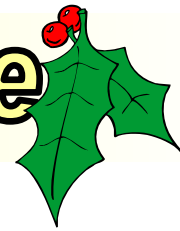


# Bowman's Capsule



JANUARY 2004

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:****THE DIRECTOR  
SEARCH CON-  
TINUES** 2**THE SUE YOU  
NEVER KNEW** 2**COMMUNITY  
SERVICE NEWS** 3**NCAPA FALL  
CONFERENCE  
COVERAGE** 3**PA PARTIES** 3**HALF LIFE** 4**KODAK MOMENT** 4**THE UN-FORGOTTEN****Editor: Lindsey Hawks****Staff writers: Karen Booth and Jill  
Payne****Faculty advisor: Eleanor Russell****Special thanks to: Sabrina Kuhn,  
Bill Rigsbee, Erica Kelly, Michelle  
Steiner****Pictures: Janie McDaniel**

Bowman's Capsule is published for  
and by WFUSM PA students. Any  
views expressed are those of the  
newsletter staff and students and  
don't necessarily reflect the views  
of the PA program.

**A NEW YEAR, A NEW CLASS BY LINDSEY HAWKS**

It's hard to believe that the WFUSM PA program's class of 2006 will be a reality in just a few more months. Janie McDaniel is the new admissions director, taking over from Debra Benfield who served in the capacity for 8 years. 250 applications have been received which is double the amount of applications sent in last year. Janie attributes the increase in applicants to three factors: an overall increase in PA school admissions and corresponding decrease in Medical School admissions, the implementation of CASPA to simplify the application process, and growing confidence in an established Master level program. An estimated 120 applicants were mailed invitations in December to attend interviews starting on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Janie says, "The majority of the applications are very strong. As the number of applicants grows, the competition for acceptance into the PA program will become even more intense".

Janie heads the 24 member admissions committee that includes the entire faculty, community PA's, medical center doctors and PA's, and 2 Masters' project advisors. While the committee selects those who will interview and be selected for the class of 2006, 3 students from the class of 2005 and 1 student from 2004 are sharing suggestions with the committee about admissions requirements and the application and interview process. Although many components of the admissions process will remain the same, there have been some important changes. This is the first year that the

WFUSM Physician Assistant program has used C.A.S.P.A., the Central Application Service for Physician Assistant applicants. CASPA is a service employed by a 70% of PA programs. A generalized computer application is filled out once by the applicant and can be sent to multiple programs. This is saving applicants and the admissions committee a lot of time. Coursework in biochemistry and statistics that was "highly recommended" last year is mandatory this year. There was also an early application deadline of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003. Applicants applying by this priority deadline and selected for interview will benefit from an early notification of acceptance when juggling multiple program deadlines and acceptance possibilities. Priority applicants will be interviewed on the first three interview days and receive acceptance notification within the two weeks following their interview.

First year students will play an important role on interview days by taking interviewees on tours and answering questions at the luncheons. 3-6 student volunteers will be needed for each interview day. Volunteers will give feedback on their interactions with applicants to the student admissions representatives who will report to the admissions committee. Janie's advice to future applicants is "to get your application in by September 1<sup>st</sup> if you consider yourself a strong applicant....and remember that we look at the whole person not just one number or one aspect of the application".



Students and Faculty gathered for "Holiday Tea" to celebrate the beginning of the Holidays and end of the semester.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

-The fundraising committee has been working hard to put together the first annual "Katherine Anderson Society Charity Golf Tournament" benefiting the Amos Cottage Therapeutic Day program for children with behavioral/emotional disorders. Signup will begin in February and the tournament will be held May 14 at the Salem Glenn Golf and Country Club.

-The WFUSM PA t-shirt sale has raised around \$400 for KAS funds so far. T-shirts will be available for purchase to community PA's and WFU PA students for the next few months. Email: bedmiste@wfubmc.edu for more info.

## THE SEARCH CONTINUES BY JILL PAYNE

The Wake Forest University School of Medicine PA Program is currently searching for a full-time director. In order to facilitate that process, a Director Search Committee was formed earlier in the school year. The committee is chaired by Dr. David Goff, PhD, MD and is comprised of representatives from the medical community. (for a complete list of committee members see pg. 4)

The initial stage of the search process involved the identification of those directly affected by the outcome of the director search. In particular, the search committee chose to meet with and seek input from representatives of four distinct groups: PA's within the Medical Center, PA's from the surrounding community,

the WFUSM PA program faculty, and current first and second-year students. Each of these groups contributed feedback, relating the qualities they felt were essential for the PA program director to possess. After meeting at length with each of these groups and taking their suggestions into consideration, the committee is seeking a board-certified PA with a master's degree in a health-related field, as well as a doctoral degree in health or education if possible.

