WFUBMC Nurse Anesthesia Program

Creating Excellence in Nurse Anesthesia

Fall. 2006 newsletter

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Inside this issue:

Program Graduation Faculty Development	2
Classroom Update AANA Meeting	3
Clinical Procedures	
Class of 2008	4
Service Learning	
Charitable Giving	
International Relations	5

College Bowl at NCANA Class of 2008 (cont). Students Published Potential Students-Recognition by APSF Vice President's Message

Director's Message

other fall semester is upon us, but it really seems like spring as we watch many new "births" in our students. As seventeen graduates head out on different paths as new nurse anesthetists, twentyfive fresh students anxiously embark on a new life as beginning SRNAs. I could not be happier with the direction our program is moving as we constantly improve the quality of instruction

and experiences for our students. Our class size has grown, our facility has improved, and our graduates continue to enjoy many opportunities and respect in the job market for having completed this program. Six of our recent graduates have signed on as part- or full-time employees of NCBH, and it is wonderful to see over 35% of our graduating class maintaining their connection with the hospital and serving their successors as new clinical instructors. As we continue to expand our facilities, I appreciate the taxdeductible donations of unwanted audio digest CDs. instructional videos, and outdated or used anesthesia equipment. All of these things help us to put more *mechanisms* of learning into the hands of our students. As you read about our international missions and other value-added services we offer to students, realize that many of these are possible only through the generosity of our alumni supporters. As always, I appreciate your generosity and help in keeping our program among the best!

State President Passes Her Gavel

We congratulate Sherry Owens as she passed the gavel of the NCANA presidency to Julie Lowery in September. Sherry worked tirelessly for North Carolina CRNAs over the past year to maintain safety

and high standards for anesthesia delivery in the state. "I was proud and honored to have led such a dynamic organization," Sherry says. She reports that NC CRNAs communicated with legislators by sending 3,300 e-mails, over 130 phone calls, and numerous letters to their local newspapers. No effort was too small, and Sherry thanks all who participated in the Grass Roots effort!

Program Graduation

Program graduation was held at the Home Moravian Church on August 13. It was a beautiful ceremony, with **Cheryl**

Kirkpatrick, CRNA playing the harp, and Dr. Eileen Kohlenberg leading us in and out on the organ. Dr. Roy introduced Sandy Ouellette as the keynote speaker. Sandy provided an inspirational address, reflecting on her experience as President of the International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists and the imperative we are following to indoctrinate our students into a global consciousness. The graduates selected a CRNA



perative we are following to The Class of 2006 receives their MSN degree

and anesthesiologist for "outstanding instructor" awards from both NCBH and our affiliate clinical sites. The award recipients were David Sprague, M.D., Pam Emerson, CRNA, William Hendrick, M.D., and Clyde Edwards, CRNA. The Agatha Hodgins award was given to graduate Brandi Morgan, and this year's recipient of the Chal Maree award of excellence was Clifford Gonzales. We congratulate the graduates and again thank our award recipients for demonstrating outstanding performance in their roles.

Faculty Development Ongoing

In preparation for the academic year, a faculty retreat was held in

and Dr. Ray Purdom provided a workshop on *adult learning the*-

July at UNCG's Piney Lake facility. Accomplished professors, Dr. Anita Tesh, Dr. Beth Barba,

ory, effective presentation techniques, and multimedia tools in education. The didactic faculty who attended found the workshop to be beneficial, and many have eagerly implemented the new techniques learned into their teaching this semes-

ter. Following the retreat, participants enjoyed a catered lunch and the fishing, boating, swimming, and other activities available at Piney Lake.



New Classroom Update

Our facility move has encountered a number of speed bumps over the past year, as a result of backlogging of other medical center projects. We had anticipated being in our new classroom sometime last summer. Not to be deterred from providing the very best possible facilities to our students, we took matters into our own hands and did some impromptu work on our existing classroom. The back wall was removed and the classroom was expanded to accommodate more students and to add

an additional lavatory. We outfitted the classroom with the latest in educational tools: ceiling-mounted projector, integrated sound system, document camera, DVD/VCR player, 8-foot electric projection screen, and a touchsensitive "sympodium" screen embedded in our lectern. These tools are helping us to provide the best quality instruction, and the instructors and students are enjoying the resources. We expect to complete our original planned move

to a new facility on Miller street within the next year.



