

# Nurse Anesthesia Program Newsletter



## Creating *Excellence* in Nurse Anesthesia

Fall, 2011

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## Director's Message

As we embark on a new class year, we take the opportunity to look back at an incredible year of successes from 2010 to 2011. At the AANA meeting last August, the class of 2010 had just turned in a 95% first-attempt pass rate on their certification exam, and our program was excited to have our student Amy Young elected as the student representative to the education committee (commonly regarded as the national student representative). At that same meeting, alumni Janice Izlar took her post as AANA Vice President and Sharon Pearce became the AANA region 2 director. One of our junior students, Laura Niday, participated on the winning team at the national college bowl competition. We left Seattle elated with the accomplishments of our students and alumni, but did not realize that those events were only the precursors to what the students and alumni had in store for us. In September, I was honored to be named one of "the great 100"

nurses of North Carolina. As spring approached, we welcomed over 100 alumni to our biennial alumni meeting. Classes as far back as 1965 were represented. At the May graduation, when our seniors receive their Master's degrees, students Adam Leonard and Lisa Clayton were both honored with university awards for their outstanding contributions to other students and to the profession. By June of 2011, we were so excited to receive news of the AANA election results. Janice Izlar (class of 1976) had won her bid for the position of AANA President Elect. Through the generosity of our alumni, we were also thrilled to see the Helen Vos scholarship fully endowed last summer. Honoring Mrs. Vos, our former program director and AANA President, this scholarship will provide support to students perpetually. By July of 2011, 14 members of our senior class had completed global health learning experiences in the Dominican Republic, Rwanda, (continued on p. 2)

## Director's Message (continued)

and Mwandu, Africa. With the August publication of the International Student Journal of Nurse Anesthesia, a total of 11 senior students had been published in that journal, and one junior had already achieved publication in the Journal of Maternal Child Nursing. As we headed to Boston for the AANA meeting, there was excitement among the students, but also some wonder as to whether we could expect as much accomplishment and recognition as we did the year before. Emma Batchelder mounted an enthusiastic campaign for the student representative position, aided by her campaign manager Anthony Huang. After delivering a spirited

speech, the student body in attendance elected Emma to serve as their student representative for the coming year. At the college bowl competition, Laura Niday's classmate Anne-Marie Somerville represented us in an impressive victory. Not only did Anne-Marie's team win over the other student teams, but they defeated the CRNA challenge team in a 7-0 victory. The students also shared in the excitement of seeing Janice Izlar take her position as President Elect. Immediately after the AANA meeting, we returned home for graduation at Wait Chapel, where Sandy Ouellette (class of 1969) delivered the graduation address. The class of 2011,

never known to lack ambition, immediately set upon achieving certification. We were very proud of them, as the entire class successfully passed their national certification examination on the first attempt, and all within one month following graduation. 2010-2011 was an incredible year that buoys us with the anticipation of what great things the coming year will hold. Looking back at all of these accomplishments, I must take the opportunity to thank all of the faculty, students, and alumni who work so hard to distinguish themselves and to keep the quality of our program high. We will be looking forward to what great things the coming year brings.

## Student Representative Message

I could not imagine a better place to receive my education and build the foundation for my career than in our nurse anesthesia program. The more involved I become in professional activities, the more I appreciate the generosity of our alumni. I have attended three major conferences, all of which were brought within the range of my student budget through alumni support. My greatest experi-

ence thus far was running a successful campaign for the Student Representative position. Sitting on the AANA Education Committee and learning from the leaders there is an invaluable experience and is shaping the path of my career. The entire campaign was fun and educational for my entire class. It was wonderful to be able to draw on the expertise of past alumni who had been through the campaign and who offered

## Emma Batchelder

many words of advice. It is an honor to be part of a program with such a distinguished history of leadership. I am constantly aware that the bar is a little higher for us and that Wake Forest Baptist students are unique in our ability to balance class, clinical, involvement, and leadership. This is what makes our program so special and what reassures me that I am exactly where I am supposed to be.

