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NEBRASKA
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www.nebraskapa.org

Jesse Edwards Presented Award

Submitted by Diane Landon

Jesse Edwards was presented with the UNMC Physician Assistant Founder's Award during the Alumni Reunion Weekend in October. Jesse was recognized for his historic contributions to physician assistant education, including some of the following milestones:

Upon retiring from the military, Edwards joined UNMC as associate to the dean for business affairs in the College of Medicine. He is a founding father of UNMC's first physician assistant program, accepted the position as associate program director, and is credited with having developed the profession in the state of Nebraska.



He was instrumental in establishing the affiliation between the joint Air Force/Navy PA program and the university, which awarded a degree to the military's students.

He has served as both president and vice president of the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) and established its liaison relationship with the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions. In 2007, Dr. Edwards was the first recipient of the PAEA's Presidential Award. He also has received the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Veterans Caucus of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

A reception was held Friday night, October 2nd, to present Jesse with the award. Nearly sixty past graduates, friends, and family attended to honor Jesse. Then on Saturday, October 3rd, Jesse was formally recognized at the UNMC Alumni Celebration and Awards Dinner.



SAVE THE DATE

**NAPA's 35th Annual Spring CME Conference
& General Membership Meeting**
April 14-17, 2010

**NAPA Board
of Directors Meeting**
Saturday, January 9, 2010
9 AM

Anderson Management Inc. • 1335 H St #100 • Lincoln

NAPA Board Meetings are open to all members

Inside...

President's Message	pg. 2
Student News	pg. 3
In the Board Room	pg. 4-5
Spring CME	pg. 6

Season of Change

Greetings, fellow PAs! As I sit here waiting for my writer's block to pass, I am reminded of the season we are in...fall, of course...a season of change. We have definitely experienced that change in temperature, along with some erratic weather here and there. But, as our temperatures and weather changes, so do our current healthcare structures. We are in the midst of major legislative debates and decisions regarding the future of our country's delivery of medical services.

I have received several notifications from AAPA, as well as other medically related agencies, asking for our help in contacting senators and political leaders in our state and region. I have to admit that in my younger years, I was rather intimidated by the legislative and political pieces of our profession's support. It isn't an issue you



Mia Hyde, PA-C

just take up and read about for a couple of hours, or even days, and understand perfectly. It is complicated and, well... political. Despite this discovery, I have also found that AAPA and my own state leaders can be a great resource to further my understanding of the underlying issues and details in the legislative workings, in both state and federal arenas.

I had the opportunity to attend a C.O.R.E. leadership conference in Washington, DC, about a year ago. It was an amazing experience. I went from a "wallflower" to an active participant in discussions with our current representatives in Washington. It was exciting to finally be able to grasp the important issues that make our profession "tick." It also gave me the incentive to try to get more involved back home in Nebraska.

I would strongly encourage all of our fellow Nebraskan PAs to take up the torch at such an important time in the development of our country's health system. The decisions made now will influence how we practice medicine for many years to come. It will shape how PAs are reimbursed, recognized by patients, colleagues, insurers, and accepted in the whole scheme of healthcare delivery.

Take the time to visit the AAPA website and check out the legislative and state advocacy headings. There are many resources available at your fingertips and very simple to use. I would also recommend that you contact a NAPA board member and ask questions, attend a board meeting, learn about how the legislative side "ticks," and about how you can help by contacting your local, state, and federal representatives for the benefit of our profession's future. Don't let the opportunity slip by—take action NOW!

Nebraska PAs Gather in San Diego

Submitted by Jodi Chewakin MS, PA-C

The San Diego Marriott Gaslamp Quarter Hotel was the site of the first Nebraska PA reception at an AAPA conference. Approximately eighty Nebraska PAs gathered for several hours of fun and laughter while enjoying a variety of hors d'oeuvres and beverages on the Presidio and Sunset Ter-

race. In attendance were past and present faculty members, students, and PAs from across the state and country. Many old friends reunited, and many new friendships were begun.

The event was sponsored by NAPA, UNMC Alumni Association, and Union College.

News from Our Neighbors

Missouri Governor Signs PA Legislation

On July 10, 2009 Missouri Governor Jay Nixon signed SB 296 into law. This bill authorizes PAs to write prescriptions for Schedule III-V controlled substances (if delegated by supervising physician). It also clarifies the law so that PAs who practice in federally designated rural health clinics do not need to apply for a waiver to the 66% supervision requirement.

Adapted from www.moapa.org



It's that time of year again!

