



University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program

ONE YEAR UPDATE

JULY 2014

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All Program Newsletters
are on our website:
www.pitt.edu/~napcrna

Department of Nurse Anesthesia Approved by Chancellor

On July 11, 2013, the Nurse Anesthesia Program submitted a proposal to Dr. Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob to create a Department of Nurse Anesthesia (DNA). This new department would house the current MSN anesthesia program and the CRNA to DNP program. Envisioned in the new department was the development of an entry-level DNP program, an honors course in anesthesia for undergraduate students interested in future study and a research mission. The proposal was approved by Dr. Dunbar Jacob and submitted to the Total Faculty Organization of the School of Nursing. After unanimous approval it was sent to the office of the Vice



Chancellor for Health Sciences and was approved in December 2014. On July 18, 2014 the University's Provost, Dr. Patricia Beeson informed the School that Chancellor Mark Nordenberg had approved the new department. The new Department will be organized over the coming months under the leadership of Dr. John M. O'Donnell who has accepted the position of Department Chair.



Invitation for Pitt Nurse Anesthesia Program Alumni Attending the AANA Annual Congress

Please join us for the **5th Annual Pitt Nurse Anesthesia Reception**

Sunday, September 14, 2014 at 7:00 pm

Splitsville Luxury Lanes (2nd floor bar and patio)

Downtown Disney West Side

1494 East Buena Vista Drive

Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

<http://www.splitsvillelanes.com/location/orlando/>

This will be an adult reception with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cash bar.

Pitt Nurse Anesthesia Program faculty, staff, and current students will also be in attendance.

RSVP online at: <https://pitt.wufoo.com/forms/pitt-aana-alumni-and-student-reception/>

or to Kate Rubino at (412) 647-4220 or kmr109@pitt.edu

We look forward to seeing you in Orlando!

Program Faculty

John O'Donnell DrPH, CRNA
Program Director/Department
Chair

- Full time faculty since 1993
- Professor
- Associate Director, WISER

Richard Henker PhD, CRNA
Nursing International Education
Coordinator

- Full time NAP faculty since 2004
- Professor
- FAAN (Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing)

• **Laura Palmer DNP, CRNA**
Assistant Director

- Evaluation Coordinator
- Full time faculty since 1994
- Assistant Professor
- Website Design

Michael Neft DNP, CRNA
Assistant Director

Clinical Site Coordinator
DNP Program Coordinator

- Full time faculty since 2008
- Assistant Professor

Joseph Goode CRNA, MSN

Instructor and
Admission Coordinator

- Faculty since October 2006
- Staff CRNA, UPMC Presbyterian
- PhD Student

Bettina Dixon CRNA, MSN
Instructor

- Faculty since 1995
- Staff CRNA, UPMC Presbyterian
- DNP Student

Aaron Ostrowski CRNA, MSN
Instructor

- Faculty since December 2006
- Staff CRNA, UPMC Presbyterian
- Specialty Student Coordinator
- DNP Student

Judith Mermigas CRNA, MSN
Instructor

- Full time faculty since January 2011
- DNP student

Suzanne Morrison DNP, CRNA

- Full time faculty since May 2014
- Assistant Professor

STAFF

Cynthia McClellan, BS
Administrative Assistant

Valerie Sabo
Part time Secretary

Judy Mermigas Leads Implementation of a Medication Safety Workshop in the Nurse Anesthesia Curriculum

Drug administration errors represent a significant health care problem in the United States. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has estimated that each year medication errors injure at least 1.5 million Americans, and cost the health system more than \$3.5 billion dollars (ASPF website). These statistics do not include the medications errors that may occur during the administration of anesthesia, as these errors are more likely to go unreported. While there is little information available regarding drug administration errors made by specific anesthesia providers, it is estimated that 1 drug administration error occurs for every 133 anesthetics (Fasting, 2000).



In an effort to increase patient safety, the practice of medication reconstitution and administration at the point of patient care has largely been taken out of the hands of nurses including those who work in the ICU. Recommendations and mandates by the IOM, Joint Commission and FDA call for standardization of medication practices through the use of prefilled or premixed medications prepared in a centralized, controlled environment. The additional implementation of new technology such as bar codes, radiofrequency identification and computerized order entry systems has fundamentally changed the medication administration process.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) continue to dilute, reconstitute and administer high alert medications at the point of patient care. This practice remains a necessity in the operating room and especially during the delivery of anesthesia. However, no standardized program exists for training of student anesthetists and practices vary widely among experience practitioners.

Proper drug preparation and administration is essential to the safety of the patient undergoing anesthesia. While the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) nurses who enter nurse anesthesia training programs are highly skilled, it has become apparent that they often do not have the experience and knowledge necessary to complete the task of medication preparation and administration. In the 2013 Fall semester, Ms. Judy Mermigas CRNA, MSN (Pitt Class of 1991), who is a DNP student at Case Western Reserve University worked with other program faculty and Mr. Hideru Inoue (Pitt Class of 2014) to develop a Medication Safety Workshop. This workshop was then implemented into NURSAN 2700 Basic Principles of Anesthesia. The intent of the 3-hour workshop was to properly assess the knowledge base of the student anesthetist regarding correct medication preparation and administration. Students were instructed on the proper aseptic techniques for intravenous (IV) medication preparation and administration in a simulated environment. [The Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) "One and Only"](#) campaign enforcing the use of a single syringe and safe medication administration was introduced and incorporated throughout the didactic portion of the workshop.

In concert with this effort, the course coordinator Laura Palmer CRNA, DNP, created a "Medication Preparation Checklist" which is now being utilized in all University of Pittsburgh clinical rotations. For the first 3 days of clinical practice, student anesthetists are required to prepare medications under the direct supervision of a CRNA preceptor. The completed medication checklists are then submitted to clinical coordinators and school faculty for review. It is hoped that the workshop will result in fewer medication errors by students and a heightened awareness for CRNA preceptors of issues surrounding medication safety.

AANA Annual Congress 2014—Pitt Faculty, Students and Alumni Presenters

Saturday, August 13, 2014

1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Is Overseas Volunteer Work in Your Future?

Richard A. Henker, CRNA, PhD, FAAN

1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Career Planning: Navigating the CRNA Job Market

Brent A. Dunworth, CRNA, MSN

Monday, August 15, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm.

Training to Identify Those at Risk of Substance Abuse: Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment (SBIRT)

Michael W. Neft, CRNA, DNP, MHA

Linda Stone, CRNA, MSN

Monday, August 15, 2014

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Pediatric Trauma Review

Krista A. Bragg, CRNA, DNP

Tuesday, August 16, 2014

Patient Safety and Residual Neuromuscular Blockade

- A Lesson for all Practitioners

Sorin J. Brull, MD

Mark D. Welliver, CRNA, DNP

John M. O'Donnell, CRNA, DrPH

Maria M. vanPelt, CRNA, MSN

Suzanne Morrison, DNP, CRNA and Kate Durkan, MSN, CRNA, (Pitt DNP Student) are presenting posters.

Thea Cole, BSN, SRNA is hosting all student activities.



