



# physician assistant SPOTLIGHT

For alumni and friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Physician Assistant Program

**SPRING 2020**

## IN THIS ISSUE

Faculty Associate Amy Parins, MPAS, PA-C, Awarded "PA of the Year" <b>1</b>
A Note from the Director <b>1</b>
Welcome Faculty Associate: Sarah Williamson, MPAS, PA-C <b>2</b>
Alum Offers Free Epi Training <b>3</b>
WAA Honors Kiana Beaudin, MPAS, PA-C <b>3</b>
Karen Darnell, MPAS, PA-C, Gifts Stethoscope to New Student <b>3</b>
Three Great Ways to Stay Connected <b>4</b>

## KEEP IN TOUCH!

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## Faculty Amy Parins Awarded PA of the Year

The Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants (WAPA) recognized **Amy E. Parins, MPAS '15, PA-C '08**, a 2019 PA of the Year.

Parins is course director for the PA Program's Advanced Patient Evaluation courses and teaches both didactic and clinical year students. With a special interest in wellness, behavioral health and addiction medicine, she is certified in motivational interviewing (MI)

*Continues on page 2*



*Above: Parins with fellow 2019 WAPA awardees: (L-R) Josh Knox, PA-C '00; Amy Parins; Margaret Straub, PA-C '96; and Miranda Spindt.*

*The WAPA Foundation awarded Knox, Parins and Spindt PA of the Year. Straub, who received WAPA's PA Leader of the Year, practices in UW Health's Radiation Oncology and lectures in the PA Program.*

## From the Director – *Virginia Snyder, PhD, PA-C*

Like the rest of the world, the PA Program is rethinking how to provide students with the best education during the COVID-19 pandemic. Didactic students continue spring semester from their homes, watching lectures by program and guest faculty

via video and taking exams online. Hands-on skills have been rescheduled for when we return to campus. Clinical year students were pulled from rotations and are immersed in virtual learning – addiction medicine, public health,

*Continues on page 2*

## AMY PARINS *(Continued from page 1)*

as well as Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT).

Especially rewarding to Parins is her work on a new Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant which will prepare students to effectively screen, diagnose and treat substance and opioid use disorders (SUDs and OUDs). The new curriculum, which Parins is developing in partnership with addiction

experts, will further integrate evidence-based practices of MI and SBIRT into existing coursework. It will also train students in Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) to prevent unnecessary death due to OUD.

"I carry my brother Adam with me who lost his battle with OUD on April 1st of last year," Parins says of her passion for this project. "It gives me hope and peace to know that this work is meaningful not just to me, but also to

students, clinicians and patients throughout Wisconsin."

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— Amy Parins

## FROM THE DIRECTOR *(Continued from page 1)*

critical care, pediatrics and women's health. Fortunately, we are familiar with remote learning and teaching that we routinely use for off-campus learners.

An African proverb states, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together." We are thankful for amazing students who are adaptable and resilient, wonderful faculty and staff who scrambled to make continuous, seamless learning possible, preceptors who provided flexibility during uncertainty and healthcare partners for their commitment to patient care. Even though living in ambiguity is not an easy place to dwell, the PA Program is doing it well. Thanks for your support, encouragement and positive comments as we navigate this challenging situation. I believe that everyone and our PA program will emerge from this pandemic stronger than before. We are stronger together. To you and yours – be well and stay well!

## Welcome Faculty Associate Sarah Williamson, MPAS, PA-C



Second-year students will enjoy new support now that **Sarah Williamson, MPAS, PA-C**, has joined the PA Program.

Williamson says she gained new appreciation for education while practicing at UW Hospital and Clinic's cardiovascular medicine clinic. "Coming to an academic center I knew I'd be teaching, but I didn't realize just how much—or how much I would enjoy it!"

Williamson will arrange second-year rotations and testing, strengthen relations with current clinical sites and build connections with new sites. A specialist in cardiovascular electrophysiology, she also looks forward to teaching in the cardiology module.

