

Major Leah Baldwin – Aeromedical PA

- Wisconsin Army National Guard
- Graduated from UWL for both undergraduate and PA school
 - Was in PA school while being in the National Guard
 - Did a drill weekend a month
 - Gave her time to do her homework and study while at drill
- After graduation
 - Private practice in orthopedics in Texas – clinic
 - Different type of healthcare in Texas – each specialty in its own building
 - Midwest has integrated care
 - Surgery in Wisconsin 2014-2017
 - Now in guard full time
- Medical exchange to Nicaragua
 - Every state has a state partnership program – at the time, Wisconsin was partnered with Nicaragua
 - Spent a week down there
 - Taught doctors there different techniques for crush injuries due to earthquakes
- Medical Exchange to Papua New Guinea
 - Very different healthcare system
 - People lined the hallways
- Deployment to Kuwait/Iraq/Jordan
 - Clinic is plywood walls and fabric tents
 - Taking care of your soldiers
 - Make do with what you have
 - Urgent care
 - Did lots of running – ran first marathon
 - Flight Surgeon
 - Flew a lot
 - Worked with all branches of the military and military personnel from all over
 - Learned a lot about how to administer medicine and take care of patients in such a difficult environment
- National Guard Marathon Team
 - Gets to travel and run in marathons
- So many options in the national guard
- Flight Surgeon – full time

- Make sure that the air crew are healthy and safe enough to fly in the aircraft
- Did a 6-week training to learn health conditions that people going up in altitude may experience
- Meet with people who fly each year to make sure that they are healthy enough to keep flying – flight physicals
- Based out of Madison
- Trains flight medics, does not go up in Blackhawks and treat patients herself
- Loves her job!
- Differences in PA experiences
 - Access to what she has in different areas
 - No CT or MRI scans at her deployment sites
 - Needed to send them to the hospital in the city
 - Need to get creative on how you create splints or casting because your resources and personnel are limited
 - No techs, so you are doing it all
 - Most of the people that she sees are orthopedic patients because the people in the military must be generally healthy to serve
- Why did you want to do aviation medicine in the military?
 - Was in the medical detachment for years
 - Friend was previous flight PA and loved it and recommended it
 - Wanted to fly in Blackhawks
 - Wanted to be deployed and they are deployed more often than other units
- Most interesting thing about aviation medicine
 - Surprised by:
 - Don't think about over-the-counter medications or prescription medications because the altitude affects heart rate and other things
 - Understanding medical physiology for the people flying the aircrafts and what they can and cannot take
- Contact information
 - Leah.m.baldwin2.mil@army.mil

Captain James Griffith - Specialty Branch Recruiter

- Blackhawk pilot
- Ways to become a Physician Assistant in the Guard
 - Direct Commission after completing PA school
 - Must have a valid state license (any state)
 - Must graduate from an accredited PA school program

- Do not go to Basic Training
 - Go to training on how to be an officer (6 weeks) (you enter as an officer)
 - Go to training on how to be a PA in the army (10 weeks)
- Interservice Physician Assistant Program
 - Army pays for your PA school and pays you while you go
 - Must be a current service member
 - You owe the army 6 year after completion
- Commissioned as an officer at the rank of 1st Lieutenant
 - Pay starts at \$614 per 2-day drill weekend
- Medical Detachment
 - Has vast majority of PAs
 - Soldier readiness processing
 - Drill weekend – seeing soldiers with health questionnaire
 - Talking and health education with soldiers
- 135 Unit
 - Full clinic with ambulances, X-rays, labs, etc.
 - Can be a PA seeing patients in this clinic
 - Can be deployed
- Infantry Brigade
 - Each brigade has a PA
 - Emergency care
 - Training medics how to do sutures and cares etc.
- PA Bonuses
 - Accession and Retention Bonuses at \$25k per year
 - Paid each year on your anniversary
 - Available in 2-, 3-, or 4-year increments
 - Available for your entire career
 - Up to \$60k in student loan repayment
 - Army pays for your PA school and pays you while you go
 - Must be a current service member
 - You owe the army 6 years after completion
 - Can't get both at the same time

Caysi Orbison – First Year Student in Dual PA/ Masters in Public Health Program

- George Washington University
- From Janesville, WI
 - Graduate from UWL with a Public Health and Community Health Education Major with a Spanish for the Health Professions certificate
- PA Application Stats
 - Important not to compare yourself to others
 - Every school is looking for something different
 - Patient Care Hours – 2,000 as a CNA in long term care, inpatient psych at Gunderson, and as a CNA in Oncology
 - GPA: 3.86, science GPA: 3.54
 - CASPer: 75th-100th percentile, no GRE
 - Volunteering
 - Vida volunteer trips
 - Leadership hours
 - Varied across organizations
 - What made your application stand out?
 - Summer Internship in a State Legislature Office at the Capitol in Madison as a Communications intern
 - Worked on health policy
 - Insurance policies for at home STI testing kits
 - Could talk about in applications and interviews
 - Did not apply after junior year
 - After graduation
 - Moved home to save money, wanted to go out of state and knew it would be more expensive
- Going out of state
 - It varies from school to school
 - Research the schools that you are applying to
 - Make a list December before you apply with their requirements
 - Don't want to apply to a school where you don't meet requirements
 - Applied to 13 schools
 - 4-5 acceptances
 - When accepted to George Washington, declined the other offers
 - CASPA process is the same in the Midwest to out of the Midwest
 - Every PA school follows the same accreditation process
 - School will not be drastically harder than others

- Might be up against more competitive applicants due to prep schools in the area
 - Most interviews were over zoom
 - Make sure that before you reach out you check their website and make sure the information can't be found there first
 - Want to make sure that you are paying attention
 - Different prerequisites
 - Some programs require two semesters of Organic Chemistry
 - Most schools out east do not require extra things from Midwest
 - She just looked at programs that required what she had
 - Looked at schools that she had over the average for stats
 - If you have lower stats, don't wait until the end of rolling admissions to apply. Apply early!
- Why a Master's of Public Health (MPH) dual degree?
 - MPH allows for very broad understanding of population health issues
 - Preventative care and policy implications on health outcomes
 - Addressing the root causes of disease beyond a clinical setting
 - Some classes taken
 - Social and behavioral health
 - Women's health
 - Epidemiology
 - Biostats
 - Reproductive health – Global and US Perspectives
 - Health Policy Analysis – both an intro and currently in an advanced version
 - Health Policy Economics
 - Environmental Health
 - Program Evaluation
 - Federal Policymaking and Advocacy, Stats Analysis in Health Policy
 - Public Health and Law
 - Practicum (Internship) Opportunities
 - She works with a children's health system
 - Seeing what is going on in the policy world
 - How are different federal agencies going to affect patients and their hospital
 - Working with people from a variety of areas on health policy
 - How classes work

- One PA class each semester with doing full time MPH classes to get masters done in a year
 - Classes mostly at night
 - Focus on a specific area in MPH
 - GW is the only program in the country that offers a Dual PA/MPH in Health Policy
- Benefit of having an MPH background
 - Have an extra master's degree on a resume
 - Have a lot of extra experiences
 - Emphasis on social determinants of health in her program
 - Teaches you to think about things in other ways and understand patients where they are at
 - Telling a patient that they need to take insulin, but they do not have a refrigerator, how to meet them where they are
 - Having the MPH allows you more public speaking practice
 - Potentially higher positions in the hospital due to their experiences
 - Networking
- Contact Information
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