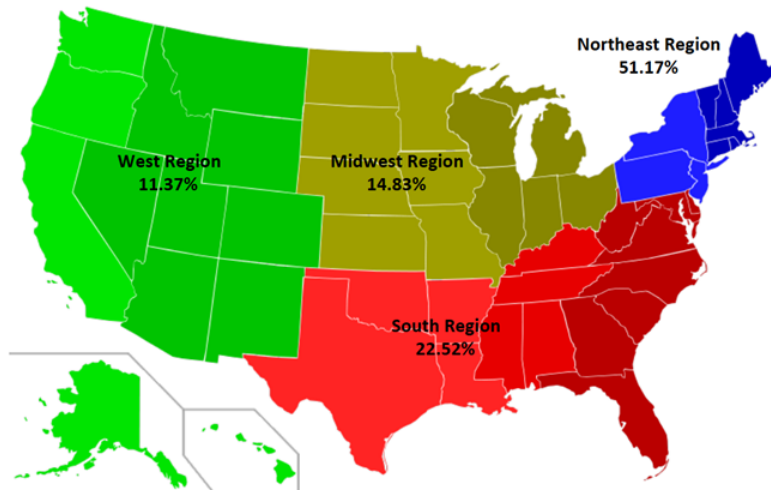
Admissions Update by Joseph Goode, CRNA, MSN

For the Fall 2013/Spring 2014 interview and admissions cycle 211 candidates officially submitted applications to the Nurse Anesthesia Program. Once again these applicants came from across the country, representing 25 different states. Of the 211 applicants received, 120 were offered interviews, 60 in the December interview session and 60 in the March interview session. In combination with applicants previously accepted in our Part-Time to Full-Time Track, we have a total of 22 students for both the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 cohorts. These two admissions classes are comprised of students from 12 different states.

We undertook an examination of our applicant pool over the course of the last five admissions cycles (from Fall 2010 to Spring 2015 start terms). During that period, we received a total of 1017 applicants. Of these 231 were offered admission into the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program (23% acceptance rate). The table below summarizes the demographics, academic qualifications and clinical experience of the students accepted to the program during this time period.

	QPA	GRE Verbal	GRE Quantitative	GRE Analytical	Total RN Experience	ICU-RN Experience	Age	% Male
Fall Admits	3.73 ± 0.23	153 ± 5	150 ± 4	4.0 ± 0.6	3.5 ± 1.8	2.9 ± 1.4	27.0 ± 3.9	24.6
Spring Admits	3.65 ± 0.24	153 ± 6	149 ± 5	3.9 ± 0.6	4.4 ± 3.7	3.6 ± 2.6	28.8 ± 5.6	31.0
All Admits	3.69 ± 0.23	153 ± 5	150 ± 5	3.9 ± 0.6	3.9 ± 2.9	3.2 ± 2.1	27.9 ± 4.9	27.7

The map (right) gives a snapshot of where our applicants come from, based on the US Census Bureau designated regional areas. As expected, the majority of our applicants are from the Northeast region of the United States. However, we continue to receive significant numbers of applicants from the other 3 regions, especially the Mid-Atlantic States (darker red) and the East North Central (dark olive). Over the last three years we have seen an interesting trend in applications, with an approximate 3% decline in applications received from the Northeast Region and a corresponding increase of over 3% from the South Region. Numbers from the Midwest and West Regions have essentially remained unchanged.



These demographic data demonstrate the broad reach and a wide recognition of the quality of our program and the high profile of our Nurse Anesthesia Program faculty nationally. We also firmly believe that this is in no small part due to the quality of anesthetic care being delivered by our alumni across the nation and around the world, and the many leadership positions that these alumni hold. There is no doubt that your day-to-day efforts in providing safe and effective anesthesia services across a wide spectrum of clinical and academic settings are the strongest message we can send regarding the quality of our program and our graduates.

While we have no shortage of qualified applicants during each

admissions cycle, we recognize that our alumni are often in a unique position to help us identify and recruit the best candidates. As a University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program graduate, you are well aware of the commitment that it takes to be successful in our program and the qualities that are needed to achieve this goal. With our alumni now working in a wide variety of settings around the country we believe that these factors put you in an excellent position to identify nurses who would be great Pitt Nurse Anesthesia Program students. If you know of someone in your work setting who has the qualities necessary to become a nurse anesthetist, and you believe that this person is of the caliber that you know we are looking for in a Pitt student, please encourage them to consider applying.

Information about the program and the application process can be found on-line at www.pitt.edu/~napcrna or www.nursing.pitt.edu/academics/masters/anesthesia/index.jsp
 Additionally, you may feel free to have prospective applicants contact us via the program email address: napcrna@pitt.edu

Alumni Profiles

Lang Conteh, MSN, CRNA (Class of Spring 2014)

Mr. Lang Conteh is a 2014 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program. He is currently working as a CRNA in Seattle at the University of Washington Medical Center. Mr. Conteh's story is one of success through perseverance and resilience despite many hardships. Lang is originally from Gambia West Africa and grew up in a family of 15 children. When he was in 7th grade he had to leave school because his parents, being seasonal farmers, could not afford to pay his school tuition. Lang was out of school for a year until his uncle was able to raise the money for his tuition. Throughout the rest of his high school education, Lang attended classes in the morning and in the afternoon worked in his uncle's shop, helping him run his business. After completion of high school in 2000, Lang emigrated to the United States with \$700, a suitcase of clothing and his wits. Settling in Seattle, he took a position as a nursing assistant. While working many hours in that position, he was exposed to the nursing profession's possibilities and advanced his career by first becoming an LPN and then an RN. Lang eventually earned his BSN from the University of Washington in 2008. Throughout this period of work and educational advancement Lang also had a strong desire to become a U.S. Citizen. He became a naturalized citizen in 2006. Lang was married in 2008 and had a daughter in 2011. At about the same time he was accepted into the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program and started taking classes in Spring of 2012. Unfortunately, his marriage ended during his second term in the program and the divorce was complicated by his wife and daughter returning to Gambia. Again, Lang demonstrated his resilience and through motivation, determination, and hard work eventually overcame these challenges to graduate with his cohort. Mr. Conteh graduated in Spring 2014 and was awarded the Sue Nath Bywaters Scholarship in recognition of his ability to succeed despite adversity. He has subsequently offered to help the program in any way he can and looks forward to serving as a clinical instructor to students who rotate to the University of Washington Medical Center.



Lang Conteh (right) accepting the Sue Nath Bywater Award in April 2014 from Mary Lou Taylor, CRNA, BSN (left)

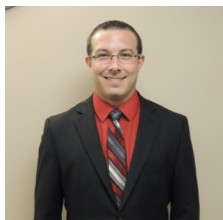
Sarah Zangle, MSN, CRNA (Class of Spring 2014)

Ms. Sarah Zangle is a two time alumnus from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Nursing. She obtained her BSN from Pitt in 2006. After graduation she spent 5 months volunteering as nurse in Siaya, Kenya on a pediatric medical ward. Over the following 6 years, Sarah worked as a nurse in emergency departments both in the UPMC system and outside of Pittsburgh until she applied to and was admitted to the Pitt CRNA Program. Ms. Zangle's time spent at the University of Pittsburgh completing her master's degree was irreplaceable. She was a member of the 2013 Spring Anesthesia Seminar Planning Committee. Sarah also was selected to travel to Siem Reap, Cambodia for a 2 week clinical rotation at Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC). AHC is a non-profit pediatric teaching hospital that provides amazing care to Cambodian children with limited access to quality healthcare. She reported that this was an awesome experience to collaborate with Cambodian Anesthesia practitioners and to care for pediatric patients in a setting much different than any other of her other clinical experiences. She noted that she was able to learn greatly from the Cambodian Nurse Anesthetists and that she and Michele Panetta (Fall 2013 graduate) were also able to give back and share ideas including providing an educational project at the end of their rotation. Her experience in Cambodia was incredible, and she plans to continue serving abroad throughout her career. During her time in the program, she was awarded several honors including the 2013 Patricia Lynch Scholarship, the "Above and Beyond" service award, the Sandra Sell "Spirit" award, and the 2014 Graduate Global Health Initiative Award. Sarah accepted a position in Salisbury, Maryland with Sheridan Healthcare and will start in September 2014. She plans to continue to volunteer abroad with Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO), allowing her to travel and care for underserved populations. Her future plans include returning to pursue an additional advanced degree, specializing in Public Health.