## Graduation News

The Class of 2011 graduated on August 14 in Wait Chapel. Sandy Ouellette delivered an inspirational graduation address, reminding graduates to carry on the legacy of professional advocacy left for us by earlier champions of our profession. She reminded graduates not to take for granted the benefits we enjoy in our profession, with the sage advisement, “We all drink from wells dug by others.” Class of 2011 representative Adam Leonard awarded outstanding in-

structor plaques to Stacie “Nas” Nasralla, Josh Caudle, Dr. David Saliba, and Dr. Simon Chao. Adam also presented a class gift to the program: a flat screen TV for the new student hub. This will be useful to access educational internet sites and practice presentations during group work, as well as to occupy recreation time. Amy Young received the Chal Maree Award of Excellence and Lindsey Miller received the Agatha Hodgins award. For his support of the program in various re-

spects, Adam Leonard was given the Nurse Anesthesia Program Challenge Coin. The faculty commented that it was very difficult to select student award nominees from this class which as a whole has achieved so much. Additional recognition was received last May when the students received their Master’s degrees. In that ceremony at the School of Nursing, Lisa Clayton received the MSN Alumni Association Award, and Adam Leonard received the Dean’s Recognition Award.

## Lifespan Development Activities

This year we changed the venue of our *Surviving the Bubble* orientation program. We have held the event at the UNCG’s Piney Lake facility since its inception. The facility offers recreational activities with its beach, lake, and other grounds, but we noted that students rarely stayed after the program to engage in those activities. This year, we held the event at Wake Forest’s Benson Student Center. This venue offers a shorter drive and much more space, should we need to move the program inside for inclement weather. In other lifespan development pro-

grams, the H<sub>3</sub>A Gateway program continues to be very popular among ICU nurses who desire to learn more about nurse anesthesia as a profession. We filled two sessions of the popular program this year, and still were not able to accommodate all who were interested. One former Gateway participant commented that she had been accepted into another CRNA program, and she credits the course with her success. The dose calculations and BIS informa-

tion that were both directly tested during her interview day were things she learned from attending H<sub>3</sub>A, and she commented that she had lots of confidence in her preparation because of the entire experience at our conference.



Students participate in a team-building exercise during the “Surviving the Bubble” orientation.

## Summer Help Provides Benefit to Program

Our summer internship program continues to provide great support for the department while also helping bright nursing students learn about nurse anesthesia and refine their personal career goals. This past summer we were delighted to

have Ashley Shaw work with us on some projects related to diversity recruitment, student publications, and to perform research for new program business planning. Ashley is a senior at Liberty University where she is the President of the

Liberty Nursing Student Association and the Vice President of the Virginia Nursing Students' Association. Ashley was a great addition to our team, and she enjoyed the opportunity to learn lots about nurse anesthesia during her summer break.

## Anesthesia Program at the AANA Meeting

The AANA annual meeting in Boston provided many opportunities for our students, faculty, and alumni to demonstrate our quality and celebrate our success. A number of students participated in the wellness walk/run, in which Dave Diritto (Class of '11) came in second place among the runners. Michael Rieker provided a lecture on thoracic anesthesia, Sandy Ouellette lectured on fire safety in the OR, and Joanne Donnelly taught in the hands-on airway management workshop. Courtney Brown was honored to receive a fellowship grant from the AANA Foundation to support her doctoral research. We were very proud to hear the official announcement that Janice Izlar was becoming the President-Elect. Sherry Owens ('93) was also elected to the AANA Resolutions Committee. The students

had a great showing, with Emma Batchelder running for the student representative position. Her classmates had a great time meeting fellow students from around the country as they distributed campaign material (see back cover for an example). Emma organized a morning walk and an evening reception to help connect with students at the meeting. The announcement of Emma's election was very exciting to her fellow students, particularly graduating senior, Amy Young, the outgoing student representative. We are only the second school to have two consecutive student representatives elected. Overall, Emma is our fourth student to occupy this high profile position. Paul Welty ('92) and Andrew Roth ('00) preceded Amy Young ('11). Emma's win would have made the meeting a grand success in itself, but we still had the little issue of the col-

lege bowl to tackle. Last year, instead of a graduating senior, junior student Laura Niday participated in the college bowl and her team won. This year, it was one of Laura's classmates who was up to the challenge. Anne-Marie Somerville knew that the heat was on, as we all had high expectations for her to repeat the success of her classmate from last year. Shortly into the competition, it became apparent that Anne-Marie was on a mission and that she was determined to lead her team to victory. In fact, not only did they beat the other student teams, but they won over the CRNA challenge team which included a number of PhD educators! Her win provided an incredible show of the quality of our program and students on that national stage, and also wrapped up the meeting as an all-around success for those of us in attendance.



