

Nurse Anesthesia Program Newsletter



Wake Forest™ Baptist Health

Creating *Excellence* in Nurse Anesthesia

Spring, 2011

(336) 716-1411
Fax: (336) 716-1412
Email:
NAPinfo@wakehealth.edu

www.wakehealth.edu/
Nurse-Anesthesia-Program

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Support the Nurse Anesthesia Program

Our priority target this year is to complete the endowment of the Helen Vos Scholarship Fund. Please help us reach our goal. Donate online:
www.wakehealth.edu/OnlineGift.



Director's Message

This spring, we have the opportunity to count many blessings. The integration of our medical school and hospital is bringing lots of exciting change. You will notice a distinct new look to this edition of the newsletter. After a long-awaited arrival, our new brand identity and logo were rolled out in March. The shortened name, *Wake Forest Baptist Health*, emphasizes the academic reputation of Wake Forest University, honors the hospital's Baptist heritage of quality and compassionate care, and captures the Medical Center's health-focused mission, encompassing clinical treatments as well as the discoveries of tomorrow. In the academic realm, multiple students are gaining publication credits this spring, and we celebrated a successful wrap-up of the class of 2010 as they turned in another outstanding performance on the certification examination. On the national front, we have been very proud of Amy Young, who has been serving as the student repre-

sentative to the AANA education committee. It has been great to see Amy's articles in the news bulletin and to support her attendance at many AANA events, where she advocates for the student voice nationally. Amy follows in the footsteps of many accomplished alumni, including Sharon Pearce and Janice Izlar, who are serving on the AANA board of directors. Janice is also on the ballot for AANA President-Elect. With her long history of strong advocacy for our profession, we would be very confident in her ability to lead the AANA as president, beginning in 2012. Next year will also be very exciting for us as we celebrate the program's 70th anniversary. Coming on the heels of the US News and World Report rankings which places us at #7 nationally, we have the opportunity to be very thankful for the outstanding students, graduates, facilities, and heritage which make our program what it is. We will be looking forward to next year as we celebrate being "7th at 70".

Curricular Updates

On the national front, there are changes which are impacting advanced practice nursing education as a whole. New regulation in this regard has now reached us by way of the Council on Accreditation, and has given us the opportunity to update our curriculum.

With this update comes the opportunity to also analyze it and to take a zero-based look at the content we cover. We last did this two years ago, with the periodic “calibration” of the curriculum to the content outlines published by the Council on Accreditation and the NBCRNA. For the coming year, we have re-constructed much of the first semester to incorporate separate coursework in pathophysiology, pharmacology, and patient assessment. Not satisfied to use an off-the-shelf assessment course, we developed a course specific to the needs of the anesthetist. Students will learn assessment techniques as they relate to the perioperative patient, including topics like preoperative testing and utili-

zation of advanced monitoring for intraoperative assessment. We will use the standard patient assessment lab as one component of the laboratory component of the course, and students will also complete their final practical exam in the SPA lab. In other classroom advancements, this year we are completing the transition of all testing in the program to a computerized format. Students (and faculty) appreciate the automatic grading and instant result reporting. This format also provides students practice with test-taking techniques which will better prepare them for their certification exam. Students must become familiar tackling one question at a time, with no backtracking. However, they also are presented with questions in a variety of formats. These include matching, ordering, fill-in-the-blank, numeric calculations, and “hot-spot” types, where they click on a specific point in a figure. We have also begun using video-enhanced questions

where students answer, based on their interpretation of a short video clip which plays in the question. These are very useful for presenting physical assessment findings (like specific neurologic dysfunction) or echocardiography videos. Video-enhanced questions are not yet on the certification exam, but they likely will be in the future. A study on “The Future of Testing” by Becker and Pascal, presented at a recent meeting of the Association of Test Publishers, predicted the likelihood of seeing different types of testing practices used in the next 10-15 years. With the following frequencies, associated test publishers reported expecting an increase in these testing formats: video items: 87%, graphic items: 89%, simulation: 90%, and immersive (virtual reality) environments: 71%. In keeping with our mission, the nurse anesthesia program will continue to bring students the most cutting edge resources and experiences.