Above: SRNA Renea Shore waits expectantly for that drop of "CSF"

Students and Faculty Attend AANA Meeting

We had a wonderful turnout this year at the AANA Annual Meeting in Cleveland, where our association celebrated its 75th anniversary. In attendance were an estimated 3,600 people, 1,200 of whom were students. Bill Clinton was the keynote speaker, and our students gained great benefit from the educational and student

activities during the week. Twenty-one of our students attended the conference. We created quite a presence as all students, program faculty, and some alumni gathered proudly, wearing our black and gold to support Amy Wada, who represented us in the college bowl competition this year.



Attendees at the AANA meeting. These program T-shirts are available for \$14. Proceeds support student services

New Clinical Procedures

Following a new *Council on Certification* standard, all students participated in CVP workshops taught by **Michael Rieker** and **Sherry Owens** this past year. Graduates are now required to obtain five actual or simulated CVP insertions during their training. Because this mandate

necessitated additional training equipment, we are very thankful to our financial contributors and particularly to the Class of 2006, who donated an additional training mannequin. We continue to look



for opportunities for students to gain additional experience with this skill on actual patients.

Program Welcomes the Class of 2008

We warmly welcomed 25 new students into the program in August. This class represents a diversity of professional and geographic backgrounds.

We are thrilled with the prospects of this new class. They came from a strong applicant base. Those accepted represent an average GPA of 3.57, and 3.2 years of ICU experience. The new class consists of: **Katie Baker** of Gibsonville, NC, a CCU nurse who enjoys reading and painting. **Misti Berrong** of Winston-Salem, who along with her two dogs, loves anything outdoors. **Shawn Brooks** of

Winston-Salem, whose wife is also an R.N. **Ron Butler** of Statesville, whose mother and brother are also nurses. **Josh Caudle** of Winston-Salem, a for-

mer "trauma junkie", with a previous degree in emergency medical science. **Denise Clark** a former Baptist OR and ICU nurse who "married her high school sweetheart". **Karla Cromer** of King, who keeps busy with children Tristan and Sydney. **Rebekah Cummings** of Winston-Salem, who spent 1 year in Guatemala, volunteering in a

health clinic. **Elizabeth Davis**, a NCBH veteran whose husband works for the Dept. of Human Genomics at WFU Health Sciences. (cont. on p. 6)



Students are welcomed to the program at a breakfast hosted by their faculty mentors.

Service Learning Supports "Creation of Excellence"

In support of our Creating *Excellence* vision, students began completing service learning projects last year. These projects give them an opportunity to learn about something such as business, marketing, education, public relations, public health, and many other things besides clinical anesthesia. At the same

time, the projects provide a useful service to another entity.

Some projects completed include developing and administering an inservice program to the NCBH ICU nurses on their new BIS monitors, teaching ICU nurses at Moses Cone about peripheral nerve stimulator monitoring, teaching Boy Scouts about per-

sonal health and health careers, collecting food for Hurricane Katrina victims, providing public health education at Best Health at Hanes Mall, teaching high school students about health careers, and working with sick children at Victory Junction Camp.

