

## Creating *Excellence* in Nurse Anesthesia

Spring, 2012

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## Director's Message

This is an exciting year for us, as the program reaches its 70th anniversary. 70 years ago, Dr. Leroy Wall

recognized a need for anesthesia providers and he started a school.

The program has had many changes in 70 years. We have been situated in various locations, students used to be largely local and live on campus, and clinical sites have come and gone.

Much has occurred to make the program look very different from how it did in 1942. However, as we look back on 70 years of history, some things have never changed. One is the outstanding clinical experience afforded to our students by training at a world-class medical center. Another thing that has not changed is the program's emphasis on professional development. Our faculty and alumni hold an impressive list of professional ac-

complishments. This year alone, two members of the AANA board of directors, one member of the NBCRNA, two members of the NCANA board, and the national student representative all hail from our program. Nancy Bruton-Maree ('74) is currently the first CRNA ever to serve as the Chair of

the North Carolina Board of Nursing.

We have two alumni running for AANA board positions this year, and I hope that you will give them your support.

As we reflect upon all of the accomplishments of our past students, faculty, and alumni, there is an impressive story to be told. In honor of being in our 70th year, I am dedicating this issue of our newsletter to recognize the people who make our program what it is. Students, faculty, and alumni strive for excellence daily, and we want to recognize them for going the extra mile in their professional lives.

**70th Anniversary!**

## Professional Involvement Characterizes Program

Our program can look back in our history to examples of professional leadership set by many graduates and faculty. Claiming roughly one AANA President per decade is a testament to our mission: our program is not very large, but our goal of preparing leaders is clear. (AANA Presidents **Helen Vos**-1965, **Vella Nelson**-1970, **Sandy Ouellette**-1988, **Linda Callahan**-1993, **Nancy Bruton-Maree**-1996, and **Janice Izlar** this year). This spring, faculty and students were involved with a number of professional involvement activities. In his role with the NBCRNA, Dr. Rieker was busy with the rollout of the Continued Professional Certification program. He also made a presentation during the Item Writer's Workshop sponsored by the NBCRNA, discussing means

of computerized testing in an anesthesia program, as we have been doing since 2006. **Lindsey Miller** attended the Assembly of School Faculty meeting and spoke about her views on education as one of the candidates for delegate to the education committee. Students also readily pick up the torch of professional involvement. Here is just a sampling of student activities: **Jessica May**: applied for the AANA PR committee, **Rachel Smith**: running for national student representative position. **Genevieve Wroblewski**: giving lecture at NCANA meeting and student liaison to NCANA. **Emily Wood**: giving lecture at NCANA and applied for student position on Council on Accreditation. **Abbey Markley, Holly Peagram, Jud Elliott, and Renee Hamilton** have all

become published authors. **Erin Crist**: Dean's Advisory Committee, UNCG. **Renee Hamilton**: NCANA Government Relations Committee. **Alisha Bunn**: ASF Student Mentor Program, Teaching Assistant UNCG, Research and Scholarship Committee UNCG, Interview Committee. **Jaclyn Langford**: Mentorship program at Mid-Year Assembly. **Nicole Diacumski**: giving lecture at NCANA meeting. **Sydney Mahaffay**: speaking at NCANA district meeting: *Anesthesia Abroad: Teaching, Learning, Giving*, Interview Committee. **Dr. Donnelly** took **Cole Chalk, Emma Batchelder and Matt Moody** to present *Placental Abruptio* at the Human Patient Simulation Network Meeting (this may have been a first time anesthesia students performed a simulation scenario at that meeting).

## Clinical Instructor Recognized

Our clinical instructors work hard day after day, but that does not stop them from pursuing their passion in professional activities. Stacie "Nas" Nasralla is a leader in our organization and in the community in raising funds for the Tour de Tanglewood event to benefit multiple sclerosis research. Nas was recognized by the medical center as employee of the month in February. To stand out in an organization of 13,000 employees is not easy, but Nas was more than deserving of recognition for all that she does for the benefit of others.