## Alum Offers Free Epi Training

Sometimes a small thing can mean the difference between life and death. That was the case for 18-year-old Dillon Mueller who in 2014 suffered a fatal reaction to a bee sting in rural Wisconsin. Tragically, the first responders did not have access to an epinephrine auto-injector (or “EpiPen,” as it’s commonly known) that would have halted Dillon’s anaphylaxis.

“Medical clinics and ambulances in bigger cities are likely to have epinephrine and the people trained to administer it,” says assistant professor **Joel Hill, MPAS, PA-C**, who directs the Physician Assistant (PA) Program’s distance education track. “But if you are out in a rural area, that’s not always going to be the case.” That’s why Hill volunteered to

oversee a training course for first-year students funded by the Dillon Mueller Memorial Fund and offered by PA Program alum **Lenard Markman, DO, PA-C '78**. “This training offers good information for students, especially future providers in rural healthcare settings,” says Hill who coordinates the clinical pharmacology and prevention and population health courses. As a bee keeper, he also appreciates firsthand the profound potential contained in that one small object.

Now that appreciation is shared with the more than 20 first-year



Above: First-year students Rachel Paget (L) and Megan Johnson (R) practice administering epinephrine.

students who gathered over their lunch hour last January.

Following Dr. Markman’s presentation, they familiarized themselves with the variety of (unloaded!) auto-injectors by administering them to one another.

“Dr. Markman gave a nice presentation and the students thought it was a good training,” Hill says of the experience.

“You can read about how to do something but it’s much more beneficial when you actually do it yourself.”

*Learn more about the Dillon Mueller Memorial Fund’s epinephrine training program and public policy campaign at [epifordilly.com](http://epifordilly.com).*

## WAA Honors Kiana Beaudin MPAS '15, PA-C '10

The Wisconsin Alumni Association has honored **Kiana Beaudin MPAS '15, PA-C '10**, with a 2020 Forty under 40 award, presented each year to alumni whose exceptional achievements exemplify the Wisconsin Idea.

Beaudin was named executive director of health for the Ho-Chunk Nation just last year. Previously she practiced for nearly a decade at the Ho-Chunk Nation House of Wellness Clinic in Baraboo, WI.

Passionate about preventive care, health outreach and cultural awareness, Beaudin was named *Outstanding Preceptor of the Year* by the PA Program in 2019.



## Alum Gifts a Stethoscope to Welcome a New Student

Recent graduate **Karen Darnell, MPAS, PA-C '19**, is among the first to donate funds toward a stethoscope that will be presented to an incoming student as part of a new program.

In addition to advising individuals who hope to be accepted into PA school, Darnell is a mentor to current PA students. She says this giving opportunity felt “like just one more way to mentor a future PA.”

“I challenge all UW-Madison PA Program alumni to look into their hearts and give what they can to this program.”

*Want to help welcome a student to UW-Madison and the world of medicine? Learn more at: <https://jumpstart.supportuw.org/campaigns/pa-stethoscope>.*



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# THREE GREAT WAYS

## to stay connected with the UW-Madison PA Program

1



### SHARE AN ALUMNI REFLECTION

Where are you practicing now?  
Any big accomplishments to  
announce? Great memories from  
PA school to share?

We'd love to print your news and  
photos in a future newsletter.

Contact us at:  
[go.wisc.edu/657684](http://go.wisc.edu/657684)

2



### BECOME A VOLUNTEER PRECEPTOR

Share your knowledge and  
help educate future PAs.  
  
You'll pay it forward and receive  
benefits of an UW-Madison  
appointment, including campus  
access and potential CME credit.

Learn more at:  
<http://www.med.wisc.edu/pa-preceptor>

3



### GIVE A STETHOSCOPE

Welcome an incoming PA student  
to the world of medicine with a  
stethoscope.

Learn more at:  
<https://jumpstart.supportuw.org/campaigns/pa-stethoscope>