Sarah Zangle (left) accepting the Sandra Sell SPIRIT Award in April 2014 from Laura Palmer, DNP, CRNA (right)

Paul McMullen MSN, CRNA (Class of Spring 2011)



Mr. Paul McMullen began working after graduation in Youngstown, OH and in the fall, 2011, he became the chief CRNA at Northside Medical Center. Paul was employed with NorthStar Anesthesia and assisted with the implementation of NorthStar processes in his role. While serving as Chief, Paul also partnered with our Nurse Anesthesia Program to make Northside an official program clinical site for 2nd and 3rd year SRNAs. In Fall of 2013, Paul stepped down as Chief in order to pursue career options that would more fully incorporate his love of education. He began offering lectures as an adjunct instructor at the University of Pittsburgh while remaining a full-time CRNA at Northside Medical Center. He also founded and serves as the CEO for NorthEastern Medical Education

Services, LLC. He became aware of the need for alternative CE opportunities after the NBCRNA announcement of the Continuing Professional Certification (CPC) program and through research realized that CE requirements were changing for many professions. These changes typically involve more hands on experiences, demonstration of competence and are occurring in the setting of decreasing CE funding from employers. Through NorthEastern MES, Paul has developed relationships with educators across an array of advanced specialties (APRN, PA, & Physician) in an effort to bring affordable, quality continuing education opportunities to local providers. Mr. McMullen currently resides in Mineral Ridge, Ohio with his wife, Nicole, and two daughters, Natalie and Hailey.

ALUMNI FACTS

There are **667 graduates** since the first MSN Program class in 1991.

We have graduates in **39 States**.

Alumni — Keep in Touch
Let us know what you are up to!

Graduation Celebrations.....



December 13, 2013
University Club — 19 Graduates



April 26, 2014
University Club — 20 Graduates



April 25, 2014
University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
Graduation Ceremonies
Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom
David L. Lawrence Convention Center



Suzanne Morrison, DNP, CRNA, MHS
Newest Faculty in the Nurse Anesthesia Program

Awarded a Doctorate of Nursing Practice
December 2013

School of Nursing Graduation Ceremony
April 25, 2014
Official Hooding by Dr. Richard Henker

Nurse Anesthesia Program Faculty Members in Leadership Roles at PANA



Dr. Michael Neft is the president-elect for the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA) and Mr. Aaron Ostrowski serves as a member of the Board. Mr. Jason Bauer is the immediate past-president. The PANA mission is focused on advocacy for education of the membership which includes both SRNAs and CRNAs. Pennsylvania has a total of 2983 CRNAs which is the most of any state. We also have the largest number of schools with a total of 13.

In his role as PANA President, Mike will serve as Chair of the PANA Board and oversee the work of the Ridge Policy Group (lobbyist), the Ciesler Group (public relations), Mr. Daniel Altland (PANA Counsel) and Accent on Management (PANA management company). He also will closely monitor all legislative initiatives in the state which impact CRNAs and Chair the Government Relations Committee and serve actively on several other committees including Public Relations and Finance.

One of Dr. Neft's goals for 2014 is to help Pennsylvania CRNAs become recognized as Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs). Pennsylvania is one of only four states that do not recognize CRNAs as APNs or by some other special designation. This creates a potential problem for Pennsylvania CRNAs who may want to leave the state to work elsewhere and possibly may discourage students from wanting to stay in the state upon graduation. There is currently a bill which passed the PA Senate with a unanimous vote (SB 959) that would recognize the CRNA title in Pennsylvania. This bill is currently in the House Professional Licensure Committee awaiting a hearing.

Dr. Neft will also oversee the activities of the PANA Program Committee. Currently they are planning for a successful Fall symposia in Bedford Springs and will begin planning the Spring Symposia for Hershey, PA in the near future. Attendance at both meetings has been increasing in recent years with much positive feedback from attendees.



Michael Neft, DNP, CRNA

Have you considered a DNP? By Aaron Ostrowski

It is quite a step to consider a Doctoral degree after completing your Master's degree and achieving certification as a nurse anesthetist. There are always reasons to NOT continue toward another graduate degree. Time, expense, that feeling of always something to do... However, think for a minute about what is happening around you and within our profession. Evidence-based practice is now the expectation, scope of practice changes are occurring throughout the country, demonstration of competence is now needed for credentialing purposes and State Boards of Nursing have now joined forces and agreed upon a Consensus Model for the Licensure, Accreditation, Certification and Educational of Advanced Practice Nurses (LACE for APNs). Additionally, the Affordable Care Act has changed the game with many changes in healthcare policy which are going to have long lasting impact on practice. Further, CRNAs and other APNs are now being looked to as leaders for change within many institutions. If even one of these issues has impacted your practice, you may want to consider additional education which addresses many of these concerns. These topics and others are incorporated within DNP education.



*Aaron Ostrowski, CRNA, MSN, (Pitt 2001),
Current DNP Student (Pitt)*

The Doctor of Nursing Practice degree allows CRNAs to address a clinical or professional problem through study, practice and a culminating project. Many DNPs are customizable and allow you to tailor a curriculum that builds a framework toward addressing a clinical, policy or practice problem. The DNP degree is not designed to generate research per se, but you will become skilled at reading and evaluating research that serves as the background for the development of your Capstone Project. At Pitt, you were exposed to research in the MSN program. In the DNP program you will become immersed in the use of evidence and be proficient at searching the literature. The final goal is to develop a project intended to improve the clinical and professional environment in which you work.

I am in my third term of DNP coursework in the University of Pittsburgh CRNA to DNP program. Now in it's 5th year, the program is tailored to MSN graduates from Pitt but is also a good fit for most other masters prepared CRNAs. I see now how this degree fits within our profession. I have taken Ethics, Public Policy in Healthcare, Introduction to Genetics and Molecular Therapeutics, and I am enrolled in the second of two Evidence-Based Practice courses. The analogy that worked for me to understand the role of the DNP is that of building a brick house. You have a great foundation from your MSN and your practice and continuing education keeps the roof on and the rain out. The DNP adds knowledge brick by brick and the final capstone project is the mortar that fills gaps in knowledge or skill and binds everything together. Thus far, I see that the DNP has filled in gaps in my knowledge base and has given me a new professional perspective. I am looking forward to completing a Capstone Project that will in some small way help to move our profession forward. I would be very satisfied if I thought my project helped to fill in gaps for others and supported the future of our profession. Give the DNP your consideration; you may be surprised at the possibilities.

For more information on the DNP Program

Visit the School of Nursing Website.....

<http://www.nursing.pitt.edu/academics/dnp.jsp>

Thea Cole Elected Rep to AANA National Education Committee: 2nd in a Row for Pitt SRNAs!

Thea Cole is a current student and class secretary of the class of spring 2015 and came to Pittsburgh from Atlanta, GA. Thea was elected the National Student Representative to the AANA Education Committee for FY 2014 at the 2013 Annual AANA Conference in Las Vegas, NV. Thea followed former Pitt graduate, Emily Grost, CRNA, MSN (Fall 2013) who served as student representative for FY 2013. Emily effectively mentored Thea into transitioning into her current role. As a member of the Education Committee, Thea has had the opportunity to attend all AANA conferences, including the Joint Committees Meeting, Assembly of School Faculty (ASF), and will attend the 2014 Annual Congress in Orlando, FL. Thea has served as the voice for SRNAs across the country, maintaining email correspondence and bringing student concerns to the committee. She has also been responsible for a bimonthly student news publication in the AANA News Bulletin and for planning student events at the 2014 AANA Annual Congress where she will serve as the student host.

