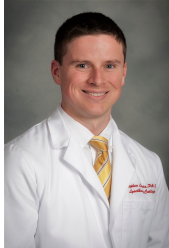




**Stephen D. Lewia, Jr., MPAM, PA-C**  
**Student Director**



Stephen Lewia is the student director of the AAPA Board of Directors and president of the Student Academy of the AAPA. He is a recent graduate of the University of Lynchburg in Virginia and an Emergency Medicine PA Fellow at Arrowhead Medical Center in Colton, California.

Lewia first developed a passion for community service when he became an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) after graduating high school. As he started volunteering as an EMT, he found he had a passion for serving others during their critical states of life. He attended Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), in Richmond, Virginia, where he earned a BS in Biology. While at VCU, he simultaneously attended a local community college and became a Nationally Registered Paramedic. During his time at VCU, he continued to volunteer for a local rescue squad and gained leadership experience as he served multiple positions on the squad's board. During his time as Training Director and Lieutenant, Lewia worked to ensure care provided by the volunteer staff was on par with paid providers. This led him to become an Education Coordinator which allowed him to teach Emergency Medical Service (EMS) courses, as well as provide continuing education credits.

Lewia is an alumnus, and longtime volunteer of, the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) organization. During his time with HOBY, Lewia had the privilege of planning, creating curriculum for, and executing multiple three-day leadership seminars focuses on holistically building leadership skills in high school students. For several years, Lewia sat on the Virginia HOBY Board of Directors, and helped with strategic planning of the organization.

During his time in ungraduated school, Lewia discovered his passion for EMS was matched with a desire to teach. He continued at VCU to earn a Master of Teaching degree with a concentration in Secondary School science. He went on to work at an inner city high school in Richmond, Virginia, teaching biology and anatomy. As an inner city teacher, he experienced first-hand the effects of poverty and its downstream affects on students. He worked with his school's administrative team to create programs to support students who would have otherwise fallen through the cracks. Lewia also served as a supervising teacher as part of a teaching residency program. Through this program he coached several pre-service teachers that were working towards teaching in an inner city setting.

Wanting to do more in the medical field, Lewia went back to school to take prerequisites to become a PA. He attended the University of Lynchburg (then Lynchburg College). Lewia's experience with PA leadership started at the program level where he was selected to lead as class president, and later as the student society president. Lewia used his previous board experience to facilitate re-writing the student society's bylaws, as well as create policies that would help ensure success in future cohorts. During his first year, Lewia applied for, and was selected to be, a student House of Delegates (HOD) representative. He also had the opportunity to participate as a reference committee member where he learned more about the HODs critical role in AAPA's governance and establishing AAPA's policy objectives.

This experience led him to run for Student Academy president-elect, as he desired to better integrate the student voice into the work of the organization. This past year, Lewia worked with the Student Academy Board of Directors to create momentum towards making positive change in the student voice. During his tenure on the AAPA Board and as president of the AAPA Student Academy, he plans to increase awareness among students of the many policy changes impacting the growth and evolution of the profession and encourage greater student engagement. Most of all Lewia plans to be a strong voice for PA students, ensuring that discussion on the future of the profession is represented by its own future professionals.

Lewia will continue his studies with the University of Lynchburg to complete his Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) while participating in the fellowship at Arrowhead Medical Center. Upon completion of his fellowship, he plans to practice Emergency Medicine and, eventually, pursue opportunities in education.