

TAPA's awards program honors those who go above and beyond

By Katherine Pesut Moffat, TAPA Executive Director

On Monday, Oct. 3, TAPA members gathered at FallFest to recognize those individuals who go above and beyond to represent the profession, teach and mentor future PAs, and excel in their daily duties. Below is an overview of the awards presented this year.

PA of the Year

TAPA's 2022 PA of the Year is Marie Patterson, PA-C, DHS. Marie has worked as both a clinician and an educator. For many years, she staffed the student health center at MTSU. She moved into academics in 2017 when she helped establish the PA Program at Lipscomb University and served as both an assistant professor and the admissions director. In 2020, she was named the program director for the PA program at MTSU and started that program, which matriculated its first class in May of this year.

Marie has long been involved with TAPA. She served as the secretary of TAPA's Board of Directors from 2005-2009, and she is the current TAPA vice president. She was appointed by the governor to the Board of PAs (previously COPA) in 2018 and is currently that Board's chair.

She was one of TAPA's delegates to the AAPA House of Delegates in 2019 and was recently elected to serve again in 2023 and 2024. She has taken a particular interest in state compact licensure for PAs and represented BoPA at the Compact Licensure Meeting with the Federation of State Medical Boards in 2019 and 2021.

Marie has been active with her church through mission work and also participated in a medical mission trip to Kenya in 2001. She is a regular fundraiser and team captain for the Special Kids race, all while raising eight children.

Marie has been a regular attendee of PA Day on the Hill and often goes out of her way to mentor students and attend their meetings with them. She has developed strong relationships with her state legislators, which has been beneficial to TAPA's legislative efforts. We are pleased to recognize all of her hard work done on behalf of TAPA, her students, and her PA colleagues!

PA Student of the Year - Deanna Barton

Deanna Barton, PA-S is TAPA's 2022 PA Student of the Year. A student at South College in Knoxville, she was nominated by her program director and clinical coordinator who spoke glowingly of her educational pursuits and leadership.

Deanna ranks first in her class as she nears the completion of the program. She consistently

gets high marks from her clinical preceptors with continuous praise for her knowledge, compassion, personality, and initiative. One preceptor even described her as "the complete package" considering all her positive attributes.

Deanna has also logged more patient encounters in her clinical year than any other individual in her class. This is a testament to her work ethic and thoroughness in documentation, both of which are vital aspects to successful practice as a PA.

Deanna has also volunteered her time to give back to her student colleagues. She was a delegate to the AAPA's Assembly of Representatives that met this past May in Indianapolis, and she attended TAPA's PA Day on the Hill to help lobby for optimal team practice (OTP).

Deanna completed her required community service hours for graduation well ahead of time and continues to obtain more hours. In the process, she has chosen to serve her community in a variety of ways, including donating blood to the American Red Cross, providing first responder care at University of Tennessee football games, picking up trash along an adopted highway, and volunteering with Lost Sheep Ministries at Under the Bridge by providing medical care to homeless and underserved populations in downtown Knoxville. Congratulations Deanna!

Educator of the Year – Patrick Brown

TAPA's 2022 Educator of the Year is Patrick Brown. Nominated by his students, they noted that Patrick's desire for educating the future practitioner is demonstrated by his willingness and sacrifice to edify and further the PA profession.

Patrick graduated from Bethel University with a Master of Science in PA Studies in 2016, and he has been employed as an assistant professor with Bethel University's PA program since 2018. He provides instruction in the Clinical Medicine course, which is the keystone of the didactic year, and serves as its primary instructor. His teaching and dedication to the students far exceed the standards of modeled teaching behaviors and embodies the nature of the educator.

Patrick's enthusiasm for education is displayed outside the classroom as well. Patrick serves as the advisor to Bethel's Challenge Bowl Team. He provides additional training sessions to improve team knowledge, team cohesion, and team outcomes and his teams have enjoyed much success!

As a member of TAPA's Board of Directors and a frequent attendee at PA Day on the Hill, Patrick models leadership and service to others to his students. We are pleased to recognize his hard work and dedication to his students!

PA/Physician Team of the Year - Dr. Belt/Dr. Kitsteiner/PA Bailey Jessee

This year's PA/Physician Team of the Year is made up of one PA and two physicians. PA Bailey

Jessee, Dr. Randall Belt, and Dr. John Kitsteiner work together at Greenville Community Hospital East in the emergency department.

Both Dr. Belt and Dr. Kitsteiner serve as adjunct instructors and preceptors for the Milligan University PA Program where they provide excellent instruction for our students, including PA Jessee when he was a student. In fact, Dr. Belt was the Milligan University PA Program Preceptor of the Year in 2021.

Upon PA Jessee's graduation, he began working with them in the emergency room and has done so for the past year. He has been influenced by Dr. Belt and Dr. Kitsteiner in his desire to teach and evaluate students and has been helping Milligan's program as an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) evaluator.

Although this team has only worked together in the clinical setting for one year, both Dr. Belt and Dr. Kitsteiner worked with PA Jessee during his time as a student and have had a strong influence on his PA training. They are an exemplary example of team-based healthcare!