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Director's Message



Spring is a time of new growth, and nowhere is that more apparent than in the nurse anesthesia program. The program is growing by way of developing our DNP degree. This degree will not only bring new courses and a new degree on line, but it will also grow our student body, which is expected to increase by 50-75% over the coming decade. This will create opportunities for new faculty and staff as well as adjunct instructors. It is anticipated that the DNP will be offered as an optional post-master's degree by 2019, with all CRNA students enrolling in a DNP curriculum in 2021. We are also experiencing new life among our faculty and staff, where

we have welcomed two new faculty and two new staff members since last fall. We continue to have great representation among leaders in nurse anesthesia, and this year I will ask you to support Mark Haffey (class of 2001) as he runs for AANA vice-president and Kimberly Gordon (class of 2007 and NCANA president), as she runs for AANA nominating committee. This past year, the School of Medicine opened a new building, connected to ours. The Bowman Gray Center for Medical Education has afforded us new simulation, patient assessment, and skills labs, not to mention that it was a great venue for our biennial alumni meeting. New ideas, new people, new growth...it definitely feels like springtime. Thank you all who support the program. We are in great standing, and we could not do what we do without the support of our guest instructors, financial donors, and all who promote the reputation of our institution through the great work you do every day.

Supporting Alumni

Students who attend our program are not temporary customers, but permanent members of our family. When 2001 graduate Monica Rose began work on her Ph.D. degree at the Medical University of South Carolina, she reached out to the nurse anesthesia program to seek a project mentor. Dr. Courtney Brown served on Monica's committee as she piloted an electronic patient handoff tool. Our mission is to create leaders in healthcare, and we stand by our commitment to Lifespan Development to help our alumni grow into the leaders they desire to be. Congratulations, Dr. Monica Rose!

New Members of the Family

We were very happy to welcome three new members to our family this year. Kathryn Paulsen was hired as our Program Assistant. Kathryn is a junior at East Forsyth High School who is interested in nurse anesthesia as a future career. She replaced Jackson Oakley, who left for college at UNC Chapel Hill. Dr. Lisa Mileto joined us from Michigan, where she was formerly the program director at

Oakland University/Beaumont Hospital nurse anesthesia program. Lisa assumed the position of Associate Director for Doctoral Education. In that role, she is providing leadership to oversee the development, accreditation, and implementation of our DNP program. We were also happy to welcome back an alumna of the class of 2007. Kimberly Gordon accepted a position as Educational Innovator In

this role, she will be supporting development of the doctoral degree and continuing education activities, as well as providing teaching and mentorship for students in other parts of the program. Serving as president of the NCANA this year, Kimberly is a particular asset to us in the realm of professional and leadership development.

Alumni Leadership

Leadership is our calling card, and you can find Wake Forest alumni occupying leadership positions throughout our profession. Kimberly Gordon ('07), our newest full-time faculty member, is serving as NCANA president, making her the 20th alumna of our program to hold that position. She is also currently running for a position on the nominating committee of the AANA. Keith Torgersen ('92) is serving as Chair of the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. In Georgia, Janice Izlar ('76) seems to have not slowed down after finishing her AANA presidency. Janice is currently serving as the president of

the Georgia Board of Nursing and as a board member of the American Asso-

ciation for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities. Mark Haffey

('01) continues on the AANA board as Region 4 director for the coming year. Mark is also running for Vice President. It is great to see yet another alumnus on the path toward AANA president. Although Stacy Yancey (2016) is soon to welcome a child into her life, she likewise has not slowed down in her engagement with the NCANA. Stacy will be running for NCANA secretary in the fall.

Please keep an eye out for your AANA ballot soon, and vote for fellow alumni Mark Haffey and Kimberly Gordon.

VOTE

MARK HAFFEY, CRNA, MSN, APN
for AANA Vice President

Innovative Leader | Proven Advocate | Shared Vision

Devoted to being
YOUR VOICE
in the issues
that matter to
all CRNAs!

Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

The student Health and Wellness Committee formed to promote balance and well-being while enduring the stressors of nurse anesthesia school. The committee was created through the efforts of three students and grew this past year to include a total of seven members. The committee distributes a bimonthly newsletter

and in this past year has organized participation in numerous activities including: group runs, the Moonlight Madness 5K, Pilates in Bailey Park and a group hike to Pilot Mountain. In addition to continuing previous efforts, this year the committee hosted a team in the AHA Heart Walk, and they held a bake sale to raise money to

donate to the cause. The new Innovation Quarter campus is a great place to promote wellness. There is a YMCA right on our ground floor, and construction is currently underway on a greenway right outside our back door. This greenway will ultimately connect with others in Winston-Salem to provide 20 miles of continuous trails.

Recognition at the AANA

We had an eventful time at the AANA Annual Congress. As usual, students participated in the student representative campaign, supporting their classmate, Heather Combs. This is always a fun event and a great opportunity for students to learn about campaign strategy, public office, disseminating a message, and other lessons that they can

apply when running for positions and offices later in life. We also had fun at the college bowl competition, where senior student Shane Leonard was on the winning SRNA team. As though that was not exciting enough, on the CRNA challenge team was Niki Sam-suddin, a recent graduate from the Class of 2016, who then led the CRNA

team to victory over the student champions. The biggest event for us, however, came at the opening ceremonies, where Dr. Michael Rieker was named the program director of the year by the AANA. This is a well-deserved honor, and we were glad to see our director recognized for all he does to ensure that we have a top-quality program.

Alumni Meeting Brings Friends Together

The Nurse Anesthesia Alumni Association held the biennial meeting and CE conference on March 4 in the new Bowman Gray Center for Medical Education. Approximately 100 people were in attendance. The new facility proved perfect for providing a comfortable venue for lectures, socializing, and to give our alumni and other attendees an introduction to the Innovation Quarter

ence provided cost-effective CEs and featured an outstanding lineup of speakers. Some highlights were Larry Hornsby, presenting the business of anesthesia; Dr. Chuck Vacchiano, speaking about fluid management, and Sandy Ouellette, presenting about the value of an alumni association. Sandy's talk incorporated some interesting history about our own alumni associa-



Four AANA past-presidents at the alumni meeting: Nancy Bruton-Maree, Larry Hornsby, Sandy Ouellette, and Sharon Pearce.

facilities. One highlight of the facility visit was the Deacon Gallery, the permanent alumni exhibit which features nurse anesthesia prominently as an important part of the institution's history. Shadow boxes in the Deacon Gallery displayed artifacts including Sandy Ouellette's equipment pouch from the 1970's and Lillian Stansfield Smith's 1942 transcript. The one-day confer-

tion. Our meeting continues to be a great value for attendees, including breakfast, lunch, snacks, and beverages all day and 6 CE credits for only \$75. During the program, Dr. Michael Rieker distributed over ten thousand dollars in scholarship awards to students, with great thanks to our donors. Luci New and Grace Simpson were named honorary members of the alumni association, in recognition of their ongoing support of our students, program committee membership, and teaching. Kimberly Gordon was the inaugural recipient of the program's new Progressive Leadership Award for alumni who have both current leadership accomplishment and potential for future leadership growth. At the business meeting, the new elected board was named, Kelly Tonkin, chair; Kimberly Gordon, chair-elect; Kristin Hen-



Kimberly Gordon was the inaugural recipient of the alumni Progressive Leadership Award.

derson, secretary; Suzie Anderson and Katie Lamb as trustees; and Stacy Yancey and Zac Evans as the nominating committee.

Following the meeting, attendees were invited to a

wine and cheese reception/open house in the nurse anesthesia program facility. Many thanks to Elena Meadows, Kelly Tonkin, Denise Clark, Kimberly Gordon, Lacey Witt, Ashlee Chafin, and Heather Goodwyn for your service on the 2015-2017 alumni board.

