

PA

BUTLER UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI CONNECTION

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT MAGAZINE





TIME MARCHES FORWARD...



Imagine a small, single classroom and a meeting room that served as a physical exam lab in Wile Hall at Methodist Hospital filled with eight students and 2.5 full-time faculty. You have just conjured up a mental picture of Butler University's first Physician Assistant (PA) program. Yes, we have changed in our more than 20 years of existence!

Fast-forward to today. Seventy-five students are targeted to enroll in our master's degree-only curriculum, in which they will learn from nine full-time faculty. Ours is the longest accredited PA program in the state of Indiana and embraces innovative teaching strategies that promote the application of learned material. Our facilities in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences are far more sophisticated today with flipped classrooms, standardized patients, and early application experiences for all students.

We know these factors positively influence a student's education; you have helped us mold this exceptional learning and teaching model.

More than 660 Butler PA program graduates provide care to patients or work in education. Our faculty and students have advocated for advancement in PA clinical practice and education at the state and national levels. PA faculty have authored more than 50 peer-reviewed articles and collaborated with more than 20 students as co-authors.

By no means has it been easy working for change; however, the Butler PA program story is one of success. We celebrate this anniversary with you—our alumni, preceptors, and friends. We celebrate what we have become with your support. If you have not stayed in contact with our program since graduation, we welcome you home. We think you will be proud of what you find.

Jennifer A. Snyder PhD, PA-C

Jennifer Snyder '97
Professor and Program Director
Physician Assistant Program
Butler University

P.S. We'll be celebrating our program's milestones on April 22 with a day of continuing education and evening festivities. Watch for your invitation in the mail.



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2016

page 4

CLASS of 1996 HIGHLIGHTS

page 6

SHAWN GAGE CHANGING VASCULAR SURGERY

page 8

PA and SOCCER GREAT AMY MORRISON

page 9

PA STUDENT AMBASSADORS

page 10

STUDENTS PAST & PRESENT

page 11

SERVICE

page 12

DEAN GRAHAM RETIRING
FACULTY HIGHLIGHT: KALI VENESS

page 13

STAFF HIGHLIGHT: KAREN FULLER
PROGRAM SUPPORTS PA LAW CHANGES

page 14

BERRA, REED WIN NATIONAL AWARD

page 15

PRECEPTOR HIGHLIGHT: RACHEL KRUPP





CLASS of 1996

HIGHLIGHTS

The year 2016 marks the 20th anniversary of the first graduating class from the Butler University Physician Assistant (PA) program. We are pleased to highlight a few of those graduates and where they are now.



CAROL SITZMAN, PA-C – *Indianapolis, Indiana*

Sitzman specializes in family medicine in an outpatient practice for IU Health Physicians. She has been in this role for the past three years. Sitzman enjoys her role as a PA because she enjoys medicine and likes to help others. She also likes the flexibility of the PA career. When Sitzman was a student at Butler, she learned that a thorough history gives a provider a pretty good idea of the diagnosis even before he or she does a physical exam. She has always applied these history-taking skills while in practice. She likes to share this tip with students she precepts today.

LAINE ELAM, PA-C – *Albany, Indiana*

Elam has practiced in dermatology since 2005. She currently works at the University Dermatology Center in Muncie, Indiana. The Center has 14-plus satellite clinics in eastern Indiana; providers travel to the satellites throughout the month to care for those who would otherwise not have access to dermatology services. Elam loves contributing to a more personal medical experience for her patients and is able to provide most of the surgical and cosmetic services in her practice. She recalls a lesson learned from Professor John Lucich to not be afraid to speak up when she doesn't know something. Honesty is a big part of integrity, she said, and, by being honest with her patients, she finds that they trust and respect her more.



MATT STINSON, PA-C – *Yorktown, Indiana*

We are pleased to announce that Matt Stinson joined the Butler PA faculty in January 2016. For the past nine years, he worked clinically as a PA in an interventional spine practice in Muncie, Indiana. He enjoyed the patient interaction and friendships that job afforded him. "When I help patients, it feels that I am helping family," he said. Asked to share a lesson he learned at Butler and still uses today, Stinson smiled and repeated a favorite saying of faculty member Laurie Pylitt: "When you hear hoof beats, think horses ... not zebras!"