Serving on the Education Committee has allowed Thea to be the presiding officer at the Assembly of School Faculty (February 2014) and moderate open forum sessions and doctoral standards hearings. With the Education Committee's approval, Thea appointed Tony Chao, RN, BSN, SRNA (Pitt Spring 2015) to be a guest lecturer at the Assembly of School Faculty in 2015 being held in New Orleans, LA. Thea states, "I enjoy seeing my colleagues shine. I feel that when we all give back it not only makes Pitt look good, it makes our profession look good!" In addition to her work for the AANA, Thea has been honored by the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing with the Boytim Student Award. Upon graduation, Thea plans to relocate back to the southeast with her husband who is currently a student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine.



Thea Cole (left) with John O'Donnell (center) and Emily Grost (right) at the 2013 AANA Meeting

AANA Newsletter Publications

Cole, T. (2013). *To Doctorate or Not to Doctorate: That is the Question*. *AANA News Bulletin*. 67(6), 34-35

Cole, T. (2014). *Dive into Diversity: Learning to Swim*. *AANA News Bulletin*. 68(1), 35-36

Schwartz, K., Cole, T. (2014). *Breaking Down the Barriers*. *AANA News Bulletin*. 68(2), 35-36

Cole, T. (2014). *Taking Criticism Constructively: Focusing on the Performance not the Performer*. *AANA News Bulletin*. 68(3), 44-45



AANA Foundation Practice Doctoral Fellow
Kathleen Durkan, CRNA, MSN
DNP Student

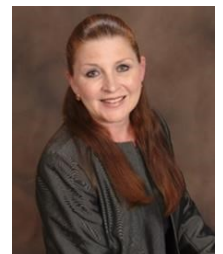
*This honor includes a cash award of \$10,000 that Kate will use towards her capstone project:
Nurse Anesthesia Education Program in Belize*



AANA Foundation Doctoral Awards

August 12, 2013 in Las Vegas, NV at the AANA Awards and Recognition Event

The New York Life Fellowship Award
and
Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists
(PANA) Kay Wagner Memorial Fellowship
Suzanne Morrison, CRNA, MHS
DNP Student



*Suzanne also presented a poster of her DNP Capstone project work
"Methodology for Retrospective Inquiry of Perioperative Glycemic Control in Vascular Surgery Patients"*

Mentoring Update

The UPMC-University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program CRNA-Student Mentoring Partnership, started by Krista Bragg CRNA, DNP (Class of 2000) in 2004, celebrated its 11th year in 2014. Now under the direction of Marc Wicker (Class of 2008) with faculty oversight by Aaron Ostrowski, the incoming students are paired with a volunteer CRNA mentor at a networking event during their first month of the program. The event is now held bi-annually because of the dual entry admissions process. This event offers a forum for CRNAs to discuss issues related to mentoring and education and to gain perspective on the life-experience and needs of current students in this very demanding program. The mentoring partnership begins the process of welcoming students into the professional role of the nurse anesthetist. We are fortunate that our mentor volunteers are exemplary UPMC CRNAs who have committed to be involved with the program. Feedback from both CRNA and student participants consistently reinforces that our Mentoring Partnership provides an experienced and empathetic personal and professional resource for students during a very stressful time in their lives.

Nurse Anesthesia Program Volunteers for Investing NOW

For the third consecutive year the Pitt Nurse Anesthesia Program was involved with the Investing NOW pre-college STEM Program hosted by the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering. The Investing NOW program was created in 1988 as a college preparatory program for underrepresented students in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics career fields. The goal of the event is to expose the scholars to different career paths available to them.

Coordinated by 2nd year nurse anesthesia student Tahirah Marks (Spring 2015), a hands on simulation session was held for middle and high school students. Other NAP student volunteers included Gillian Condell (Spring 2015), Nicole Santavicca (Spring 2015), Chad Yappueying (Fall 2015), Allyson Heard (Spring 2016), and Omar Jimenez (Spring 2016). Each student described their Nurse Anesthesia educational path and emphasized the rigors of the program and the responsibilities and rewards of the



Left to Right: Omar Jimenez, Chad Yappueying, Nicole Santavicca, Tahirah Marks, Gillian Condell, Allyson Heard

profession. Each student volunteer then taught airway management and encouraged participants to engage in an immersive airway simulation session which included bag-valve mask ventilation as well as oral intubation. The hands-on simulation piqued quite a bit of interest in the field of Nurse Anesthesia.

After the experience, the Nurse Anesthesia students were interviewed with respect to the importance of the initiative. Allyson Heard stated "it gave me a sense of fulfillment, knowing that I could serve as an example to these children and I was glad to have an opportunity to give opinions and advice while also showing the students how diverse the people in the field of anesthesia can be." Tahirah Marks remarked that "My mentor told me that our role outside of the OR is educating and recruiting future CRNA's. To expose these young people to nurse anesthesia was an honor."

John M. O'Donnell Appointed to Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing

John M. O'Donnell CRNA, MSN, DrPH was notified in January 2014 that he had been selected by the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA) as their candidate to the State Board of Nursing. PANA forwarded John's name to Governor Tom Corbett's office for consideration and he was notified in early March that the Governor was nominating him for a seat on the State Board of Nursing. On March 17, 2014 the nomination was introduced in the PA Senate by Senator Matt Smith (D 37th, Allegheny and Washington Co.) and received unanimous approval. On June 2nd 2014 O'Donnell was sworn in as a professional nurse member of the Board.

In his letter to PANA Board President Jason Bauer (Pitt Nurse Anesthesia Program 2004) thanking the Board for his nomination, O'Donnell stated "I wanted you to know of my ongoing gratitude for this honor and that I plan to serve diligently and forthrightly in this important position."

The mission of the State Board of Nursing is to establish rules and regulations for the licensure and practice of all nurses (and dietitians) in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, provides for the examination of all applicants, establishes standards for the approval and operation of nursing education programs and provides lists of approved RN and LPN programs. The Board also regulates certified registered nurse practitioners and approves programs for their education. Nurse Anesthetists are regulated by the State Board of Nursing under 49 Pa. Code § 21.17. Anesthesia.

Citation: The Professional Nursing Law, 63 P.S. §§ 211-226; The Practical Nurse Law, 63 P.S. §§ 651-667.8. and Regulations of the State Board of Nursing, 49 PA. Code § 21.1-21.607.