## Helen Vos Scholarship is Funded

Through the generosity of our alumni supporters, we continue to make strides in developing funding for student support. Our most exciting news this year was that the Helen Vos scholarship exceeded the endowment level of \$50,000. Thanks to over 70 donors, the fund balance was \$53,600 as of September.

This means that the program can now begin to collect and disburse interest income from the scholarship fund. In other recognition of her contribution to the program and to our profession, the Helen Vos library fund was established by the class of 1976 upon the retirement of Mrs. Vos as our program director. The fund provides books, journals, an elec-

tronic certification exam prep program, and other educational items for students in the program. Mrs. Vos once told an interviewer that one thing she hoped people would know about her is that she enjoyed watching young people develop. Contributions to these funds help to fulfill that wish.

## Alumni Affairs

The alumni association is off and running, with some fun projects in the works for the coming year. They are currently planning a social event for alumni in the Piedmont Triad region. This will be a nice opportunity for local alums to get

together and enjoy an evening of fellowship. It will also be an opportunity for us to thank so many of our alumni who now serve as clinical instructors at the various area hospitals. The alumni association is also beginning planning for a 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary

celebration next year. 2012 will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our first graduating class in 1942. Celebrating our current US News ranking, the theme of the event will be "7<sup>th</sup> at 70". Keep an eye on your mailbox for more information about that event.

## Student Mentorship

The annual Mentor Breakfast was held on October 5, in advance of the junior students' first day in the OR. The mentorship program matches students with

CRNA mentors who will serve as one of a number of layers of support for students as they progress through the anesthesia program. Interest in this program is growing, with a number of new CRNA mentors volunteering to serve this year. Our thanks to all of the CRNA mentors who help smooth the course for our students. This year's

mentors are Spencer Davis, Shira Friend, Kelly Holt, Sara Miller, Melyssa Moran, Heather Penland, Gary Ray, Trisha Ritz, Danielle Rose, Eric Stiefel, and Shanna Stoter.



## New Students on Board

The program was pleased with our applicant pool this past year, and we welcomed the class of 2013, which began in August and is just entering the clinical arena. Among the students accepted for this class, the average ICU experience is 3 years, with an average of 5 years of total nursing experience. The accepted students have an average undergraduate GPA of 3.75.

The class of 2013 is listed here, with a sampling of their educational background. Darin Blanton, Excelsior College; Keara Cox, Grand Canyon University;

Holly Davis, University of North Carolina; Lindsay Devers, University of North Carolina; Nichole Diacumski, University of North Carolina; Megan Ezelle, University of Virginia; Jennifer Grachen, California University of PA; Jessica Hamilton, University of North Carolina; Rachel Hinshaw, University of North Carolina; Emily Jarmon Hodges, University of Hawaii; Karen Hypes, University of North Carolina; Michelle Imblum, University of North Carolina; Lisa Jones, Oregon Health and Science University; Jenna Kindley,

University of North Carolina; Jaclyn Langford, Texas A & M; Travis Lukasik, University of Louisiana; Jessica May, Radford University; Mary Joan Ndumia, Emory University; Matthew Register, Drexel University; Nancy Rierson, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras; Jaclyn Shipley, University of North Carolina; Jennifer Smith, DePaul University; Emily Wood, University of North Carolina; Genevieve Wroblewski, University of Maryland.

## Faculty and Staff Advancements

As we move toward offering a doctoral degree in our program, we are working on building our faculty and staff capacity. We offer a hearty congratulation to Assistant Director Courtney Brown, who has finished her comprehensive exams and is now in the dissertation phase of her Ph.D. pro-

gram, supported by a fellowship from Baxter Corporation. Joanne Donnelly, Clinical Education Coordinator, successfully defended her DNP project last March and received her degree in May. Clinical Instructor Cliff Gonzales is also collecting data for his Ph.D. work, supported by the Richard

Ouellette doctoral fellowship. We are very excited to bring back Robin Geisel in a new role as Administrative Coordinator. In this role, Robin will supervise students from the employment aspect, and she will serve as the general office and technology manager.

