



University of Pittsburgh

Nurse Anesthesia Program

ONE YEAR UPDATE

JULY 2012

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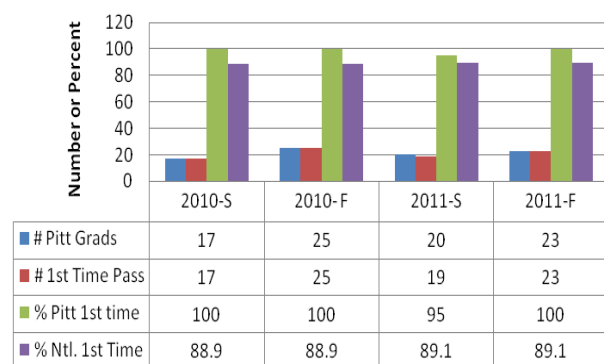
Pitt Nurse Anesthesia Program Graduates Have Continued Success on the National Certification Examination:

98.8% 1st Time Pass Rate for 2010-2011

The Pitt Nurse Anesthesia Program 1st time and overall National Certification Examination (NCE) pass rates have remained strong. In 2010-2011 the program graduated a total of 80 students with 79 passing the NCE on the 1st attempt (98.8%). In this same period, the national 1st time pass rate was 89%. The overall program pass rate was also excellent and was 100% which can be compared with the National overall NCE pass rate of 83.5% during the same period. According to the AANA Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs policy and procedures, a program must meet the standard of 80% of the 1st time national average (89%) or 71.2% first time pass rate.

We are proud to report that the University of Pittsburgh first time pass rate exceeds existing benchmarks. First time pass success almost 10% above the national mean is a significant accomplishment. Program faculty attribute this success to academic rigor, excellent clinical experiences, frequent curricular evaluation, attention to the NCE test map during curricular planning and a rigorous review process led by faculty which has been incorporated into the program.

Pitt National Certification Exam Performance:
2010-2011



Program Faculty

John O'Donnell CRNA, DrPH
Program Director

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

Richard Henker PhD, CRNA

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

Laura Palmer CRNA, MNED

Assistant Director,
Evaluation Coordinator

- Full time faculty since 1994
- DNP Student
- Website Design

Michael Neft CRNA, DNP, MSN

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

Aaron Ostrowski CRNA, MSN
Instructor

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

Judith Mermigas CRNA, MSN
Instructor

- Full time faculty since January 2011
- DNP student

STAFF

Cynthia McClellan, BS

Administrative Assistant

Valerie Sabo

Part time Secretary

Admissions Update by Joseph Goode, CRNA, MSN

The Fall 2011/Spring 2012 interview and admissions cycle had an increased number of applicants from the previous cycle, continuing a trend of continually increasing numbers of applicants to our program. 219 candidates officially submitted applications to the Nurse Anesthesia Program. These applicants came from across the country 32 different states including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico). There also was one applicant from Shanghai, China.

Of the 219 applicants received, 120 were offered interviews, 60 in the December interview session and 60 in the March interview session. We ultimately accepted 38 applicants for full-time admissions (17 for Fall of 2012 and 21 for Spring of 2013). In combination with applicants previously accepted in our Part-Time to Full-Time Track, we have a total of 23 students for the Fall 2012 cohort and 22 students for the Spring

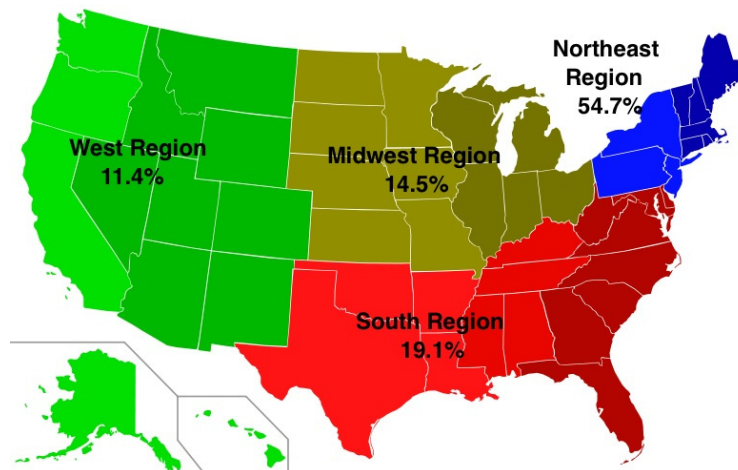
2013 cohort. These two admissions classes are comprised of students from 13 different states. We also provisionally accepted 10 other applicants for the next admissions cycle.

We undertook an examination of our applicant pool over the course of the last five admissions cycles (from 2008 to 2012). During that period, we received a total of 868 applicants from 44 different states or territories. 237 of these applicants were ultimately accepted into the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program (approximately 27%).

The table below gives a snapshot of 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 ± 0.39	502 ± 75	598 ± 83	4.1 ± 0.6	4.0 ± 2.8	3.3 ± 2.3	28.2 ± 4.7	26.5
Spring Admits	3.65 ± 0.25	481 ± 75	583 ± 91	3.9 ± 0.6	4.6 ± 4.1	3.5 ± 2.8	29.5 ± 6.6	33.3
All Admits	3.69 ± 0.25	492 ± 75	591 ± 86	4.0 ± 0.6	4.3 ± 3.5	3.4 ± 2.5	28.8 ± 5.7	30.0

The map (right) shows 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 receive significant numbers of applicants from the other 3 regions, especially the Mid-Atlantic States (darker red) and the East North Central (dark olive).



We believe that these demographic data demonstrate a broad reach and a wide recognition of the quality of our program and of our Nurse Anesthesia Program faculty. 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.

