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Director's Message



Summer is upon us, and I am always amused when people who think of me as a “teacher” ask, “So, what are you going to do over the summer?” Those familiar with college professors and certainly school teachers think of the summer as a time of rest, taking a break, and really not having much work to do. In a professional school such as the nurse anesthesia program, the summer is anything but a time for rest. Besides the usual activities of establishing next year’s curriculum schedule, organizing courses, and lining up instructors, summer is a time when our faculty catch up on our own “extracurricular activities” which are difficult to do when our own students are in full swing of classes. The day after hearing the seniors’ capstone presentations, I was on a plane to the World Congress in Scotland, to make presentations and mentor our student Courtney Youngs, who was also on the program. Kristin Henderson took off at the same time for the National Teaching Institute in New Orleans to recruit for our program. Immediately following those activities, we get right into the preparation for our summer programs for prospective and incoming students– the H3A seminars. We also participate in healthcare information seminars for high-schoolers, such as Camp Med at Wake Forest, and a summer immersion seminar based in Charlotte. Let’s not forget graduation planning (the seniors certainly wouldn’t let us!) I will take the time to work with junior students on data collection for a research project as well as all faculty members will be updating our research and course materials. Re-writing my book chapter in *Nurse Anesthesia* will take up a bit of time as well as participating in the planning for the new School of Medicine building that will need to be outfitted before the fall semester. We will be working on campaign planning for our student representative candidate and running a comprehensive integration course for the seniors to help them get tuned up and prepared to successfully pass their certification exam *on the first attempt*. Our students are high-performers, but they come by it naturally when they observe the energy and excitement that the faculty also hold for nurse anesthesia. As for my friends who ask what I’m going to do over the summer, my first response is, “How much time do you have?”

Staying on the Cutting Edge in Education

Our new situation in the School of Medicine and our new facility has given us the opportunity to make some improvements in our educational program. While some people assume that education is a routine program which gets repeated every year, the opposite is true. Changing science, improving educational techniques and technology, and especially evolution of students and their expectations make education a constantly-changing endeavor. To remain at the top requires constant updating of the program. A truism that relates to education is, "If you don't like change, you're going to like irrelevance even less." This past year, Dr. Courtney Brown (Associate Director for Didactic Education) and Kristin Henderson (Educational Innovator) implemented a more engaging and active learning structure in our program. A series of clinical cases provided the background for Inquiry-Based Learning, where the students take a more active role in seeking the

knowledge they need, while faculty members serve more as facilitators than traditional lecturers. Not only is this format more effective for learning, but it helps to tailor the content more specifically to the students' needs. To foster interprofessional learning, we continued our lumbar puncture workshop for PA students, but we also found opportunities to extend that sharing of resources with other departments. The nurse anesthesia program and skills lab has become "LP Central", with neurology and emergency medicine now regularly coming to us to learn this skill. Our LP workshop was not only featured on the AANA Journal cover, but Michael Rieker and PA program faculty member Janie McDaniel submitted a poster presenting data on this activity and student outcomes to the Emswiler Interprofessional Symposium. The CRNA and PA programs also coordinated an intersection of problem-based learning cases, where students from both programs worked

through a surgical case together. The event was a great experience to share different knowledge sets and perspectives on a common case, as graduates will eventually do in the "real world". In other interprofessional education, Dr. Gonzales provided help with airway teaching to emergency medical residents, while Michael Rieker serves as teacher and evaluator of clinical skills for 3rd year medical students. At the Assembly of School Faculty meeting, an alumnus of the Wake Forest anesthesiology residency, Dr. Brian Kradel provided a very engaging presentation on new directions in education wherein our current undertakings were highlighted. We are currently recruiting for additional faculty members, as we look to get our clinical doctoral degree planned and accredited. We are hoping to hire two additional faculty members before next fall, with the expectation of getting the new degree operationalized before 2019.