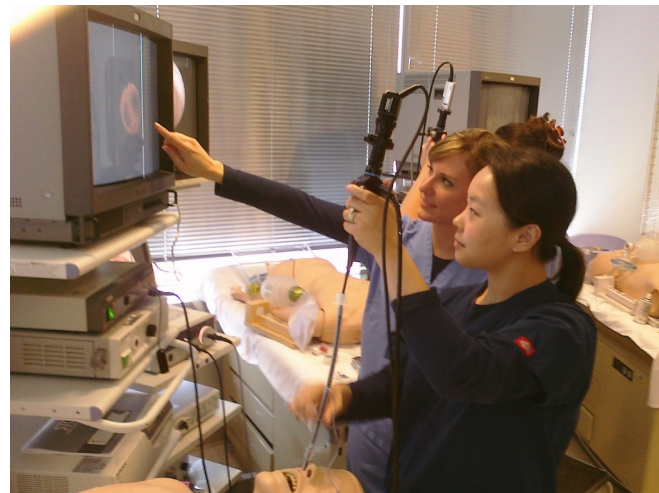


Swearing-In Ceremony. Pictured from left to right. Cynthia K. Miller, Board Administrator; John M. O'Donnell CRNA, MSN, DrPH, Member; Ann Michele Coughlin, MBA, MSN, RN, Chairperson; Kristin Malady, BSN, RN, Vice Chairperson; Laurette D. Keiser, MSN, RN, Executive Secretary

University of Pittsburgh Simulation Efforts Now at the International Level

Remember your simulation experiences at Pitt? Perhaps you graduated prior to 1994 and your main exposure was to partial task simulators such as intubation heads or spinal models. Maybe you were one of the first students to go through Crisis Management Training at Montefiore Hospital. Possibly you recall the mock induction and pediatric simulation which has emerged more recently. Regardless, the University of Pittsburgh has been a national leader in the area of simulation instructional methods for two decades. Our average student has more than 100 hours of simulation experience and our faculty are recognized internationally for their expertise. Three book chapters, one software program, more than a dozen papers and hundreds of abstracts and presentations have helped to disseminate this work. Perhaps most telling, our faculty play a prominent role at international conferences.

At the 11th Annual International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH 2014) in San Francisco, CA, John O'Donnell, CRNA, Dr. PH and Joseph Goode, Jr, CRNA, MSN presented together in four sessions and Dr. O'Donnell presented in a fifth session. O'Donnell co-directed a four hour pre-conference course titled *Structured Debriefing: Scalable, Teachable and Testable*. This course is a partnership between the Winter Institute for Simulation Education and Research (WISER) and the Israeli National Simulation Center (MSR). Co-directors of the course along with Dr. O'Donnell were Dr. Amitai Ziv, Director of MSR and Dr. Paul Phrampus, Director of WISER. Mr. Goode participated as one of the course instructors. O'Donnell and Goode combined for a presentation on assessment in simulation, *Assessment Doesn't Have to Be a Dirty Word*. Dr. O'Donnell and long-time collaborator Jeffrey Groom, CRNA, PhD presented together for a session titled *SIM360: Creating Learner Experiences in Simulation from Student to Facilitator*, and O'Donnell, Groom and Goode combined their efforts for *Connecting Educational Standards to Learning Outcomes Through Simulation-based Assessment*.



Simulated use of Fiberoptic for Airway Assessment

Drs. O'Donnell and Groom and Mr. Goode additionally collaborated with Jeffrey Barsuk, MD and Diane Wayne, MD for a panel discussion: *Simulation-based Mastery Learning*. Mastery learning techniques are highly effective at ensuring that students attain identified objectives at a high competency level. They are considered to be a best practice in healthcare simulation education. Drs. Barsuk and Wayne are widely published and internationally known for their work demonstrating the advantages of mastery learning in terms of both patient related outcomes and health system cost savings. This combined effort was exceptionally well received and the panel members have been invited to reprise their efforts at IMSH 2015 in New Orleans. Under the direction of Dr. O'Donnell, the Pitt Nurse Anesthesia Program has incorporated mastery learning techniques into the training modules for fiberoptic bronchoscopy. O'Donnell and Goode are currently collecting data for an ongoing study regarding mastery learning in this specific setting.



WISER iSIM Course Group- Fall 2013.

The course attracts students from around the US and the world.

In May, the second day of the 12th Annual Safar Symposium held at WISER focused on Simulation for Graduate Medical Education and Assessment. Moderated by WISER Director, Dr. Paul Phrampus, the session presenters discussed how simulation education plays a key role in the immersive learning environment for graduate students. An invited speaker for this event, Mr. Goode's presentation was entitled *"You're Sure to Get Somewhere if You Only Walk Long Enough: The Changing Role of Debriefing in Simulation Education"*. As a part of this presentation, Mr. Goode introduced a new theoretical model of the healthcare simulation process that will be submitted for publication later this year.

John O'Donnell continues in his role as Associate Director at WISER. As part of this role he has co-authored iSIM (improving simulation instructional methods) with Paul Phrampus MD, FACEM, WISER Director. This course has now been translated into 5 languages and is taught around the world. O'Donnell was the keynote speaker at the Australian National Simulation meeting in Brisbane, AU in October 2013 and collaborated with Dr. Phrampus to offer the iSIM course in Melbourne, AU in May 2014.

International Initiatives Update

Dr. Richard Henker Continues International Role

Dr. Richard Henker CRNA, PhD serves in the role of International Education Coordinator for the School of Nursing. In this role he helps to arrange international experiences for students and faculty interested in this component of the University mission. During the 2013-2014 academic year he decreased his effort at the School of Nursing to 50% while spending time working as a Visiting Professor or with Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) at sites in Bhutan, Cambodia, Thailand and Japan. Rick expressed his gratitude to the nurse anesthesia program faculty and Dean Jackie Dunbar Jacob for their support during his time away from the University. Dr. Henker continued to transmit his lectures to the University using the internet while he was working on overseas projects. The following is a list of the times and places for his teaching activities over the past year.

- Visiting Professor Nakon Phanom Thailand (February 2014)
- Visiting Professor Bangkok Thailand (August, October 2013, March & August 2014)
- Visiting Professor, Japan (October - November 2013)
- Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) Nurse Anesthesia Program Coordinator -Thimphu Bhutan (August-October 2013)
- Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) Nurse Anesthesia Program Coordinator Siem Reap and Phnom Penh Cambodia (August 2013; November 2013; March 2014)



Rick Henker (top center) with students from Thailand

Student Nurse Anesthetist Gains International Experience in Cambodia



Jessica Freis is a 2nd year nurse anesthesia student at The University of Pittsburgh. Jessica applied for the two-week clinical rotation at Angkor Hospital for Children in Siem Reap, Cambodia and was selected after a competitive application process. During her rotation she was able to rotate between the main operating theater, minor procedure unit, and eye clinic. She was supervised directly by Cambodian Nurse Anesthetists who were either in the room or immediately available.

Cultural differences related to the student role that Jessica reported as she was immersed in the Cambodian practice were many. Because the opportunity for formal anesthesia education is very limited in Cambodia, much of the learning takes place in the clinical setting and not in the didactic classroom. Textbooks are also limited due to individual financial constraints with the average income limited to a few hundred dollars per month- even for medical professionals. Structured education is thus seen as something of great value in Cambodia. The Cambodian Nurse Anesthetists and student nurse anesthetists read the textbooks they receive as host gifts over and over during breaks and down times.

At Angkor Hospital for Children, nurses are more independent and function similarly to how nurse practitioners do in the United States. Nurses are allowed to independently assess, diagnose, treat, and perform minor procedures on patients. Nurse anesthetists also function very independently as there are no anesthesiologists employed at the hospital.

Jessica valued many aspects of her experience, but felt that planning for safe care in an environment with limited resources offered her the most appreciable benefit. In the minor procedure unit, she managed cases with monitoring restricted to a precordial stethoscope and a pulse oximeter. This experience provided her with an opportunity to truly focus on the patient and her basic assessment skills.

Regional anesthesia is frequently utilized in the facility, as early discharge is vital given that postoperative inpatient care is limited. The anesthetists utilize regional anesthesia on every case possible to enable early discharge. Ms. Freis was afforded the opportunity to perform a variety of regional nerve blocks using traditional anatomic landmarks as ultrasound and nerve stimulators were not available. Blocks that she performed included femoral, ileo-inguinal, caudal and single shot epidural blocks. Jessica noted that the use of these blocks provided superior pain management and minimal anesthesia recovery time in her patients. Jessica reports "this experience was an invaluable addition to my training."