It is extremely important for a new director to be in place as soon as possible. However, the director must fit into a problem based learning curriculum and continue the progressive efforts of Eleanor Russell, MA, interim

program director. So, the time and exertion needed to find a qualified director must not be cut short. The director search committee has provided a plausible timeline for the rest of the search process.

If everything continues according to plan, national advertisements for the position should be placed around the first of the year, at which point applications can then be submitted. Following the review of applicants, interview candidates will be selected, and the actual interview process will begin. Because this entire process takes considerable time, the search committee tentatively considers the summer of 2004 as a possible timeframe for putting a new program director into place.



"Ohhhh, so that's where that goes".....First year students examine an anatomy model

## GETTING TO KNOW SUE BY KAREN BOOTH

Sue Reich is the newest faculty member of the WFUSM PA program. Sue was born in Harrisburg Penn and moved around a lot as a kid. She was active in high school sports, participating in everything from track and field hockey to swimming and cheerleading. Sue has always loved a challenge, a trait that probably led her into a career as a PA. Between her Junior and Senior year at Penn State, Sue heard about the PA program. She knew that she wanted to study medicine and was drawn to the pioneering aspect of the still new PA profession. The more people who said "you want to be a what?", the more she interested she became in this emerging medical career.

Sue went to PA school at Hahnemann University (now part of Drexel MCP), and began working in a cardiology office after graduation. She worked in cardiology office for 11 years and then as in anesthesiology, before settling into her current specialty of family medicine. Sue enjoys the variety that she gets in family medicine: procedures, the age of the patients, and the different problems that they present with.

Sue encountered her wackiest patient while in cardiology. It is never a good sign when a patient enters the room armed with a roll of tinfoil! This new patient, who was being worked up for chest pain, lined every surface in the exam room, from the counter tops to the exam table, with tin foil. When they went to take her weight, she put a piece of tin foil on the scale before she would step on the scale. The patient also proudly showed Sue laboratory results from cultures that had been done, explaining direly that she was infected with "all this bacteria!" The patient probably would have been disappointed to know it was all normal flora, but Sue somehow kept a straight face. And we thought it was hard working on our SPA patients!

Sue has been able to watch the PA profession develop during her career. At least now, most people know what a PA is. When she first graduated in 1981, most of the jobs available to PA's were in specialties like cardiology, with-

out the variety of opportunities that are available today. Sue feels that the PA profession has really proven itself. This has made the relationship between the supervising physician and the PA more trusting, with less of an over-the-shoulder approach. Her advice to those of us that are still in the trenches is: during the first year trust that what you're being taught will have a purpose. It *will* all come together. As far as rotations go, she encourages students to take advantage of every possible opportunity. Learn everything that you can benefit from, even if it isn't what you expected to be focusing on.

Sue cautions students to thoroughly investigate any residency program they're considering. Some Physician Assistant programs offer residencies in specialties like surgery for those who are interested in extra training. Sue advises students to make sure that the residency program is geared towards instruction and training instead of just providing cheap labor.

**"The search committee tentatively considers the summer of 2004 as a possible timeframe for putting a new program director into place."**



## NOT YOUR ORDINARY CHRISTMAS TREE BY MICHELLE STEINER & SABRINA KUHN

If you've walked by the coffee stand in Watlington Hall since November 25<sup>th</sup>, you might have noticed a large Christmas tree decorated with cards. The Angel Tree provided 23 destitute families with a gift-filled Christmas. Baptist Hospital supports the Angel Tree every year for patients, mostly children, who are currently being treated, or have been treated at Baptist this past year. Social Services interviewed all of the families to determine what each family member would like for Christmas.

This year, our PA program adopted a family of 5 with 3 small children. This family had a

total of 42 gift requests, and we were able to provide them with all 42 presents. The family was given a large variety of presents including diapers, clothes, bed sheets, towels, toys, and books. In addition to the 42 requested gifts, the PA program was able to give extra gifts due to a generous response. Furthermore, some PA-Slls donated an additional contribution to another family that was in need of support. Thanks to the efforts of our students (first and second years) and faculty, this family received a well deserved holiday. The Community Service

committee will be offering a new service opportunity in 2004. Meals on Wheels is an organization that provides regular meals for those unable to obtain sufficient food independently. The organization is small, yet has many volunteers who maintain its operation. Classmates can participate by delivering meals and visiting people in their homes. We will plan to continue offering frequent and varied volunteer opportunities that appeal to all. Let's start out a brand-new year with the community in mind!!!!



