

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM
COMMENCEMENT
CLASS OF 2022



ACHIEVING NEW HEIGHTS IN
MEDICAL EDUCATION

MISSION STATEMENT

ROCKY VISTA UNIVERSITY

PROVIDES QUALITY HEALTHCARE EDUCATION
WHILE INSPIRING STUDENTS TO SERVE WITH
COMPASSION, INTEGRITY, AND EXCELLENCE.



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM
CLASS OF 2022 COMMENCEMENT

FRIDAY, EIGHTEENTH OF NOVEMBER
TWO-THOUSAND TWENTY TWO

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

PROCESSIONAL

WELCOME

Cathy Ruff, MS, PA-C

GREETINGS FROM THE PROVOST

Ed Bilsky, PhD

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

STUDENT COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Jemari Roberts, MPAS

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Sarah Neguse, MS, PA-C

AWARDS

Cathy Ruff, MS, PA-C

PRESENTATION AND HOODING OF THE MPAS CLASS

Ed Bilsky, PhD

Sarah Neguse, MS, PA-C

Cassidy Punt, MS, PA-C

Cathy Ruff, MS, PA-C

CONFERRAL OF THE MPAS DEGREE

Ed Bilsky, PhD

OATH

Darcy Solanyk, MS, PA-C

CLOSING REMARKS

Cathy Ruff, MS, PA-C

RECESSIONAL

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Class of 2022, families, faculty, and members of the RVU community,

Today is a celebration, not only for our graduating students, but for everyone who has played a foundational role in their lives. They wouldn't be here today if not for your support, love, and confidence.

Students: Today, you take the next steps in your career, entering the healthcare workforce as a provider; ready and prepared to take your place alongside the rest of the medical team of which you have earned the right to be a part.

You came to Rocky Vista University with a goal and a dream to become a PA – to become the kind of PA that patients want to see – filled with confidence and capabilities, empathy and compassion, thoroughness, and efficiency. We hope you will provide the type of care that leads with humanism and caring. We believe you are well positioned to serve the needs of the communities where you will serve with integrity and excellence. While at RVU, you have learned anatomy and physiology; biochemistry, pharmacology, and pathology – you have achieved competency and proficiency in patient care. And you have cultivated your humility and humanity – placing the patient at the center of the process and prioritizing their values and preferences. You have achieved your goal, and for that, we are all very proud.

The recent pandemic has underscored the importance of healthcare workers, of caregivers willing to step up, to step in and say, “I am here to help”. Not only do your future patients need you, but your future colleagues need you as well. Now is your time to answer that call, to honor your calling to be a Physician Assistant and to walk onto the front line with your eyes open, with your mind open, and with your heart open.

You have trained for this. The communities are waiting. Your patients are waiting. You are most certainly ready for this.

Good luck out there – you will be great.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David G. Forstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Forstein, DO, FACOOG
President and CEO
Rocky Vista University

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Sarah Neguse, MS, PA-C, received her bachelor's degree in Integrative Physiology from the University of Colorado-Boulder followed by a Masters in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Colorado-Denver. Earlier in her career, Sarah worked at the East West Health Center practicing Internal Medicine. Most recently, she worked as a certified Physician Assistant at Park Ridge Family Medicine. She is an active volunteer with the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) and the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). She currently works at Rocky Vista University as an Assistant Professor of PA Studies within the Physician Assistant Program and has been a valuable member of the RVU Faculty since 2017.

Sarah is originally from California but moved to Colorado when she was six years old. She is married and has two daughters. She enjoys camping and traveling. A little-known fact about Sarah is that she is first-generation. She was born here in the United States, but her parents are both originally from Eritrea, East Africa.



MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES
CLASS OF 2022

CHRISTOPHER AHUMADA

ASHLEY LAMB

DELANEY BACON

MELISSA LORENZ

JULIA BARANCZYK

LAURA LOUDIN

YASMEEN BIERWIRTH

ASHLEY LYNOTT

CIERRA BLACK

MARIAH MAAS

MARIO CHAVEZ

KIRA MIKLOS

MELVIN DIAZ

MADISON NASH

JESSICA DOWGIERT

HANNAH PIERCE

JESSICA DUSEBOUT

KYLIE PILLARD

TAYLOR FRANK

ALEXANDRA POLLACK

ERIKA GALLARDO

BRIAN QUACH

CHELSEY GENTRY

JEFFREY READY

HEIDI GRUBER

JESSICA REYNOLDS-NGUYEN

MICHAEL HABLSTON

MATTHEW RICH

TYLER HONN

JEMARI ROBERTS

JORDYN IOOSS

ALYSSA STOCKMAN

EVELINA KRAVCHUK

ANNA WILSON

THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROFESSIONAL OATH

I PLEDGE TO PERFORM THE FOLLOWING DUTIES WITH HONOR AND DEDICATION:

I WILL HOLD AS MY PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY THE HEALTH, SAFETY, WELFARE, AND DIGNITY OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS.

I WILL UPHOLD THE TENETS OF PATIENT AUTONOMY, BENEFICENCE, NONMALEFICENCE, AND JUSTICE.

I WILL RECOGNIZE AND PROMOTE THE VALUE OF DIVERSITY.

I WILL TREAT ALL PERSONS EQUALLY WHO SEEK MY CARE.

I WILL HOLD IN CONFIDENCE THE INFORMATION SHARED IN THE COURSE OF PRACTICING MEDICINE.

I WILL ASSESS MY PERSONAL CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS, STRIVING TO ALWAYS IMPROVE MY MEDICAL PRACTICE.

I WILL ACTIVELY SEEK TO EXPAND MY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS, KEEPING ABREAST OF ADVANCES IN MEDICINE.

I WILL WORK WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH CARE TEAM TO PROVIDE COMPASSIONATE AND EFFECTIVE CARE OF PATIENTS.

I WILL USE MY KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN IMPROVED COMMUNITY.

I WILL RESPECT MY PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PHYSICIANS

I WILL SHARE AND EXPAND KNOWLEDGE WITHIN THE PROFESSION.

THESE DUTIES ARE PLEDGED WITH SINCERITY AND UPON MY HONOR.

STUDENT AWARDS

Compassion Award

This award is for a student who exemplifies the qualities of graciousness and humility, advocates for social justice, and works for the betterment of all members of their community whether internal or external to RVU.

President's Award

The award is for an outstanding student that embodies the University's core values of integrity, collegiality, compassion, diversity, excellence, service, and innovation.

Collaboration Award

This award is for a student with an outstanding contribution to their class or the PA program as a whole through their leadership, character, collaboration, and service endeavors.

Program Director's Award

This award is given at the discretion of the PA Program Director to a student who exemplifies all aspects of the Mission of the program.

Research Award

The PA Faculty Research Award was established to recognize excellence in student research within the RVU PA program. This award honors the outstanding scholarly achievement displayed in the completion and presentation of the Capstone Research project.



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM FACULTY AND STAFF

Meghan Bunnenberg, MS, PA-C
Assistant Director of Clinical Education;
Assistant Professor of PA Studies

Carrie Chanos, PA-C
Associate Professor of PA Studies

Alison Covak, MSPAS, PA-C
Director of Clinical Education, PA Program;
Assistant Professor of PA Studies, PA Program

Christy Hardt
Program Outreach Coordinator,
PA Program

David Eckhardt, MS, PA-C
Director of Simulation;
Associate Professor of PA Studies

Jennifer Hellier, PhD
Director of Basic Science and Research; A
ssociate Professor of PA Studies

Kristen Hunter
Clinical Rotations Coordinator, PA Program

Sarah Neguse, MS, PA-C
Assistant Professor of PA Studies

Cassidy Punt, MSBS, MPAS, PA-C
Assistant Professor of PA Studies,
PA Program

Cathy C. Ruff, MS, PA-C
Program Director and Chair;
Associate Professor of PA Studies

Katie Shaw, MS, ATC
Operations Manager

Kandace Shepherd, MS, PA-C
Student Success Facilitator

Darcy Solanyk, MS, PA-C
Associate Program Director;
Associate Professor of PA Studies

Stephen Solanyk, BSEE
Project and Data Manager, PA Program

Ryan Spilman, DO
Part-time Medical Director of
Clinical Education, PA Program

