Continued on page 3)* 

# FLUROSCOPY UPDATE (CONTINUED)

curriculum, had not been sufficiently developed yet, it became very apparent that the October 1, 2011 deadline was not feasible. Given this, ConnAPA again worked with stakeholders to remedy this. As you know, ConnAPA was effective in extending the deadline until July 1, 2012. The first fluoroscopy course started in December 2011.

There are three essential pieces to the fluoroscopy course: the AAPA educational course, a mechanism for verifying that a PA is eligible for the fluoroscopy exam and the exam itself. The first and final pieces, the AAPA course and AART test are complete. In mid-February, the DPH announced that it did not have sufficient personnel to verify PAs had met the didactic and clinical components required by law. This decision went against ARRT's requirement to have a state agency involved. AAPA, ConnAPA, ARRT and DPH have been working together to create a process that allows DPH to certify PAs are eligible for the examination. The next step is for the state of Connecticut to contract with ARRT to allow the ARRT to open the exam to CT PAs. As this is new both for ARRT and for the state it is taking a little more time than we had hoped. During this period, the AAPA has temporarily suspended the fluoroscopy course until the details between DPH and ARRT are finalized.

All stakeholders understand that the July 1st deadline is approaching quickly and that PAs must be able to continue to use fluoroscopy. If you have questions please feel free to contact AAPA. Please don't contact the DPH; they know this is time sensitive and we need to let them work on the process. ConnAPA's lobbyist is working closely with DPH and AAPA. AAPA and ARRT staff had a face-to-face meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota on Friday, March 2nd. While nobody has enjoyed working through these delays, we really now are close to full implementation – just a few more steps and we should be there.

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

## By: Linda Kowalski

Events are moving very quickly at the 2012 session of the Connecticut Legislature. We are reaching the midpoint before the May 9, 2012, adjournment. Much of the activity so far has been centered around committee public hearings but the action soon moves to the House and Senate floor.

Our major priority is enacting legislation that codifies the agreement that was reached in the Scope of Practice Committee. As ConnAPA members know, this agreement was the product of months of meetings and discussion last year in the Department of Public Health. It will revise the physician assistant practice act to delete overly prescriptive rules pertaining to meetings with the supervising physician and the physician's acknowledgement of a PA script for certain drugs.

The legislation is House Bill 5515.

Our legislation is being reviewed by the Public Health Committee and then we'll work to advance it for quick action by the House and Senate. I'd like to acknowledge, again, the fine work that has been done on this project by Jonathan Weber and Cindy Lord. Both represented the profession during the Scope of Practice Committee deliberations. Please be assured we will keep the ConnAPA membership fully apprised as our legislation proceeds this session.

Other bills of interest to physician assistants and the healthcare professions are being heard. These include proposals that would lessen the standard needed to advance malpractice lawsuits (called "certificate of merit"), and a bill to expand to the list of entities (mainly contractors to municipal government) who can buy into the state employee health plan.

(Continued on page 4)

## **PA Focus: Cindy Lord**



The thing that really motivated me to become a PA was... The focus on patient care, the generalist curriculum model and the ability to change practice specialties without needing a post-graduate residency.

I am currently working...full -time as a PA educator and parttime as a family practice PA. Even though the idea of lateral mobility appealed to me when I entered PA school, I have been in family practice for the past twenty-one years.

**If I wasn't a PA I would be a...**I would be an anatomist or a medical research scientist

When I am not at work I like to...volunteer and be involved in community and national advocacy organizations that are actively working to improve healthcare in our country. In the spring, I like to coach boy's lacrosse.

What I would tell someone who wanted to become a PA is...never forget that it is a privilege to practice medicine. Be true to the profession and always keep your work patientcentered. Don't forget to take time to give something back to the community for allowing you to "practice" during your training.



Be your best ... at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Ours is an environment where your career can thrive: a 966-bed, Magnet recognized, tertiary medical center with more than 3,600 physicians and advanced practitioners, providing comprehensive, multidisciplinary care in more than 100 specialty areas. Yale-New Haven Hospital ranks among the best hospitals in the U.S. and is nationally recognized for its commitment to teaching and leading-edge clinical research. This is a truly extraordinary environment, offering some of the most challenging and rewarding careers in healthcare today.