Renew your membership online or through the mail

www.nebraskapa.org

News from the Union College Physician Assistant Program

Graduates all pass!!

The graduates of the Class of 2009 have achieved the distinction of 100 percent pass rate for all first-time takers of the PA National Certifying Examination (PANCE). This is the third time in the past four years that all graduates passed the exam at the first sitting. In addition, this class exceeded previous classes with a mean PANCE score of 526, up from 496 for the Class of 2008 and 470 for the Class of 2007.

New PA Class

In late August the Class of 2012 began their studies. The stellar group included fifteen women and ten men, with eighteen coming from Nebraska (other states include Florida, Iowa, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, and Washington).

New John Kerbs Society (JKS) Officers

The newly elected JKS President is Fred Wittleder. We're pleased to have him represent his peers and believe NAPA will find him to bring thoughtful opinions and active involvement. Jen Flider, Past President, will assist Fred in his new position on the NAPA BOD.

PA Week Celebrations at Union

The PA Program distributed pocket-sized hand sanitizers during PA Week to alumni, PA leaders, and the general public.

New PA Faculty

In May we bid good-bye to Becky Stafford, PA-C (who resigned to return to clinical practice in Missouri), and in July we welcomed Michelle Buller, MMS, PA-C, as our new Clinical Director. Michelle is from Henderson, graduated from UNL, and completed her PA studies at Midwestern University in Arizona. She has worked clinically in Arizona (IM), Gretna (FP), and Kearney (Cardiology) before completing a Psychiatry Fellowship at the University of Iowa. She provides oversight for our clinical rotations, as well as teaching in her areas of expertise.

Clinical Practice of Union College PA Program Faculty

The PA Program continues to support the faculty in maintaining clinical practice. Cliff Korf, MPAS, PA-C, provides weekend coverage in the ER in Columbus. Dwain Leonhardt, MD, has recently relocated his practice to East Lincoln Internal Medicine. Mike Huckabee, PhD, PA-C, has recently accepted a part-time, weekend position at Lincoln Pediatric Group. Michelle Buller, MMS, PA-C, is clinically active in psychiatry at the People's City Mission's new clinic.

Adapted from Union College report to the NAPA BOD

Longtime PA Faculty Member Will Be Missed

Claire Parker, PhD, Emeritus Assistant Professor, passed away in her home of unknown natural causes, on November 10, 2009. Dr. Parker was a faculty member of the UNMC Physician Assistant Program for 20 years. Following her retirement she continued to volunteer her services to the PA Program on a regular basis. She was loved by all and will be remembered fondly. Following Dr. Parker's wishes, there was no funeral service and as of this date, no memorial has been designated.

Supervising Physician of the Year Award

Send your nominations to Mia Hyde

miah Hyde@hotmail.com

PA of the Year Award

Send your nominations to Mia Hyde

miah Hyde@hotmail.com

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NEBRASKA ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Nebraska PA

The Official News Magazine of the Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants
www.nebraskapa.org

The Nebraska PA is the official publication of the Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants, 1335 H Street, Suite 100, Lincoln, NE 68508-3784. Comments, ideas and suggestions are welcomed. Articles for submission should be sent to the editor. Publication dates and submission deadlines are as follows:

Deadline	Publication Date
Jan. 23, 2009	Feb. 23, 2009

Russ Coash, PA-C, Managing Editor

Joe Designer, Inc., Graphic Design and Printing Services, 427 Sharp Street, Glenwood, IA 51534, 712-527-9565, joe@joedesigner.net



Newsletter report for BOD meeting 10/3/09

President-elect Patty Scholting called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. on Saturday, October 3, 2009. Roll call was taken and a quorum of voting members confirmed. Minutes from July 11, 2009 NAPA BOD meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted on the updated report by Penni Jackson, Secretary.

President—Mia Hyde

She has been busy fine tuning things for PA week activities, coordinating the Gibbon health fair for residents. Students from UNK Health Careers and Good Samaritan Hospital lab helped. Updated HOD reps on AAPA Website and new BOD members on NAPA Website. Confirmed the Governor Proclamation will be held, and representation and remarks will be given by Mike Huckabee/Union staff member.

President-elect—Patty Scholting

Reported she briefly spoke on behalf of NAPA at the White Coat ceremony for UNMC Class of 2011, which was held on September 9, 2009. She also spoke to the Class of 2011 regarding NAPA, and a list of the students to be added to the database was given to Andy, Darwin Brown and Patty remain active on the Nebraska Coalition for Patient Safety, and they attended the NCPS Education Conference as representatives of NAPA in August.

