

WFUBMC Nurse Anesthesia Program

Creating *Excellence* in Nurse Anesthesia

Fall, 2010 newsletter
Nurse Anesthesia Program

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Director's Message

2010 has turned out to be a big year of positive changes and successes for the nurse anesthesia program. A merging medical center has opened many new educational opportunities for us. In this issue, you will read about how those resources have increased our ability to provide innovative educational experiences. We welcomed Joanne Donnelly to our faculty this year. As our Clinical Education Coordinator, Joanne has brought new perspectives and is providing a regular link with our clinical program. In terms of successes, we saw two students published in the International Student Journal of Nurse Anesthesia. Sandy Ouellette received the Hermi Lohnert Award as she finished up her final term as President of the International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists. We were also proud to see two alumni assume positions on the AANA board of directors and two

on NCANA: Nancy Curll, Secretary and Jennifer Ferguson, District 2 Director. Our students are also following in the footsteps of their mentors, as Laura Niday was part of the winning college bowl team at the AANA meeting and Amy Young was elected as student representative to the Education Committee. As leaders in our field, our program faculty have also authored five book chapters this year (with authorship by me, Courtney Brown, Sandy Ouellette, Richard Ouellette, and Cliff Gonzales). I continue to teach the AANA OB workshop, and Joanne taught the AANA difficult airway workshop. As I finish up my term as Secretary-Treasurer of the NBCRNA, I am continuing involvement on the certification examination committee and teaching in the item-writer's workshop. Yes, 2010 has been an awesome year for the program, and it's not even over yet. We are looking forward to what 2011 will hold for us.

Applied Learning Puts Education in Students' Hands

The Center for Applied Learning (CAL) has received designation as an "Endorsed Simulation Educational Program" by the American Society of Anesthesiologists. The CAL is one of only 22 programs endorsed by the ASA from across the many simulation centers within teaching hospitals and academic medical centers throughout the United States and is now one of only three "endorsed programs" in the southeastern United States. Congratulations to Dr. James Johnson and other leaders of the CAL for this accomplishment. The numerous labs which comprise the CAL encompass over 28,000 square feet of teaching space and provide an outstanding educational benefit to our students. We were honored to give a presentation at a session called "Innovations in Education" at the 2010 Assembly of School Faculty meeting. As an example of the implementation of *applied learning*, we discussed our process of incremental learning. It is well-recognized that better learning takes place when a variety of techniques are used, including learner participa-

tion. For clinical skills development, after a fundamental amount of traditional classroom teaching of the theory, our students follow a progression of experiential learning. We use task trainers in our skills lab to help them develop motor memory through repetition of actions. To improve upon the fidelity and add the feel of real tissue and anatomic variation, we move on to the fresh cadaver lab. This lab, in the Anatomical Training Resource Center at WFUBMC, provides students with real, non-embalmed specimens which provide supple tissue that creates an excellent learning experience. To incorporate the actual human interaction, we use the Standard Patient Assessment (SPA) Lab. Students find that our version of a "SPA day" is not very relaxing, as professional patient actors challenge their ability to conduct a thorough preoperative evaluation. All the while, instructors observe and listen to the interactions from behind a two-way mirror. To incorporate the interaction of patient physiology, students are then guided through experiences in the mock OR, where the breathing mannequin can simulate

physiologic responses to disease and medications with high fidelity. The component of "real life" that is easily lost in simulation training is the emotional buy-in and real interactions with members of the multi-disciplinary team. For this, we incorporate anesthesia crisis resource management. One of a very small number of centers using this technique nationally, we bring together actual surgeons, OR nurses, and anesthesia providers to work through truly dynamic scenarios. The performance of each provider doing their respective job influences the experience of the others. Most importantly, trainees are not able to come out of character as they interact with other professionals, just as they will need to do in



SRNA Tabatha Berry mixes dantrolene during a simulated MH episode.

Program makes a splash at AANA meeting

This past August, we had quite an exciting time at the AANA annual meeting. Student Amy Young has been known to us as a natural at communication and student advocacy through the blog she has kept to chronicle her student experience (srnalife.blogspot.com). Last summer, she turned that energy into a run for the student representative position on the AANA Education Committee. Employing her naturally likeable nature and humorous personality, Amy campaigned on the platform of the importance of “happy hour” as a metaphor for students supporting each other and finding balance between the rigors of anesthesia education and the need to rejuvenate and unwind from time to time.



Amy Young poses with outgoing student representative Chris Leger

Amy’s campaign slogan, sported on the students’ shirts, was characteristically Amy: “Amy Young: Integrity, Commitment, Cupcakes”. Amy is the third stu-

dent we have had fill the student representative position.

This year it was a rising senior who participated in the college bowl competition. Laura Niday is best known to her classmates for her quick wit. In fact, on exam days, Laura often completes her exams before all of her classmates have even started theirs. She was therefore an apt candidate to compete in the college bowl. The competition was exciting as Laura’s team beat not only the other student teams, but also the CRNA challenge team. In the past 6 years, when we have had students compete, they have been on the winning team three times, and the runner-up team once.



