

# WFUBMC Nurse Anesthesia Program

## Creating *Excellence* in Nurse Anesthesia

Fall, 2007 newsletter

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## Director's Message

In the fall of 2005, we began undertaking a systematic review of our program components to identify and address areas of needed improvement to keep us effective and competitive in the marketplace. First, enrollment was increased to keep pace with the needs of our health care system and ageing provider population. We then used process management techniques to improve efficiency in our daily operations. Some notable examples include implementing computerized grading of exams, internet-based instructor evaluations, development of a computerized system to score and rank applicants to our program, and a new system of CE credit accounting that has dramatically reduced missed credits.

We have noted low ratings from graduates in recent years in the areas of clinical instruction in obstetric and regional anesthesia. As a result, we have increased our faculty involvement in the OB rotation and have established a new regional-rich rotation at Hugh Chatham Hospital. Case statistics and rotation evaluations have improved in these areas. In academics, we have been constantly working to keep our curriculum updated and to match subject areas with the most-qualified instructors to teach them. The final area to address in our sweeping quality improvement process is the quality of school faculty involvement in clinical teaching at NCBH. There are many outstanding opportunities for clinical teaching at NCBH. However, with me provid-

ing clinical instruction in OB anesthesia every week, we have had limited faculty resources available to rotate through all clinical areas of NCBH. As a result, I implemented a faculty restructuring last summer. A new position was created for a clinical education coordinator who will coordinate and evaluate the clinical component of the program. This faculty member will also guide student clinical assignments at NCBH and most importantly, spend a majority of their time providing clinical instruction in all three surgical areas of the medical center (inpatient, outpatient, and pediatrics). As our program grows and NCBH now has 42 anesthetizing sites daily, this initiative will provide a necessary level of oversight by having our faculty present throughout these sites on a daily basis.

## Faculty Changes in the Program

We received a favorable response to our opening for a Clinical Education Coordinator, and in July we were pleased to welcome Paul Welty (class of 1992) to join our faculty in this position. As a student, Paul was highly-regarded, having served as the student representative to the AANA Education Committee, and receiving the Chal Maree award of excellence upon graduation. As an alumnus, he served on the Dean's Advisory Council and was named one of "The Great 100" Nurses in NC. Having spent numerous years on staff at NCBH and then working at numerous other facilities in the Piedmont region, Paul offered a perfect combination of clinical competence and versatility, as well as diplomacy and cooperation that are needed for the Clinical Coordinator po-

sition. In his first 3 months with us, Paul has been working to evaluate and guide the future of our clinical education program.

At the same time as we were welcoming a new faculty member, we were having to bid farewell to another. After 10 years with the program as Assistant Director, Sherry Owens decided that it was time for her to follow a different path. Sherry has been very active in both NCANA and AANA, and we appreciate all of her contributions to the program as well as to our profession in general. Following Sherry's de-

parture in July, Paul has also stepped up to the challenge of serving as the interim Assistant Director. This has been a perfect opportunity for him to learn about the administrative aspects of the program firsthand. Following an ad in the AANA news bulletin and an announcement on our web site, we have received interest in the AD position from well-qualified individuals

from across the country. A few interviews have already been held, but we have not yet found the perfect candidate to fill this position. With the DNP initiative around the corner, we have placed a high priority on seeking a doctorally-prepared individual to fill this role.



Paul Welty, CRNA, MSN

## Former Program Director Passes Away

We were saddened by the passing of Ms. Helen Vos on October 16, 2007. Ms. Vos was chosen by Lillian Stansfield Smith as the second program director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program. She served as the Director from 1963 to 1977. She was known nationally and internationally in the field. She served as president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists in 1965.

At North Carolina Baptist Hospital, she developed a baccalaureate degree program for graduates through Mars Hill and Guilford colleges. She received the Helen Lamb Award from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists in 1996 in recognition of her significant contributions to the education of nurse anesthetists.

The Helen Vos Library Fund was named on her behalf at the NCBH Nurse Anesthesia Program and she was an Honorary Member of the NCBH School of Anesthesia Alumni Association. She was also member of the Coy C. Carpenter Society, having made a personal commitment to support the Nurse Anesthesia Program through her estate.

## New Classroom Update

As the proposal for a new ED/ICU tower has undergone additional reconsideration, our planned facility move has also been indefinitely been put on hold. This is actually a blessing in disguise, as a move back off-campus would have hindered the easy access we have enjoyed to the OR and simulation lab in the hospital. Instead, we have procured additional space in our building and have proceeded with implementation of a skills lab, which was going to be part of the proposed new facility.

This year, students were able to receive hands-on instruction on a variety of anesthesia machines and airway devices and to continue to access that equipment while they studied (in the past, we had to pack the equipment up after instruction to convert our room back to a classroom). The skills lab

space will also serve us well in the spring semester, when we will convert it to a regional anesthesia lab, with a variety of simulation models for spinal, epidural, and CVP insertion.