## Notable Quotes

*"This has been an amazing journey, and I truly feel blessed to have been part of it all. I look forward to the future and what it holds."* Graduate exit survey response

## Sad Farewell to an Esteemed Alumna



We were very sad to lose a beloved alumna and friend of the program last spring. Annie Ruth Warren Holleman, class of 1946, passed away on May 16, 2011 at the age of 86. In 1941, Ruth Holleman attended East Carolina Teachers' College with a goal of becoming a home economics and science teacher. However, her plans were redirected with the beginning of World War II. Her brother, a teacher who was paying her tuition, was sent to Europe, and Holleman knew that she must make changes to her educational plan. "Little did I know how far afield you could be in knowing what you wanted to do," she said. "I've never regretted my choice one moment and couldn't have found anything more challenging." When Holleman was accepted in the Nurse Anesthesia Program at the age of 21, Dr. Roscoe Wall, the founder of the program, shook his head. She said, "Dr. Wall told me, 'You're too young. This is a job that comes with too many responsibilities.'" She recalled that he taught his students procedures, including spinals, that

he said they likely would never use. "The more you learn, however, the better you become," said Holleman. When she first began her career, there were only three anesthesiologists in the state; the profession was in its infancy. The certification program for nurse anesthetists was implemented in 1945. On May 19, 1947, Holleman took the fifth administration of the qualifying exam. During her anesthesia career from 1946 until 1965, Holleman served as chair of Rex Hospital's Department of Anesthesia and later as nurse anesthetist for Dorothea Dix Hospital. She also provided volunteer anesthesia services for St. Agnes Hospital, Central Prison, and Butner Hospital. "I never had any grass growing under my feet," she said. "We were so in demand. There was barely any time for a social life, but it was an interesting period to be in the field, seeing it come about into what it is today."

Grass never grew under Holleman's feet. She was an advocate of literacy and she volunteered for nearly 30 years with the English Conversation Classes. She also significantly benefitted the Apex Public Library and

served as the chair of the Wake County Library Commission. She supported our medical center's Carpenter Library as a member of the Coy Carpenter Society. In her later years, Ruth maintained ties with the nurse anesthesia program, establishing a perpetual scholarship in 2007 which benefits numerous students every year. She very much enjoyed the pilgrimage of scholarship recipients who went to meet her every year. She would regale them with stories of when pentothal was "the new drug" in the armamentarium, and she likewise loved hearing stories of how anesthesia had changed since her time.

We will miss Ruth very much, but her memory will live on through the yearly scholarship support students will receive. A memorial shadowbox now hangs in the program office, displaying artifacts of Ruth's career from the 1940's until recent years. Visitors can see her nursing cap, anesthesia clinical procedures transcript, AANA membership application, newspaper and hospital newsletter clippings from 1946, her AANA membership certificate (#5605), and among other things, her program diploma signed by Dr. Roscoe Wall and Dr. Coy Carpenter. We are very appreciative of the Holleman family for donation of these items.





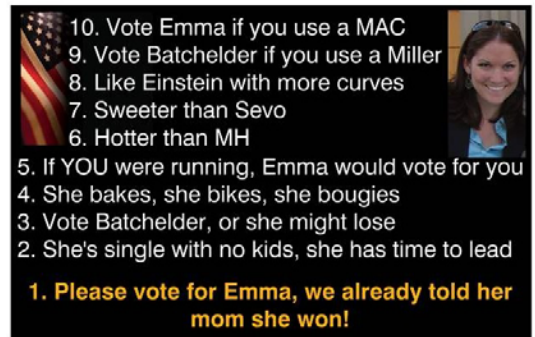
AANA meeting attendees celebrating Anne-Marie's college bowl win.



The Ruth Holleman Memorial, displaying mementos of her education and career.



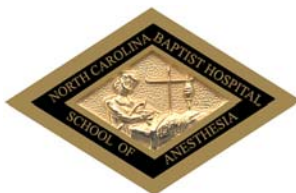
Students from the Class of 2011 who participated in global health learning opportunities.



"Top 10 Reasons to Vote for Emma" card distributed to students at the AANA meeting.

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