Update: National Certification Examination (NCE) Results and Self-Evaluation Examination (SEE)

In January 2013, the National Board for Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists announced that the difficulty of the NCE would be increasing as of January 1, 2014. This announcement was met with some concern as the national 1st time pass rate for 2013 had been reported as 85%. The Pitt Nurse Anesthesia program was already in the process of increasing the rigor of student preparation for the NCE and had instituted several key initiatives. These included increased faculty advising and oversight, the adoption of the SEE exam as the midterm examination for NURSAN 2760 CRNA Role which is the final NURSAN course in the curriculum, and the adoption of the Prodigy™ board review software system within several courses. The cohort which graduated in Spring 2014 had a 95% first time NCE pass rate (100% overall) as compared to an 87.5% 1st time national rate. Further the table below demonstrates that we have substantially increased the overall level of student preparation for the SEE with the overall group mean of 438 corresponding to the 84th percentile rank of all students sitting for the examination (Table 1 and Table 2). According to the NBCRNA analysis, the SEE score has a significant correlation to the NCE score if the student has put in an appropriate amount of study time prior to taking the SEE. By sharing details of each students scores on individual subject areas tested by the SEE (Pharmacology, Technology, Basic Principles and Advanced Principles) advisors will have the ability to help tailor student study toward areas of weakness.

Table 1: Pitt SEE Performance 2012-2014

	2012 Pitt SEE	National % Rank of Pitt Mean	*2013 Pitt SEE	National % Rank of Pitt Mean	**2014 Pitt SEE	National % Rank of Pitt Mean
Mean	396	50th	413	69th	438	84th
SD	41		40		32	
Max	473		504		515	
Min	300		300		367	

* SEE required for grade in NA 2760

** Prodigy now required

Table 2: SEE Scaled Score: Overall Exam 2013-2014

	Year 1 Cum. %	Year 2 Cum. %	Year 3 Cum. %	All Cum. %
300-310	3.5	1.6	1.9	2.0
311-320	5.5	2.5	2.9	3.1
321-330	7.7	3.8	3.9	4.6
331-340	12.2	6.9	6.3	7.9
341-350	16.9	10.4	8.7	11.5
351-360	23.3	15.0	12.6	16.4
361-370	29.8	21.7	18.9	23.0
371-380	38.4	29.9	26.9	31.3
381-390	48.3	37.9	36.2	39.8
391-400	58.2	48.1	45.9	49.9
401-410	67.4	58.7	54.1	59.9
411-420	73.8	68.7	63.3	69.1
421-430	81.7	77.5	73.5	77.9
431-440	87.5	84.0	81.3	84.4
441-450	91.7	89.1	87.6	89.5
451-460	94.6	93.0	93.9	93.4
461-470	96.5	95.8	95.9	96.0
471-480	97.5	97.5	97.6	97.5
481-490	99.4	98.7	98.1	98.8
491-500	99.9	99.5	98.5	99.5
501-510	100.0	99.8	99.3	99.8
511-520	100.0	99.9	99.8	99.9
521-530	100.0	100.0	99.8	100.0
531-540	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

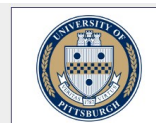
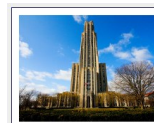
SAS UPDATE

The Summer Anesthesia Seminar began in June 2000 as a student organized fundraiser. This program has been highly successful as a Continuing Education activity for CRNAs both locally and nationally. A few years ago the date was moved to Spring to accommodate the AANA deadline for credit submission for recertification. The 2014 Spring Anesthesia Seminar included a morning lecture series with the afternoon as a hands-on simulation session. The format also provides continuing education credit for nurses and the opportunity for those interested in a career in Nurse Anesthesia to ask questions about the profession from faculty and students.

Mark Your Calendar

The Spring 2015 Seminar is scheduled for
Saturday March 21, 2015

For more information:
Visit the SAS Website at www.sas.pitt.edu



Nurse Anesthesia Program Faculty and Students Attend Mid-Year Assembly 2014

In April 2014, the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA) sponsored three Pitt anesthesia students to attend the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists' Mid-Year Assembly in Washington D.C. Mimi Lyons, a second year student and the PANA 2013-2014 student representative to the Board was sponsored as were first year students Heather Meister and Rachel Volkerding. The Mid-Year Assembly is focused on legal, regulatory and political issues facing the Nurse Anesthesia profession. One of the conference's main goals is to provide a venue to educate and prepare students and nurse anesthetists for interactions with legislators and their staff members on Capitol Hill. Upon arrival at the Assembly, students were paired with Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) mentors who would help to provide information, share prior experiences and serve as guides for the trip to Capitol Hill. The Pitt CRNA mentors were Aaron Ostrowski and Derek Reckard, both program instructors and Pitt alumni. The students were invited to a dinner hosted by PANA and were able to meet other students and CRNAs from Pennsylvania discuss plans for Lobby Day. At the dinner they were provided information on issues impacting CRNAs in Pennsylvania and nationally.

Lobby Day on Capitol Hill was spent meeting with Representatives and Congressman from the State of Pennsylvania and discussing issues important to Pennsylvania's nurse anesthetists. The students had an opportunity to meet with several PA Congressmen including Michael Doyle and Tim Murphy. They also met with Senator Pat Toomey's legislative assistant. Points discussed included supporting the Veteran Administration's stance on CRNA practice, increasing funding for Graduate Nursing Education under Title VIII, addressing the ongoing Medicare payment fee cuts for anesthesia services and supporting enforcement of provider nondiscrimination language in the Affordable Care Act. Each meeting stressed the crucial role CRNAs play in providing safe, effective, accessible healthcare and their desire to practice to the fullest capacity of their knowledge and skill level as recommended by the Institute of Medicine. The students who attended reported that they found the experience educational and enjoyable and felt that it was a tremendous opportunity to learn about and support the Nurse Anesthesia profession.



AANA Midyear Assembly in April 2014
Front (l to r): Rachel Volkerding, Heather Meister, and Mimi Lyons.
Back row (l to r): Aaron Ostrowski and Derek Reckard

Nurse Anesthesia Program Participates in University of Pittsburgh United Way Fundraiser

On Nov. 6, 2013, Pitt Nurse Anesthesia program students and faculty participated in a basketball tournament to help raise money for the United Way foundation. The event, which took place on the floor of the Petersen Events center, featured a raffle of basketballs signed by members of the Pittsburgh Panthers Basketball team. Panther's coaches Jamie Dixon and Suzie McConnell were also present at the fundraiser.



(left to right) Jamaal Hawkins BSN, SRNA, Andrew Gould BSN, SRNA, John O'Donnell DrPH, CRNA

Program Director John O'Donnell joined students Jamaal Hawkins and Andrew Gould along with faculty and students from pharmacy, dentistry, physical therapy and occupational therapy to form the Health Sciences (HS) Team. In the first game of the tournament, the HS Faculty and students tipped off against the Medical School faculty team. In the end, the HS Faculty and students delivered a strong performance and defeated the Medical School faculty in the 5-on-5 half court affair.

Down at the other end of the hardwood, the UPMC resident team faced off against the medical students who ended up victorious after a very physical contest. After a quick water break, the HS Faculty and Students faced off against the medical students to determine the winner of the inaugural charity event. Unfortunately, despite an early lead, the HS Faculty and students could not hold off the medical students and finished in 2nd place for the tournament. In all, the event proved to be another successful fundraiser for the United Way. Overall, the University of Pittsburgh's contributions to United Way totaled \$665,001 for the Fall semester.