Obviously, we have no shortage of applicants during each admissions cycle. But we would offer this comment. 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. You also have a unique perspective on the qualities that are needed in achieving this goal. With our alumni are now working in a wide variety of settings around the country we believe that these factors put you in an excellent position to help us in identifying 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 our students, 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

Doctor of Nursing Practice Update

The DNP completion program currently has four students enrolled, with approximately another four to six in the process of applying and interviewing. Our four students are moving along in their capstone project development and execution. Their projects are interesting, timely, and pertinent to their practice areas. The topic areas deal with patient care, insurance reimbursement policy, and student education. The NAP faculty are reviewing the current MSN curriculum with the goal of converting the entire program into a DNP framework. We do not have a firm target date for the conversion, but are hoping for sooner rather than later. We need to integrate the DNP required courses with our hard science and anesthesia courses, assuring that the clinical component of the program remain untouched. The application process for the DNP completion program is not complicated and is found on the School of Nursing's website

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



Dr. John O'Donnell named Associate Editor, Clinical Simulation in Nursing



John O'Donnell CRNA, DrPH, Associate Director for Nursing, WISER has been named Associate Editor of Clinical Simulation in Nursing (CSIN). Clinical Simulation in Nursing is an international, peer reviewed journal published online nine times annually. Clinical Simulation in Nursing is the official journal of the International Nursing Association of Clinical and Simulated Learning (INACSL) and reflects the mission of INACSL. The journal accepts manuscripts meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Collaborating, mentoring, and networking for the advancement of nursing and health care education and practice through simulation and technology
- Integrating teaching strategies developed from simulation and technology
- Advancing nursing and health care through education, research, and technology
- Supporting the use of simulation and technology to enhance patient-centered care and evidence based practice
- Disseminating, reviewing, and updating knowledge, guidelines, regulations, and legislative policies that impact nursing and health care education and practice

Dr. O'Donnell joins Dr. Suzan (Suzie) Kardong-Edgren (Editor in Chief) and fellow Associate Editor Ms. Nicole Harder as the editorial team for the journal. When asked about his new role O'Donnell stated: "I have been a reviewer for CSIN for the past two years and enjoyed that role. However I was thrilled to be selected as an associate editor for the premier nursing simulation journal. My belief is that we are moving into the evidence-based scientific inquiry phase of simulation education and this puts me, the Pitt School of Nursing and WISER at the forefront of the effort".

<http://www.nursingsimulation.org/>

Alumni Event at AANA Annual Meeting Continues for the Third Year

The first student and alumni reception was held at the AANA National Meeting in Seattle, Washington in August 2010. More than 75 students, faculty and alumni participated in this inaugural event. A donation of \$1000 from the Hoops for Hope fundraiser by the Nurse Anesthesia program was presented to Mr. Bunrum Ly, a nurse anesthetist from Angkor Children's Hospital in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The event was well received and continued with the tradition of an annual 'Pitt Get-Together' at the Josie McIntyres pub in Boston on Saturday August 6, 2011 with more than 75 students and alumni in attendance. This years event will be held on August 4th during the AANA Meeting in San Francisco, CA at a site to be determined. There is also a University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences Reception for all Health Science Alumni at San Francisco Palace Hotel on August 3, 2012 from 6-8 pm.

Assistant Professor Michael Neft: Re-appointed as Chair of the AANA Practice Committee



Dr. Michael Neft has recently been named as Chair of the AANA Practice Committee for the second consecutive year of his 3 years with the committee. Mike began his service with this prestigious committee in September 2009. During the

past year, the committee has looked at many issues. The following three are examples of some pertinent areas that are being reviewed:

The Use of Mobile Devices in Anesthetizing Locations: Mobile devices such as iPhones and iPads are part of many professionals' standard communication and resource equipment. The issue that arises is when people use these devices for other than professional communication, e.g. social networking, "net surfing", or other areas that distract them from clinical responsibilities. Drug libraries, text books and other reference materials are readily available on line. It is very useful to use these resources, via an iPhone or iPad in the clinical area, much the same way one would have pulled out a small reference book, or a "palm pilot" in the past. However, iPads and iPhones are also very useful for communicating with others. This can be a professional boon as well. Often smart phones are used within ORs and entire facilities to communicate with people in a short, efficient manner. Problems arise when these devices are used for social exchange. In these cases, these helpful devices turn into a major hindrance to quality care and offer the potential for distraction leading to a decrease, or loss of vigilance which may lead to errors in patient care. It is for this reason that the AANA Practice Committee is looking at this issue with the potential for creating a position statement about the use of these devices.

Critical Incident Debriefing: Incidents or events occur clinically that involve a significant response from anesthesia and other staff (e.g. OR, ICU, ER). Some examples of these events are: cardiac arrests, traumas, malignant hyperthermia, cases with significant blood loss, and cases resulting in unexpected death or morbidity. Not only is there a significant clinical response on the part of staff, there is also a significant emotional response in many of these cases. Often, after a crisis has occurred, staff have multiple, sometimes conflicting feelings that can be helped if they are able to critically scrutinize the incident with all of the people who were involved, in a non-threatening manner, in a non-threatening environment. The AANA Practice Committee is discussing the possibility of developing a position statement that would outline a systematic, evidence-based manner of debriefing after such incidents occur in an effort to support the staff involved.

Inter-professional Teams: Information about this area is being developed into an AANA position statement. The information discusses the breadth of terms used to describe inter professional interaction, collaboration, and expectations. Specifically, the knowledge and skills of each member of an Interprofessional team should be embraced and respected for their contributions to patient care. The CRNA's educational background, work situation, and clinical experience must be accounted for, in light of facility policies, and patient and provider needs and desires. We all know that CRNAs routinely work with dentists, podiatrists, surgeons and other physicians without the presence or oversight of an anesthesiologist; therefore the term medical direction is also addressed because this purely is a billing concept without a demonstrated impact to quality of care.

