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APRIL 2021

PROGRAM UPDATES

PA Program Director

What a difference a year makes and thank goodness. In April 2020, clinical students were sitting out rotation #3. We had no idea when hospitals and clinics would be able to resume taking students, which also meant we did not know if students would be able to graduate in December. There were also possible financial implications, should students not be able to start in mid-May with rotation #4.

Didactic students were thrust into the virtual learning world alongside faculty, we all had a minimal amount of time to make that transition. Students struggled with a learning format that they did not sign up for. Faculty scrambled to produce online content which was supposed to parallel the classroom. Faculty were asking, how do we teach physical examination skills and continue with a cadaver-based anatomy course and still meet program competencies? Students were wondering if they would receive the education needed to progress to the following semester. And staff were left to their own devices to try and figure out how to help run the department from home when much of the program's documentation was hard copy and in the department office.

In my role as program director and department head, I had to make sure everyone had resources available to keep things going. And because our accreditation site visit was still scheduled for early November, I had to move forward with the accreditation application and self-study report (a critical analysis of the program for the last 4 years) which were all due in early August. In retrospect, working remotely provided me with much uninterrupted time to write what was pretty much equivalent to a 200-page book. So, while working from home was a good thing, I would have preferred to have been in my office, with interruptions.

Some believe that tough times build character. Personally, I am not convinced the experience further built my character perhaps because I am older, and my character is pretty much built. One thing is certain, I hope to never go through such an experience again. I also know that the program did not have it nearly as difficult as millions of people did. I so appreciated the people I work with, the students I help to teach, and the dedication of our clinical preceptors and health care workers. Without everyone coming together, the program would not have been as successful.

Drury PA Program

As advertised on Drury's website, plans are progressing with [Drury University's upcoming PA program](#). In fact, Drury recently named the [founding director](#) to lead the program, Kathleen Flach, PA-C. The MSU PA Program is planning to reach out to the new program director once she begins in June 2021 to offer guidance and support.

Missouri Academy of Physician Assistants (MOAPA)

MOAPA is on record in support of House Bill 689, known as the [Preceptorship Bill](#). This proposal would authorize a limited tax credit for “a physician or physician assistant who is licensed in Missouri and provides preceptorships to a Missouri medical or physician assistant student without direct compensation for the work of precepting”. This would apply to community-based faculty preceptors (federally qualified health centers / rural areas). The MSU PA Program along with the UMKC, Stephen’s College, and SLU PA programs are all in support of this bill which is now on the [House debate Calendar](#).

As of this writing, MOAPA is planning to hold its [2021 Primary Care Update CME](#) event live in person July 22-24, 2021 in Branson, MO. This is very exciting as it gives faculty an opportunity for scholarly presentations, provides an opportunity for next working with colleagues and alumni, and provides limited participation for clinical year students. More to come!

Alumni Achievements

The Department’s website now reflects [leadership accomplishments of alumni](#). As the profession moves forward, we need all PAs to volunteer for leadership activities in order to further promote the profession and secure a place for PAs in health care.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

For the Class of 2022, Lieutenant Commander Stephen Sizemore, an officer with the [United States Public Health Service](#), reached out to the program to promote its Senior Commissioned Officer Student Training Externship Program. If you are interested, please reach out to the program director for a flyer. If you are not eligible, but are interested in loan repayment options, please utilize the link provided.

MSU Career Center wants to hear from you.

The center is currently conducting an assessment on student perceptions and needs regarding external employment opportunities. The information you provide will assist us in our efforts to connect students with employment opportunities.

Please assist the center by completing a brief 5-10 minute survey found at the link below. At the end of the survey, you will have the option to enter your name into a drawing conducted at the end of the semester for several prizes. Please note that your responses are confidential and any identifying information will only be used for the prize drawings. Please complete this survey by Friday, April 30, 2021 to be included in the drawing.