Secretary—Penni Jackson

She recently started a new job in September and has been busy studying for boards, as she is due to recertify in 2010. She has also been trying to keep up with the changes with the healthcare reform.

Treasurer—David Powell

Income since the end of June was \$825.32, expenses \$7733.39. To date income is 91.15% and expenses 69.01% of projections respectively. Income from Spring CME and pharmaceutical reps are down considerably, but membership is up and expenses are less than anticipated.

BOD Member-at-Large

Chelsea Doane has been on maternity

leave, therefore has been busy changing diapers.

BOD Member at Large

Dara Schroeder attended the Nebraska Pediatric Spine Conference; however, even though the conference was not very well attended by physician assistants, it was still a good conference. The NAPA board was set up at the mini exhibit hall there. Thank you went out to Jodi for updating the NAPA board. She has also been busy with the CME committee planning the 35th Annual Spring CME conference. She also contacted Bob Rauner at the request of Roger Wells about meeting to discuss co-sponsoring a CME conference with the NAFP.

BOD Member at Large

Jodi Chewakin attended the AAPA National Convention in San Diego, and was a member of the committee that successfully orchestrated the first Nebraska Reception at the National Conference, which was well attended. She recently was asked by Union College to chair the Self-Study Committee as part of their continuing accreditation process and updated the NAPA traveling board with new brochures from each program.

Committee and Liaison Reports

Internal Affairs

Publication/communications

Russ Coash reported the last newsletter was late getting out due to computer problems. Jodi volunteered to write a report for the Nebraska reception attended in San Diego.

Membership Committee

Amy Meeks reported the committee has been working on an updated NAPA brochure for new members and graduates. The due renewal notices will go out mid-November after a few Website changes have been made.

Investment Committee

Kathy Tonkin reported the account is up 21.02% year-to-date.

Computer

Tom Grothe reported the plan is to budget for a new computer in 2010.

NAPA Office

Andy Licht, Anderson Management has been working with Amy Meeks to prepare things for PA week starting October 5th. Mike Huckabee is going to represent NAPA and offer the response to the Governor's Proclamation.

Communications/Website

Michelle Christensen noted the committee continues to add new items to the homepage News and Alerts section as well as new CME opportunities. The Scholarships and Grants Committee has a new page that can be found at the top right corner of the home page. Regulations regarding credit card processing changed in July 2009; therefore a contract was signed with Authorize Net, a company to securely process the credit cards.

External Affairs

Legislative

Bonnie Shearer has been working on trying to get the Health and Human Service Website more user friendly for physician assistants. She reported there is progress being made in the regulatory process, which was reviewed and discussed in detail with the NAPA BOD. The law stands, and we are only in a state of limbo for PAs who don't have the two years of experience. Bonnie requested a member from NAPA BOD be at the public hearing, which should be held sometime in January.

Practice Agreement has to have three things (Section 21):

- 1) Doctor/Physician Assistant agreement
- 2) Define the scope of practice
- 3) Define the supervising physician will exercise supervision over the PA in accordance with regulations

Bonnie clarified that you have to have a

Newsletter report for BOD meeting 10/3/09

copy of the practice agreement readily available at every place in which you practice.

Professional/Public Relations

Ami Jones has also been working on things for PA Week, October 5-12th. Window stickers, pens, and fliers are being sent out. Russ asked about making a packet to be able to give doctors who are interested in hiring a PA. The AAPA has a packet for \$25. Mike Huckabee agreed a packet would be great and could help clarify questions and concerns with the new legislative changes.

HOD Report

Tom Grothe reported that AAPA is pushing for physician assistants to keep lobbying for PAs to be acknowledged with the healthcare reform bills. Medicare is also hammering down on incident to billing. It was reiterated when billing for incident it cannot be a new problem or a new patient, and the doctor has to be present in the office. Medicare is looking at auditing for incident to, and Nebraska is one of the states being looked at the hardest. It was also proposed we have a lecture at the fall conference regarding billing, especially for incident to.

Patient Safety

Darwin Brown reported Amy Tim has been hired, and the first formal meeting was recently held in Kearney. The committee is continuing to try to track problems at hospitals and make recommendations to help improve on issues. They are also looking at extending into the clinics, nursing home, etc. They are hoping to have NAPA's support to help continue the Patient Safety Coalition for another three years, at which time they are hoping to be able to function more on their own without the support of sponsors.