Pitt Nurse Anesthesia Student Selected as PANA Student Representative

This year Malinda Miller had the honor of being selected for the PANA Student Representative position. As the Student Representative, Ms. Miller attended all of the PANA board meetings this year and had the privilege to stay for executive sessions. This year has been full of changes within the organization and she was able to see the process first hand. Malinda stated that she was "amazed at the many changes within the organization this year. It is an exciting time as PANA is taking a new direction". Changes included alterations in organizational financial practices and replacement of the management group, lawyer and lobbyist.

Another responsibility of the PANA Student Representative was to be organize and lead the other SRNAs within Pennsylvania. Ms. Miller worked closely with PANA Student Delegates from each of the PA schools on various projects. She organized a two-hour intercollegiate presentation (ACE or anesthetic crisis and emergency management) as well as helping to organize the annual PANA College Bowl. An additional duty was to write four articles for the PANA newsletter, Tidings.

As the PANA Student Representative, Ms. Miller had the opportunity to meet CRNAs and SRNAs from all over PA and in the process met mentors and friends. It is her goal to continue to be involved with the state board after graduation and to encourage SRNAs and CRNAs to become active PANA members.



Graduation Celebrations.....



*April 27, 2012
University Club— 22 Graduates*



*December 17, 2011
University Club — 23 Graduates*

Clinical Site Update

The Nurse Anesthesia Program's clinical sites continue to grow. The Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs (COA) has approved the following facilities as clinical sites for us in the last year:

- Peninsula Regional Medical Center, (PRMC), Salisbury, MD;
- Southwest Ambulatory Surgical Center (SWASC) in West Mifflin, PA.
- Heritage Valley Health System – Sewickley Campus, Sewickley, PA (HV-S; formerly known as Sewickley Valley Hospital)

Peninsula Regional Medical Center is a level one trauma center in Salisbury, MD. It offers our students the opportunity to do central venous line placement and peripheral nerve blocks. There are no other learners at this site, so our students have the ability to be involved in as many different cases and procedures as possible. The facility has state-of-the-art equipment and supplies in support of the wide variety of patient care that is provided there.

Southwest Ambulatory Surgical Center in West Mifflin, PA is an out-patient site that does hundreds of cases per month, with approximately 50% completed as CRNA-only cases. In this way our students will gain the ability to see an alternative model of care. Another advantage to this site is that there are many pediatric cases which affords students interested in this subspecialty an additional opportunity for pediatric experience.

Heritage Valley Health System – Sewickley Campus in Sewickley, PA is a community hospital that does multiple types of surgery, the largest type of case being major vascular in nature. This site affords our students the opportunities for more experience with subarachnoid blocks. It also gives our students a perspective on anesthesia in a community hospital outside of the UPMC system.

Over the next few months we are planning on submitting packets to the COA for approval of the following facilities as clinical sites: Atrium Medical Center in Middletown, OH; Northside Medical Center in Youngstown, OH; and UPMC- Northwest (Seneca, PA). The former two sites will offer our students the ability to do central line placement and peripheral nerve blocks as well as larger cases such as hearts and major vascular. The latter site will offer additional OB experience, plus it is somewhat rural in nature, so it will give the students the opportunity to see how anesthesia and healthcare is practiced in a rural location.

Simulation Update — January 2012

CRNAs Continue Leadership Roles in International Simulation Education

John O'Donnell, CRNA, Dr.PH and Jeffrey Groom, CRNA, PhD presented multiple sessions in representing the nurse anesthesia profession at the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH 2012) in San Diego – the 9th annual international meeting of this organization since it was founded in 2004. The meeting broke attendance records with over 3100 educators, researchers and exhibitors from 37 countries in attendance. 353 courses and 281 abstracts were approved for IMSH 2012, with 86 companies providing exhibits. The meeting began with a bomb-blast induced mass casualty simulation. The San Diego Fire Department and Bomb Squad used this opportunity to provide training to their personnel in treatment of 60 high fidelity simulated casualties.

Drs. O'Donnell and Groom led two pre-conference workshops. O'Donnell co-directed a four hour 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 were Dr. Amitai Ziv, Director of MSR and Dr. Paul Phrampus, Director of WISER. Dr. Groom co-directed the pre-conference workshop – '*Research in Simulation: Where do I start?*' with co-course director Dr. William McGaghie of Northwestern University.

O'Donnell and Groom joined forces once more during the conference to present an expert panel along with Dr. Carolyn Cason (University of Texas at Arlington) and Dr. David Rodgers (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia) for an expert panel session titled *Mastery Learning Principles in Simulation: Putting Accomplishment in the Drivers Seat*. Mastery learning continues to gain notoriety in simulation education as an effective tool to

ensure student accomplishment of learning objectives and was listed as one of 12 best practices by McGaghie et. al. (2010)¹.

O'Donnell, Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program and Associate Director for the WISER Center at the University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA) and Groom, Director of Anesthesiology Nursing at Florida International University (Miami, FL) are founding members of the Society for Simulation in Healthcare which was formed in 2004. Both Drs. O'Donnell and Groom have utilized simulation-based education extensively in their respective nurse anesthetist educational programs and are frequent invited international speakers on the topic of simulation-based education. Dr. O'Donnell was recently named Associate Editor of the journal *Clinical Simulation in Nursing*. Dr. Groom serves as a member of the Editorial Board for the journal *Simulation in Healthcare*. O'Donnell was lead author of the American Heart Association '*Structured and Supported Debriefing Program* which has been adopted in the ACLS and PALS core curriculum internationally². Further, Drs. O'Donnell and Groom along with their colleagues from the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Miami and Eastern Virginia Medical School have authored an intensive 3-day simulation instructor course designed to assist faculty development in use of simulation educational methods. The course is titled *iSIM:Improving Simulation Instructional Methods* and has now educated more than 500 faculty in six international locations. In the continental US, iSIM is held several times a year between Pittsburgh and Miami at the Winter Institute for Simulation, Education and Research (WISER) and the Gordon Center for Research in Medical Education (GCRME) and the respectively (www.isimcourse.com).