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM OTHER PA GRADS!
What are you doing now? Contact us at paprogram@butler.edu.

BUTLER PA PROGRAM

1995



1995
First bachelor of science (BS) students begin classes.
Laurie Pylitt is first Program Director.

1996

First eight PA graduates earn degrees.

1998

Lisa Schmalz named Interim Program Director.

1999

Dean Robert Sandmann retires from the College.
Charles Nagel becomes Program Director.

2001

PA program celebrates COPHS's first White Coat Ceremony.
John Lucich becomes Program Director.



2000
Dean Pat Chase hired.

2004
Last class of BS students begins courses.



2005

First Master of PA Studies (MPAS) class begins 33-month program.
Butler establishes Pi Alpha National Honor Society chapter.
First medical service trip (Honduras).

2006

Dean Mary Andritz hired.
\$25 million Lilly Endowment grant enables lab, program expansion.

2007

Peru medical service trip.



2008

First MPAS degree conferred on 37 graduates.
Ground broken on new COPHS addition.

2009

New COPHS facilities open.
Honduras medical service trip.

2010

Mike Roscoe '99 named Program Director.

2011

Program's first continuing medical education forum.

2012

PA Student Class Oath implemented.



2013

2014

Timmy Global International medical rotations initiated.

2016

April 22—Celebrate the PA program's 20th anniversary!

2015

Master's-only MPAS curriculum begins.
Jennifer Snyder '97 becomes Program Director.



SHAWN GAGE HELPS INVENT NEW VASCULAR GRAFT AT DUKE

A natural sense of intellectual curiosity and his refusal to accept a “ceiling” for his career led Shawn Gage ’04 down a path he did not foresee when he started as a PA student at Butler University.

Halfway through Butler’s curriculum, Gage discovered he had an aptitude for surgery. He desired more education, so, after graduation from Butler, Gage took the road less traveled and enrolled in a two-year residency program at Duke University in North Carolina. He has been at Duke University Medical Center ever since.

Gage quickly found a passion in vascular surgery. He said vascular surgery is essentially “maps and plumbing.” It is, of course, more complicated, but Gage goes back to the basics when there is a problem to be solved.

For example, Gage and his mentor, Dr. Jeffrey Lawson frequently performed surgeries to correct failed arteriovenous grafts in hemodialysis patients due to injuries acquired during access attempts. The two put their ideas for a solution to paper (a napkin, actually), and the Bullet Proof Vascular Access Graft™ was born.

The self-sealing arteriovenous graft resists needle penetration and injury. It allows for immediate hemodialysis access and prevents needle cannulation injuries, which often lead to infections, hematomas, swelling, pain at the access site, and loss of the vascular access “lifeline.”

Gage went on to develop the graft’s initial design by actually building the first prototype in his garage using supplies from the local hardware store. The device has seen several iterations since that initial concept, and he and Lawson have worked relentlessly on the business aspect, regulatory affairs, collaborations, and funding in order to make this technology a reality. They formed a company, InnAVasc (innavasc.com), in hopes of eventually offering it for patient use. The team, along with fellow investigators at the Duke Translational Medicine Institute, has continued to develop the graft with ongoing support

and grant funding. (See article at www.dtmi.duke.edu/news/poke-proof-grafts-could-be-life-changing-dialysis-patients.)

Although the idea is genius in its simplicity, getting U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for patient use is a formidable task. Gage said he is learning a lot as he helps his team navigate the approval journey. They hope to start human trials in just over a year, and have a product on the market in about two years.

While distant to campus, Gage occasionally serves as a preceptor for Butler’s PA students. Last April, the Butler University chapter of Pi Alpha National Honor Society elected Gage an honorary member.