As this year marks the program's 75th anniversary, the alumni board is planning a celebratory event at the Forsyth Country Club on August 12, to coincide with graduation weekend. We are hoping that alumni will take the opportunity not only to celebrate our anniversary and reconnect with friends, but also to attend graduation on August 13 to welcome our Class of 2017 into the alumni association.

Committee Promotes Engagement

The Wake Forest Nurse Anesthesia Program has a long history of encouraging and supporting students who engage in professional activities and advocacy. However, before last fall there had never been a formalized avenue through which like-minded students could come together to explore current professional issues and their impact on our practice. In the fall of 2015 Stacy Yancey, with the help of classmate Whitney Benfield, (Class of 2016), organized the first meeting of the Student Professional Awareness Committee (SPAC) along with 5 junior students from the class of 2017. The SPAC, led by Stacy as President and junior Darcy Dennison-Harwood as President Elect, had a busy first year. A series of four Lunch & Learns for both the junior and senior classes were launched last spring specifically to highlight professional and political knowledge relevant to our practice that may be difficult for a busy student to otherwise encounter. Last year's series featured speakers that included NC Senator Joyce Krawiec; NCANA President-Elect and Federal Political Director Kimberly Gordon, MSN, CRNA;

AANA Senior Director of Federal Government Affairs Frank Purcell, BS, and a *Past President Panel*, including Past President of the International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists, and American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Sandra Maree Ouellette, MEd, CRNA; Nancy Bruton-Maree, CRNA, MS, and Richard Ouellette, CRNA, both Past Presidents of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. The Lunch & Learns provide an informal setting for key players to share their knowledge directly with the students on topics ranging from reimbursement, scope of practice, political advocacy, and the benefit of state and national organization engagement and support.

The creation of a quarterly newsletter has been another important vehicle for the SPAC to keep classmates informed on current events and opportunities for involvement. It simplifies dissemination of information to classmates on issues of state and national importance, like the VHA's proposed rule of Full Practice Authority for APRN's, and allows committee members to provide a brief overview of related top-

ics like understanding how your scope of practice is defined. In May planning for the NCANA Capital Day put the SPAC into overdrive. They were responsible for organizing our junior and senior classes' NC legislative visits for the NCANA Capital Day. They committee members coordinated all of the appointments for close to 30 students and created "Legislative Visit How-To" packets for classmates to ensure that all of the Wake Forest SRNAs felt comfortable and confident in the role of CRNA advocate - many for the first time!

The 2016-2017 academic year has already been another busy year! With Darcy Dennison-Harwood in the lead, the SPAC is continuing with current projects as they seek to facilitate new opportunities for individual students to gain experience as advocates for their profession. The Lunch & Learn series kicked off on September 21st by welcoming NC Representative Gail Adcock. Representative Adcock serves in NC House District 41 and is also a nurse practitioner and the Chief Health Officer for SAS Software in Cary, NC.

Graduation 2016

The 2016 graduation was a momentous occasion, as it marked the first class to receive a Master of Science degree from Wake Forest School of Medicine. For the inaugural class, we could not be more pleased with how well this group of individuals performed in the program. The class contained the national student representative, (Whitney Benfield), the NCANA board student representative (Stacy Yancey), the first of our students to be a speaker at the World Congress of Nurse Anesthetists (Courtney Youngs), had the

highest rate of participation in global health missions to date (90%), and it had the first students to complete the optional Global Health Certificate program through Wake Forest (Chelsey Cobb and Katie Lamb). Kristin Henderson took the lead in upgrading and managing our commencement ceremony, and she coordinated the implementation of academic regalia. The commencement was a beautiful ceremony. Dean Edward Abraham introduced the speaker, Laura Niday of the class of 2011. Jeanine Christian re-

ceived the Agatha Hodgins Award of Excellence, and Whitney Benfield received the Chal Maree Award, which focuses on professional engagement. Outstanding instructor awards went to Bruce Monks, CRNA and Quinn McCutchen MD at Baptist Hospital, and Wynn Fussell, CRNA and V.O. Roberson, MD at outside sites. Elena Meadows (Chair of alumni association) and Dr. Cliff Gonzales participated in the pinning ceremony.