Nebraska PA Foundation (renamed)

Darwin Brown/Tom Grothe reported that with the foundation no longer existing, the Website has been updated of the changes and the links to donate are available on the NAPA Website. Mia and Kathy having been

working on creating a grant application, but nothing has been finalized or approved by the NAPA BOD. Patty asked if there is a deadline for the grants, and Tom replied it will be year to year. Darwin also made note that due to the changes in the committee, the scholarships are going to be more limited for 2010; therefore the committee is planning to ask for a donation from NAPA in January 2010. If checks come into the office for scholarships, it was noted they need to go to NAPA, not to the committee. Please see the article in the Membership Report of this newsletter.

CME Committee

Dara Schroeder reported the next Conference is scheduled to be held in Kearney at the Holiday Inn on April 14-17, 2010. Planning is under way, and the committee hopes to have all the speakers confirmed in November.

Student Society Reports

Union College

Jennifer Flider introduced the new Union Representative, Fred Wittleder, written report on file.

UNMC Program

Lea Wells introduced the new UNMC representative, Mallory Martineau, who reported fall semester began August 24th. The class size this year increased to forty-two students for the Class of 2011 (thirty-five women and seven men). White Coat ceremony was held September 9th, and a thank you went out to NAPA for donating the cookies. Officer elections were held September 17th, and fundraising has begun with the annual nut sales to start on November 3rd. Clinical rotations for Class of 2010 began September 28th.

PA Program Reports UNMC Program

Tom Grothe reported that UNMC is establishing a distance learning program with Canadian armed services to offer a masters program.

Union College Program

Mike Huckabee reported the Class of 2009 achieved the distinction of 100 percent pass rate for the

PANCE, exceeding the previous classes mean score of 526, up from 496 for Class of 2008 and 470 for

Class of 2007. The Class of 2012 began studies and is composed of twenty-four students (fourteen women and ten men). The newly elected JKS President is Fred Wittleder. In May Union bid farewell to

Becky Stafford PA-C (who resigned to return to clinical practice in Missouri) and in July Michelle

Buller, MMS, PA-C was welcomed as their new Clinical Director. The PA program continues to support the faculty in maintaining clinical practice.

New Business

Patient Safety PowerPoint presentation was given by Monica Seeland (Nebraska Coalition for Patient Safety Interim Director) at the BOD meeting. It was explained the Board of Directors consists of twelve to fifteen members. Darwin and Patty represent the physician assistants on the board. Currently there are sixty-five critical access hospitals in the state of Nebraska. As of July there is now a full-time staff person for the NCPS who will work out of the Nebraska Hospital Association.

It was decided as a board that NAPA would not host a Legislative Breakfast in 2010. This year our focus will be more on a national level with the healthcare reform.

Open floor—Chelsie Doane addressed there was an article posted in the Grand Island paper regarding data collected by UNMC rural health medicine that didn't mention physician assistants. It was recommended that a letter to the editor be written to bring this error to their attention.

Meeting was adjourned by President-elect Patty Scholting at 11:45 a.m. Next meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 9th at 9 a.m. at the NAPA office in Lincoln. Food will be provided. Board members were reminded to submit their reports early (two weeks preferred) so the office can distribute these via email for review prior to the meeting.

Signature Penni Jackson NAPA Secretary

The Nebraska PA

Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants
1335 H Street, Ste 100
Lincoln, NE 68508-3784

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CME COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT WORK

Submitted by Dara Schroeder, PA-C NAPA CME Committee, Chair

Plans are underway to make NAPA's Annual Spring CME Conference in April a huge success. Right now our small group of CME committee members has been working diligently to fill all presenter slots for 2010. We must get this done now in order to meet the accreditation deadline.

Right now we are pleased to announce - we have **26** speakers scheduled to present a wide variety of primary care and specialty topics.

Every year it becomes a greater challenge to be creative and work within our budget knowing that pharmaceutical grant funding is more difficult to achieve with the new PHRMA code. Nonetheless, we have dedicated committee members who continue to ensure our conference attendees will have a well put together conference and enjoyable atmosphere. Stay tuned for more information as the conference date gets closer.

I'm excited to announce two new things to the conference this year-- something new this year for entertainment and "The Last Man Standing" award. An incentive will be given to those attendees who stay to attend Saturday's morning lectures. Look for your brochure to be mailed in early February for more information. For now, mark your calendars for the 35th Annual Spring CME Conference to be held April 14-17, 2010 at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Kearney, Nebraska.

35TH ANNUAL SPRING CME CONFERENCE

April 14-17, 2010

Holiday Inn and Convention Center
Kearney, Nebraska