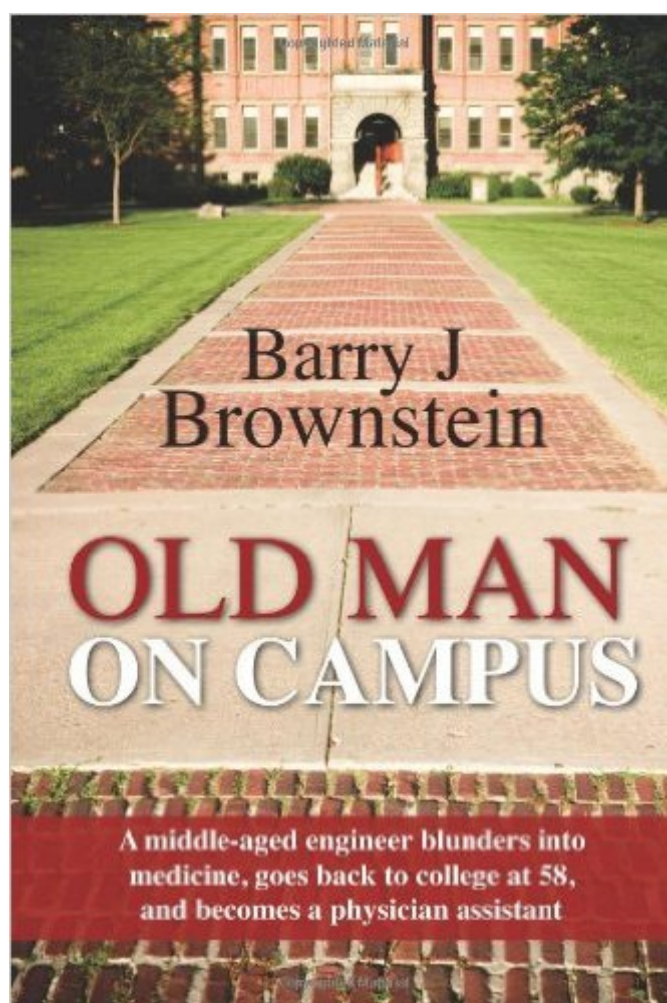


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# Old Man On Campus: A Middle-aged Engineer Blunders Into Medicine, Goes Back To College At 58, And Becomes A Physician Assistant.



## Synopsis

You blunder into the grand opening of a new hospital, sign up to volunteer and, with considerable reluctance, let yourself be assigned to the ER. What starts as a Monday evening lark eventually becomes a life-changing experience. Your new course leads from the ER to becoming a volunteer EMT and, later, a paramedic and a perennial night school student. Eventually, at an age when others might be thinking of retiring to play golf, you quit your job, move away from home, and go back to college as a physician assistant student with strangers less than half your age. This book details the often humorous experience that follows from a perspective that hopefully will help others follow their own paths, whatever they may be. Along the way, new experiences evoke old memories, while new friends, teachers, and patients teach important new lessons. The book comes full circle with a view of what it is like to be a PA, one of U.S. News & World Report's 50 hottest careers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I just ordered this book the other day. Someone had it posted on the Physician Assistant Forum website. Once it arrived I opened it and could not put it down. A few years ago I made my decision to transition out of my career in law enforcement and pursue medicine. I was around 34 at the time. I am 37 now. A lot of people have been giving me grief about this but I know I have made the right decision. This book could not have come at a better time. Once I turned 37 I started to question if I was making the right decision and wondering if I was too old to pursue this. Up to that point I had been a very motivated, high achieving student (first time ever I might add). This book help refocus

my commitment to reaching my goal. I enjoyed the authors sense of humor and our two stories are very similar. A must read for anyone pursuing changing careers in mid-life.

I find myself in a position similar to Barry. His story speaks to me as if I were writing it myself. I am almost 47 yrs. old and have spent the last 3 years slogging my way through all the prerequisites for PA school, as well as raising 2 children ages 9 and 12 at the time of starting back to college. With less than one more year of prereq's to finish before I begin applying to PA schools, I'm starting to see some good solid progress toward PA school and my own summer intensive in Anatomy. Barry's insight and descriptives from his first semester in Anatomy to his last final, clinicals, and finally graduating from PA school tells me that I'm doing the right thing. I know in my heart that walking away from an 18 year career as a Landscape Architect back in 2009, just to start college again in 2011 was insane but oh SO right. What then, seemed like a such a long road to becoming a PA, is much shorter now and is the best decision I could have made... For me, my wife and my family. Thank You Barry for sharing you inspiring story, and giving me an older man's perspective into what my future will be like. I do hope to speak to you someday so that I may share some stories of my own 'Marietta' with you!

Barry Brownstein, MSPAS, PA-C is one of those rare men who inspire by simply being born leaders. He has encouraged and inspired so many to resume their academic studies and follow their dreams. In his late 50s he went to PA school-- essentially a compressed version of medical school-- and now practices cardiology. I spent a week shadowing Mr. Brownstein at the group where he practices cardiology and it was truly inspiring to see how well he interacts and cares for his patients. His book has inspired me and I know others who are now fulfilling their dreams because of him. Bravo to you, Barry, and thank you for sharing your story.

I was sad when the book ended. I didn't want to put it down! First, this book is so well written. I felt like I was right there, experiencing everything. Second, it gave me ample information about what I might expect if I go to PA school. I've been considering it. I would be roughly the same age upon starting. Thank you, Barry, for writing this book. There was a great need for this in the market. One can find many medical student, resident, and nurse stories but, until recently, only one other PA story, and none specifically about the education. I hope you'll write one about your experiences in practice now! :)

Barry Brownstein is a rock star! Plain and simple. His narrative focuses on his unique if unlikely path to becoming a PA. Here is a genuine Mr. Good Guy in middle America with a lovely family who decides to pursue a dream of becoming a physician assistant. And so our story begins. Barry, meet healthcare education! His book is an easy read that will inspire those considering taking a leap back into advanced learning and new careers. I highly recommend grabbing this book and following Mr. Brownstein's story.

Barry Brownstein is married to my brother-in-law's sister, Linda. I loved reading his experience in school and how he kept contact with the family throughout his college training. Barry is a wonderful, quiet, and gentle man. Loved the book.

I love how this book details what a 1st year PA student experiences. I'm actually not interested in being a PA, I'm interested in becoming a nurse, but since I'll be 50 years old in a couple of months, I had incredible amounts of fear. But this book has shown me that it is possible to feel the fear and do it anyway...just take it one step at a time.

Barry Brownstein has written a funny and engaging narrative about returning to school at the age of 58. In his own words, he describes feeling overwhelmed by studies as well as the perplexities of having classmates younger than his own children. I truly enjoyed the chronological aspect of this book spliced with his memories from earlier times as a student. As a PA student myself, I also enjoyed his very real descriptions of the endless hours spent studying, taking tests, and trying to find the right home life balance. I highly recommend this book for anyone wanting a real picture of the first year of PA school as well as for anyone who wants to read a solid first hand account about quitting working and picking up a back pack.

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