## Global Health Education Program

Our global health education program made additional strides this year as we formalized a student exchange program. Up to this point, the Kybele project in Ghana has been a conduit for the program to learn about global health education and to develop new teaching competencies; however, our students have benefitted only from afar. This year, building on the faculty and student exchange agreement with our partners in Ghana, we sent our first student to participate in the exchange program. Senior SRNA **Sydney Mahaffay** traveled to Ghana with Michael Rieker in January. With interest in nurse anesthesia education and experience with global health work previously, Sydney was an apt choice. Interacting with the students in

Ghana, Sydney learned about the health care and education system in Ghana as it pertains to nurse anesthetists. She provided a variety of teaching to the new students in the training program in Ghana and made



Sydney teaches airway management to new students.

many new friends. Our involvement in the Ghana project is receiving increasing recognition. Dr. Rieker

will be giving a presentation at the World Congress for Nurse Anesthetists this year, describing our development of a student exchange program. Dr. Rieker's involvement with the Ghana



Sydney's contributions are recognized by hospital officials.

project led to his being elected to the board of directors of Kybele. In other activities, **Abbey Markley, Emma**

**Batchelder, Alison Davis, Renee Hamilton, Holly Pegram, and Jessica Price** traveled to the Dominican Republic in the fall. **Erin Crist and Rachel Beers** participated in trips to Rwanda, and **Matt Moody** is planning a trip to Columbia.



Abbey Markley on her mission trip.

## Lifespan Development Gets New Leader

We were very saddened by the departure of Adree Williams, who moved to California this year. Adree was instrumental in the development of the H<sub>3</sub>A program and has served as the director of the popular seminars. This year, Kathryn Phares



Kathryn Phares, CRNA, MSN

will step up to the plate and take over the coordination and further development of the H<sub>3</sub>A program. A clinical instructor in our pediatric surgery department, Kathryn has the perfect blend of intelligence, competence, and a

nurturing demeanor which will help us to continue to prepare interested nurses to become successful anesthesia students. Future plans include increasing the number of annual offerings of the "Gateway" course for ICU nurses and possibly exploring some other venues to offer the course.

## A letter from Region 2 Director, Sharon Pearce

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I am writing to ask for your vote and support once again, as I am running for AANA Vice President. Our school has a long history of producing leaders for our association, and I hope to continue that record.

We are in uncertain times in healthcare right now. The system is broken and while there are thoughts and ideas on how to fix it, we must be present to maintain our visibility. We are all concerned about the effect healthcare reform will have on our profession and most definitely the effect on our daily practice. For this reason, now, more than ever, intense knowledge about the policy-making process and extensive experience in this realm is absolutely critical to make sure we are at the table in these changing times in healthcare. With my years and experience in policy and public relations, advocating on behalf of our profession, I have learned the skills to get us not only at the table but pretty close to the head of it!

Over the last two years I have been involved in the changing landscape of our professional organization. A sound understanding of how to navigate these waters will be needed. I have this skill set which I have honed over a decade advocating for CRNAs in North Carolina. It is necessary that the AANA become more business minded, even it means viewing the structure with a critical and open mind. We all know change is inevitable and is certainly never easy but we will not merely survive but we will prosper!

Please give me the opportunity to serve you again. Voting begins May 8<sup>th</sup>. Voting percentages have hovered around 20 percent, which is dismal. Please cast your vote!