During his Butler student experience, Gage appreciated the small setting and the investment PA faculty made in student success. Faculty definitely “took a lot of pride in the program,” he said. “That feeling transferred over to students.”

In addition to his roles as a vascular surgical physician assistant, researcher, and entrepreneur, Gage takes great pride in being actively involved with his children and wife, Toni. In all efforts, Gage exceeds the proverbial ceiling as he shoots for the moon and encourages those around him to do the same.





PA AND SOCCER GREAT AMY MORRISON JOINS HALL OF FAME

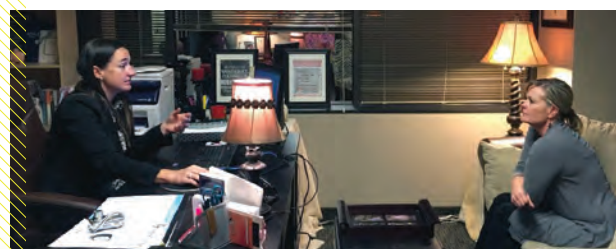


Photo courtesy of Meier Clinics

Energy and enthusiasm pour out of Amy Morrison '04 as she looks back at her days as a PA student at Butler University. Currently working in a mental health practice with Meier Clinics in her home state of Texas, Morrison found her way to Butler via the women's soccer team.

As a tenacious forward for the women's team, Morrison set multiple Butler scoring records from 1999–2002, and ended her career as the top scorer in the team's history. She led the Horizon League in scoring for three successive seasons, and in 2002 was named Horizon League Player of the Year. For these accomplishments, Morrison was inducted into the Butler University Athletic Hall of Fame in October 2015.

Morrison's PA "team"—her classmates and professors—cheered her on from the sidelines and helped keep her up-to-speed in the classroom, empowering her to achieve academic success as well. The support meant a lot to Morrison, so far away from her home cheering section.

After playing for Butler for four seasons, Morrison was offered two opportunities to continue her soccer career—one playing in China and the other for a U.S. professional women's team. She sought her family and professors' counsel, and, luckily for her patients, turned the offers down in order to finish the PA program.

After graduating from Butler in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences degree, Morrison returned to Texas to start her career. She also completed her Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine.

She began her practice in neurology by treating patients with multiple sclerosis. Later, she found a new interest in treating patients with mental health disorders—her current practice in Richardson, Texas. Morrison attributes her success on and off the field in part to an unlikely source: she has ADHD. Dealing with the condition, she said, has contributed to her drive and success as an athlete and practicing PA. Her own diagnosis and treatment, as well as her PA work, helped her develop empathy with her patient population.

In accepting her Athletic Hall of Fame honor, Morrison said she was always encouraged to be the best she could be in her Butler coursework and playing soccer. She uses that lesson in her daily clinical practice, where she coaches patients to be their best.

Life for Morrison consists of her busy PA practice and raising two children: son Aidan, 7, and daughter Isabella, 4. Soccer is still a constant presence. Morrison coaches Aidan's soccer team, and the pair are always up for a little friendly shoot-out competition. Isabella also chose to play soccer from a myriad of other activities, which thrilled her mom. Morrison plays coed soccer once a week to keep her skills and the competitive spirit charged.



PA Student Ambassadors

PA STUDENT AMBASSADORS SHARE BU EXPERIENCE WITH FUTURE BULLDOGS

Within the Butler PA program, we believe it's best to consult the experts. To understand what enrolling at Butler is like, who better to ask than students?

PA Student Ambassadors (PASA) draw on their personal experiences to highlight the opportunities and benefits of a Butler education. PASA volunteers represent the PA program and promote the profession at Admission and Student Life programs, College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences events, University events, and to the community at large.