Publications: Faculty, Alumni and Students

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

O'Donnell JM (Faculty), Levett-Jones T, Decker S, & Howard VM. *NLN/Jeffries Simulation Framework State of the Science Project: Simulation Learning Outcomes*. [Clinical Simulation in Nursing](#). 10(7):373-382. 2014 July. [First published online: June 11,2014]. Also published in the conference report , 8(8), e410.

Palmer L. (Faculty). *Anesthesia 101: Everything you need to know*. [Reprinted from OR Nurse 2013 with Publisher Permission] [Plastic Surgical Nursing](#). 33(4):164-71 2013 October-December.

Neft M (Faculty), Mitchell A, **O'Donnell J (Faculty)**, Puskar K, Fioravanti M, Hagle H, Lindsay D. *Screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment for interprofessional groups of anesthesia students: The SBIRT-InGAS Project*. [AANA News Bulletin](#). 68, (1): 22. 2014.

Neft M (Faculty), Okechukwu K, Grant P, Reede, L. *The Revised Scope of Nurse Anesthesia Practice Embodies the Broad Continuum of Nurse Anesthesia Services*. [AANA Journal](#). 81(5):347-350. 2013 October.

Andrews JE. (Class of 2013-Spring). *Severe Pulmonary Hypertension: A Noncardiac, Nonobstetrical Surgical Case Study*. [AANA Journal](#). 81 (4):297-302. 2013 August.

Talcott K, **O'Donnell JM (Faculty)**, Burns HK. *Overcoming Barriers in Online Workshop Development: An ELITE Experience*. [The Journal of Continuing Education in Nursing](#). 44(6): 264. 2013 June.

ABSTRACTS AND POSTERS:

Neft M (Faculty), **O'Donnell J (Faculty)**, Mitchell A, Puskar K, Cuddy M, Fioravanti M, Boucek L, Talcott K, Lindsay D, Hagle H, & Lincoln P. *Screening, Brief Intervention, and referral to Treatment (SBIRT): Interprofessional Groups of Anesthesia Students (InGAS)*. [Poster presented at multiple conferences](#). [Author order may vary](#). All Together Better Health Conference , Pittsburgh, PA. (June 2014); Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists Educational meeting, Pittsburgh, PA (April 2014); Spring Anesthesia Seminar, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. (March 2014); Eta Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International Scholar's Night, Pittsburgh, PA. (March 2014) University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing 3rd Annual Scholarly Poster Presentation Symposium, Pittsburgh, PA (June and October 2013); 37th Annual Symposium of the International Nurses Society on Addictions (IntNSA), Washington, DC. (October 2013); West Michigan Interprofessional Education & Collaborative Practice Conference, Grand Rapids, MI (September 2013)

Puskar K, Mitchell A, Albrecht S, Frank L, **O'Donnell J (Faculty)**, **Neft M (Faculty)**, Lee H, Cuddy M, Hagle H, Lindsay D. *Transdisciplinary Health Professional Education: Integrating Inter-professional Competencies and Alcohol and Drug Use Screening*. Poster present at the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Assessing Health Professional Education Public Workshop of the Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education, Washington, DC. (October 2013).

Fioravanti MA, **Neft M (Faculty)**, Mitchell AM, **O'Donnell J (Faculty)**, Cuddy M, Puskar K, Hagle H, Talcott KS, Lindsay D, Boucek L, Aiello J, Lahey V, Lincoln P. *Alcohol and Other Drug Use in Anesthesia: Simulation for Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT): Interprofessional Groups of Anesthesia Students (InGAS)*. Poster presented at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing 3rd Annual Scholarly Poster Presentation Symposium, Pittsburgh, PA. (June 2013).

OTHER

See Student Publications in the AANA Bulletin listed on page 7

Annual South Fayette High School Visit

On Tuesday, April 29, 2014, 65 junior and senior anatomy and physiology students travelled from South Fayette High School and participated in a field trip to the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing and UPMC Presbyterian to learn about the professions of nursing and nurse anesthesia. This was the 12th annual visit for the group as they followed a busy schedule that included OR observation and anesthesia simulation, focusing on endotracheal intubation of mannequins, epidural insertion, mock induction, and the use of the automatic external defibrillator.

The event required the coordinated efforts of many assistants, many of whom were students from the Nurse Anesthesia Program. They instructed, demonstrated and assisted the high school students through their planned activities. Other volunteers included the UPMC Presbyterian CRNAs who were excited to have the students shadow them in the OR during their observation experience. The day concluded with a pizza lunch sponsored by the CRNAs of UPMC Presbyterian and a presentation on how to become a nurse anesthetist.



Aaron Ostrowski with South Fayette students and Pitt Nurse Anesthesia Program student volunteers

Awards and Scholarships: Faculty, Alumni and Students



American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)



Awarded August 2013

AANA Meeting in Las Vegas, NV

Dean and Fred Hayden Memorial National Scholarship
Emily Grost, Class of 2013 Fall

Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA) Scholarship
Benjamin Adcock, Class of 2013 - Fall

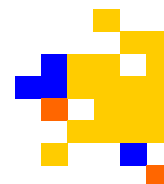
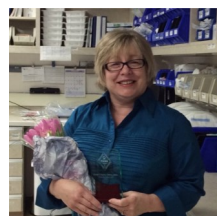


Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA)

Awarded May 2014 at the Spring Symposium in Hershey PA

PANA Clinical Instructor of the Year
Laura Kridler, CRNA, MSN
Alumni (Class of 2010 Fall)
Adjunct Faculty and Student Coordinator,
UPMC St. Margaret

PANA Clinician of the Year
Linda Crippen, CRNA, MSN
Alumni, UHCP School of Nurse Anesthesia
Staff Anesthetist, UPMC St. Margaret



Laura Kridler (right) receiving award at the meeting from Mary Lou Taylor—PANA Trustee

PANA OFFICERS 2013-2014

Alumni and Faculty

PRESIDENT ELECT:

Michael Neft, DNP, CRNA (Faculty)

PRESIDENT:

Jason R. Bauer, CRNA, MSN (Class of 2004)

VICE PRESIDENT:

Brian D. Berry, Jr., CRNA, MS (Adjunct Faculty)

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Meredyth Lyons, RN, BSN (Class of 2014 - Fall)

TRUSTEES 2011-2013

Molly Fries, CRNA, MSN (Class of 2009 Spring)

Adrienne Ruzicka, CRNA, MSN (Class of 2012 Fall)
Adjunct Faculty

Aaron Ostrowski, CRNA, MSN (Faculty and Alumni)

Mary Lou Taylor, CRNA, BSN
CRNA Director and Student Coordinator,
UPMC St. Margaret



University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Honors and Scholarships

Awarded at Convocation - September 27, 2013
20th Century Club
listed as pictured left to right on photo

W. Edward and Jeannette L. Wolfe Memorial Fund
Patrick Johnson, Class of 2013 - Fall

Patricia Lynch Scholarship
Sarah Zangle, Class of 2014 - Spring

Boytim Student Award
Thea Cole, Class of 2015 - Spring

Jane Wiggins Scholarship
Emily Grost, Class of 2013 - Fall

Doris & Davina Gosnell Scholarship
Jacob Heeter, Class of 2014 - Fall

Susan B. Edelstone Scholarship
Kamica Ross, Class of 2015 - Fall

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
Graduate Nursing Student Organization
2014 Officers

President: **Liz Kerlik**, Class of 2014 Fall
Treasurer: **Tony Chao**, Class of 2015 Spring



University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing



November 2, 2013
 Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom
 David L. Lawrence Convention Center

The Cameos of Caring Program and Awards Gala was launched on October 1999, when the first class of nurses was honored. During the first year, 20 hospitals in Western Pennsylvania joined the Cameos of Caring family, each selecting one nurse who demonstrated excellence in nursing care, served as an advocate for patients and families, and embodied the essence of the nursing profession. The event has grown to include over 50 hospitals and over 1200 attendees. Proceeds from the Gala benefit the Cameos of Caring Endowed Nursing Scholarship.