Sincerely,

*Sharon Pearce*

### *Sharon Pearce, CRNA, MSN for Vice President*

#### Dedicated Leader



**EXPERIENCED CLINICIAN**  
Last seven years in office-based anesthesia  
Thirteen years hospital-based anesthesia

**AANA**  
AANA Region 2 Director, 2010-2012  
PR Award Winner 1998, 2006  
Member PR Committee 1999-2001, 2003-2004  
Member GRC Committee, 2008-2009, Chair 2009-2010

**NCANA**  
President, NCANA, 2001-2002  
Producer, "The Best Kept Secret in Healthcare," 1998  
Served/Chaired every committee in NCANA 1992-2012

**POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS IN NC:**  
Member Diabetes Advisory Council to the Governor, 2005,  
term to expire in 2013  
Member of Health Insurance Innovations Commission,  
term expired December 31, 2006

**OTHER POLITICAL ACTIVITIES:**  
Registered Lobbyist, 2001-2002, 2005-2006

### *Strength-Synergy-Stability-Support-Sharing*

Supported by nominations from TX, KY, MN, NJ, GA, TN, DE, NC, WV, VA, IL

# A letter from Mark Haffey to Fellow Alumni

Dear Alumni,

“Make a Difference” Those were the words of my program director Sandra Ouellette to the Class of 2001. As alumni, I am sure that we have all been challenged to be patient advocates, to be consummate professionals, to be active members of the AANA, and to be the best anesthesia providers. The leadership of our program has always set the standard high and has pushed us to always be the best. The alumni of the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center also have a strong history of leadership in the AANA and have made a difference at the national, state, and local hospital level. You may ask why I reiterate what has been a tradition here at the WFUBMC Nurse Anesthesia Program.

My name is Mark Haffey ('01) and this year I will be running for AANA Region 2 Director. This position is currently being held by Sharon Pearce ('92) who has done an excellent job of representing both our association and our Nurse Anesthesia program, and now will be running for Vice President of the AANA. It is my expectation to continue this strong leadership of Region 2, and in turn I am asking that you will support me in this endeavor. With healthcare reform, numerous state regulatory issues, looming changes in recertification, and numerous other challenges facing our association, we need good leadership. The importance of involvement and leadership has always been encouraged in our program, and having served in various leadership roles at both the state and national level, I feel that now is the time to step up once again. I am glad that I took Mrs. Ouellette's advice from the beginning and have tried to make a difference. Because I was encouraged and mentored as a student, I continue to be a strong supporter of students as I serve as the AANA Student Mentorship Chair, and as Executive Director of the Tennessee Student Nurse Anesthetist Association (TASNA). I have served as the Tennessee State President, District Director, and on multiple committees within my state. I have also served on the AANA Public Relations Committee for 4 years. As I pursue this position, I consider it an honor to be nominated by my home state of Tennessee as well as receiving the nomination from North Carolina. I will represent you with honor, integrity, and with great ambition as I run for the position of Region 2 Director.

I would please ask that you VOTE for me and ENCOURAGE your colleagues to VOTE for me as I run for AANA Region 2 Director. I am truly proud to be a part of a nurse anesthesia program with such great tradition, leadership, and high standards.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark J. Haffey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark J. Haffey CRNA, MSN, APN

Candidate for AANA Region 2 Director  
Email: [gas4u@bellsouth.net](mailto:gas4u@bellsouth.net)

## Faculty Advance Their Education

We were very excited to see clinical instructor **Cliff Gonzales** ('06 inpatient clinical instructor) successfully defend his PhD dissertation in March. **Courtney Brown**, who graduated a year after Cliff, is hot on his heels in completing her PhD research as well. **Nancy Curll** ('92, outpatient clinical instructor) completed a Post-Master's Certificate in Nursing Education, and helped to add innovative methodology to the Health Assessment course. Nancy

was also appointed the CRNA representative to The Commission on Advanced Practice Nursing for the North Carolina Nurses Association. As we look forward to supporting the medical center strategic plan of providing "innovative curricula", the program will host Jean Giddens, PhD this summer to conduct a faculty workshop on concept-based teaching. Dr. Giddens is recognized as an expert in concept-rich teaching. We constantly tell

students that there is simply too much information in an anesthesia curriculum to try to memorize all the relevant facts. Instead, we recommend that they remain focused on the concept and theory and extrapolate the fine details from there. This year's faculty workshop will help ensure that our teaching faculty are also updated on the best methods of *teaching* with an emphasis on conceptual learning.