Jeffrey Groom, CRNA, PhD

¹ McGaghie, W. C., S. B. Issenberg, et al. (2010). "A critical review of simulation-based medical education research: 2003-2009." *Med Educ* 44(1): 50-63.

² O'Donnell, J.M., Rodgers, D.L., Lee, W. W., Edelson, D. P., Haag, J., Hamilton, M. F., Hoadley, T., McCullough, A., Meeks, R., (2009), *Structured and Supported Debriefing [Computer Software]*. American Heart Association, Dallas, TX.

Hoops for Hope Update

On May 21, 2011, the Nurse Anesthesia Program sponsored the 3rd annual Hoops for Hope Basketball and Volleyball Tournament at Squaw Valley Park in Fox Chapel. Hoops for Hope is a fundraiser that benefits Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC) in Seim Reap, Cambodia, an independently operated non-government organization that is financed by Friends Without A Border, a not-for-profit organization. All direct patient care, clinical services, and education is made possible by donations. All the money raised by Hoops for Hope is directly donated to purchase anesthesia supplies for AHC. Last year student nurse anesthetists, CRNAs, nurse anesthesia faculty, and their friends and family played in the tournament, creating 5 basketball and 6 volleyball teams. Gift baskets made from donations from many generous businesses were also raffled off. The event was a success and raised a little over \$950 for AHC which was personally presented in November 2011 to the Cambodian nurse anesthetists by the two students participating in the rotation. A great time was had by all who attended and we expect an even greater turnout this year and hope to exceed amount of funds raised last year. This year, the event will be held on **Saturday, August 25th** at Squaw Valley Park in Fox Chapel. For those interested in more information, see the link on the Student Information Website for details. www.pitt.edu/~srna100. The upcoming event is organized by Troy Jackson, Class of 2013 Spring.



Left to right: Chenda and Sakoun receiving the check from Candace Hipple and Leanne Walker

International Initiatives: Update

Angkor Hospital for Children Clinical Student Rotation in Siem Reap Cambodia

Candace Hipple and Leanne Walker were selected to participate in a 2 week rotation at Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC). This is the 6th group of nurse anesthesia students that have participated in a rotation at AHC, a Non-Government Organization hospital that provides care to all children in Cambodia.

The mission for AHC is to “provide free pediatric healthcare to the children affected by both poverty and disease in Siem Reap Province and Northern Cambodia, and to strengthen Cambodia's Health infrastructure through training of doctors, nurses and other health professionals as well as rural government health workers and communities”. Surgical services at AHC are provided in one main operating theatre, a procedure room and one operating theatre in the eye clinic. One hundred and thirty surgical procedures are performed each month at AHC. Candace and Leanne were taught by the 3 nurse anesthetists at AHC under the supervision of University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing faculty member Richard Henker. Despite 10 hour clinical days at AHC Candace and Leanne



Candace Hipple, Leanne Walker, and Kit Henker visiting the Ta Prohm temple near Angkor Wat, site of filming for Tomb Raider.

did have a chance to visit Angkor Wat and see other tourist attractions in the region such as Tonle Sap.

Overseas Connections

In addition to a clinical site at Angkor Hospital for Children in Siem Reap Cambodia, the Nurse Anesthesia Program is always looking for additional opportunities for international experiences. Faculty member Rick Henker is the Health Volunteers Overseas coordinator for the Bhutan program and his most recent trip there was August and September of 2011. Although initial work on this program started in 2009, there is hope that the program will be starting next summer, July 2013. Three Pitt Alums have participated in volunteer work in Bhutan, Raelyn Raver, Monica Helinski, and Heather Sabourin. Aiza Robles, Carrie Heiney and Jessica Maritto have helped with curriculum development for the Nurse Anesthesia Program in Bhutan.

Other overseas collaborations are also in progress with Boromarajonani College of Nursing Nakhon Phanom University in Thailand. Rick Henker presented lectures on the incorporation of evidence based practice and simulation into a nursing curriculum at Boromarajonani College of Nursing in December of 2013. In addition, during a tour of the Nakhon Phanom Hospital there was considerable interest by the Department of Anesthesiology in a clinical rotation for Pitt nurse anesthesia students. This collaboration has been supported by the Effective Aid in Thailand Foundation. Rick will be traveling to Nakhon Phanom in February of 2013.

Community Initiatives....South Fayette Visit Update



On Friday, May 4, 2012, the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program hosted over 40 junior and senior anatomy and physiology students from South Fayette and Pine-Richland school districts. The visit was coordinated by Aaron Ostrowski, CRNA, a 2001 NAP alumnus and instructor, as 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 year was a milestone tenth visit in which the students followed a busy schedule including OR observation and anesthesia simulation. The students had the opportunity to perform endotracheal intubation, epidural insertion, mock induction, and automatic external defibrillation on training mannequins. The day concluded with a pizza lunch sponsored by the CRNAs of UPMC Presbyterian and a presentation on how to become a nurse anesthetist.