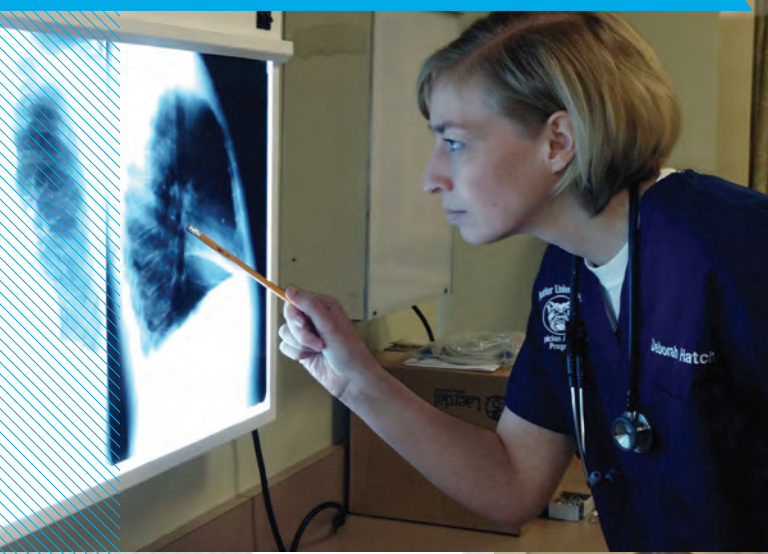
Established in 2013, the PASA program currently has 25 student members with representatives from each class of the PA program. They come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, which greatly serves the needs of prospective students.

PASA 2015–2016 Co-leader Cassandra Craigie remembers hosting a prospective student who "lit up as she asked questions and simply couldn't get enough information about Butler's PA program." Fellow Co-leader Chloe Meiss enjoys volunteering during admission interviews. She loves working with her peers, faculty, and staff outside the classroom.

If you know someone interested in applying to the Butler PA Program or who would like to shadow a current student, please contact paadmission@butler.edu.



STUDENTS PAST & PRESENT



PA STUDENTS SERVE

Service is an important part of who we are as a program. As an example, 26 matriculating students took time to serve their community during orientation last May. The students, along with PA program faculty and staff, packaged donated food and stocked shelves at Gleaners Food Bank in Indianapolis. The Bulldogs handled an estimated 12,780 pounds of food—enough to feed 8,520 people.

“The afternoon we spent at Gleaners was incredibly gratifying,” said Rachel Guerin of Spring Grove, Illinois. “We were able to make a difference in the lives of people who live right here in Indianapolis. It was a great way to give back to our community.”

Kevin Bogenschutz of Cincinnati, Ohio, agreed. “Gleaners was a great experience!” he said. “It was a fun way to help serve the community while spending time with fellow students and professors.”

“Going to Gleaners was one of my first experiences here in Indy,” said Mallory Cross of Davenport, Iowa. “Seeing an organization that big have the positive impact they do on such a large city was inspiring. We all set out to be PAs because we want to help people, so the fact that a bunch of us could get together and do something small that lends itself to something so much bigger was fabulous.”



PA students sort food donations at Gleaners Food Bank, above, and help clean up Indianapolis' White River, below.



SUPPORT THE PA PROGRAM TODAY

Make a lasting contribution to Butler University Physician Assistant (PA) students with a financial gift to the program. Your gift will support students through ongoing improvements to our academic programs and resources.

TO DONATE ONLINE

Go to www.butler.edu/gifts and click on “Give to Butler.” Fill in the form using “Select one or more designation(s),” and then select “Support a different area.” Importantly, in the Notes section, indicate that your gift is for “PA Program Gift Fund.”

TO DONATE BY CHECK

Make your check payable to Butler University, indicating on the memo line that the gift is for “PA Program Gift Fund.” Mail to: Butler University • University Advancement • Jordan Hall • 4600 Sunset Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46208

BECAUSE OF YOU, WE ARE BU.

FACULTY/STAFF

DEAN MARY (ANDRITZ) GRAHAM RETIRES



College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (COPHS) Dean Mary (Andritz) Graham announced she will retire in May 2016.

Shortly after joining Butler in 2006, Dean Graham authored a \$25 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. Through the grant, COPHS expanded programming and enhanced facilities, doubling the size of the Pharmacy and Health Sciences Building.