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- Heart/Vascular (Cardiology) both inpatient and outpatient
  Pedi Pain Management
- Neurosurgery
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## LEGISLATIVE REPORT (CONTINUED)

The health insurance exchange continues to discuss implementation of the web-based system where individuals and small businesses can purchase health insurance coverage beginning on January 1, 2014. The board of directors received many resumes for the position of CEO but decided to conduct a national search for candidates. We continue to stress that the major goal from our perspective is to ensure that any plans listed on the exchange adhere to current state coverage mandates. If that position prevails, all plans would continue to cover services rendered by physician assistants. Dan Mussen represented ConnAPA at a recent public hearing on this issue before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. Dan made excellent points on the bill (HB 5485) and we'll continue to advocate for continued inclusion of members of the profession in all health plans that are connected to the health insurance exchange.

Finally, the state's budget situation appears to be deteriorating and could have a deficit in the range of \$150 million for the fiscal year that ends June 30, 2012. We are watching this carefully as we do not want to see a medical provider tax offered up as a mechanism to close the gap.

Like most sessions, there are likely to be many new developments and twists and turns in the process. We'll be back to you in the next edition with a progress report that updates you on legislation that is important to Physician Assistants.



# CT PAF 2ND ANNUAL BOWL-A-RAMA

Come and watch the Directors and Professors of the three PA programs in CT bowl against each other in Duckpin Bowling at Johnson's Duckpin Lane, 2100 Dixwell Ave in Hamden, CT 203-248-1653. The teams to date will include Cynthia Lord and a professor of her choosing to match against Professors Taafel and Solomini as they prepare to match the power of the Yale Bulldogs with Director Bissette and colleague. This should be a monumental event as the programs match their bowling skills over a three set match.

After the match, bowl with your PA colleagues/friends/family as we raise money for CT PA Foundation scholarships. You can also donate on line at <u>www.connapa.org</u> or talk with one of the CT PAF or CONNAPA Board members as they will be selling tickets. Tickets will also be sold at the door on the night of the event. We have the lanes till 9:30 and your donation will get you bowling shoes and all the games you want to play.

The lanes are in the Hamden Plaza over to the left of Shoprite on the left side of the shopping plaza. The sign is not on the Marquis at the entrance. So don't fret just keep going left and once you park the lanes are down one set of stairs. It is a very cute place and one more thing; you have to score by hand. No electronic scoring. You may bowl up to five people in one lane. So find your bowling partners and pick a lane.

For directions to the bowling alley, go to <u>www.johnsonlanes.com</u>. We will look forward to seeing you there.

## **CT PAF BOWLARAMA: The Battle of the PA Programs**

Quinnipiac Bobcats vs. the Bridgeport Knights vs. the Yale Bulldogs

Friday March 30th - 7:00PM to 9:30 PM

## EXTRA!!! EXTRA!!!

## **TGIFriday's donates to CT PAF**

20% of all money tallied at TGIFriday's in Hamden Plaza on March 30<sup>th</sup> will be donated to CT PAF from BOWLERS, ATTENDEES, or ANYONE who comes that day!

## **ALL YOU NEED IS A FLIER**

We are planning a dinner at 6:00 PM and another one after the BOWL-A-RAMA around 9-9:30 PM. If you cannot make either event come anytime between 11 AM and 2 AM and use the <u>CT PAF flier!!</u> Just let them know you are from the CT PAF group and they will credit the account!!



Tickets for this the event are \$15.00 for PA students and \$50.00 for graduate PAs.

If you have a friend, family member, spouse/children who are not PAs, ticket prices are less:

**NON-PA friend of GRADUATE PA** who wants to bowl \$25.00

**NON-PA friend of STUDENT PA** who wants to bowl \$15.00.

**NON-PA observer** who wants to attend but not bowl either student or graduate \$15.00

**PA Family Rate** for bowling maximum is set at \$100.00

Click on the image below to download a full page flier.







In the Fundamentals of Surgery course, run by Bridgeport Hospitals' Director of Trauma Services and Chief Surgical PA, Paul Possenti, students have learned to tie surgical knots, attended a scrub lab at Bridgeport Hospital, participated in a laparoscopic skills lab, and begun suturing pigs feet.

# UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT UPDATE: COUNTDOWN TO ROTATIONS By Erin E. Carey PA-S2

As we settle into our forth and final didactic term, it is incredible to think back to where we were this time last year. The depth of knowledge and experience that we have gained seems incredibly vast when viewed as a tower of printed PowerPoint lectures and stacks of textbooks. This is the last installment from the inaugural class of the UBPAI as the next ConnAPA newsletter article will be submitted by a member of the new class of students who have begun their studies at UB; the class of 2014. It is sad to think that in only one month we will be saying goodbye to our long school days and long study hours, but exciting to think they will be replaced with long clinical days and nights in the field.

