



AACC/UMB Physician Assistant Program



Fall 2017

Newsletter Issue 1: October 2017

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Keep in Touch!

AACC/UMB Collaborative Physician Assistant Program

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A Message from the Director's Desk

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the PA profession, which was created to extend access to care to those most in need. Over the last 50 years, our profession has grown with more than 100,000 PA's across the globe, involved in all disciplines, working collaboratively with our physician colleagues and care teams. Yet access to care issues and health disparities still exist. Our work has just begun.

At AACC/UMB we are working to ensure that our students and graduates are prepared to practice 21st-century medicine - ready to enter practice with solid foundational knowledge and skills that they will build upon for the rest of their careers. This goal can only be accomplished with the support and active participation of dedicated leadership, faculty and preceptors. Each year over 400 volunteer preceptors answer our call to educate the next generation of PA's. Through their dedication and teaching, our students learn the art and science of medicine while serving our communities to extend access to care. They continue to live our mission through our PA student society and outreach, raising funds for hurricane victims and collecting and distributing food for those in our communities who are in need. It is the service of our students and faculty that is the life-blood of our program's mission and vision.

This is a great time to be a PA and I am grateful for the privilege to work with the talented students, faculty and institutions who have come together to prepare the next generation of PA's.

Happy PA Week!
MJ Bondy, D.H.Ed, PA-C

Visit us online at:

<http://www.aacc.edu/about/schools-of-study/health-sciences/physician-assistant/>

FACULTY MEMBERS

Dr. Mary Jo Bondy,
Director

Mr. Tim Parker,
Clinical/Academic Coordinator

Ms. Suzanne Hewes,
Clinical Coordinator

Dr. Tiffany Maxwell,
Academic Coordinator

Mr. Donny Ard,
Senior Lecturer

Dr. Robert Cook,
Visiting Professor

Tribute to Mr. Robert S. Barranco

The AACC/UMB Collaborative PA Program was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of **Robert S. Barranco** on July 22, 2017. He was a 2000 AACC graduate of the Physician's Assistant program and a dedicated PA, practicing for fifteen years in pulmonary medicine and prior to his illness, he was working in urgent care medicine.

Robert was a devoted husband to his wife of 31 years, Lindsay Miller Barranco and cherished father of Madeline and Sam Barranco. It is our intention that the 2017 PA scholarship will be awarded in honor and memory of Robert S. Barranco.

Meet the Newest Faculty Member: Donny Ard, MHA, PA-C



The AACC/UMB Collaborative Physician Assistant Program welcomed **Donny Ard** in the role of Senior Lecturer on May 30, 2017. Donny is a 2004 graduate of the Touro College School of Health Sciences PA program and has been practicing for the last 13 years as a surgical PA.

His passion for medicine and caring for people started when he was quite young and stemmed from a neighbor who was a firefighter/EMT and watching the show "Rescue 9-1-1." After watching the show and being influenced by the uniform of his neighbor, he knew he wanted to be an EMT.

He did become an EMT after graduating with a BS in Biology from Oakwood University (College). However, he was not quite satisfied with his career choice. He researched the career paths of former EMT's and Physician Assistant was the most common hit. Further research resulted in his current and "everlasting" career choice.

Donny said he chose education and academia because this was the best way he knew to give back to the profession. He recalled that many of his professors and instructors chose to give back through teaching and he was inspired to do the same. He feels the same joy and enjoys every minute of teaching as his role models did. He is excited and feels blessed to transition from adjunct to full time and views this as an investment and new way of thinking. He said he is still changing lives but in a different way and hopes to continue for many years and be a big impact and influence others in the same way as his professors.

Donny is blessed with his beautiful family of a wife and three children. He enjoys cooking and playing the guitar, tennis and golf when he is not teaching or working at the hospital. The PA staff loves when he is just being silly and bringing laughter and smiles to everyone. Donny said he "loves where God has brought me and where He is leading me and can't wait to see what He has in store for me." He appreciates the opportunity to work with students and looks forward "to making this the best time of your life and the beginning of your careers."

