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Nurse-Anesthesia-

Program

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## Director's Message

As we mark the 70th anniversary of the anesthesia program, I am of course proud of the

years of development and refinement which have led us to become the strong program that we are. However, I frequently tell student applicants that I am “pleased, but never satisfied.” I believe it is impossible to be on an upward trajectory while resting on your laurels. I am always on the lookout for ways in which we can improve the education or service we provide to our students. The most significant project currently underway is planning the transition to a doctoral degree format. I am very happy that this transition is following our medical center merger, which has opened the door to new facilities, resources, and other types of support for our program. I am beginning to plan more collaborative teaching with other programs in the medical

school, and the work underway to implement an innovative curriculum for our medical students will provide new directions and resources for our own program. Another significant change for our program is that **Dean Lynne Pearcey** of the UNCG School of Nursing has announced her retirement. Dr. Pearcey has been part of the UNCG school of nursing since 1989, the year after we began our collaboration to offer a Master’s degree in nursing to our graduates. Dean Pearcey has been an integral part of our Master’s program for nearly its entire history. Because we are in the midst of planning our DNP degree, a dean transition at this time creates some uncertainty for us. However, we are eager to welcome a new dean with hopes that he or she will be as supportive of nurse anesthesia as Dr. Pearcey has been for the past 21 years.

## Alumni Association Activities

The alumni association has been very busy this year, as we celebrate the program's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The celebration was held over an August weekend which began with a dinner party at the Piedmont Club and ended with alumni gathering on the party deck at the Winston-Salem Dash game for a private cookout. The dinner included distinguished alumni such as AANA President and Vice President **Janice Izlar** and **Sharon Pearce**, as well as former AANA and IFNA President, **Sandy Ouellette**, and her husband, former AANA President, **Richard Ouellette**. (pictured below). The two events drew 160 alumni and



guests, spanning the range of class years from 1969 to 2011. The activities were themed "7<sup>th</sup> at 70" in honor of our ranking by US News and World Report as #7 among



nurse anesthesia programs. Some of the giveaways at these events were 7<sup>th</sup> at 70 themed key chains and scrub caps. This year has given us a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the 70 years of outstanding education that has been provided at Wake Forest Baptist Health as we look forward to continuing to improve and grow over the next 70. We give our thanks to Lisa Rieker, chair of the alumni board and all the members of the board who have worked so



Alumni Association Board members

hard to recognize our alumni and to provide such great opportunities to celebrate pride in our program.

Members of the class of 1992 gathered this fall at JH Adams Inn in High Point for a 20th year reunion. **Sharon Pearce**, **Jerry Hogan**, **Dan Stanley**, **Nancy Curll**, and **Paul Welty** were joined by **Sandy Ouellette** to celebrate the friendships and many professional successes this class has achieved.



## Save the Date— Alumni Meeting

Save the date for the biennial alumni meeting: March 2, 2013. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with former classmates, to make new friends, or just to hear some engaging speakers and get a few CE credits.

## Students Become Published Authors

Congratulations to published students of the class of 2012: Renee Hamilton (Wolff-Parkinson-White article mentored by Barb Brown, CRNA), Holly Pegram (lightwand intubation article mentored by Grace Simpson, CRNA), Jud

Elliott (failed spinal block article mentored by Joan Kanzler, CRNA), Erin Crist (epidural hematoma article mentored by Michael Rieker, CRNA), and Abbey Markley (article on parental presence during pediatric induction).

All articles have been or will be published in the International Student Journal of Nurse Anesthesia, except for Abbey's article, which was published in MCN: The Journal of Maternal-Child Nursing. Thanks to all who have mentored students in this activity.

## Program Advancements

Anticipating movement toward a doctoral degree by 2015, the program has undergone expansion in a variety of areas over the past year. We began by increasing our office space by 50% in 2011. We allotted some of that space to a new "student hub", which is a multi-purpose room for group



Students making use of the Student Hub.

study or a student relaxation. The students have been very excited about this new resource, and we want to offer our thanks to **Bryan and Karen Lee**, who donated a

number of books for student use in this area. In curricular updates, we have reorganized our curriculum to comply with the AACN "Consensus Model", as mandated by the Council on Accreditation. This has resulted in separation of the pathophysiology, pharmacology, and patient assessment content of our previously-integrated courses. These newly-formulated courses began with the incoming class last fall, and the last of the new courses will be taught this spring semester. I have upgraded our program secretary position to that of an administrative coordinator, and Robin Geisel has been doing a wonderful job as the first person to hold that position for us. In this new role, Robin's first task was to revamp our application process. Robin converted our

system of downloadable applications to a totally on-line application process. By dispensing with the old system of having applicants email or send in an application form, we have eliminated a significant amount of work in processing those applications. With the new system, application data is entered directly on-line, and some of the front-end processing (such as pre-scoring of certain criteria) occurs automatically. The online process also allows the pre-screening committee to review applications from any internet-connected computer. For our applicants, the system facilitates reference requests and repeat applications by allowing applicants to log back into their previous file and update their information.