Graduate Feedback

We love hearing from our graduates, especially when they share news of how much they are enjoying their careers. Recently, we heard from two graduates who married after leaving the program. They have been enjoying many travel excursions, and wrote, *In between our adventures, we LOVE being CRNAs. We both feel so fortunate*

to have come out of a program like Wake Forest. We felt prepared to practice effective and safe care right out of school and were confident in our knowledge and skills. Our attendance at state and national conferences and our participation in mission trips outside of the United States greatly contributed to being well-rounded nurse

anesthetists. We would not be where we are today without Wake Forest NAP. Thank you! And we want to thank the alumni who generously donate to the program to help us support students in many of the value-added professional activities which enrich their education here.

Mark Your Calendar— Big Events Coming Up

The graduation ceremony for the Class of 2016 will be on August 14, 2016 at 2:00pm at Wait Chapel on the campus of Wake Forest University. This will be a momentous occasion— the first class graduating with the new M.S. degree from Wake Forest School of Medicine. All are invited to attend. Please also keep an eye out for information about the upcoming biennial alumni meeting, planned for March 4, 2017. Another momentous occasion, as this year will mark the 75th anniversary of our program. Some planned sessions include Larry Hornsby talking about the business of anesthesia and Sandy Ouellette presenting a history of the Wake Forest/NC Baptist alumni association.

Marketing and Outreach

Publication and marketing are extremely important to the success of a nurse anesthesia program. Although it might seem that marketing is peripheral to our primary mission, the fact is that marketing is analogous to supply chain control for an educational program. We cannot be successful without great students who become great graduates, who achieve, lead, and serve as our primary product. While competition is high among applicants, top programs are also competing to gain the attention and commitment of the best applicants. Last year, due to a change in survey methodology by US News and World Report, our program and approximately 40 others were not included in the rankings of nurse anesthesia programs. Taking a leadership role (as we are prone to do), our program organized a campaign among students and other programs to lobby

US News to correct their error. To our great pleasure, we were successful, and US News repeated their survey, which landed us back among the top 10 programs in the country.

During the year that we were off the list, we undertook alternate measures to ensure that we were visible to and made contact with high-quality applicants who could become part of a future class. We attended the National Teaching Institute meeting and made contact with many high-quality ICU nurses. We also doubled down on our attendance at more local conferences such as the North Carolina Association of Nursing Students convention. We were pleased to also be featured on the cover of the AANA Journal again- our sixth time gracing the cover of the journal. This time, the journal featured a photograph of student Stephanie

Walls mentoring a PA student in our interprofessional lumbar puncture workshop. Our efforts paid off, as we had another robust applicant pool, with 70% of applicants coming from out of state, and an excellent applicant pool, overall. For the class of 2018, we accepted 24 students from 9 states- California, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Please support our efforts to spread the word about the great offerings and experiences available at Wake Forest. If you are on Facebook, "like" our page [facebook.com/wake.anesthesia](https://www.facebook.com/wake.anesthesia). The more widespread our message, the better we fare in maintaining recognition as a top program and the more likely we are to make connections with top-of-the-line students who want to study here and enjoy all of the unique experiences Wake Forest has to offer.

Scholarship Update

Our scholarship endowment has been growing, and we are very appreciative of all the alumni who make donations to support our students' success. In the spring newsletter, we reported that the Betty Petree schol-

arship was fully endowed at \$25,000. However, while this fund passed the \$25,000 mark, it will not be endowed until it reaches \$50,000 (which will happen very soon- the fund is currently at \$48,647.00). We will also be

excited to see the Class of 2014 bring their class gift, the global health mission fund, to its full endowment this year. To support these funds with a tax-deductible donation, please see www.wakehealth.edu/OnlineGift