Under her guidance, graduates have routinely scored above national averages on first-time pass rates on their certification examinations. She also oversaw the implementation of a graduate-only, master's degree PA curriculum.

During her tenure, the PA program reached an important milestone by obtaining the maximum number of years of accreditation by their accrediting agency.

The PA program has thrived under her leadership. Thank you, Dean Graham!

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT



KALI VENESS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

BS '05 in SOCIOLOGY,
MPAS '08, BUTLER
UNIVERSITY

WORKING at BUTLER SINCE
MARCH 2015

Q: Responsibilities in the PA program?

A: I teach the Clinical Procedures and Interpretation of Laboratory Studies courses. I also serve as faculty advisor for Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences students.

Q: What do you like most about your role?



A: I like working with the students in a hands-on capacity through the lab. It is great to see the students' excitement as they learn procedures. I love working with dedicated alumni who serve as guest lab instructors to incorporate real-life experiences for students.

Q: Your previous work experience?

A: I worked in orthopedic surgery at St. Francis Hospital, Indianapolis, for four years. Most recently I practiced in general pediatrics in outpatient care in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where I had the pleasure of serving as a preceptor for Butler.

Q: What drew you back to your alma mater to teach?

A: I have always loved Butler. I loved my experience. While MPAS courses were challenging, I learned a great deal from my professors, and I wanted to give back to PA education. The only place for me to do that was Butler.

Q: How do you spend your time outside of work?

A: I love spending time with my husband Brett Veness '05, three children (Leighton, Carter, and London), and two dogs. I also enjoy jogging and playing volleyball.

STAFF HIGHLIGHT



KAREN FULLER EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION LIAISON

BS in PHYSIOLOGY, CENTRAL
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

WORKING at BUTLER SINCE
APRIL 2014

Q: Responsibilities in the PA program?

A: I serve as the liaison between the PA program and preceptor sites. I perform site visits to check in with all current students on rotations to make sure they are getting what they need out of each experience. I also take the opportunity to thank our preceptors and ask about student performance.

Q: What do you like most about your role?

A: I love getting out to see all the great places where our students have the opportunity to soak up knowledge. I have gained such a feeling of pride as I hear preceptors share amazing comments about our students' performances. Preceptors are thrilled with our students' work and share that the students' science-based knowledge is excellent, and that Butler PA students have an eagerness to learn.

Q: Your previous work experience?

A: I served as a pharmaceutical sales representative and also in cardiac rehabilitation in two different hospitals.

Q: How do you spend your time outside of work?

A: I love to run and bike. I'm also an avid sports enthusiast.



PA LAWS ENACTED WITH BUTLER'S ADVOCACY

Butler PA alumni, students, faculty, and staff joined with the Indiana Academy of Physician Assistants and other stakeholders in successful legislative efforts in 2013 and 2015. More than 200 Butler PA students and faculty have participated in "Lobby Days" at the Indiana Statehouse. Students and faculty have met with legislators and governors' aides. The lobby efforts have led to an update of the PA Practice Act to include more appropriate chart review requirements, increased PA-physician ratios, and improved prescribing regulations in Indiana. Along with

other Indiana PA leaders, Butler representatives have joined state governors in ceremonies finalizing major legislative advancements in the past 20 years.



Photo by Kate Patterson



Butler PA students and faculty don't just stop at the Statehouse with advocacy efforts. Through the years, several students and faculty have joined the Physician Assistant Education Association and the American Academy of Physician Assistants in our nation's capital to speak with Congress. Above, faculty members Jennifer Zorn and Jennifer Snyder pause outside the office of U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly.

FACULTY/STAFF

NEW TRAINING PROGRAM
EARNS EMCARE AWARD



Lisa Berra, MS PA-C, and Leila Reed, MPAS '09, PA-C

To provide additional training in emergency medicine for first-time PAs, Lisa Berra, MS PA-C, and Leila Reed, MPAS '09, PA-C, led development of a training academy honored by EmCare as the national organization's most innovative project for 2015.