## Alumni Demonstrating Excellence

Our program has a history of engagement in professional activities. As we look around during this 70<sup>th</sup> year, we find evidence of Wake Forest Baptist engagement in professional advocacy agencies at the state, national, and international levels, including areas of education, practice, certification, and accreditation. Our professional association, the AANA, is currently led by two alumni, President **Janice Izlar** ('76) and Vice President **Sharon Pearce** ('92). Advocating for educational standards on the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs is **Keith Torgersen** ('92). **Michael Rieker** continues his service on the National Board of Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists, **Paul Welty** ('92) is chair of the Self-Evaluation Examina-

tion Committee, **Courtney Brown** ('07) serves on the National Certification Examination Committee, and **Kristin Henderson** ('09) is participating on a standard-setting committee for the certification examination. **Sandra Ouellette** ('69) continues her involvement with the International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists, where she currently serves as Chair of the Practice Committee. At the state level, **Bobby Jones** ('11) was recently elected to the NCANA board as District 2 Director, while senior student **Jaclyn Shipley** is serving on the NCANA as a student representative. At the institutional level, **Betty Petree** ('74)



Bobby Jones

was recognized as the Leader of the Month at Wake Forest Baptist for the month of November.

Former NCANA student board member **Sara Stanley** ('10) is known for her advocacy for our profession. Sara was a recipient of the Dean's recognition award and the program's Chal Maree award for professional advocacy. Sara continues this tradition, serving on the alumni association board. This year, Sara and



Sara Stanley

her husband Jeremy (of *CRNA Financial Planning*) established the Sara and Jeremy Stanley Student Scholar Award to help a student with the cost of attending the AANA Annual Meeting. We thank all of our alumni who give of themselves in support of our profession.

## Nominations Committee Expands Role

The alumni board has expanded the role of the nominations committee. The nominations committee is responsible for securing individuals to serve on the

alumni board of trustees. This year, the committee will also begin providing support to alumni by nominating eligible alumni for outside recognition, such as the Great 100 Nurses

award. Congratulations to Sharon Pearce, who upon nomination by the program, was named one of the Great 100 Nurses of North Carolina last fall.

## Warren Holleman Visits Program

In May, the program had a special visit from Dr. Warren Holleman, Ph.D. Dr. Holleman is the son of alumna Ruth Holleman ('46) who established a perpetual scholar-

ship fund for students in 2007. Dr. Holleman is Professor of Behavioral Science and Director of the Faculty Health & Well-Being Program at the MD Anderson Cancer Center.

visit the program that meant so much to his mother, Dr. Holleman made a presentation to students, faculty, and some visiting alumni regarding maintaining a healthy work-life balance. Some of the recipients of the Holleman scholarship (pictured at left) were in attendance and enjoyed meeting our guest.



At MD Anderson, he develops programs that promote the health, well-being, and work-life balance of faculty. Besides enjoying the opportunity to

## Program Vies for International Accreditation

In June, the program requested review by the International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists as part of IFNA's *Anesthesia Program Approval Process*. With our global health program sending students to third-world countries in North America, South America, and Africa, plus our ongoing mission and educational program in Ghana, international accreditation is the perfect way for us to vali-

date our commitment to and support of global education



Elena Meadows, "Nas" Nasralla, and Denise Clark meet with IFNA reviewers

and practice standards. Dr. Karin Björkman-Björkelund from Lund University in Sweden and Dr. Betty Horton

(Chair of the Education Committee of IFNA) spent two days reviewing the program's facilities, curriculum, faculty, standards, and outcomes. It was an enlightening learning experience, and we are looking forward to receiving the decision of the IFNA soon. Only one other program (in Paris) has thus far achieved this highest level of acknowledgment by the IFNA.

## Notable Quotes

*"I talked with the chief CRNA in Seattle. As it turns out, another Baptist grad is working there. The chief said that if he is any indication of the types of graduates that our NAP is producing, she'd like to hire all her CRNAs from here. It's nice to know that this program's name carries weight even on the other side of the country."* Class of 2012 student interviewing for jobs



Members of the class of 1996, then and now, at the 70th anniversary baseball event.



Students and faculty gathered at the NCANA meeting to support our college bowl team with spirit!



Alumni enjoy an outing at the Winston-Salem Dash game.

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