The event required the coordinated efforts of many SRNAs currently enrolled in the Nurse Anesthesia Program. The nurse anesthesia students volunteered their time to instruct, demonstrate and assist the high school students through their rotations. Other volunteers included the UPMC Presbyterian CRNAs who were excited to have the students shadow them in the OR during their observation experience. Aaron began hosting these field trips as a way to expand the minds of young men and women, to raise their awareness of a nursing career's many options. Kent Nichols was Aaron's ninth and tenth grade biology teacher and sparked his interest in human anatomy and physiology. He is now retired, but Aaron gives Mr. Nichols the credit for inspiring him to introduce the younger generations to one career that many high school students, especially boys, may overlook. Mr. Ostrowski hopes to continue these visits for at least several years to come and is looking forward to another potential first, a former South Fayette visitor who may apply to our program. Please stay tuned!

Diversity Activities

Pitt Selected to Host the Annual AANA Diversity Program

On October 7-9, 2011 The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing hosted The Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program. This event brings together Program Directors, CRNA's, SRNA's, Nurses and even high school students for an informative and interactive weekend. The event began Friday evening with an informal "Meet and Greet" reception to introduce the attendees to panel participants and Program Directors. Saturday, was a full day conference, while Sunday was an interactive workshop of simulation at the the Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation Education and Research (WISER). Saturday began with an introduction of the day's events by the SRNA moderator Mr. James Lewis (Excela School of Anesthesia) and proceeded to talks by Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean of the School of Nursing, Richard Henker CRNA, PhD, FAAN, Interim Chair Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, Paula Davis, Sr. Vice Chancellor of Diversity in Health Sciences and Wanda Wilson, CRNA, PhD, Executive Director, AANA. Panel discussions by student anesthetists and CRNA educators and clinicians were the main focus of the Saturday event. The SRNA panel consisted of 12 students representing various schools and levels in their respective programs. Questions pertaining to entry, preparation for and during the programs, a typical day as a student, clinical, and balance of life and school, were fielded by the panel participants including Pitt NAP students Punam Patel and Malinda Miller. Other Pitt students

participating included Selestine Onyango, Michelene Jeter-Ogagan, Christopher Saxey, Shannon Barr, Carrie Heiney and Tahirah Marks. "The beauty of this event is the interaction between the participants and the CRNAs, SRNAs and Program Faculty. Everyone is approachable and easy to engage in conversation. To have this kind of information available to you is outstanding." Tahirah said of the event.



Tahirah Marks and Carrie Heiney at WISER

Sunday's event took place at the WISER simulation lab. The participants that attended were amazed with the facility. Opportunities to intubate (nasally, orally, and with fiber optics) as well as central line placement and even spinals were offered. Lena Gould, CRNA, the founder of the program said "the mission of the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program is to inform, empower and mentor underserved diverse populations with information to prepare for a successful career in Nurse Anesthesia." Ms. Gould has been recognized across the

United States for her efforts by both Nurse Anesthesia and Nursing groups.

Ms. Marks and Ms. Miller both participated in additional diversity events. Malinda Miller was named the National Diversity Student of the Month in November and December 2011 and both Malinda and Tahirah Marks were invited to present at diversity events at Drexel University in April 2012.

Pitt Students Participate in Obama International School Program

On April 13th of this year the Pittsburgh Obama 6-12 International Baccalaureate World School, an International Studies magnet school located in Pittsburgh's East Side community hosted students from the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program. Four students; Michelene Jeter-Ogagan (Spring 2013), Celestine Onyango (Spring 2013), Lang Conteh (Spring 2014) and Tahirah Marks (Spring 2014) were invited to speak with a group of high school students about Nurse Anesthesia. The class of 20 young ladies was introduced to a field most had never heard of. After a brief lecture by Loren Pulliam, CRNA, MSN (Pitt NAP Alumni Coordinator) the students participated in an interactive simulation session. A four station training lab was set up by the NAP students, which allowed the participants to mask ventilate and intubate adult and pediatric mannequins. These students had little exposure to either nursing or nurse anesthesia as a career field and the opportunity to handle the laryngoscopes and successfully intubate patients piqued quite a bit of interest. "When we arrived, they looked as if they were ready to tune out completely. But, after intubation and seeing the lungs inflate, they were ecstatic." said Tahirah Marks. Lang remarked "it was a very interesting experience - after interacting with the SRNAs they were excited about Anesthesia as a possible career!" Michelene agreed to mentor one student and exchanged contact information. She noted "These are talented, intelligent young adults - they just need a little exposure." Ms. Pulliam remarked "they have all now had an excellent exposure to nursing and nurse anesthesia - time will tell but I think it is only through these efforts that we can move our diversity efforts in nursing forward."

Pitt NAP Students Partner with the School of Engineering for “INVESTING NOW”

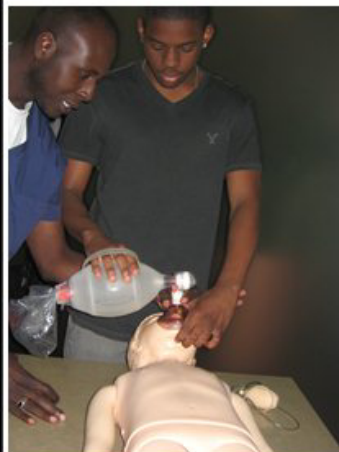
On Saturday, May 19, 2012 student volunteers Tahirah Marks (Spring 2014), Lang Conteh (Spring 2014) and Klariza Robles (Spring 2013) from the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program had the distinct pleasure of working with middle and high school students at the Investing Now event held at the Swanson School of Engineering. The Investing Now program was created in 1988 is a college preparatory program designed to stimulate, support and reward high academic performance of students who are underrepresented in engineering, math and science careers. The goal of the event is to expose the scholars to different career paths available to them and teach them the steps they need to take in order to pursue their career goals. The anesthesia student volunteers discussed nurse anesthesia as a career choice, the responsibilities that the job entails and the rewards that come with belonging to the profession. In addition, the anesthesia student volunteers also conducted simulation sessions in bag-mask ventilation and direct laryngoscopy intubation. Each scholar had the opportunity to ventilate and intubate pediatric and adult mannequins. Both the scholars and their parents commented that the hands-on experience definitely sparked their interest and got them excited about nurse anesthesia.