## Associate Director is a Lifesaver

**Joanne Donnelly**, our associate director for clinical education, is a fitness enthusiast. With 38 marathons under her belt, Joanne was participating in the Myrtle Beach marathon in February. Near mile 18, a man collapsed on the road in front of her. Joanne assessed the man and found him to be pulseless. Immediately implementing CPR,

Joanne and a passing-by physician maintained vital brain perfusion of the man until the ambulance arrived. The event was covered in the Myrtle Beach newspaper which reported that the man traveled to South Carolina alone from Tennessee to run the marathon. After a few days, he was recovered and ready to return home. The victim did not remember much about

his trip, but thanks to Joanne's quick action, the story ended as an ordeal, not as the story of a man who left home to run a marathon and never returned. Joanne did finish the marathon. Although her finish time was probably her worst ever, she gave a gift to a family for which they will be forever grateful.

## Notable Quotes

*"I have been engaged in teaching SRNAs for the past twenty years in a number of practice settings and I would place Lynne and Tiffany in the upper echelon of students I have had the pleasure to work with."* Written by an anesthesiologist who worked with two students on an international mission.

## Improving Customer Service

In her role as the program's administrative coordinator, **Robin Geisel** is responsible for keeping the daily operations running smoothly. Recognizing that the application process can be tedious for candidates, last year Robin implemented an online application service. The new process greatly modernized our application and evaluation process. Applicants can com-

plete their application, upload documents, and provide references which the system automatically processes. When the applicant provides the names and email addresses of their references, a link is automatically sent to those individuals to complete the evaluation. Once the evaluation is submitted, it appears in the applicant's file on our system. The new

process makes it very easy for us to track and compare applicant data and for individuals to update their own application. The latest upgrade is a new online payment page which will accept credit card payments for application fees, transcripts, student fees and conference tuition. This will add convenience for alumni ordering transcripts as well as for students paying for tuition.

## Outstanding Faculty Resources at WFBMC

We greatly appreciate the incredible faculty resources which we have in the Wake Forest School of Medicine. Our Chair of Anesthesiology, Dr. Tobin happened to be on call as an MH hotline consultant on a day that we were performing a malignant hyperthermia ACRM scenario. As the team called for help, they were instructed to telephone the *real MH* hotline for consultation. In doing so, their call got routed right back to Dr. Tobin, who provided them with a perfectly

true experience in how a call to 1-800-mh-hyper goes. Dr. Michael Olympio, Chair of the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation's Committee on Technology, recently invited SRNAs to participate in an intensive 2-day workshop on anesthesia machine assessment and troubleshooting. Students and residents worked through various aspects of machine anatomy and malfunctioning, using partially disassembled machines. Other professional involve-

ment by our CRNA faculty includes editorial board of the International Student Journal of Nurse Anesthesia (M. Rieker), IFNA practice committee (Sandy Ouellette), NCANA Wellness Committee; Inaugural Wellness Event at the NCANA Annual Meeting, and Medical Center Safety Council (Joanne Donnelly), Self Evaluation Examination Committee (Paul Welty), METI Education and Training Services Curricular Committee and National Certification Exam committee (Courtney Brown).

## Alumni Association Activities

The Alumni Association hosted a dinner event in Winston-Salem in November to provide a fellowship opportunity for local alumni. Forty-five people attended, with alumni ranging from the class of 1963 to some who had just graduated in August.



Students ham it up for a photo at the AANA annual banquet.



Students and faculty support our college bowl team at the NCANA meeting



Alumni Cathy Briggs ('71 ) and Anne McKay ('63) at a local dinner event sponsored by the Alumni Association.



Our small class size allows for rich, interactive classroom activities.

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Expect to see the new Wake Forest "W" logo replacing our traditional alumni association logo in many program publications.