Alumni Updates

Please send your job, family, and life updates to napinfo@wakehealth.edu. We would like to share your news in the fall edition.

Guest Editorial: Amy Young, BSN, SRNA

Serving as the 2010-2011 AANA Student Representative to the Education Committee has significantly enhanced my graduate student experience. I am given the opportunity to participate in the planning of national meetings and offer my fellow committee members a student perspective on educational issues. My writing skills and resume' have both benefitted through monthly contributions to the Student News Column published in the

AANA News Bulletin. I've been given the opportunity to travel, attending the AANA Joint Committee Conference in September and the Assembly of School Faculty this past February. These events broadened my knowledge of the profession and led to the invaluable discovery of many new CRNA mentors. Most importantly, the Student Representative role has enabled me to connect with SRNAs across the country. These friendships have given me a

greater understanding of our varied educational experiences and immeasurably improved my years as an SRNA. I look forward to further developing these relationships over the course of our respective careers. All in all, it has been an honor to represent our Nurse Anesthesia Program and serve this great profession so early in my anesthesia career. The only downside to serving as Student Representative is that one has to be a student to do so!

New Student Outreach

We continue to engage in a number of outreach activities to expose a variety of potential students to nurse anesthesia as a profession. In October, Dr. Rieker was accompanied by Lisa Clayton and Meredith Long to present at the North Carolina Association of Nursing Students' convention. After a presentation on anesthesia as a career path, the three staffed a booth in the exhibit hall. In other outreach activities, we continue to sponsor summer interns and volunteers and to participate in the Camp Med program. Specifically related to diversity outreach, Courtney

Brown and student LaShaunda McClarty participated in a *Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program* seminar in Durham. Our H₃A Gateway seminar was formulated to provide exposure to nurse anesthesia for the ICU nurse. In addition to discussing nursing concepts which are applicable to the advanced ICU nurse/beginning CRNA student, we also talk about beneficial preparation for anesthesia school, and how nurses can make themselves stronger applicants for an anesthesia program. In the hands-on portion of the seminar, participants work through advanced patient

A senior student demonstrates airway anatomy to a participant in the H₃A course.



assessment scenarios in our Virtual Hospital, and in teams they take on our high-fidelity simulator in *The Ultimate ICU Challenge*. This seminar has been very successful, and we have had to provide a second offering of it this year to accommodate the large number of interested participants. One participant wrote, "The course will greatly help someone to know if this is the right field for them and help in the interview process." Another added, "This is a great course that I will recommend to other prospective applicants."

Program Publications

We extend our congratulations to our latest published authors. Kathryn Phares was published in the Fall, 2010 International Student Journal of Nurse Anesthesia with her article, *Mitochondrial Myopathy:*

Designing an Anesthetic Plan. Abbey Markley co-authored an article in MCN: The Journal of Maternal and Child Nursing, titled *Pediatric Resuscitation: Should Parents Be Present?* We are looking forward to seeing articles

published in the Spring International Student Journal of Nurse Anesthesia by David Dirito, Drew Fukes, Matt Heeden, and Laura Niday. A number of other students also have manuscripts in the review process.

Alumni Affairs

We had a very successful alumni association meeting on February 19. Our attendance was again over 100, as alumni came out for a day of fellowship, renewal of old friendships, and an enticing educational seminar. Our speakers included alumna Janice Izlar, who is running for AANA President-Elect this year. Other distinguished alumni in attendance included Sandy Ouellette, former President of the International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists, and Nancy Bruton-Maree, who is currently serving as Vice-Chair of the NC Board of Nursing. Nancy is the first CRNA to be elected to this position. Five students were awarded \$1,000 scholarships, courtesy of the Ruth Holleman scholarship fund, and there was one recipient of the \$2,500 Sandra Ouellette scholarship. At the business meeting, a by-law resolution

was passed to allow for electronic voting on future alumni board elections. Attendee comments were very positive about the event, and we are planning to host a smaller event for alumni this summer or next fall, possibly at a local vineyard. Also keep your eye out for upcoming events related to our 70th anniversary celebration next year.