The success of the event has been made possible through the guidance and support of Ms. Loren Pulliam, MSN, CRNA. Ms. Pulliam is an alumna of the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program. She has been actively involved in programs designed to encourage underrepresented youths in pursuing careers in health care. In addition to her involvement with Investing Now, she is also on the Board of Directors of the Diversity CRNA Program and a supporter of the Obama School. Her desire is to “ignite a passion in the nurse anesthesia students who participate in the career seminars to recognize their role outside of the operating room in educating and recruiting future CRNAs.” She believes that “our duty as professionals does not end when we leave our clinical site, it extends to the community as a whole.” When praised for her role in improving the lives of Pittsburgh’s youth, she simply states that, “I want them to have a choice, I want them to have options. I want them to know that they can have a better life. I want them to get A’s in high school so they can get into a good college and not get stuck because they don’t have the grades.” Her next project is to start a Nursing Explorers Program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing, which will provide high school students hands-on nursing experience. Through her involvement in such activities, Ms. Pulliam continues to inspire teens to make a better life for themselves, and encourage professionals to give back to the community.

“Our duty as professionals does not end when we leave our clinical site, it extends to the community as a whole.”



Loren Pulliam



University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program Volunteers at the 31st National Veterans Wheelchair Games

Written by: Jennifer Andrews, Shannon Barr, Rose Barton, Carrie Heiney, Janelle Henkle, Kera Knisely-Furry, Norma Lia, Jessica Maritto, Robert Mathieu, Carrie Mieczkowski, Punam Patel, Eric Plantinga, Yvonne Shedlock, Danielle Steeley, Stephanie Sylvia and Katie Webber-Plank, and Scott Young

The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is the largest wheelchair sporting event in the world. This annual, weeklong wheelchair sports competition offers wheelchair bound veterans with spinal cord injuries, amputation, or neurological diseases the opportunity to participate in over seventeen events including archery, swimming, basketball, and many others. The purpose of the games is to improve the quality of life for veterans with disabilities and help promote better health through the competition. Expertise of the participants varies from world to national class champions to beginners, as one quarter of participants have not participated in wheelchair sports previously. The 31st National Veterans Wheelchair Games was held in Pittsburgh from August 1-6, 2011. Students from the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program had the opportunity to volunteer at various events throughout the week. Brian Selai, a December 2011 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh NAP, coordinated the volunteers from the program.



Pictured from left: Danielle Steeley, Eric Plantinga, Katie Webber-Plank, Yvonne Shedlock, Shannon Barr, Jennifer Andrews, Robert Mathieu, Rose Barton

required assistance into and out of the pool and swam the lap by movement of one shoulder only.

The Wheelchair Games were inspiring and motivating to watch and participate in. Many of the contestants were phenomenal athletes despite their disability. It was truly remarkable to see people who otherwise would not be able to participate in athletics competing. Additionally, they shared with the students many of their experiences of how their sport changed their lives. Some travelled from across the country to compete and some participated in the Olympics for the United States. Participation in the Wheelchair Games was a uniquely rewarding experience that exceeded the expectations of volunteers from the NAP and contributed greatly to the overall success of the events. Event coordinators and participants, as well as their family and friends, appreciated the application of assessment and practical skills. The interpersonal interactions, including participant skill demonstration, story sharing, and words of encouragement, were fulfilling for all involved.

University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program volunteers assisted at the swimming event held at the University's Trees Hall. The students actively participated by aiding the veterans both in and out of the water. Their contribution ensured the safety and availability of prompt care to the athletes.



Pictured from left: Brittney Felix, Henry "The Fonz" Winkler, Bridget Wilcox

The NAP student volunteers supported participants of the archery, swimming and multiple other events. Their role was to be medical volunteers and help ensure participant safety during the athletic competition. The Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital of Pittsburgh provided emergency medical equipment and medical doctor staff. Since the archery event was outdoors, the students were concerned about thermoregulation of the many paraplegic participants. The students were equipped with water spray bottles, drinks and snacks. The students also assisted with sport injuries, and many of the contestants needed their hands wrapped for skin protection. At the swimming venue the students monitored the athletes both in and out of the water. First aid care was provided to anyone in need. The students kept a close eye on each athlete in the water in case they were not able to complete their event. There was a wide range of abilities from an amputee who has competed

on the Paralympic team to quadriplegic swimmers who



Listed clockwise from the left: Carrie Heiney, Stephanie Sylvia, Carrie Mieczkowski, Kera Knisely-Furry, Scott Young, Norma Lia, Jessica Maritto, Punam Patel, Janelle Henkle. Center: Chuck Lear

The student volunteers working the archery event paused for a photo with Chuck Lear. Lear served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and retired in 1967 due to combat wounds. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry for his service. Lear is a frequent member of the U.S. Paralympics Archery National Team and is a two-time Paralympian and three-time world championship team member.

University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program medical volunteers for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games enjoyed meeting actor-director Henry Winkler, who made an appearance at the Disabled Sports, Recreation and Fitness Expo at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Mr. Winkler is the spokesman for Open Arms and promotes awareness of upper limb spasticity. He became involved in this cause after becoming the primary care giver of his mother following a stroke.

Tough Mudder????

At the top of a 12 foot wall, completely covered in mud and looking for any help I can get. Still trembling from the ice bath and electrical shocks—and scared to death! No, this is not a nightmare—it's self imposed torture to test your physical and emotional strength and has the benefit of helping the Wounded Warrior Project. It's the Tough Mudder and its not for sissies.

