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## Director's Message

Change. It is a word that permeates so many aspects of life these days. Health-care laws and regulations are in the midst of enormous change, certification and recertification requirements are changing, and these are only a few of the issues that are on our minds. I addressed a group of CRNA instructors during the AANA meeting last August. They were commiserating about “students today” who are overly-reliant upon calculators and electronic gadgets to support their decision-making. They boasted about how “we had to know how to get by without all that stuff.” I reminded them that we were taught to get by without a calculator because it was very likely that you could find yourself without one. Today, calculators are on cell phones, ipods, computers in operating rooms, and it is pretty unlikely that a practitioner could not come across one very handily at any given moment, if needed. I told the group that our greatest challenge as educators

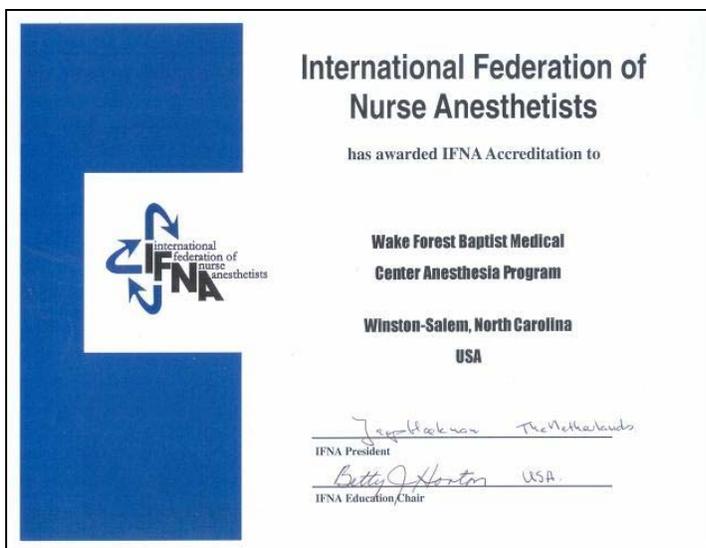
was not to force students into the past, but for we educators to continuously evolve and move into the future. Inasmuch as education may seem to be a repetitive, cyclical activity, it is instead in a constant state of change, as educators (particularly those of us who have been at this for a couple decades) are in the race of our lives to keep up with the rapid advancements of technology. In our quest to deliver the absolute best anesthesia program possible, we must not only tolerate, but embrace change. As I consider the increasing certification requirements, implementation of the DNP mandate, rapid explosion of technology, and incredible financial hurdles in healthcare, my charge is clear, although the entire path is not always visible. Our program will be headed for some huge changes in the coming years. New curricula, new teaching methods, and new relationships will be required to be the best a program can be. And to continue to change for the better is exactly what we will do.

## Program Receives International Accreditation

There is a long history of global health involvement in our program, dating back to the 1960's, when program director Helen Vos traveled to Pakistan to train nurse anesthetists. In 2006, we began a program of international study, facilitating students' regular participation in medical mission work. Participation in that experience has steadily grown each year. In 2009, in the midst of an ongoing project Dr. Rieker is involved with in Ghana, he helped to organize a new school there to train nurse anesthetists. That project has evolved into a student exchange which provides yearly opportunities for our students to go and learn as well as teach anesthesia in Ghana. Members of the current senior class have traveled to gain experience in Kenya, Rwanda, India, Ghana, and the Dominican Republic.

Because our program has become involved in global health in a number of ways and because many applicants come here specifically because they are interested in being involved with these opportunities, it seemed fitting that we seek accreditation by the IFNA. In the most straightforward explanation of this recognition, it validates that

our program demonstrates "substantial compliance with the 'Content of Program Curriculum' in the Educational Standards" of IFNA. Beyond this basic defini-



tion, however, achieving accreditation is a means to demonstrate our commitment and support of global education and educational standards. Our vision of *Creating Excellence in Nurse Anesthesia* includes that we will educate graduates to appreciate their role of advocate in the wider context of healthcare, instead of just preparing them to perform a job. Therefore, undertaking the effort to achieve IFNA accreditation was my way of demonstrating a tangible commitment to those values.