<http://bit.ly/Career-feedback>

PRIZES INCLUDE

- \$5 gift card to Big Momma's Coffee & Espresso Bar, Traveler's House Coffee or Mudhouse (20 winners)
- \$10 gift card to Uber Eats (5 winners)
- \$20 gift card to Civil Kitchen (5 winners)
- \$25 gift card to Target (2 winners)

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the center at careercenter@missouristate.edu or 417-836-5636.

The IPE Community Engagement Event

We have a great opportunity to help provide necessities for the O'Reilly Center of Hope. O'Reilly Center of Hope is a community hub for individuals and families who may need assistance with housing as well as becoming self-sufficient. They provide numerous resources for the homeless and unsheltered populations and have asked us to help supply some items that are necessities in the upcoming summer months. Several student organizations will be participating in this supply drive. We would love support from both classes, faculty, and even alumni!

The donations need to be brought in by **April 23rd** and can be dropped off in the PA offices. The following are the items needed for the warmer months ahead:

- **shower supplies**
- **deodorant**
- **rain ponchos**
- **toothpaste**
- **bug spray**
- **sunscreen**

Thank you all for all your help with this effort. O'Reilly Center for Hope is an incredible resource for our community members, and it will provide many future opportunities for us to get involved in serving those around us. We cannot wait to see what we can do together as a program to help those in our community!

MSU Safe Walk

MSU's public [safety team](#) will walk you to your car at your request, so do not hesitate to call 836-5509. Your safety is a priority so please take advantage of this service.

MSU Office of Student Financial Aid

Submitted by Breanna Scanlon, financial aid advisor for graduate clinical programs.

Hello all! I hope that everyone is having a great semester! I wanted to share some important dates that are coming up within the next month or so.

Important Dates

- May 7th is the last day to submit any Spring or Fall/Spring loan requests in.
- May 10th Summer forms will be available on the Missouri State website> Financial Aid> Financial Aid Forms page
 - I recommend not filing out any Grad PLUS loan applications/credit checks until after this date.
 - Grad PLUS loans for the summer need to have a valid credit check that expires after the June 14th date
 - Credit checks for the Grad PLUS loan are good for 180 days.
 - If you have a valid credit check from Fall/Spring you wont have to fill out a new credit check until day 181 of the credit check. Filing out the credit check before the 180 days is up will NOT push out the credit check expiration date.
 - You can check when your credit check expires by going to studentaid.gov, profile, my loans and find the credit check (as well as your loan servicer) here.
- May 13th is the official last day of the semester.
- June 14th is the first day we can start requesting funds from the department of Education for the summer semester
- **June 21st is the first day that refunds for the summer term will be available for students.**
- July 5th Fall forms will come out.

Information for Upcoming Semesters:

- Packing for the Summer semester will start in late-April. Once we are able to begin the awarding process, I aim to have everyone's done within that week.
- If you have not done so already, make sure to fill out your 21-22 FAFSA for the upcoming semester (Fall/Spring Award Offer).
- December graduates, in the fall we will be looking at putting as much of your Fall/Spring aid in the Fall semester so you can utilize as much of your aid as possible before you graduate.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to Breanna Scanlon in the Financial Aid Office.

You can book an appointment with Breanna at: <https://msubreannascanlon.youcanbook.me/>

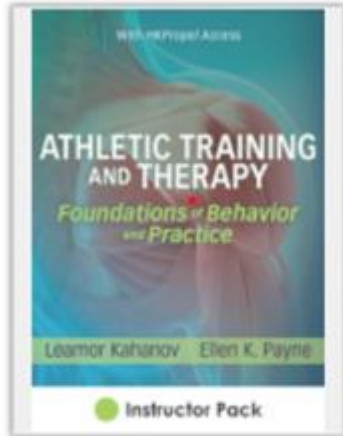
Breanna is also available Monday-Friday 8am-5pm at BreannaScanlon@missouristate.edu or 417-836-4926.