Written By Jaclyn Harvey

This is not a race but a challenge, it is a course that cannot be completed alone—teamwork is essential. It features a twelve-mile run and twenty-one military style obstacles to overcome. The Tough Mudder is an adventure series designed by British Special Forces which supports the Wounded Warrior Project which to date has raised more than \$3 million. This project helps by providing combat stress recovery programs, adaptive sport programs and counseling to soldiers returning from battle.

Four Nurse Anesthesia students from the University of Pittsburgh accepted this challenge of perseverance and teamwork from the clinical setting to the Pocono Raceway this spring. Starting off the day with a team huddle the competitors began this challenge climbing over a twelve-foot wall finishing the jump with the mudder chant "hooo rah."

Working with other mudders was essential in completing and conquering fears. Obstacles included running through fire, miles of waist deep mud, "shock therapy" with 10,000 volts of electricity, underground tunnels and an ice-water dive at 30degrees Fahrenheit. The Anesthesia program has strengthened the bond among classmates to succeed personally and professionally. This is seen everyday in class and the operating room. As SRNAs they brought this to the Tough Mudder course and helped others face their fears and succeed.

<http://toughmudder.com/about>



Left to Right: Congratulations to Ryan Werblow, Jacki Harvey, James Durall, Michael Jordan, and William Jordan

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing

PITT NURSE MAGAZINE

Spring 2012 — page 6



Heather Kowger (Class of 2013 Spring) is featured in the article *"For Some Nursing Students, Active Duty is Just Another Day on the Job"*



John O'Donnell was appointed to the **Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation Board of Directors** by the AANA in 2003 and is entering his 9th year serving in this capacity. John is one of only two CRNAs on this prestigious 40 member board and serves on the Newsletter Editorial Board as well as the Education Committee.

IN MEMORIAM – ELAINE C. KASHA, BSEd, CRNA

August 10, 1948 -November 22, 2011



Elaine Kasha worked at UPMC Presbyterian for over 30 years. Her love of anesthesia and a desire to return to work was a great motivator for her as she struggled with her health issues.

Elaine graduated as an RN from Presbyterian University Hospital School of Nursing and from Presbyterian University Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia. She also received her BS from California University of Pennsylvania. She worked as a nurse anesthetist and Clinical Instructor of cardiac anesthesia at UPMC Presbyterian. She was previously the specialty coordinator for the Nurse Anesthesia Program and active didactic instructor. She loved being a CRNA and teaching. Elaine helped build the nurse anesthesia program. According to Mary DePaolis-Lutzo (former Program Director), CRNAs wouldn't be giving cardiac anesthesia in this country if it weren't for Elaine. She created and taught the very first structured course in Cardiac Anesthesia – ever. When she gave her

first lecture in the '70s on it at the national level, CRNAs couldn't believe that nurse anesthetists were actually in the OR doing cardiac cases. They went back to their programs and used her course as a model. Elaine was an active member of the AANA and in 2001 received the AANA National Clinical Instructor of the Year Award.

Elaine enjoyed travel and musical theater. She had a great sense of humor. She will be missed by her many friends, coworkers, and the many students that she touched over the years.

Nurse Anesthesia Alumnus DNP Project Makes Cover of Nursing Management

Dr. Krista Bragg CRNA, BSN, MSN, DNP (Pitt 2000, 2010) completed her DNP at the University of Pittsburgh in the Spring of 2010. Her capstone project was focused on the 'Time-Out' process that should occur before every surgical and invasive procedure in order to assure that no 'wrong-site' surgeries occur. Her paper 'Time out! Surveying surgical barriers' was the front page article in the March 2012 issue of *Nursing Management*. Co-authors were the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC faculty and leaders who worked with Krista on her DNP project. They included Elizabeth A. Schlenk, PhD, RN; Gail Wolf, PhD, RN, FAAN; Susan Hoolahan, MSN, RN, NEA-BC; Dianxu Ren, MD, PhD; and Richard Henker, PhD, CRNA, FAAN. In this publication, Dr. Bragg presents the results of her DNP capstone work which surveyed OR nurses regarding compliance with Joint Commission mandated time-out processes. This study is significant because it points out that while the public expectation is full compliance with all time-out steps, the reality is that OR nurses report a significantly lower adherence to correct processes. Dr. Bragg is currently Chief Nurse Anesthetist at Reading Hospital in Reading, PA.



Dr. Bragg has also published several articles in the fitness field noted below.

Bragg KA & Bragg KB. Leading the pack with probiotics: a second look for endurance athletes. Fitness X magazine. Sep 2011:24.

Bragg KA & Bragg KB. Nutrition Probiotics for Peak Performance. UltraRunning magazine. Nov 2011:26-27.

Bragg KA & Bragg KB. Vitamin D for athletes: good for bones and magic for your muscles. Fitness X magazine. Mar 2012:20-21.

Bragg KA & Bragg KB. Warning signs: what causes potentially deadly rhabdomyolysis in endurance athletes? TrailRunner magazine. April 2012:36-38.

Bragg KA & Bragg KB. Is burning the midnight oil deep-freezing your fitness goals? Fitness X magazine. May 2012:23-25.

Publications: Faculty, Alumni and Students

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

Adkins K (Class of 2013-Fall), Crago E, Kuo CW, Horowitz M, Sherwood P. *Correlation between ED symptoms and clinical outcomes in the patient with aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage. Journal of Emergency Nursing.* 38(3):226-33, 2012 May.

Middleton E, **Macksey LF (Class of 2005)**, Phillips JD. *Rapunzel syndrome in a pediatric patient: a case report. AANA Journal.* 80 (2):115-9, 2012 April.