We were honored beyond words at the end of last year to receive confirmation that our program

was granted full accreditation by the IFNA. Only 9 other programs have participated in the recognition process, and only one of them has met the Level III

compliance with IFNA's quality standards (that is the program in Paris, France). We are therefore the first program in our country to receive this highest level of accredita-

tion, and we are only the second in the world. This comes in a year that finds us ranked #7 among all U.S. nurse anesthesia programs (in US News and World Report). This year the President and Vice President of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists are alumni of our program, and there is an alumnus as secretary/treasurer of the Council on Accreditation, while our program director is a member of the NBCRNA, so Wake Forest is well-represented among the leadership bodies of nurse anesthesia and is well-established as a leading program in our profession.

## Alumni Shine Like the Sun

We received some very exciting news this spring, as a program alumna was again elected to assume the presidency of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Sharon Pearce will become the president-elect this August, and she will serve as president in the 2014-2015 year. Other program alumni who have served in this role are **Vella Nelson**, **Sandra Ouellette**, **Nancy Bruton-Maree**, **Linda Callahan**, and **Janice Izlar** (who is the sitting president). We are very proud of Sharon, who is a stalwart advocate of our profes-

sion. This year, she was not only



running a campaign, but also holding down her full-time job and also spending many

hours in Raleigh as the state legislature debates a number of bills that could impact access to quality anesthesia services. Our long line of past-presidents is also embellished by past program di-

rector, Helen Vos, and current clinical affiliate instructor, Richard Ouellette. All of these people provide an outstanding example for our students of our “*Creating Excellence*” vision. We strive to educate our students to appreciate their role as advocates and change agents for our profession, not just to be shift-workers. In other examples of alumni accomplishment, associate director **Cliff Gonzales** was the recipient of the George and Beatrice Goldman Fisher Gerontology Dissertation Prize from UNCG in recognition of his dissertation research.

## Interactive Learning Benefits Faculty & Students

The Faculty Forum was begun three years ago to increase communication, understanding, and dialogue between the clinical faculty and the program administration. It has grown into a means for ongoing faculty development. Two faculty members presented at the Faculty Forum during the past year. **Kristin**

**Henderson**, CRNA, MSN presented *Generational Variances of Nurse Anesthesia Students* and **Elena Meadows**, CRNA, MSN presented *Simulation in Nurse Anesthesia Education*. Clinical presentations by faculty offer opportunities to explore their areas of interest as well as to provide enrichment and continuing edu-

cation credit for the other faculty instructors. *Care Plan Court*, an opportunity for students to “defend” their care plans in an interactive forum was led by Chief CRNA Linda **Sangiuliano**, as well as instructors **John Lane** and **Marty Robertson**.

## Alumni Updates

Please send your job, family, and life updates to [napinfo@wakehealth.edu](mailto:napinfo@wakehealth.edu). We would like to share your news in our alumni newsletter.

## Farewell to an era. Dean Pearcey Retires By Sandra Ouellette

In 1986, representatives of the Nurse Anesthesia Program, WFUBMC began discussion with Dean Patricia Chamings about a collaborative partnership with the program and School of



Dr. Pearcey and Hospital representatives upon establishment of the NCBH scholarship.

Nursing, UNCG. After long discussions regarding graduate level educational content and administrative and financial contracts the dream became a reality. In August 1988, 8 students entered the Master's Degree Program at WFUBMC and the School of Nursing, UNCG. In August 1990, the new Raleigh Nurse Anesthesia Program led by Nancy Bruton Maree became part of the anesthesia concentration at UNCG. Today there are approximately 124 full time students in both programs enrolled. This number represents approximately 48% of all graduate students enrolled in the School of Nursing at UNCG.

Dr. Lynne Pearcey joined UNCG in 1989 as professor and associate dean, coming from the University of South Alabama Mobile. She was named interim dean in 1990 and received permanent appointment as dean in 1991. Dean Pearcey will retire June 30, 2013 after serving 22 years as dean of UNCG's School of Nursing.