2011-2013 Alumni Board

Name	Position
Lisa Rieker	Chair
Gary Ray	Chair-Elect
Elena Meadows	Secretary
Jennifer Ferguson	Trustee
Sara Miller	Trustee
Katrina Hales	Nominating
Heather Penland	Nominating



We had outstanding attendance at the 2011 Alumni Meeting

Applied Learning

One goal of the medical center strategic plan is to see our Center for Applied Learning (CAL) become a preeminent leader in developing and utilizing innovative training curricula. Dr. Rieker is a member of the Center for Applied Learning Advisory Committee, which is leading the expansion in facilities and training capacity of the CAL. We are also trying to do our part, as we work to maximize the contributions of the CAL for the benefit of our students. We believe that we are one of less than 6 centers in the country actively utilizing multidisciplinary crisis resource training. This means that actual surgeons, nurses, anesthesiologists, and nurse anesthetists work together to manage simulated crisis situations in the mock OR. This form of training, while labor intensive to execute, brings a level of realism and introduces challenges in managing interprofessional collaboration, which are very difficult to achieve in single-provider simulation or when anesthesia providers play the roles of other disciplines. This innovative approach to simulation-based education will help our trainees overcome one of the most frequent sources of error, which is ineffective communication and team collaboration. This will be the second

year that we are utilizing full -case simulation experiences for junior students. Incorporating both the Standard Patient Assessment Lab and the Mock OR, students first perform a complete patient assessment and formulate an anesthetic plan, before acting out that plan in the Mock OR. This activity not only teaches students how to put “the big picture” together, but it gives them an opportunity to fully realize how each aspect of the assessment factors into the plan. In one scenario used, if the student does not recognize an aortic systolic murmur auscultated during the pre-op assessment, and they implement a spinal anesthetic in the OR, they learn quickly how aortic stenosis patients appreciate a drop in afterload.

As we reviewed student comments regarding the legal content of our professional issues class, we realized that we had opportunities to improve the quality of delivery of this content. Students commented that it was difficult to put much context to what appeared to them as a long list of legal doctrines and concepts which they had to memorize. Capitalizing on our physical resources and local expertise, we transformed the legal content to an *applied learning* format and provided the stu-



“Plaintiff’s attorney”, Amy Young questions a classmate in the mock trial.

dents with a malpractice case to work through. Each student was assigned a role as part of plaintiff or defense team, an expert or regular witness, or a member of the jury. They received a summons or request to testify, and the two legal teams and defendant received the typical discovery materials of complaint, allegations, and medical records. The case scenario was based on an actual closed malpractice case. The trial was held in one of the mock courtrooms at the Wake Forest School of Law. Our former assistant director, Patti Dobbins, CRNA, JD, now a full-time practicing attorney, presided as judge. With experience as an expert witness on numerous malpractice cases, Michael Rieker performed the post-trial debriefing to reinforce and solidify the salient legal concepts observed. The students enjoyed this more-engaging and stimulating exposure to legal concepts for the CRNA.

National Ranking

The program was very pleased in March when the latest edition of US News and World Report anesthesia program rankings were published. Our program has been ranked among the top 10% for a number of years, but this year our ranking rose from #11 to #7. We are proud of this recognition,



Our celebratory cake design!

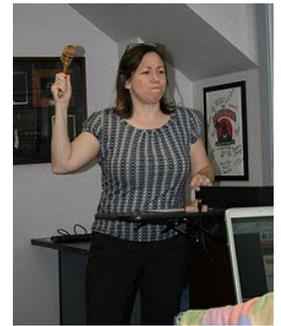
and it provided us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all of the hard work and accomplishments of our faculty and students. We took the opportunity to deliver cakes to the three surgical areas in the Medical Center to bring our thanks and congratulations to our hard-working faculty who contribute to the success of our program.