Calendar of Events

PA week:

October 6–12, 2017

PAEA Conference:

October 25-28, 2017

Thanksgiving break:

November 23-24, 2017

Christmas break:

Dec. 22, 2017 to Jan. 2, 2018

Spring Semester:

January 17, 2018 to May 6, 2018

Meet the New Class of 2019!

On May 22, 2017, the Physician Assistant Program welcomed 37 new students.



Congratulations Classes of 2017!

The AACC/UMB Collaborative Physician Assistant Program celebrated its 2017 graduating classes on May 11, 2017 and July 20, 2017. We look forward to your future accomplishments in your careers! Onwards, PAs!



Congratulations to the 17 graduating students on May 11, 2017!

CLASS OFFICERS

The Class of 2018 officers:

Kaitlyn Ayerle, *President*
Mariam Ismail, *Vice-President*
Ashlynn Rice, *Secretary*
Victoria Poon, *Treasurer*
Natasha Olliver, *Social Chair*

The Class of 2019 officers:

Laurena Richardson, *President*
Allison Leonardi, *Vice-President*
Shannon Gaskins, *Secretary*
Alex Kikuchi, *Treasurer*
Kyra Kearney, *Social Chair*



Congratulations to the 39 graduating students on July 20, 2017!

MAPA 2017 Annual CME Conference

Some of our faculty members and students of the AACC/UMB Collaborative Physician Assistant Program recently attended the 2017 Annual CME Conference on September 6-10, 2017 at Ocean City, MD. **The Maryland Academy of Physician Assistants (MAPA)** hosted this event which:

- Celebrated 50 years of physician assistant practice and 40 years of MAPA service to the physician assistant profession.
- Provided continuing medical education, communication and legislative updates.
- Fostered an environment of fellowship and collaboration to continue the growth of the profession.

Our students competed in the traditional last night 'Challenge Bowl', which is a friendly "Jeopardy" type game show competition for physician assistant students from MD and PA to display their wealth of knowledge.

The faculty and students enjoyed the conference and were engaged in discussions on current medical research and updates for the PA community.

For more information: <http://www.mdapa.org/>



Students: Jonathan Wilson; Kimberly Palm; Sopagna Peak; Stephanie Malouf; Aziza Mdarhi-Alaoui; Ravi Dholakia; and Natasha Oliver (left to right).



Past and present faculty members and students of the AACCC/UMB PA Program.

Advice from Former Class Presidents for new Class Officers

Aaron Galvin, President of the Class of 2016, (and **Nicole Niederman**, President, Class of 2017 via written submission), offered advice and shared experiences and lessons learned during an open and frank discussion on September 15, 2017, with the newly elected student officers of the *Class of 2019*.

- The most important quality of an efficient board is *communication* with each other, the faculty, and the class. The officers are the direct line of communication between faculty and students, and communication is only effective if it works both ways as faculty have their concerns and issues too.

Congratulations **Dr. Ali!** The AACC/UMB Collaborative Program and future PA students thank you for continuing to share your expertise and knowledge.

Contact Us

Do you have a newsworthy activity/achievement to share? Please send specific details and related photos to **Sharon Ousman**.

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- Always *discuss issues and plans as a board*, and frequently update the class on the status. It is important to always be perceived as a group/board that represents the interests of the entire class.
- Recognize that students will generally approach an individual board member whom they *trust* and feel most *comfortable* with to share their concerns.
- As a board, we spoke frequently when we were planning an event or solving a problem and would make sure to always utilize each of our *strengths*.
- The Board has an important role to play in *event planning*, for example, graduation.
- Never be afraid to *ask for help from previous boards*, as they are always willing to help.
- Do not be afraid to *rely on each other*. PA school is demanding and sometimes one officer may not be able to complete his/her responsibilities. It is important to always help each other in these times!