Charitable Giving

The Sandra Ouellette Scholarship is 60% of the way to its goal of \$50,000. This scholarship will help us to attract the brightest applicants and to make a nurse anesthesia education affordable to deserving students. Your contribution honors Sandra's illustrious career here. You can also make donations to this or other funds in the name of a loved one or anyone else you would like to honor with a perpetual gift. If you would like to make a contribution to the nurse anesthesia program, please visit: wfubmc.edu/Alumni/Make+a+Gift



Above: CRNA Instructor Shelly Smith assists SRNA Melissa Jones with an induction

International Relations

We continue to be in contact with the administrators of the Kigali Health Institute in Rwanda to support them in their initiative to become a Master's degree program. We have sent outdated textbooks there, and continue to provide guidance as they implement new procedures in their curriculum. Last spring, Terri Wallace was our first student to participate in a volunteer medical mission, and she received an invaluable experience providing anesthesia in the Dominican Republic, using rudimentary drugs and techniques. Kimberly Gordon recently returned from a mission in the D.R. We give a special "Thanks" to clinical instructor Steve Alday, who volunteered to accompany Kimberly's mission, when the original anesthetist had to drop out of that trip. Currently, Greg Aaron is making preparations to join a mission trip in the spring. Dr. Medge Owen of our OB anesthesia group is planning

a trip to Ghana in January with her non-profit organization, Ky-



Terri Wallace uses makeshift equipment in the Dominican Republic

bele, which serves to provide education in obstetric anesthesia and neonatal resuscitation in developing countries. However, since the majority of anesthesia care in Ghana is provided by nurses, Michael Rieker and affiliate instructor Kathryn **Parham** are working with Kybele to plan a program of instruction to nurse anesthesia edu-

cators there.

College Bowl Team Brings Home Trophy

Five students showed what we're made of at the NCANA state meeting college bowl competition. The "Volatile Agents", Page Foreman, Stephanie Lindsey, Laura Johnson, Courtney Vick, and alternate, Holly McGee pulled off an impressive victory over the other

four NC schools. Besides being a lot of fun, this event is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the quality of our program and students in front of a large audience of CRNAs from throughout North Carolina. Great job, ladies!





The class of 2006. Those smiles indicate that graduation was close at hand!

Program Welcomes the Class of 2008 (cont)

Jennifer Ferguson of High Point, an SICU nurse whose interests include having been on a semi-pro dance team. Charles Gladwell of Ogden, UT, whose diverse interests include skiing, woodworking, and national politics. Ida Goodnight of Taylorville, NC, previously nicknamed "Zen", for her calm personality. Jennifer Hunt of Greensboro, who has her hands full at home with Aiden (3 yrs), and Eli (3 months old). Scott Imus of Gold Canyon, AZ. Ask Scott about the three years he spent on a ship in Alaska! Mercie Payne of Dobson, whose dairy farm will provide for some fun class "field trips"! Kelly Tonkin of Jamestown, who enjoys attending Grasshopper games and who spent 3 weeks in France last summer. Alicia Siam-Sechrist of Raleigh, whose first BS was in zoology. Mary Ann Spake of Shelby, NC, a family-oriented CCU nurse with two shih-tzu dogs. Lauren Starkey of Advance, a NICU nurse who loves

travel; **Nina Stone** of Macon, GA, a trauma ICU nurse who is looking forward to hiking the Appalacian Trail. **Toni Watt** of Statesville, who ran her first marathon last June. **Adree Williams** of Kernersville, whose husband recently graduated with his MSN/MBA. **Jui-Ling Yang** of Taipai, Taiwan, who was formerly a lieutenant in the Chinese army and whose twin sister is already a CRNA. **Mark Youens** of Houston, TX who was formerly an auctioneer.

Students Published

As we strive to improve the academic preparation of our students and anticipate the approaching increasing standards for scholarly preparation of CRNAs, we are pleased with the number of students who been published in the past year. Four students have been published in the first two editions of the International Student Journal of Nurse Anesthesia this year, and four more manuscripts have already been submitted to the editor. The articles to our credit include Andrea Sain's Anesthesia for tansurethral resection of the prostate, Mark Moser's Probable ephedrine-induced serotonin syndrome, Amanda Lassiter's Regional anesthesia for carotid endarterectomy, and

Clifford Gonzales' Endovascular repair of abdominal aortic aneurysm. In addition, Amy

Wada submitted an article on

mvocardial ischemia which was accepted for publication in the AANA Journal. We will be looking forward to seeing her article in print this year in the Journal. We are taking a more active role in developing students' writing abilities by expanding the formal instruction they receive in professional writing. This year, we are adding two writing workshops taught by instructor, Joe Joyce. Joe is a prolific writer, having authored 7

AANAJ articles, 7 "Current Reviews for Nurse Anesthetists, 2 book chapters, and a handbook, currently in production. He was

awarded the AANA Fellowship for Scientific Writing in 1996.