FACULTY

Scholarly Activity

Professor Hauschildt

Professor Hauschildt contributions as co-author of Athletic Training and Therapy: Foundations of Behavior and Practice Instructor Guide was recently published by Human Kinetics.



Athletic Training and
Therapy Instructor Pack
by Human Kinetics

Program Director

Dr. Canales recently received confirmation that a collaborative research project he and two others have worked on since 2016 has been accepted for publication.

Cleveland, T. Canales, R., Carr, D. (in press). Emotional Intelligence: Changes over the First Year of Physician Assistant Education. *Journal of Physician Assistant Education*. 2021. reviewed.

Professor Cook will be providing two scholarly presentations in April. They will be dermatology and pediatric review presentations sponsored by CME Resources. CME Resources holds review courses for PAs scheduled to take the PANCE and PANRE exams. Review courses are typically in person at various locations throughout the country.

DIDACTIC

Class of 2022 Updates

Submitted by Class of 2022 Secretary Trevor Moore

As the end of the Spring semester is in sight, the PA class of 2022 has just completed their first OSCE and are preparing for their second OSCE of the semester. Earlier in the semester several students had the opportunity to volunteer at the MSU care clinic's "vaccines and veggies" drive. Students assisted the clinic with patient throughput and played a role in over 80 members of our community getting either their first or second dose of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Some students even had the opportunity to receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. A big thank you from the MSU PA class of 2022 to the MSU care clinic for giving students the opportunity to play a role in ending the ongoing pandemic and giving back to the local community.



MSU Care Clinic vaccination event on March 27th 2021.
Josh, Katie, Payden, Gerri,
Trevor, Nicole, Hannah

Students are all preparing for several more rounds of testing, spending time in group study, in the cadaver lab, and preparing group projects to present at the end of the semester. Class officers are working to advocate for their classmates and organize fun events and activities outside of the classroom.

This weekend, some students plan to go on a group hike (dogs are welcome of course), and many students also plan on going to the field to throw a ball around and enjoy the weather. Registration for summer courses will open soon, so students can look ahead to new learning opportunities and celebrations of learning in the summer. That's all that is new for now... Swing by the lounge to come study with us and say hello!



One step closer to clinicals, its white coat shopping time!

Taylor, Leah, Sarah, Munia



In preparation for the real thing – minus 4 stethoscopes on the patient's abdomen at once 😊

Additional Volunteer Activity

Thank you goes out to

- PAEA PA virtual fair on April 7th-Class of 2022 Marc Havlicek, Sarah Phillips and Hannah Swyers
- MSU Spring Showcase on April 10th-Class of 2022 Marc Havlicek, Sarah Phillips and Miranda Ruth
- Open House Q&A on April 16th-Class of 2022 Gerri Idos, Miranda Ruth and Payden Shapland;

MSU Care Clinic will be holding another CVOID-19 Vaccine Clinic this Saturday, April 24 2-2:30pm. As of this writing, Cassidy McCandless, Nicole Poganski, and Lauren Gregory have all volunteered to help.

A word from the Director of Didactic Education, Nathan Miracle

Cohort 2022 is quickly wrapping up the Spring semester, three quick-hitting weeks of testing will result in 2 weeks of relaxing bliss! The last three weeks are full of many celebrations of learning including Clinical Assessment skills testing and final exams in Anatomy and Physiology. Summer semester begins on May 24th and will move the class in to Clinical Medicine starting with Dermatology followed by Orthopedics. The summer semester will also offer opportunities for the class to further their physical examination skills in select patient populations including pediatrics and women's health. In exciting news, the class t-shirt is in the final stages of design and looks fantastic!

Upcoming Didactic Year Important Dates

Finals week: Monday, May 3rd through Monday, May 10th

Spring semester ends: Monday, May 10th after Anatomy exam

Summer semester: Monday, May 24th and ends on July 30, 2021

Clinical Practicum I: Monday, August 2 and ends Friday, August 13, 2021.