Nicole Niederman, Class President, 2017 & Aaron Galvin, Class President, 2016

Dr. Said Ali receives 2017 Preceptor of the Year Award

The Class of 2017 overwhelmingly chose OB/GYN Dr. Said Ali as the “Preceptor of the Year,” an award that was presented at graduation. Dr. Ali has run a women’s health clinic and family planning center in Clinton and Waldorf, MD, for over 25 years and has been precepting students from our program for many of them.

He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Cairo in 1979 and did his internship at George Washington University Medical Center. He completed his residency and fellowship at Georgetown University Hospital. Since then, he has been a dedicated provider to underserved communities of women in the Maryland area.

Students who rotated with Dr. Ali describe him as hardworking, extremely dedicated to his patients, energetic, funny, and efficient. When I asked my fellow colleagues to describe their time with Dr. Ali, each of their faces lit up with stories.

Rachel Waldman, Class of 2017, explains: “Dr. Ali is one of the most dedicated, tireless, knowledgeable, skilled and generous physicians I have ever worked with. He treats his patients and students alike with tremendous respect and compassion. He takes his role as preceptor as seriously as his role as a clinician and creates an environment where both his patients and students thrive. His work is deeply serious and yet he maintains a degree of levity when appropriate—he is famous for giving students detailed feedback on their technique of dispensing KY jelly from the tube—NEVER from the middle!”

He was and still remains an inspiration to our students. What was appreciated most about Dr. Ali was his innate ability to teach. He considered it part of his duty to pass along his knowledge to his students, doing so with tremendous passion. Thank you, Dr. Ali, for your continued work.

By Nicole Niederman, Class of 2017

Helpful Preceptor Links

<http://paeaonline.org/publications/preceptor-handbook/>

Alumnus Spotlight: Aaron Galvin, PA-C



Aaron Galvin, PA-C is a 2016 graduate of the AACC PA program and an Urgent Care PA at Righttime. He primarily works at the Olney clinic and enjoys working in urgent care because he sees a little bit of everything, from everyday complaints to heart attacks. He welcomes this experience especially as a new graduate noting, "It's a great way to see a wide variety of problems and to keep your knowledge up to date."

Finding the Job/AACC Links

Aaron said one of his clinical rotations was at Righttime Medical Care and his preceptor, also an AACC graduate, encouraged him to apply to Righttime's Urgent Care Fellowship for new graduates. "The fellowship program was particularly beneficial because urgent care is a difficult field to start in as a new grad: the high patient volume and wide variety of problems mean that you need to know a little bit about everything and can't take too long to make a decision," he says. In the fellowship program, he trained with the head PA for the company and was able to continue to learn and grow in a real-world setting.

Roots in Medicine

He reflected on the reasons for becoming a PA; both of his parents are doctors and he always had an interest in medicine. However, despite growing up around medicine, his parents encouraged him to have other interests. He studied anthropology and French as an undergrad. After graduating, he was a professional sailor and sailing coach, but after five years he began to look for ways to combine his interest in medicine with his passion as an educator. Aaron decided to try to get into a PA program, but first he needed a way to get the 1000+ hours of medical experience required by most schools. He joined a volunteer fire department and became an EMT. He found that the same qualities that he enjoyed as a sailing coach—the unpredictability of both the students and the weather, the challenge of helping people of many different backgrounds/ages, etc.—were still there as an EMT and, ultimately now, as a PA.

Role of AACC's PA Program

As a student, he was the President of his class and always appreciated when alumni would come back to share their experiences and teach about topics that interested them. His hope is to be able to share his experiences with a new generation of PA's one day.

"As I've left the classroom and gone out into the workforce I've come to appreciate more and more how well equipped I am to practice medicine after completing the AACC program," he reflects. "The knowledge and passion that my professors had continue to inspire me in my daily practice."

Personal Life, Interests & Hobbies

He lives in Silver Spring, MD, with his wife and 6-month-old son. He says, "Between graduating, passing boards, starting a new job, buying our house and our son's arrival, I haven't had much time for hobbies in the past year!" When he does have free time, he enjoys sailing with friends in Annapolis.

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