

CANISIUS PA PROGRAM



The Newsletter of the Physician Assistant Program at Canisius College

DECEMBER NEWS

Message From the Program Director
Dr. Aimee Larson, DMSc, PA-C



Looking back and ahead

This year was full of many successes as we welcomed our inaugural cohort. Our student-led community service week was a huge hit for the program, the college, and our local community including the Boys and Girls Club, Empower, local refugee services, the food pantry, and more. The work done by this inaugural group has set a very important precedent for years to come! We were also the recipient of a very generous \$767,000 Mother Cabrini Health Foundation grant that allowed us to provide seven scholarships to our students, purchase educational resources that would create more learning equity among our students, and create an outstanding simulation lab including a full labor and delivery space. We hired three new faculty and invited a number of special guests to help educate our students through very meaningful activities.

Our program is particularly blessed to have a relationship with the University at Buffalo and their Interprofessional Collaborative Practice program. Our students benefitted from multiple virtual and in-person activities with students of all health professions and broadened their understanding and appreciation for the healthcare team. This was very well received by all.

Looking forward, we have admitted another exceptionally well-rounded and diverse group for the Class of 2024. We have learned and grown so much over this first year, and have no doubt we will continue to do amazing things with our current and incoming students.



Faculty, staff, and students are all in amazement that our first cohort approaches the end of the didactic year. Though the year was full of surprises, friday scrub day remained an important staple.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Students learning to utilize our new sonogram technology with Professor Snios

PROGRAM UPDATES

New Faces, New technology, New Frontiers

As 2021 comes to a close, it's a pleasure to reflect back on the tremendous growth we've seen in the students, the program, our resources, and our faculty. We've brought on new clinical instructors, updated the anatomage tables, and invested in equipment and simulation resources to best prepare our students as capable, compassionate practitioners. As our first cohort approaches their clinical year, we will welcome our second class in January 2021. There is so much more to come.



Professor Snios instructs students on the newly updated anatomage tables

Partnership with Sisters of Charity Hospital

We furthered our simulation success through the development and dedication of the Dr. Tourbaf Medical Simulation lab at Sisters of Charity Hospital, thanks to a generous family donation of \$25,000. This lab allows our students to participate in a number of real-world simulations with practicing clinicians and medical residents in the hospital setting. The lab consists of a full patient care room, a technical room, and a dedicated debriefing space. PA students have led the medical team through scenarios with advanced cardiac life support and more. We look forward to many years of collaboration in this space.



The Canisius College PA Program and Sisters of Charity Hospital simulation space dedication ceremony

Meet Your Faculty

Professor Stephanie Snios

Clinical Assistant Professor
Physician Assistant Studies



How did you come to be at Canisius?

Still not sure ha! I'm thankful everyday that I'm here. I always knew I want to be in academia in some capacity but I wanted to find the "right fit". After working clinically for over a decade I felt I was ready to take the leap, the stars aligned, and now I'm here with an amazing group of super smart people!

What was your college major?

I've had a few. In undergrad I studied psychology with a biology concentration. I went to graduate school studying mental health counseling before deciding I wanted to change paths and practice medicine. I graduated from PA school at D'Youville.

What would you consider the best and worst part of graduate school?

Not knowing how worth it all the time invested was until I could look back and say "I did it".

Your advice to incoming students:


Get in multiple study groups. They establish themselves early and are you key to success.

What wellness resources do you utilize and/or recommend?

Dedicate "you time". Sometimes it can feel like you have "no time", but it's the most precious and only truly limited thing we own. Don't answer than email on the weekend, put down social media and do something just for you. I get together with my core circle of friends at least once a month- no matter what.

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PA STUDENT ASSOCIATION

A service week summary

To demonstrate a commitment to service, the students from the Canisius College PA Program organized a week dedicated to health equity from October 4th- October 8th, 2021. Our students focused on improving the health and well-being of under-served populations in the Buffalo area. Each day was devoted to a particular population that we as a collective felt was at risk due to the health disparities they may experience. The kickoff to the week was 'Trick or Treat for Hunger' for the homeless population. Students dressed up in Halloween costumes and collected canned goods for St. Luke's food pantry. We had so much fun and filled two carloads with donations! The PA students spent Tuesday afternoon creating fun Halloween crafts with the residents at Empower supporting mental health and people with disabilities. We also attended a walk with the Most Valuable Parents (MVP) organization as a show of solidarity to counter the rising gun violence in our community and to raise awareness about policy changes needed to save lives in the Buffalo community. On Thursday our partner spotlight included Girl Gang and the students also spent the afternoon running a "healthy habit" program for the Boys and Girls Club. We wrapped up service week by supporting the refugee community at Journey's End and attended Memories of Flight: Archiving Refugee Histories by speaker, Montserrat Canela Garayoa in the Bouwhuis Library. Participating in service week has allowed for our program to create impactful and lasting connections in the city of Good Neighbors! It was a great opportunity to serve those in need in the community all while raising awareness for the Physician Assistant profession! Follow us on instagram: [@canisiusspaa](https://www.instagram.com/canisiusspaa)