Before the class took off for the Thanksgiving holiday, classmate Letizia Lettieri- Morales, PA-S2, invited the class to the Holy Rosary Church in Bridgeport to pack up and distribute Thanksgiving groceries for members of the church and state housing. The three hundred families who came through the church were given fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as canned foods and a 15lb turkey. The members of the parish who organized this endeavor were incredibly gracious to allow us to donate our time. We will most definitely be returning next year with the class of 2014 to help out again.

Since returning from our Christmas break, students have found that 2012 has brought with it lot of firsts. Of course, this is the first term that we have had to share our precious coffee makers with 34 wonderful, bright-eyed PA students, but the group is also the first class at UB to use the renovated cadaver lab. Marissa Kerwin, PA-S1, shares the experience of her lab, "The lab has the capacity for numerous cadavers to be viewed and worked on at the same time, provides anatomical models for reference, and open space for further learning opportunities. Eight different cadavers grant us the ability to observe abnormalities and appreciate that the range of normal varies from person to person. In recent dissection of the heart, my classmates and I found ourselves in awe as we held the machinery of our existence in our hands. We are forever indebted to our cadavers for the enrichment of our careers as physician assistant students. Led by Dr. Eric Kelly and Dr. Jeff Parcella of the UB Chiropractic program and Professor Don Solimini, we are in exceptional guidance for the ensuing nine month journey with our donors. The addition of a chiropractic focus to our lab is exposed to a precise lens and a different perspective on how to examine the human body."



The class of 2013 has also begun writing our Master's Thesis. Every student is feverishly researching their beloved topic and hoping that in a year's time their work could potentially be published in one of the journals we have followed through our academic career. We have also started a Fundamentals of Surgery course, run by Bridgeport Hospitals' Director of Trauma Services and Chief Surgical PA, Paul Possenti. The course is designed to introduce us to the field of surgery, ultimately preparing us to excel in our rotation. Prof. Possenti has the entire class enrapt in his energy and enthusiasm; his humor and knowledge has made the course an absolute thrill to be in! So far students have learned to tie surgical knots, attended a scrub lab at Bridgeport Hospital, participated in a laparoscopic skills lab, and begun suturing pigs feet.

In preparation for rotations, Prof. Martha Petersen, is holding weekly medical seminars for students to review the *(Continued on page 7)* 

# UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT UPDATE (CONTINUED)

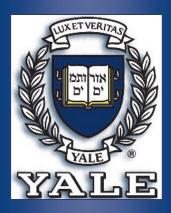
necessary medical documentation and practice writing SOAP notes. We are also taking a Global Health course, taught by the programs director, Dr. Dan Cervonka, who has asked students to work in groups to design a theoretical medical mission to a needy region and present their proposal to the class. Inspired by this course, UBPAI students have decided to make Kiva, a nonprofit microloan corporation, a recipient of our fundraising efforts. Through Kiva, our class can donate money to support individuals from all over the world achieve their dreams and contribute to their families and communities. This is one way that our students feel we can impact people globally by creating opportunity, improving health and enhancing wellbeing. Our donations will be repaid in time, so that we can reinvest in more Kiva microloan aspirants and continually grow throughout the years.



While I, Erin Carey, the UB author of the last year of ConnAPA newsletters, will be moving on to my rotations, Marissa and her thirty-three classmates will be continually updating the Connecticut PA community on the PAI's growth and achievements. The faculty has selected an incredible new group of PA students and in thinking about their road ahead, I can only expect that they will have a great time, learn a lot and surpass all expectations.



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And for the most exciting news yet, the Class of 2011 officially graduated from the Yale University School of Medicine's PA Program! Leading up to graduation, five students, who earned honors on their senior thesis, presented their hard work for their fellow students, faculty and staff.

## YALE PA PROGRAM REPORT By: Jennifer Burg, PA-S and Lauren Monoxelos, PA-S

The students of the class of 2013 have successfully completed their first semester of the PA didactic phase! They fell into the swing of things academically and have completed twelve exams to date. A definite highlight of the semester was the anatomy course's cadaver dissection with Dr. Stewart and Dr. Kapadia. At the same time, the first year class worked hard raising money for the Hunger and Homeless Auction, and successfully outbid the medical students for Dr. Stewart's coveted bow tie! They proudly donated \$2,100 to this worthy cause.