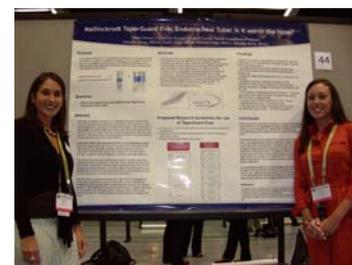
This year’s AANA meeting was also a time for students to become familiar with the accomplishment of CRNAs from our program. Students had the opportunity to meet Linda Callahan, one of the

five alumni or faculty members who have served as AANA president. We were also proud to witness the seating of two alumni on this year’s AANA board of directors. Janice Izlar took



Michael Rieker poses with Janice Izlar and Sharon Pearce.

her post as Vice President, and Sharon Pearce as Region 2 Director. We also had three student posters entered in the scientific poster



Martha Ortiz and Kelly Holt with their group’s capstone project poster.

session. In all, it was an exciting time for faculty and students. We stress professional development as a hallmark of our program, and this year’s AANA meeting was certainly an excellent example of student and faculty professional accomplishment.

Faculty Recognitions

Michael Rieker and Joe Joyce were honored among the “Great 100 nurses” of North Carolina. This distinction recognizes “outstanding contributions to nursing” from among the 83,000 practicing RNs in our state. Joe Joyce, a clinical anesthetist and instructor at Wesley Long Hospital, is a prolific author of

scientific literature. He has published two books in the past two years, with a new project in the works. Four faculty members authored chapters in the pharmacology textbook which Joe recently published with co-editor Richard Ouellette. Joe is an invaluable asset to numerous students as they write manuscripts for the

International Student Journal of Nurse Anesthesia. Joanne Donnelly was the recipient of an AANA Foundation Doctoral Fellowship, to support her research in current anesthesia handoff practices and “nonroutine events” following handoff, in an effort to standardize procedures and improve patient safety.

Promoting Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia

In October, Courtney Brown and student LaShaunda McClarty participated in a Diversity Information Session Luncheon in Durham. This event, which featured

guest speaker Terry Wicks, was aimed at increasing cultural diversity in the pipeline of students who are interested in nurse anesthesia. We were glad to be rep-

resented at this event, and we are also working with some alumni interest in undertaking similar initiatives at our program level.

Class of 2010 Wrap-Up

The class of 2010 culminated in a beautiful ceremony at Wait Chapel on August 16. Class representative Sara Miller, who was honored with the UNCG Dean’s Recognition Award, also received the Chal Maree Award. Sara has been an active program supporter in her role as class representative, and she also completed a term on the NCANA board of directors this past year. Sara Messenger was awarded the Agatha Hodgins Award. Faculty awards were given to Dr. Tim Smith, Mike May, Dr.

E.J. Oddono, and Renea Shore. Graduates of the class of 2010 were very proactive about completing their certification exam, with 85% of them passing their exam within one month following graduation. At the time of this publication, 19 (95%) of our graduates have taken their exam and have passed on their first attempt. Their feedback was encouraging, as they realized the quality of preparation they received. Some of their comments included: “I wanted to extend my gratitude to you for preparing me so well for this

exam. I was well prepared, but the exam was still difficult. There is no better feeling than walking out of the test having taken the minimum questions and knowing that you did all you could to prepare for this day.” Another graduate wrote, “Your exams are very difficult and sometimes next to impossible! However, boards make your exams look easy. There just really aren’t words to describe the type of exam that was! Anyway, thanks for all you have done for me; it’s a great program!” Congratulations, Class of 2010!

Forum Helps Connect With Clinical Faculty

This past year, Courtney Brown implemented monthly faculty forums to afford clinical faculty the opportunity to meet with program administrators in small groups to discuss the daily challenges facing our instructors. As a result of insights derived from these forums, we are piloting a new approach to clinical faculty development. Replacing the annual gathering of clinical or di-

didactic faculty, we have added a new component to our weekly clinical conference to include regular faculty updates. We look forward to merging the open discussion of the previous faculty forums with the planned development of the traditional faculty retreat into an event that is more frequent and easily accessible to our instructors. This development forum will feature discussions led by various clinical

instructors. Some of the topics which will be covered will include dual coding theory in clinical instruction, response processes in clinical evaluation, the role of information technology to augment clinical teaching, and managing outcomes in clinical instruction. Joanne Donnelly, in her role as Clinical Education Coordinator will coordinate the speakers and topics for the new faculty forum.

Global Health Education

As the Office of Global Health takes shape, momentum is growing for expanding the opportunities for students and for interdepartmental collaboration in international health education. We have had 14 students participate in international missions since 2006, and we are expecting our greatest number yet in 2010-2011. October 23 marked the first global health symposium at the medical center. This event was open to individuals interested in global health and featured keynote speaker Chris Morrison, Founder and Director of "Care Highway". Michael

Rieker participated in a faculty panel, discussing the involvement of the nurse anesthesia program in global health.

This year our project in Ghana saw the first cohort



Ridge Hospital School of Anesthesia of students complete their didactic phase. Dr. Medge Owen traveled to Ghana to serve as an examiner for the students. Our greatest initiative in the coming year is

to work with the program in Ghana to formalize our plans for a student exchange program. We hope to accomplish some degree of student or faculty exchange in 2011. Supporters of the Kybele project in Ghana gathered on October 13 for a dinner to welcome three midwives who traveled from Ghana to visit and observe in medical centers in North Carolina.



Michael Rieker, Shelma Williams, and three midwives from Ghana



Sara Miller, recipient of the Dean's recognition award at UNCG graduation, pictured with Michael Rieker and Courtney Brown.



Laura Niday's cheering section at the AANA college bowl.



Two generations of program graduates. Bill Messenger and daughter Sara.

[Check us out on Facebook!](#)

Updates: Please send your job, family, and life updates to napinfo@wfubmc.edu. We would like to share your news in the spring edition.

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