We are very proud of our students' level of accomplishment in professional writing, and looking forward to more of it, with Joe Joyce's input.



We will look forward to Amy Wada's publication in the AANA Journal. Above: February, 2006 Journal, featuring Michael Rieker's cover photo

Program Reaches Out to Potential Students

It is no secret that our program is very academically challenging. Many students who did very well in previous academic ventures are taken aback at the level of challenge that confronts them in completing this program. To help our prospective students be optimally prepared to take on the challenge of anesthesia school and to ease their course once admitted, we started a form of "supply chain control" this past year. Businesses use this concept to improve quality by taking control of the raw parts or supplies that are available to them in manufacturing. For us, that translates to taking a more active role in "grooming" potential students. We have been very active in talking with prospective students about preparation for anesthesia school, prerequisite work that can help them, and planning for the academic, financial, and time commitment that is involved in completing a CRNA program.

In October, Michael Rieker and SRNAs, Tashina Hartley, Rochunda Lewis, and Terri Qualls attended the North Carolina Association of Nursing Students convention. This was a great opportunity to meet many motivated, aspiring nurses. Besides being a featured presenter at a session on "CRNA careers", we hosted an exhibition booth which highlighted the CRNA profession and our program in particular. Our booth turned out to be very popular as



we encouraged student nurses to try their hand at intubating our mannequin.

In the future, we would like to



implement more structured activities to help develop future students, such as open houses, and possibly an introductory course to offer exposure to nurse anesthesia to prospective students.

Favorable Mention in APSF Newsletter

The Fall, 2006 edition of the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation Newsletter featured an extensive article about a program piloted here by the APSF Committee on Technology. The program assessed a method to train anesthesia providers in the use of new technology, in this case, new anesthesia machines. Last fall, SRNAs, residents, CRNAs, and attending anesthesiologists

participated in the program. Among the various anesthesia providers at WFUBMC, the SRNAs were the only provider to achieve 100% completion and certification in the new anesthesia machines. Dr. Olympio, chair of the Committee on Technology credited us, writing, "It is not surprising, and rather gratifying that 100% completion was obtained by the SRNAs, as this

particular program is highly regarded for its quality, its rigor, its regimentation, and assertive leadership." Thanks, Dr. Olympio!

This is an outstanding program
that has lived up to my
expectations
- Comment from program
exit survey

Vice President's Message

This has been an exceptional year for healthcare and for CRNAs in North Carolina, in particular. Through the leadership of Sherry Owens and her team of dedicated "political activists", the Anesthesia Assistant threat has been eliminated. Actually, "eliminated" is too confident a description. I believe we can anticipate a threat from AAs well into the future. Though the rationale for preparation and utilization of AAs sounds compelling on the surface, it has little actual merit. It will not relieve shortages of anesthesia providers, particularly in rural areas, and it will degrade the

high level of quality currently provided by CRNAs and MD Anesthesiologists.

We at Baptist Hospital are committed to the important role that CRNAs play in the high quality delivery of patient care. To further the reality of this commitment, we are very pleased to have Dr. Michael Rieker on board. We have held our CRNA Program to a world-class standard (ranked in *U.S. News and World Reports* in the top ten) and are encouraged with the many initiatives currently underway. Dr. Rieker has developed considerable computer applica-

tions in the delivery and operation of the Academic and Clinical Program. The regional anesthesia experience has been expanded. Faculty resources have grown.

In summary, we are extremely pleased with the performance of the school, the outstanding caliber of the SRNAs, and the plans for the future.

With warm regards,

Gerald T. Finley, Vice President of Operations

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