The students have now begun their medical modules and have already been prompted to apply much of the knowledge they learned during the anatomy course last semester to these classes. Students learned how to take a patient history during the first semester and had the opportunity to go to the University of Connecticut Health Center to fine tune their skills with standardized patients. Everyone loved the experience and received extremely valuable feedback that they will undoubtedly use in their future patient interactions.

The first year students have now delved into second semester and are working extremely hard with the intensified classroom pace. Their physical exam course has started, where students meet with a PA preceptor and learn a new set of physical exam skills each week. They are eagerly looking forward to learning how to use their stethoscopes, otoscopes, ophthalmoscopes, and other medical equipment! To practice their skills, students will continue working with standardized patients at the UCONN Health Center. The course will culminate with the White Coat Ceremony at the end of March.

The Class of 2012 is off to a great start with their clinical year. They are leading the way now for the PA Program, as the third year students graduated, and first year students often turn to them for advice. They are currently on their fourth rotation, and are actively applying new clinical skills at each and every different clinical setting they have worked at thus far. It is



exciting to see what areas of medicine the students are most drawn to! Students have already ventured as far as Kentucky, Dallas, and Denver; and others plan to travel abroad for clinical rotations in the upcoming months. The month of December was designated as their first thesis-writing month, where they attended a series of lectures that helped guide them as they undertake this extensive project. They have been actively working with their advisors and the program faculty to help them finalize their proposals, as well as directing their focus for the difficult background research and sample size calculations that have yet to come.

And for the most exciting news yet, the Class of 2011 officially graduated from the Yale University School of Medicine's PA Program! Leading up to graduation, five students, who earned honors on their senior thesis, presented their hard work for their fellow students, faculty and staff. They impressed the audience with their incredibly well researched and designed studies and some plan to continue working on these studies in the future. In addition, the Yale PA Program planned an elaborate Holiday Party as a final celebration for all three classes and the faculty. It was a memorable night spent at the Yale Graduate Club, filled with an incredible spread of food, and extensive dancing in the ballroom.



And then, on December 12th, 35 eager students proudly walked across the stage at Yale University's Woosley Hall and received their well-earned diplomas. The Yale PA Program welcomed U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Regina Benjamin, who delivered the commencement address. At this ceremony, Kim Lauth was specially recognized for her notable achievements during the program's didactic phase. In addition, Sue Curilla was recognized for her achievements during clinical rotations. The graduates are now preparing for their licensing exam and the exciting start of their careers as PAs. Some have chosen to stay in New Haven, while others have returned home and are now scattered across the country. Many of the Class of 2011 graduates have already solidified jobs in New York, California, Colorado, Illinois, and nearby in Connecticut.

On top of all the exciting events that haven taken place over the past few months, the Yale PA Program has equally thrilling news for the future. Most importantly, the application and interviewing process for the Class of 2014 is officially complete! The faculty, staff and current students made an exceptional effort in ensuring that the future students will together comprise a cohesive and promising class. We are all readily looking forward to their arrival next August. Until then, the new students will be bombarded with helpful information about preparing for PA school from current students in order to make their transition to New Haven as smooth as possible.

In addition to preparing for their newest class, there are a few other upcoming events this spring to look forward to. The first-year medical and PA students are in the planning phase of the Service of Gratitude event, coming up this April. They are

planning phase of the Service of Gratitude event, coming up this April. They are currently planning exactly how to express their sincere thanks to the donors and families for their amazing contributions to the first year medical and PA students' educational experiences. There will be poetry readings, artistic displays, and musical performances used to highlight the unique qualities of each and every donor.

Last, but not least, the White Coat Ceremony for the first year students is scheduled for March 23rd. The "big sibs" in the second class will adorn their first year mentees with their hard-earned white coats. They serve as a symbol of the progress that the first-year students have made so far in their didactic year. It will be a program-wide celebration with all of the faculty, students, families, and friends. The first-year medical and PA students are in the planning phase of the Service of Gratitude event, coming up this April. They are currently planning exactly how to express their sincere thanks to the donors and families for their amazing contributions to the first year medical and PA students' educational experiences. There will be poetry readings, artistic displays, and musical performances used to highlight the unique qualities of each and every donor.





**Ouinnipiac students** spread some holiday cheer to those less fortunate. First, they organized Operation Christmas Child, a toy drive to benefit sick children. Each class member donated wrapped toys for children of all ages and a group of students dressed as Santa, Mrs. Claus and Santa's elves distributed nearly 200 toys to children at The Hospital of St. Raphael.