Jeffery Blackhurst (left) and John Jones (right)

UPP Department of
 Anesthesia Award
Jeffery Blackhurst, CRNA, BSN
 Clinical Instructor, UPMC Presbyterian

Advance Practice Nurse Award
Cpt. John Jones, CRNA, MSN
 Alumni, University of Pittsburgh
 Nurse Anesthesia Program
 Clinical Instructor, UPMC Presbyterian

Scholarships

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
 Cameos of Caring Scholarship
 Awarded November 2, 2013
 Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom at the
 David L. Lawrence Convention Center

*Ten Nurse Anesthesia Students Received
 one of the 25 Scholarships*

- MSN Nurse Anesthesia Students**
 Benjamin Adcock, Class of 2013 - Fall
 Chelsea Cord, Class of 2015 - Fall
 Abigail DiGaetano, Class of 2015 - Fall
 Lance Fusselman, Class of 2014 - Spring
 Michael Hogue, Class of 2015 - Fall
 Jason Krencicki, Class of 2013 - Fall
 Laurie Ratica, Class of 2014 - Spring
 Lillian Resnick, Class of 2015 - Spring
 Mary Rodkey, Class of 2014 - Spring
 Eric Wiech, Class of 2014 - Fall

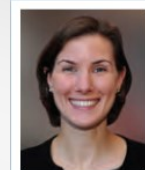


From left: Lillian Resnick, Mimi Rodkey, Ben Adcock, Abby DiGaetano, Chelsea Cord, and Jason Krencicki



University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
 Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Kelly Wiltse Nicely, MSN (Class of 2005), PhD, CRNA
 Assistant Professor of Nurse Anesthesia
 at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing
Awarded September 27, 2013
 20th Century Club



These awards are given to deserving students in each graduating class

University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program Awards

Academic Achievement Award

Ashleigh Griechen, Laurie Ratica, Erica Wiesen and Sarah Zangle
Class of 2014 Spring
Sean Griffith, Patrick Johnson and Lysie Zoeller, Class of 2013 Fall

Helen Lamb CRNA Educator Award

In Recognition of Dedication and Valuable Contributions to Instructional Excellence as a Nurse Anesthesia Student
Jeffery Rompala, Class of 2014 Spring
Lysie Zoeller, Class of 2013 Fall

Agatha Hodgins Award for Academic and Clinical Excellence

Erica Wiesen, Class of 2014 Spring
Emily Grost, Class of 2013 Fall

"Above and Beyond" Service Award

Jennifer Fisher, Jeffery Rompala, Erica Wiesen and Sarah Zangle
Class of 2014 Spring
Joseph Ferriero and Chrissy Wright, Class of 2013 Fall

Nurse Anesthesia Program Endowment Awards



Susan Nath Bywaters 1998

About the endowments.....

The Sue Nath Bywaters Endowment was established in 1999 to acknowledge individuals who face professional and personal challenges. Sue overcame numerous obstacles in her life and was committed to counseling others in need. The Sandra Sell SPIRIT Award Fund began in 2009 and recognizes those that embrace the qualities of this dynamic and respected colleague. Donations can be made through the University directed to either of these funds allowing future students to benefit.



2009 Sandra Sell

Susan Nath Bywaters Endowment Award

Lang Conteh, Class of 2014 Spring
(see photo page 4)

For more information please contact:

Janice Devine
Director of Development
(412) 624-7541
or toll free (866) 217-1124
E-mail: jad154@pitt.edu
University of Pittsburgh
School of Nursing
218 Victoria Building
3500 Victoria Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15261

Sandra Sell SPIRIT Award

Sarah Zangle, Class of 2014 Spring
(see photo page 4)



Benjamin Adcock, Class of 2013 Fall
Award presented by Mary Lou Taylor, CRNA (right)

Award presentation videos and photos are on the Memorial Website at:
<http://memorialwebsites.legacy.com/sandyfoxsell/Homepage.aspx>



Valerie Pomerantz, Class of 2013 Fall
Award presented by Laura Palmer, CRNA (right)

Mary DePaolis Lutzo, CRNA Clinical Instructor Award

The recipient of this award is selected annually by the graduating students from the many CRNA clinical instructors throughout our clinical sites. Dr. Lutzo was the former Program Director whose vision and leadership in nurse anesthesia education transitioned the UHCP School of Anesthesia for Nurses into the current graduate program housed at the School of Nursing. Mary always valued the contributions of the clinical faculty as the backbone of nurse anesthesia education and this award recognizes their commitment and dedication to our students.

Stephen C. Finestone, MD Clinical Instructor Award

The recipient of this award is selected annually by the graduating students from the many physician clinical instructors throughout our clinical sites. This award was established in 1994 to honor the contributions of Dr. Stephen Finestone to the education of Nurse Anesthetists and recognize the support of our physician faculty to clinical education. Dr. Finestone was the Medical Director of the UHCP School of Nurse Anesthesia from its early beginnings throughout the transition to the current program.

Jennifer Coates, CRNA, MSN — April 2014
Shawn Weber, CRNA, MHS — December 2013

Photos of award winners are on the Program Website.....Please visit!

Dr. Lauri Adler— April 2014
Dr. Jonathan Waters — December 2013

**University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
GRADUATE GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVE AWARD**

*presented at the
School of Nursing Graduation Ceremony - April 26, 2014
Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom - David L. Lawrence Convention Center*

This is the first time this award was presented and recognizes a student that has demonstrated their commitment and skills in efforts that go beyond coursework requirements. While in the demands of our anesthesia program she traveled to Cambodia for two weeks with a faculty member to provide anesthesia at Angkor Hospital for Children in Siem Reap. While there she participated in the creation of a Quality Assurance program and performed data collection as part of the development of an NIH grant.



Sarah Zangle Class of 2014 Spring

**Nurse Anesthesia Program
Student Clinical Honors**

Nominated by the Clinical Coordinator for exemplary performance

Jacob Heeter – November 2013 — Children’s
Abigail De Gaetano – February 2014 – St. Margaret
Laurie Ratica – February 2014 – Heritage Valley

Andrew Fleming – March 2014 — Magee
Lauren Adrian – June 2014 — Presby
Andrew Fleming – July 2014 — Presby



National Board of Certification and
Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists
National Certification Exam (NCE)
Item Writer Committee

Appointed June 2014
Judith Mermigas, MSN, CRNA
Faculty, Nurse Anesthesia Program



**George I. Carson Fellowship
University of Pittsburgh
Department of Athletics**

Awarded to graduate students who were formerly involved in the Athletics Program at the University of Pittsburgh. Leah threw the javelin for Pitt’s Women’s Track and Field Team 2008-2011 while earning her BSN. Career-best: 8th place finish at Big East Conference!



July 2014
Leah Ulizio
Class of 2015 Spring



American Nurses Association
Committee on Nursing Practice Standards
Initially appointed 2009
Reappointed December of 2013
Appointed Co-chair March 2014

Richard Henker, PhD, CRNA, MSN, FAAN
Professor, University of Pittsburgh
Nurse Anesthesia Program

WEBSITE
www.pitt.edu/~napcrna



Consultant on the Nursing Scope of Practice and Standards
of Care Task Force for the Ministry of Health in Cambodia
This project was funded by the World Health Organization

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