Global Health Certificate Program

Chelsey Cobb and Katie Lamb are interviewed on their experience as the first students to earn the global health certificate. ***What was the certificate program like?*** **Chelsey:** The 20-month certificate program involved a "lunch and learn" about one time per month. Physician faculty, residents, PAs, NPs, researchers and students were involved. We learned about a wide variety of global health topics, which included HIV/AIDS, migrant/immigrant health, pediatric infectious disease, disabilities in the developing world, etc. Katie and I then created a capstone project which involved understanding the motivations and barriers as to why CRNAs participate in short-term medical missions. **Katie:** Participating in the certificate program put me in contact with many providers outside the anesthesia community. I have gained a better understanding and appreciation for collaboration among providers. I feel this strengthens my ability to better advocate for my patients. ***Was it difficult to balance the extra work?*** **Chelsey:** The certificate program is created to be a learning experience, not a burden. After the hour long lecture session there would be an "open book" online quiz, which

was not graded. The focus was interdisciplinary education, not grades. **Katie:** The NAP also did a wonderful job adjusting my clinical schedule to ensure I was free to attend sessions. ***How will you leverage this experience in the future?*** **Katie:** The information presented throughout the certificate program provides a very diverse framework of issues within global health. Many of the topics are applicable to everyday patient interactions, and some of the information I will utilize on future mission trips. **Chelsey:** I have a desire to take my involvement in missions further. I would like to be involved in recruiting CRNAs to participate on medical missions. I also hope to better the trip I am involved with by creating a better follow-up and education materials for patients. ***What are some key ideas, concepts, or skills you gained?*** **Chelsey:** I gained a better understanding for the importance of a continued presence in the area that you are helping. Short-term medical missions have their place, but it is important to implement appropriate follow-up and involve the community you are working with to help them achieve the goals they have. **Katie:** 1) Human trafficking is significant problem glob-

ally – but also here in NC, 2) Greater understanding regarding how disabilities can increase social inequities and health disparities in low and middle income countries. 3) How to identify Malaria and Dengue fever, and how to implement strategies for prevention. 4) I gained an appreciation for just how broad global health is and how important it is to realize your limitations and seek out experts in the areas where you need help. ***Do you have other thoughts, suggestions, or comments about the program?*** **Chelsey:** I am very glad I participated in this program. I gained a better understanding of global health and the role different disciplines can play. The small time commitment was outweighed by the knowledge and perspective I gained. **Katie:** People should know this certificate program is made up of a very diverse group of people, and the content taught is the same for all. Regardless of your interest or background in global health, this program will be worth your time. Thanks for making it possible for us to attend this certificate program. You truly go above and beyond for your students and this is one example of that. I feel blessed and honored to be an alumna of this program!

Staff Restructuring

As our program becomes more technologically oriented (particularly with the developing doctoral program and its attendant distance education), our staff members are taking on more responsibility for technology support. When Robin Geisel retired from the program last year, we replaced her with Meredith Phillips, who was the Clinical Education Program Manager for the MD program.

Completing her Master of Health Sciences degree with a focus on health education, Meredith is well-poised to take on program management, including providing support of curriculum design and instructional design. We also hired Carrie Vass as Educational Program Support Specialist to replace Karen Clark, who transferred to Action Health. Carrie has a Master's degree in Health Communication

Studies, and she will interact with students and manage the learning management system, exam system, lecture capture, and other technological systems which support our educational function. With these new hires, this year will mark a milestone in that every full-time member of the staff and faculty will have master or doctoral degrees.

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Monica Rose (second from right), as she completed her Ph.D. defense. Dr. Courtney Brown (on teleconference screen) attended virtually.



SRNA Amanda Huggins identifies the brachial plexus of Hannah Rainey in the new ultrasound skills lab.



The new Bowman Gray Center for Medical Education provided a perfect venue for the alumni association meeting.



Members of the Class of 2016 who completed global health rotations pose with artifacts from their travels.