As dean, Dr. Pearcey oversaw continued growth of the school, both in numbers and in degrees offered. The PhD in Nursing began in 2005 with a total of 12 students. Dr. Cliff Gonzales graduated from that program and Courtney Brown will complete it this year. The RN to BSN program was established in 1991, followed by the MSN education concentration in 1992. The School of Nursing and Bryan School of Business & Economics collaborated to establish the combined MBA/MSN degree. Online degree programs were started at UNCG and two MSN concentrations were added in nursing education and nursing administration.

The school's programs have achieved recognition. US News and World Report ranked our nurse anesthesia program 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation in 1996 and the pro-

gram is regularly ranked among the nation's top 10 out of 112 programs. The school's gerontology nurse practitioner program has also been ranked. In 2005-2008, the school was named a Center of Excellence of Nursing Education for ongoing faculty Development by the National League of Nursing, holding the designation for another term 2008-2011.

In her 22 years as dean, many students completed both the undergraduate and graduate programs. The number of graduates grew from 138 in 1991 to 251 this year. Enrollment jumped 45% or from 698 to 1,010. In early 1991 there were 30 faculty and 5 staff on hand and today there are 65 faculty and 20 staff. Since she became the Dean (1990-91-to 2012-13) the total nursing graduates is 4,985. Of this number 3,165 are BSN graduates, 1,790 are MSN graduates, and 30 are PhD graduates. Dr. Pearcey never lost touch with the school's past and she collaborated with Dr. Eloise Lewis, the school's founding dean, until Lewis's death in 1999.

On April 11, 2013, over 200 individuals attended a retirement celebration in honor of Dean Lynne Pearcey. During the program Provost David Perrin said "Lynne has provided exemplary leadership to

## Farewell to an era. (Continued) By Sandra Ouellette

our School of Nursing for over two decades. The school now offers highly selective educational programs at the undergraduate, masters and PhD levels, and the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree has recently been approved for establishment by the UNC Board of Governors. Dean Pearcey's legacy is one of excellence as evidenced by the school's recognition as a NLN Center of Excellence in Nursing Education for three consecutive terms." A strong leader, she became known as the "Nike Dean" in Dean's Council. Pearcey stated "occasionally I spoke up



and said 'Just Do It' and let's make a decision." She incorporated two guiding principles in her work philosophy. One was "Lead, follow or get out of the way." The second was "The best way to predict the future is to create it." AANA Past Presidents Richard and Sandy Ouellette were honored to be asked to offer the clos-

ing toast at the reception on April 11, 2013. With the watch words of AANA founder Agatha Hodgins "Only Count the Shining Hours" and her expected retirement to Pensacola Beach, Florida, the following toast was offered: "Stop working! Relax! It's time to retire, to breathe taking sunsets and beaches to inspire. Tough to endure but sweet to recall, your service, tenacity, and courage above all. So let others tell of storms and showers; keep count of only shining hours."

## Faculty Transitions

In February, we were happy to welcome **Clifford Gonzales**, CRNA, Ph.D. to the program faculty as the Associate Director for Clinical Education. Dr. Gonzales obtained his Bachelor's degree at Saint Louis University in the Philippines, after which he worked in cardiothoracic ICU, coronary care, and emergency nursing. He attended our anesthesia program, where he was awarded the Chal Maree award for outstanding commitment in



a graduate. With experience as an educator in the Philippines, Dr. Gonzales has served as a clinical instructor and adjunct lecturer for our program since 2006. He also mentored students in scholarly writing and co-authored peer reviewed journals in the field of education and served as a contributing author to the book, *Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthesiology*. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2012. He was a recipient of the AANA Foundation fellowship and the George

and Beatrice Goldman Fisher awards to support his dissertation research. Congratulations are also in order for **Betty Petree**, CRNA, who has been promoted to the position of Executive Director of Surgical Services. Betty will be very busy in the coming months working on development of some of our subsidiary hospital and surgical centers. **James Thomas**, CRNA, MSN has stepped up as the interim director of surgical services to take over Betty's former functions over anesthesia and PACU.