**Students learn about anesthesia machines in our skills lab**

## Program Remains Ranked Among the Best

As the oldest existing program in North Carolina, we have worked hard to also establish ourself as the best. The quality of our education has once again been affirmed by outside sources, as we have retained a stand-



ing among the top nurse anesthesia programs. The 2007 U.S. News rating of Best Graduate Schools gave us a score of 3.5 (slightly up from our previous rating of 3.4, on a 0-5 scale). Among 106 current nurse anes-

thesia programs, this places us tied for the 11<sup>th</sup> ranking with other programs including Baylor College of Medicine and the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. We are proud to again be recognized for our quality education and accomplishments, and will continue to work to see a steady rise in our rating.

## Class of 2007 Embarks on New Careers

On August 12, we celebrated the graduation of our 19 newest anesthetists in a ceremony at Home Moravian Church. Outstanding Faculty awards were given to James Thomas, CRNA, Bruce Monks, CRNA, Derrick Reid, MD, and Quinn McCutchen, MD. Courtney Vick

received the Chal Maree Award of excellence, and Page Foreman received the Agatha Hodgins award. Courtney and Kimberly Gordon were also honored with the Dean's recognition award at UNCG graduation in May. Our graduation speaker was Terry Wicks, fresh off of his run as

AANA president. We were saddened that this would be the last year Dr. Roy, as Chair of Anesthesiology, would be introducing our keynote speaker. Lisa Barbee, chair of the alumni association was on hand to pin the graduates and welcome them to the association.

## Program Welcomes the Class of 2009

We warmly welcomed our new students into the program in August. This class represents a diversity of professional and geographic backgrounds. Members of the class, along with their previous ICU experience, are: **Rueben Blancas**, ICU/CCU/CVICU: Intermountain Health Care, Ogden, UT. **Leah Byerly**, various ICUs: CMC NorthEast Medical Center, Concord, NC. **Marc Chapel**, CTICU, NICU: NCBH. **Tiffany Cowan**, MICU: Forsyth Medical Center. **Lisa Cummings**, ICU/CCU: Iredell

Memorial Hospital. **Amy Lavray**, MICU: NCBH. **Lynne Edwards**, TICU/NICU: NCBH. **Yvonne Gochangco**, MICU: NCBH. **Katrina Hales**, SICU/MICU: NCBH. **Brooke Hall**, MSICU/NICU: Moses Cone Hospital. **Kristin Henderson**, CTICU: Duke University Med. Center. **Ryan Holton**, MICU/SICU: Moses Cone Hospital. **Reggie Horwitz**, SICU: Durham VA Medical Center. **John Kramer**, PICU/CICU: University of Chicago. **Carrie Maness**, SICU: Moses Cone Hospital. **Elena Meadows**, ICU: NCBH.

**Stacy Mitchell**, MICU/SICU/CVICU: High Point Regional Hospital. **Rose Mondoa**, MICU/PICU: CMC– Mercy Medical Center. **Elizabeth Orosz**, CVICU: Forsyth Medical Center. **Katie Pehan**, CSICU: Pitt County Memorial Hospital. **Kimberly (Stewart) Williamson**, SICU/Trauma ICU: Washington Hosp/NIH/Johns Hopkins. **Elena Walker**, Neuro ICU: Moses Cone Hospital. **Corey Wall**, ICU/CCU/CSICU: NCBH. **Jennifer Warren**, SICU/PICU: UNC-Chapel Hill.

## Service Learning Supports “Creation of Excellence”

Students continue to perform service learning projects as a means to learn about aspects of health care, business, education, and other skills outside of traditional anesthesia roles. Among the class of 2008, thirteen students participated in a Habitat for Humanity project, while others gave public presentations on

nurse anesthesia, and other projects still in the works. **Josh Caudle** devised an airway management training program for EMS workers. Jennifer Ferguson capitalized on her experience training camp counselors to devise a very unique orientation program for new CRNA students. (See more on p. 6)



Past students in a service learning project.

## Class of 2010 Selection Underway

As this newsletter is published, we are in the midst of conducting interviews for the class of 2010. We have been pleased with the applicant pool again this year. We distributed 267 applications to interested nurses. Of those returned, we are interview-

ing 75 qualified candidates for 24 positions. Among those selected for an interview, candidates have an average GPA of 3.59, 2.5 years of ICU experience, and average GRE score of 1080 (verbal + quantitative). We have streamlined our committee process this year, making all applications

available electronically to the interview committee. We are also continuing with our business-model, behavior-based interview process to better assess for desired *competencies* among interviewees. We are looking forward to the promise of the class we will assemble to start next fall.

## Events at the AANA Meeting

The AANA meeting provided many positive opportunities for program publicity this year. Backed by her fellow students, **Adree Williams** mounted a very respectable campaign for the student representative position. This campaign provided students with valuable insight to the political election process and to issues concerning nurse anesthesia education. Although

she was not elected to the position, we were very proud of the way Adree represented us. The enthusiasm and professionalism with which the students approached the campaign definitively demonstrated our vision of

Excellence in Nurse Anesthesia. **Courtney Vick** also did her part by serving as our representative in the college bowl competition. Dr. Rieker was invited to deliver a lecture on Total Intravenous Anesthesia. This lecture was well-attended, drawing approximately 550 attendees. All in all, the meeting was an excellent opportunity for professional development and networking for our 31 students in attendance.