Lead PAs for EmCare, Berra and Reed are also clinical site-based faculty for Butler's PA program, which partnered with them to optimize emergency medicine clinical education at Community Hospital South in Indianapolis. In the academy, physicians or seasoned PAs or nurse practitioners (NPs) mentored newly hired PAs and NPs without previous emergency medicine experience.

As a result, the hospital reported improved productivity and autonomy in trainees, higher patient satisfaction scores, and greater cohesion among the emergency department staff, earning it EmCare's 2015 Genesis Cup. EmCare is a national leader in facility-based physician services, with nearly 1,000 client facilities.



PA faculty at 2014 Pi Alpha ceremony



STAY IN TOUCH!
UPDATE YOUR RECORDS

We love to keep in touch with our alumni and are planning more outreach in 2016, including an e-newsletter and special events celebrating the two decades since Butler conferred its first PA degrees in 1996.

Please help us keep you current on what is new in our program by sharing the following information with us at paprogram@butler.edu.

YOUR NAME
(maiden and married)

CLASS YEAR

CURRENT EMPLOYER

EMAIL ADDRESS

PREFERRED PHONE
NUMBER

MAILING ADDRESS

YOUR NEWS
(professional and personal)

Please share this with classmates and friends you know who may have lost touch with the Butler PA program.



PRECEPTORS

PRECEPTOR HIGHLIGHT



RACHEL (BRIMBERRY) KRUPP
PA-C

BS '00 in HEALTH SCIENCES,
BUTLER UNIVERSITY

ORTHOPEDIC PRACTICE

Q: You are a 2000 graduate of the Butler PA program, a practicing PA in sports medicine, and a Butler preceptor for nearly 12 years. How long have you worked in this specialty?

A: I have been with Dr. Stephen Kollias '85 and OrthoIndy for 13 years. I first met him on my second clinical rotation when he was my preceptor.

Q: What is your favorite part of interacting with students as a preceptor?

A: Seeing the way the students evolve, not only professionally but personally. At first, they are nervous and want to impress us. By the end of the rotation, you see the nerves disappear, and they feel part of our team. They can function independently to reach a diagnosis and establish the treatment plan ... that is fun to see!

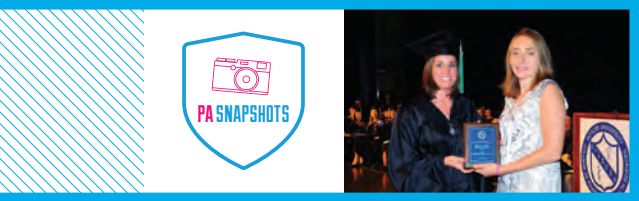
Q: What is the biggest challenge students face in this clinical rotation? What advice do you give them?

A: They come in thinking what they need to know is from a textbook and are worried that they don't know enough. Ortho is so much more hands-on. I tell them the best thing they can do is to relax, listen, and learn.

Q: What does precepting offer you?

A: Precepting to me is an added perk of the job ... it is being able to spread the excitement of my career. It does take some time at first, for instance, when suturing. What usually takes me less than 5 minutes to close may take 20 with the student the first time. But, I have always loved teaching. I get to pass along to the students my love for what I do.

Krupp lives in Westfield, Indiana, with her husband, Eric Krupp '99; son Evan, 9; and daughter, Meredith, 7.



We're fortunate to have so many great preceptors, including 2015 Preceptor of the Year Carrie Klingman '01.



PICTURE YOURSELF
AS A BUTLER PA CLINICAL PRECEPTOR

PRECEPTING is a WAY of:

Educating future PAs

Giving back to the PA profession

Supporting your alma mater

Earning CME Category I credit

Keeping abreast of current medical practice and treatment guidelines

Attaining personal satisfaction and professional growth as a healthcare professional

DO YOU HAVE THE DESIRE TO BE A CLINICAL PRECEPTOR?

Fill out our Preceptor Affiliation Form butler.edu/cophs/preceptors. Or, contact Karen Fuller, kjfuller@butler.edu, 317-940-9507.