New Clinical Sites Expand Opportunities

Dr Cliff Gonzales has done an outstanding job as our Associate Director for Clinical Education. He has established a clinical educational program which is fairly distributed among students, and he goes out of his way to customize rotations to support students' future employment plans. He also works tirelessly to ensure access to crucial clinical experi-

ences. To respond to students' requests for more regional experience, he has established two new rotations this year. Following success with Catawba Medical Center, in March, he gained approval for a site at Watauga Medical Center in Hickory, NC. He also re-activated our former clinical site at Portsmouth Naval Hospital to augment opportunities for obstetric

regional anesthesia experience. Students are also greatly enjoying the CRNA-only site at Cannon Memorial Hospital. These distant sites would not have been possible before our facility upgrade last year, which has given us the capability to deliver didactic education electronically to the students who participate in these optional, distant rotations.

The CPC Program: What You Need to Know

The Continued Professional Certification program is beginning for CRNAs after they recertify in 2016 or 2017.

After much discussion, debate, and modification, this updated version of the recertification program will provide more flexibility to how and when we obtain our credits, more standardization to continuing education requirements, and new ways to obtain CE credit (including many low- or no-cost options). Changes with this program will be beneficial to CRNAs who work part-time, those in the military, those who experience temporary practice disruptions, and those who want to apply developmental activities in their current practice toward their recertification requirements. One of the changes to the CE process will be the incorporation of “assessed” CE to a portion of credits. This may be incorporated in a variety of ways, including demonstrating a new skill, answering post-test questions about an educational session (e.g. the current AANA Learn or Current Reviews programs), or reflecting on how you will incorporate the new learning into your own practice. Here are the important points that you will need to know to get started in the program:

1. Recertify like normal in 2016 or 2017.
2. “Check in” on the same 2-year mark and pay the normal fee, but recertification application and educational requirements are not due until the end of 4 years.
3. Obtain 100 CE credits over the 4-year recertification cycle.
4. At least 60 of those 100 must be accredited as “Class A” activities (all 100 can be traditional Class A education, if you choose).
5. Optionally, may accrue up to 40 of those 100 credits in “Class B” professional development activities (precepting students, serving on your state board, complete a mission trip, DNP coursework, etc.).

Computer-based learning modules will be offered by some CE providers as an option for gaining Class A credits, but these are strictly optional in the first 4-year cycle. After 8 years, the NBCRNA will pilot the first iteration of a clinically-based recertification examination. Performance on this exam will not jeopardize your recertification. Another examination is

planned for the end of the second cycle. However, with 16 years between now and that date, it is likely that many changes will be made based upon evolving technology, public opinion, and evaluation of the experience with the initial exam, so it is too early to predict if there will be a similar exam, or exactly what will be happening at that point. For now, continue to obtain CE credits as you have; just make sure the majority of them state that they are approved as “Class A” credits. Also, start keeping track on your own of any professional activities you do, such as clinical teaching, professional association activities, helping with research studies, going on mission trips, etc., as these can now count for CE and reduce your requirement for formal, paid educational activities. The nurse anesthesia program has already incorporated electronic attendance tracking for Wednesday conferences and converted our accreditation for them to Class A credits. We are looking to incorporate the capacity to make the same available to our outside clinical sites, as well. You can find more details at www.nbcna.com

Student Achievement

Our students have been working hard and stepping up to the plate, as Wake Forest associates do! 8 seniors have submitted manuscripts to the International Student Journal of Nurse Anesthesia this year. Students have been serving on student-formed committees on wellness, service, and professional activities. Whitney Benfield is serving on the AANA educa-

tion committee, while Stacy Yancey is serving as a student representative on the NCANA board. We congratulate Courtney Youngs for being the first Wake Forest student ever to



Courtney Youngs and Michael Rieker at the World Congress for Nurse Anesthetists

be a speaker at the World Congress for Nurse Anesthetists. Courtney presented the research completed by her, Kelsey Brown, Chantelle Wallin, and Stacy Yancey regarding pre-matriculation learning modules.