Adree Williams and her campaign team at the AANA Meeting

## Record Attendance at NCANA Meeting

We had a record turnout at the NCANA meeting in Asheville this year, with 32 students in attendance. Senior class representative **Adree Williams** led **Toni Watt, Scott Imus, Mark Youens, and Josh Caudle** as our competition team in this year's college bowl. The team was called "The Hypnotics", and

they represented us well as their classmates enjoyed the opportunity to root them on during this fun event.

At right: students and faculty at the NCANA meeting



The class of 2007 with graduation close at hand! (Kimberly Gordon not pictured)

*One of our MDA's is always saying, "I want to hire somebody like you, and the way that you were trained." so I take pride in my training. It doesn't go unnoticed.*

*Alumni comment from post-graduation survey*

## Service Learning (cont). New Program Eases Students' Transition

The challenge and stress of junior year anesthesia school is well-acknowledged, and has been described in the literature. To support the NCBH corporate pillar of providing a positive workplace experience, we have implemented an innovative orientation program for new students this year. Organized as a Service Learning project by student Jennifer Ferguson, new students participated in a one-day program of team-building, communication exercises, and practical

workshops on managing time and responsibilities in the program. Participants responded with rave reviews, and plans are underway to expand the program to encompass ongoing treatment of students as they progress through the program. You can read about the entire program and see more photos on our website: [http://www1.wfubmc.edu/nurse\\_anesthesia/Student+Orientation+Programs/](http://www1.wfubmc.edu/nurse_anesthesia/Student+Orientation+Programs/)



## Program Publications

We continue to support professional writing instruction for students primarily through submission to the *International Student Journal of Nurse Anesthesia*. Because Baxter Pharmaceuticals decreased funding for this journal, there were only 2 issues published in the past year. However, we were pleased that SRNAs **Holly McGee, Renea Shore, and Terri Qualls** were among the authors published. For the class of 2007, we had five students published in the Student Journal. In addition, **Stephanie Lindsey** had a manuscript on subcutaneous emphysema accepted for publication in the *AANA Journal*, and Courtney Vick has a manuscript on pain physiology under review by the

*AANA Journal*. Congratulations to all of our published authors! In support of the *International Student Journal*, Michael Rieker recently accepted a nomination to serve on the editorial board of the journal as the editor in charge of pulmonary and airway topics. Last spring, Michael Rieker had a short article published in *MCN: The Journal of Maternal-Child Nursing* regarding parental presence during pediatric inductions. He is also authoring two chapters for the upcoming Nagelhout and Plaus (Zaglaniczny) *Nurse Anesthesia* textbook. A few students were given the opportunity to help organize material for the textbook chapters, and this experience gave

them an inside look at the process of textbook writing. Dr. Rieker is also serving as author for the anesthesia terminology in the 8th edition of Mosby's best-selling *Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing, and Health Professions*.



The AANA Journal booth at the annual meeting featured the June cover photo of NCBH student Renea Shore and CRNA Rich Griner.



The class of 2007 receives their MSN degrees.



Students attending the AANA meeting in Denver, August, 2007



Amy Inman performs an epidural block prior to surgery.

*Your program produces great graduates!*

*- Comment from 2006 employer survey*

## AANA Endorses the DNP Degree

Following extensive work by a task force co-chaired by Sandy Ouellette, the AANA board of directors gave its official endorsement to the DNP degree for nurse anesthetists graduating after the year 2025. This endorsement does not mandate any changes in our educational system, although the Council on Accreditation will likely base future mandates on this endorsement. More importantly, the

DNP will become more sought-after by applicants to CRNA programs in the near-future. Therefore, we are staying on the front-edge of this wave by considering our own plan for implementing a DNP option. Talks have already begun with the Dean of the School of Nursing at UNCG, and the goals of our Assistant Director search have been shifted to place a higher priority on individuals who are qualified

to immediately begin work on this important initiative. The DNP degree has a focus on *clinical* expertise for advanced practice nurses (as opposed to the *research* focus of the PhD). Fortunately, our PhD program at UNCG should be able to provide some of the advanced coursework for a DNP curriculum, which will probably be offered as an optional add-on completion program at first.

# Show your school spirit!



The program logo shirts that we wear to association events to show our school spirit are now available to everyone. The shirts have the medical center logo on the front, with our school logo and "Creating Excellence" tagline on the back. We have short-sleeved shirts available for \$12 each, and a long-sleeved version for \$14. Sizes are small through 2XL. To order, send a check payable to NCBH to Nurse Anesthesia Program Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, Medical Center Boulevard, Winston-Salem, NC 27157. Include \$4 for shipping (for any number ordered).

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