## HALLOWEEN & CHRISTMAS PARTIES ROCK! BY LINDSEY HAWKS

The Halloween and Christmas parties provided an abundance of great food, great conversation, and quality rump shakin'! There were plenty of interesting and entertaining costumes at the Halloween party and Erica Kelly's husband won the unofficial "Best Costume" award as a very convincing headless horseman. The Christmas party was a fitting time to celebrate the end of exams. There was a sizable turnout at Cobalt's despite the bad weather. A BIG thanks to social chairs' Kelly Mulligan and Andy Shirlen for their hard work and two successful get-togethers.

## PA STUDENTS VOLUNTEER FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS BY SABRINA KUHN

On a cold and windy weekend in November, PA students volunteered throughout Winston-Salem and surrounding areas for the North Carolina Special Olympics' Fall Games. These wind burnt volunteers provided medical care for participants competing in sports like soccer, bocce, golf, cycling, and bowling. Luckily, there were no major injuries reported! Athletes traveled from every area of the state of North Carolina to test their skills. It was a treat to see the athletes compete and the Fall Games were a huge success! The Winter Games will be held in Boone, NC January 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>. For more information about the upcoming events and more volunteer opportunities, visit the Special Olympics web site at <http://www.sonc.net/>.

## NCAPA NOVEMBER CONFERENCE

During the fall meeting of the North Carolina Academy of Physician Assistants' Board of Directors, a great deal of business was addressed. Most notably, the Academy is in the process of obtaining a piece of land near the Raleigh-Durham Airport to construct a central office to house the Academy's full time staff. The Academy is also going to use the space as a museum dedicated to the history of the Physician Assis-

tant. The building will be named in honor of Dr. Eugene Stead. Dr. Stead conceived the notion of the Physician Assistant in the mid-60's and worked to generate a medical program capable of producing such a position. His hard work came to fruition at Duke Medical School in the late 60's. North Carolina, as the birthplace of the PA profession, will fittingly be the first state to

have a central office. The NCAPA encourages all students to participate and it's next conference will be in late February. It is a great opportunity to be a part of the Academy and help cultivate and develop a growing profession at the student level.

David G. Bennett  
SAAAPA Representative

"North Carolina, as the birthplace of the PA profession, will fittingly be the first state to have a central office."



The classes of 2004 & 2005 shake their tailfeathers at the Christmas party.

Catch us on the web at: <http://www.wfubmc.edu/school/OurStudents/index.htm>

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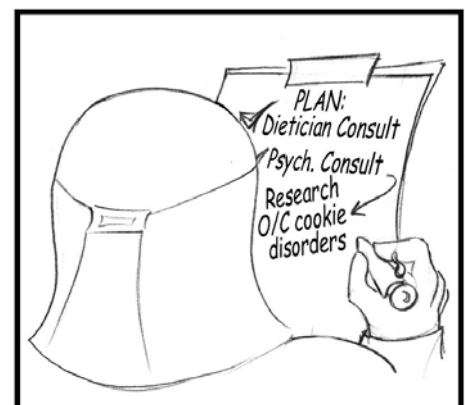
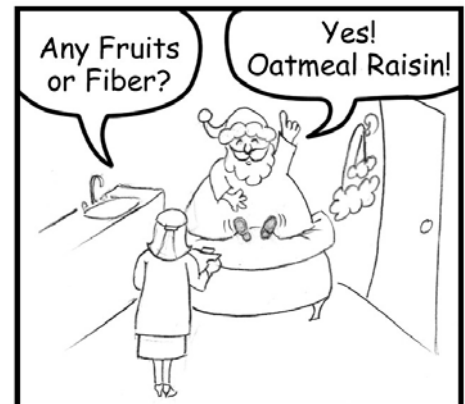
## DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Goff, PhD, MD (Epidemiology, Internal Medicine); Ronny Bell, PhD Med (Epidemiology); Laura Curtis, PA-C (Family Medicine); James Hoekstra, MD (Emergency Medicine); Mark Knudson MD (Family Medicine); Ann Lambros, PhD (Medical Education); William Moran, MD (Internal Medicine); TJ Pulliam, MD (Gastroenterology, Professional Affairs)

## Half Life

Illustrations: Erica Kelly

Concept: Lindsey Hawks



## TECH TIPS BY BILL RIGSBEE

Does it ever seem like your computer is slow about pulling up documents or other programs? Defragmenting your drive can help speed things up. So, how do you do it? It's pretty easy actually. Just double-click on the My Computer icon on your desktop and right click on the Local Disk (C:) icon. Select Properties and then click on the Tools tab. Under the tools tab you will see the option to defragment your hard drive. Usually, this is about a 30 minute job and it's best not to use the computer while it is "defragging". In other words, you might want to start it before you got to bed at night or while you are at lunch.

Another tool under the Tools tab is Error Checking. I usually like to run a complete scan about once a month or so to make sure there are no problems with the hard drive. Give this one a try sometime too if you have a chance.

## KODAK MOMENT: HALLOWEEN MAYHEM