Fall semester: Monday, August 23, 2021

CLINICAL

Submitted by Class of 2022 Treasurer Courtney Estes

Hello Class of 2022! Congrats on almost completing your first semester of PA school. Some may say that was the most difficult semester to tackle! You are learning how to get into a study routine with the never-ending workload and tests, you are getting used to your classmates and learning each other's strengths and weaknesses, you're getting more comfortable with faculty, and learning the basis to medicine! Whew! What a lot at once, but you've done it! Keep up the good work. Remember when you're feeling down or exhausted that the two years will go by faster than they feel and try to enjoy every moment. Take time for yourself and your mental health. It is very important.

So far, us clinical students are in our 3rd rotation and learning just as much each day. Right now, I am loving in the ER in Aurora. So far, I have done 3 laceration repairs, foley catheter placement, incision and drainage of an abscess, a PAP smear and bimanual pelvic exam, fetal heart tones, foreign body removal, and ACLS on a patient with PEA. It has been quite the learning experience for sure! Clinical year will be a great year of growth and working on the skills you learned in didactic year and clinical year is right around the corner for you all! Reach out to our class anytime you need anything! We are here to help you too! Keep it up!

A word from the Director of Clinical Education, Kimberly Cook

Clinical students are doing very well. Despite having a rough year with all that they had to navigate last year as didactic students, they are doing quite well out in the clinical world. All students have received a "As" from their preceptors on Rotation 2, and while some rotation #3 evals are pending, I suspect we might just again achieve all "A"s! This is not typical for most cohorts, so we are very proud! Great job in representing our program and our profession well.

Here are some comments from preceptors on Rotation 2:

"Very happy with how the MSU program is preparing their PA students. My student is well on the way to become an excellent provider. The student became part of the team. The student has excellent people skills and was able to efficiently participate in the care of our patients, establish broad differential diagnoses, formulate good testing strategies and establish appropriate treatment plans. We will miss this student."

"My student was advanced in their knowledge and practice skills. They will be successful in which ever course they take."

"Good base of knowledge. Great presentations. Great job! Very personable and had a great rapport with staff and patients."

“Excellent job! Hard working, great patient and colleague interaction. Always on time, fast learner and pleasant to work with. Intelligent. Understands guidelines and how to apply and adjust depending on specific patient needs.”

Class of 2021 spotlight

The Department is proud to spotlight Class President [Colton Peltz](#) this month.

Volunteer Activity



MSU Sponsored Mega Vaccination event April 8 & 9. Much appreciation goes out to Jesse, Drew, and Logan

Department Open House

Thank you goes out to those who have volunteered to speak to potential applicants during the Q & A session of the Open House scheduled for Friday, April 16. Amanda Tainter, Courtney Estes, and Mason Simkins.

Upcoming Clinical Year Important Dates

Rotation #3: March 29-May5 EOR: May 6 & 7

Program Break (May 8 – May 16)

Rotation #4: May 17 – June 23 EOR: June 24 & 25

Rotation #5: June 28 – August 4 EOR: August 5 & 6

Program Break (August 7 – 15)

Admission & Recruitment

Submitted by LeAnne Snow

April has been a busy month for advisement and recruitment. Special thanks to both didactic and clinical students who have volunteered time to speak with prospective students at multiple events this month, including PAEA's PA virtual fair, MSU Spring Showcase and our final Open House session.

Just in case you missed recent blog/social media posts, here they are.

- [MSU PA Granted Continued Accreditation](#)
- [Supporting the Preservation of PA History](#)
- [PA Alumni Administering COVID-19 Vaccines at MSU Mega-Clinic](#)

OTHER NEWS

EVENTS

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Website: MissouriState.edu/pas

Phone: 417-836-6151

Email: PhysicianAsstStudies@missouristate.edu

Social: Facebook.com/MissouriStatePAProgram/