# QUINNIPIAC PA PROGRAM UPDATE

By: Stephanie Lenihan, PA-S and Nya Rossi , PA-S

Quinnipiac University students continued to carry on the long-held tradition of giving back to the community. Leading the way were the 2nd year students in the midst of clinical rotations. They took some time to help Quinnipiac's student community by giving flu shots at clinics on both the Hamden and North Haven campuses.

In November and December, Quinnipiac students volunteered their time to help with kidney health risk assessments held in Bloomfield and Manchester. These events were sponsored by the National Kidney Foundation and students helped participants fill out questionnaires, measured BMIs, took blood pressures, blood glucose readings and performed urinalysis.

Also in December, Quinnipiac students spread some holiday cheer to those less fortunate. First, they organized Operation Christmas Child, a toy drive to benefit sick children. Each class member donated wrapped toys for children of all ages and a group of students dressed as Santa, Mrs. Claus and Santa's elves distributed nearly 200 toys to children at The Hospital of St. Raphael.



In addition, the Quinnipiac elves helped to teach good oral health to each child that came to visit Santa. Another group of students volunteered their time to serve a special holiday meal at a men's shelter in New Haven and a couple of students joined UConn health care students



to do crafts with children at the CCMC Pediatric and Youth HIV Program's holiday party.

In January, six 1st year students traveled to the Puerto Plata area of the Dominican Republic on a medical service trip with Health Horizons International to spend one week working in chronic care clinics alongside five Connecticut family physicians and one Tufts medical student. During the trip the group had the opportunity to travel to communities such as Negro Melo, Severet, and Pancho Mateo. In each community they set up a clinic in churches, homes, or community centers. During their time spent in the clinics they assisted with in-take and triage stations, running lab tests, and filling prescriptions in the pharmacy. In addition, the students gained experience interviewing patients and performing focused physicals. Dana Shuriff said of the trip,

"Working with HHI in the Dominican Republic was such an amazing and moving experience. I was given the opportunity to help individuals who live in a type of poverty that so many here in America could never imagine. I woke up each morning ready to head off to the clinics and work hard, play with the children, and put smiles on the faces of the individuals who live

# QUINNIPIAC PA PROGRAM UPDATE (CONTINUED)



with so little, but have so much life, appreciation and hope for the future." The class of 2012 received a grant from the PAF for HHI for this year's trip and the class of 2013 raised \$5074.81, well over their \$4000 goal. Another student volunteer, Kim Tschetter, said in a letter home "I could not have been more impressed with HHI, the non-profit I've been fund raising for the past few months. They squeeze every penny out of every dollar that is donated. The American staff, all of whom are accomplished professionals, live without hot water or reliable electricity. Theirs is truly a labor of love." The group saw 423 patients in their one week trip and had many unforgettable experiences.

In January, the first years returned back to campus from winter vacation to start their last didactic semester. Six students took time to teach oral health to Cheshire high school students who are part of the Secondary Transition Collaborative Program at Quinnipiac University. A program that provides to Cheshire students, ages 18-21, with disabilities, a chance to develop independence and life skills.

Lastly, planning has started for the 14th Annual Cow Chip Raffle and 5k road race. Both will take place at Quinnipiac University's North Haven campus on April 14th. The first place prize for the raffle is \$1,500, second place will receive \$1,000 and third is \$500. The remaining money raised benefits the university's Children's Literacy Program and other philanthropic projects. Anyone interested in participating in the raffle/5K or donating to the literacy program can email <u>narossi@quinnipiac.edu</u> or <u>sklenihan@quinnipiac.edu</u>.



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# Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

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Look for the above flier in your mail or click to print a full page version to bring to T.G.I.Friday's , March 30th to benefit CT PAF. (See page 4 for details) SAVE THE DATE! ConnAPA's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Charter Oak Conference

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa Groton, CT April 22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 \*Reserve your room under the room block by March 25<sup>th</sup> for rate of \$135/night!

> Conference Key Features: 32 approved Category I CME Credits Lectures offered every day Breakfast and lunch provided every day New Workshop Topics 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala and Dinner Program

This year's lecture topics include: Bariatrics, Cardiology, Endocarditis, Sleep Medicine, Mental Health, Pediatrics, Breast & Ovarian Cancer, Trauma, Sports Injuries, COPD and more...

Want to be a ConnAPA member? Visit <u>www.connapa.org</u> \* ConnAPA members receive a discount on the conference registration

> Contact ConnAPA with questions or for more info: Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants One Regency Drive, Bloomfield, CT 06002 Phone: 1-860-243-3977 Email: <u>ConnAPA@ssmgt.com</u>