Mentoring Leaders

While Sharon Pearce recently completed her term as AANA president, junior student Heather Combs is gearing up for her campaign for the national student representative position at the AANA meeting this fall. Wake Forest has leaders in every stage of development, and we specifically want to recognize and encourage those who are on their climb to

assuming leadership roles throughout our profession. To honor our recognized leaders and encourage those who are upcoming, we have established a new alumni award. The Progressive Leadership Award will recognize those alumni who are following in the footsteps of our many accomplished leaders. If you know of an alumnus/a who has demonstrated

some leadership accomplishment, but specifically with a potential for continued growth into larger leadership roles, please consider nominating them. An award committee has been formed and will plan to recognize the first awardee at the alumni meeting next March. You can find the nomination form here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NAPleader>

Faculty Research Program

Faculty members have been engaged in various research projects to support our students and our institution. Dr. Rieker is involved in a research study in conjunction with Wake Forest Innovations and one of our clinical instructors to evaluate a new piece of equipment in the OR. He is also working with a group of students on a study regarding OR attire and infection control. Courtney Brown facilitated two student research projects—one regarding the effect of pre-

matriculation learning modules on reducing new students' stress. In another, she and Dr. Cliff Gonzales mentored a students' qualitative design study, funded by the AANA Foundation, which satisfied the capstone requirement for the global health certificate program. Dr. Brown is also serving as project chair for an out-of-state alumna's Ph.D. research, and she is mentoring a DNP project for one of our clinical instructors. Dr. Gonzales mentored a clinical instructor with

her clinical and research education for her DNP degree. Dr. Gonzales applied and managed the Nurse Anesthesia Traineeship grant funded by HRSA to assist students with their financial resources. He also participated in an interdepartmental research activity on the study of non-human primates' cognition and contributed as a member of the Translational Science Education Coordinating Committee of the Wake Forest School of Medicine."

In Memoriam

We were saddened by the passing of a number of alumni in the past year.

Donna West passed away on July 6, after a battle with cancer. After graduating from our program, Donna was a clinical instructor here for several years. She retired from Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. Donna left a generous gift in her estate to support the nurse anesthesia program which she called home for many years. **Juanita Riddle Karres Sluss** of Sanford passed away in December. Juanita completed her B.S. degree in nursing at N.C. Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem in 1946 as part of the National Cadet Nurses Corps to help WWII efforts. Her class was the larg-

est NCBH Nursing class at that time, with 41 members. She later returned to complete her nurse anesthesia training in 1959. She worked as a CRNA at N.C. Memorial Hospital at Chapel Hill for almost a decade, before returning to Sanford. She retired in 1989. We lost two members of the class of 1960. **Rayma Wrenn** passed away in January in a hospice facility in High Point. She worked for Carolina Anesthesiology at High Point Regional Medical Center. A number of alumni from Rayma's class and later classes were in attendance at her memorial service. **Margie Azalee Reece** passed away in August. She worked as a CRNA in Miami, San Francisco, and

Greenville, SC. This spring, **Nell Hanes**, of the class of 1958, passed away in April. Nell was part of the NCBH family throughout her life. Sandy Ouellette noted that, "Nell was known as a clinical star, especially in pediatric anesthesia. Her influence lives on as her students care for our smallest of patients throughout the country and many will pass her pearls on to the next generation of CRNAs". Betty Petree noted that "Nell was very respected by the anesthesiologists and surgeons. She was a hard-worker and took call until the week she retired". Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of our passed alumni.

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



Seniors had a surprise baby shower for classmate Josh Solheim.



December AANA Journal cover, featuring our inter-professional LP workshop.



In the professional issues class, students attended a "Presidents' Panel" consisting of faculty and alumni who are former AANA presidents—Sandy Ouellette, Richard Ouellette and Nancy Bruton-Maree.



Student representative Whitney Benfield moderates a session at the Assembly of School Faculty.



Students and faculty enjoy attending the Assembly of School Faculty meeting in San Antonio.