Court is in Session

As an exercise in critical thinking and anesthetic planning, Joanne Donnelly holds “Care Plan Court” twice a month during the second semester. Students are “summoned” to present randomly-selected care plans to their peers. With instruc-

tor John Lane, CRNA, as a frequent moderator, the student on the stand fields questions from their classmates and instructors, and defends their management of their case. This activity is an excellent exercise in problem-based learning, and

it increases students’ confidence in their ability to describe and defend their decision-making.



Courtney Brown makes a ruling in the Care Plan Court.

Safety Training Takes Wing

Improving patient safety and teamwork has been a principle in the quest for excellence at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, and training is at the heart of this mission. Recently WFBMC has pursued this goal by bringing LifeWings to lead the instruction of all members of our surgical services. LifeWings is a proven leader with over 30 years of experience in practices committed to improving

safety within high reliability organizations from aviation to healthcare. Specifically, they have been charged with the key tasks to improve communication among team members, reduce surgical and medical errors, increase the number of uneventful procedures, and reduce near miss events. Crew resource management (CRM) defines the hallmark of the program and is facilitated by trainers to en-

hance communication and decision making. In March, Joanne Donnelly joined three other members of the WFBMC community in a week-long intensive train-the-trainer seminar in Memphis. Led by experts from LifeWings, Joanne and others were educated and qualified to present the CRM workshops at the Medical Center. The ultimate goal is to limit the risks of human error and improve patient safety.

Wellness Program

This year, the Council on Accreditation is considering mandating education in substance abuse for all accredited programs. Our program has taken a proactive approach to the issue, having begun a substance abuse awareness program years ago. In 2009, when student Stacey Mitchell served on the Council on Public Interest in Anesthesia, she revitalized this initiative by organizing a dinner program, and inviting guest speakers to share their expertise in the subject. This year, student Carie Nunley picked up the torch. Having held an interest in wellness since early in her

anesthesia education, Carie and some classmates performed their capstone research in the area of provider impairment. Carie also volunteered to organize the wellness dinner this year. We welcomed CRNAs Heather Hamza (AANA Peer Assistance Committee) and Susan Vanderburg to speak at the event. Jaime Parke acted as Master of Ceremonies, and Alison Lane, Anne Sage, and Laura Niday helped with other aspects of organizing the event. Students from both classes attended, and each brought with them a spouse, family member, or close friend, as these are the people who would likely be in a position to recognize incipient signs of substance abuse in the providers. With generous support from our clinical anesthesia department, we

were able to offer 2 CE credits and to invite our clinical instructors, as well. The event was attended by 94 people, and all attendees received a gift bag containing discount certificates from local wellness-related businesses. The event was a great success, with many positive comments from attendees. Many thanks to the students who organized the event, as well as to our speakers.



Carie Nunley and Sandy Ouellette with the AANA Wellness Booth



Heather Hamza, CRNA, presenting on the "Neurobiology of Addiction"

Notable Quotes; from a graduate

"I want to thank you for giving me an opportunity to attend your program and giving me a new career for which I am so proud, and a new exciting life. The intensity of these past years has helped me to become stronger and wiser and to have set high standards for education and being a role model for my children. I am truly blessed in so many ways and have met so many wonderful people in these last two years. I am proud to be a graduate of Baptist. I will try my best to be the best that I can be as a CRNA."



Senior student Kathryn Phares providing anesthesia in Rwanda.



Preparing to cheer for the Wake Forest college bowl team at the state meeting in Wilmington, NC.



Senior student Lindsey Miller providing anesthesia in the Dominican Republic.

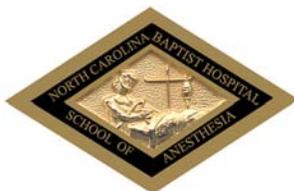
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Nurse Anesthesia Program
Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center
Medical Center Boulevard
Winston-Salem, NC 27157

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