## A Busy Year for the Alumni Association

After holding a number of events in celebration of the program's 70th anniversary, the alumni association wrapped up their year with a successful biennial alumni meeting in March. Lisa Rieker completed her presi-



Michael Rieker and Sandra Patseavouras, the first president of our alumni association in 1969.

dency term with a well-attended event at the Forsyth Country Club. Nearly 100 alumni and guests attended the event. Speakers included Michael Rieker, Sandy Ouellette, Sharon Pearce, Gray McCall, and anesthesiologists Michael Sroka and

Raymond Roy. Students **Darin Blanton, Heather Goodwyn, Kellar Lambert, and Ashlee Zackeru** volunteered to introduce our speakers. As per the tradition, door prizes were distributed, and a number of guests went home with beautiful centerpieces from the tables. We were also pleased to be able to distribute financial aid to students from the Sandra Ouellette

and Ruth Holleman Scholarships during the meeting, and we thank all of the alumni who donate to our scholarship funds. Many thanks to the alumni association board which has done so much in the past two years: **Lisa Rieker, Gary Ray, Elena Meadows, Sara Stanley, Katrina Hales, and Heather Penland.**

Katrina and Heather, as the nominations committee, implemented a new process for voting this year. They distributed ballots and collected votes using an electronic system instead of mailed paper

ballots. Congratulations are in order for the newly-elected alumni board for 2013-2015. We will look forward to some great events in the coming two years with the new leadership of our association.



Sandra Ouellette poses with Class of 2014 student Heather Goodwyn, the recipient of the Sandra Ouellette scholarship.

### 2013-2015 Alumni Board

Gary Ray	Chair
Elena Meadows	Chair-Elect
Jennifer Osborne	Secretary
Denise Clark	Trustee
Kristin Henderson	Trustee
Cathy Briggs	Nominating
Kelly Holt	Nominating

## Notable Quotes

*Thank you for all you give to your students; past, present and future. Every day I am grateful for the opportunity to go to work. Every day, I am thankful for the hard-working, open-minded, down-to-earth faculty that made my time in graduate school what it was. Every day I am with my co-workers in the break room, I am so thankful to have attended the program you each take such great care to make the best. 2012 Graduate*

## Dinner Program Highlights Wellness

The Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs has proposed to require wellness and chemical dependency education in doctoral programs for nurse anesthesia. Our program has taught this content for years, with the flagship of our wellness curriculum being a wellness dinner event for all students. Held for many years, the dinner program



Heather Hamza lectures on the neurobiology of addiction. Students can hear from experts in the field as well as to hear firsthand testimonials from anesthetists in recovery. We were happy to host Heather Hamza ( Peer Assistance Advisor

for the AANA) to be our keynote speaker on the neurobiology of addiction. Heather also addressed issues surrounding drug-testing, interventions, and professional re-entry for addicted professionals.



Students and family members attend the wellness dinner program.

## Students Get Involved in Health Policy

Fourteen students attended the AANA Mid-Year Assembly in Washington D.C. to learn about and participate in the health policy process. They had the opportunity to be mentored by program alumni Bobby Jones

(NCANA District 2 Director), **Sharon Pearce, Janice Izlar, and Kimberly Gordon.** Senior student **Jaclyn Shipley** attended specifically in her role as student representative on the NCANA board of directors.



## Program Publications

Congratulations are in order for our newest published authors, **Megan Ezelle, Jaclyn Shipley, Holly Davis, Darin Blanton, Matt Register, Emily Hodges, and Jessica Hamilton.** These seven students had articles published in the spring

edition of the International Student Journal of Nurse Anesthesia. Special thanks to clinical instructors **Barb Brown, Joe Joyce, Melyssa Moran, and Shanna Stoter** for helping us to mentor these articles. In other publication credits, faculty members, **Michael Rieker and**

**Sandra Ouellette,** and alumna **Adree Williams** authored chapters in the recently-published edition of the Nagelhout and Plaus textbook, *Nurse Anesthesia*.



Members of the 2011-2013 alumni board welcome attendees at the alumni meeting.



Senior student Jessica Hamilton during her global health experience in Rwanda



Senior student Mary Ndumia during her global health experience in Kenya



The Late Mr. John Garde, Lynne Pearcey, and Michael Rieker following a seminar for SRNAs. Dr. Pearcey has always been a great supporter of nurse anesthesia and a friend to many leaders in our profession.



Students and fellow alumna Sharon Pearce pose in the office of U.S. Senator

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