Bragg K (Class of 2000), Schlenk EA, Wolf G, Hoolahan S, Ren D, **Henker R (Faculty)**. *Time out! Surveying surgical barriers. Nursing Management.* 43(3):38-44, 2012 March. COVER STORY—see above

Vallejo MC, Best MW, Phelps AL, **O'Donnell JM (Faculty)**, Sah N, Kidwell RP, Williams JP. *Perioperative Dental Injury at a Tertiary Care Health System: An Eight Year Audit of 816,690 Anesthetics. American Society for Healthcare Risk Management.* 31 (3), 25-32, 2012 February <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jhrm.20093/pdf>

O'Donnell JM (Faculty), **Goode JS, Jr. (Faculty)**, **Henker RA (Faculty)**, Kelsey S, Bircher N, Peele P, Bradle J, Engberg R, Close J, Sutton-Tyrrell K. *An ergonomic protocol for patient transfer that can be successfully taught using simulation methods. Clinical Simulation in Nursing.* 8(1), e3-e14, 2012 January. [http://www.nursingsimulation.org/article/S1876-1399\(10\)00130-1/abstract](http://www.nursingsimulation.org/article/S1876-1399(10)00130-1/abstract)

Jeffries P R, Beach M, Decker S I, Dlugasch L, Groom J, Settles J, **O'Donnell JM (Faculty)**. *Multi-center development and testing of a simulation-based cardiovascular assessment curriculum for advanced practice nurses. Nursing Education Perspectives.* 32(5): 316-322. 2011 September.

Nestel D, Groom J, Eikeland-Husebo S, **O'Donnell J M (Faculty)**. *Simulation for learning and teaching procedural skills: the state of the science. Simulation in Healthcare.* 6(7):S10-S13, 2011 August. http://journals.lww.com/simulationinhealthcare/Abstract/2011/08001/Simulation_for_Learning_and_Teaching_Procedural.2.aspx

ABSTRACTS AND POSTERS:

Miller, Susan (Class of 2012 Fall), **Henker RA (Faculty)**, Sereika S; Bender C. *Perioperative factors associated with postoperative cognitive function in women with breast cancer.* Poster and Oral Presentation at the AANA National Meeting - Boston, MA August 2011.

Alumni Profiles

Jessica Linney CRNA, MSN (Class of 2007)

My time at the University of Pittsburgh was incredible, and I was proud to attend such a prestigious program, but I missed the South. I returned to Memphis and resumed my first passion – trauma medicine. The Regional Medical Center, known in Memphis simply as “The Med,” was the origin of my life in medicine. I worked there as an orderly, nurse extern, staff nurse, and now I returned as an anesthetist. Joining a regional block team, my fellow anesthetists and anesthesiologists quickly earned the respect of our medical peers. Despite the always-heavy caseload, over fifty percent of our cases were orthopedic trauma; the surgeons welcomed the block team.

During my final year of anesthesia school, I was fortunate to have a poster presentation at the 2007 AANA conference in Denver. After a few days in Colorado, I knew where I belonged. The question was, “How do I get there?” With a little luck, and much perseverance, I arrived in Denver in July 2010 and went to work at The University of Colorado Hospital as a staff anesthetist. Denver was the perfect fit for my second passion – running.

My passion for running began when I was diagnosed with melanoma my first year of anesthesia school. I underwent surgery to remove the tumor and lymph nodes. Fortunately, I required no other treatment and continue to live cancer free. If not for the support of John O'Donnell and Laura Palmer, it is unlikely that I could have finished the program at Pitt. My other refuge was running. It was something under my control and helped me combat the stress of school and cancer. In 2009, I ran the New York City marathon, raising \$2500 for the Jack Marston Melanoma fund. I have completed ten marathons and two ultra-marathons and continue to run every day. This led to my third passion – my new running company.

Last August I created a company that embraces running as a way to deal with the life's challenges. My company is Ugly Sports™, and I named our running line, “Run Ugly.” We approach running and living the same way – we celebrate the fact that we can! For every item of running apparel sold, we donate a dollar to the American Cancer Society.

I often wonder about the trials I went through in anesthesia school but each had a purpose. Becoming a CRNA has been a rewarding career as I continue down the path of success and happiness.



Jordan Thompson CRNA, MSN (Class of April 2011)



After graduating from the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program in April 2011, Jordan accepted a position at a rural hospital in Mount Pleasant, UT not far from where he grew up in Ephraim, UT. Jordan reports that he has had a “steep learning curve as I've had to step right into a solo anesthesia position where I'm the only anesthesia provider in the hospital when I'm on duty.” Jordan shares coverage of the facility with one other CRNA.

Jordan reports that being the only anesthesia provider at a rural hospital entails a great amount of responsibility. During his week on, he is on call 24/7 and is responsible for providing all anesthesia services in the main OR, the OB department and in the ER department for patients who are require emergent procedures. Mr. Thompson has provided anesthesia for children as young as 10 months and adults as old as 95 years of age since he accepted the position. Procedures that he is frequently required to perform include central line placement, lumbar puncture/drainage, steroid injections for chronic pain patients, and regional anesthesia procedures for orthopedic patients.

Jordan notes that “I love my job at our rural hospital. It really proves how vital our profession is and how broad our scope of practice can be in healthcare. My family loved our time in Pittsburgh while attending Pitt and I appreciate the entire faculty, my friends and classmates as well as the CRNAs and MDs who helped train me. I am glad I chose Pitt for my anesthesia training.” Jordan recently decided to embark on forming his own anesthesia corporation (Skyline Anesthesia) and will be providing pain management and other anesthesia services.

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

ALUMNI FACTS

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

We have
graduates in
37 States.

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing



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.

November 5, 2011
Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom
David L. Lawrence Convention Center

UPP Dept. of Anesthesia Award
Gary Stanich, CRNA, BSEd
Clinical Instructor, UPMC Shadyside



Gary Stanich, CRNA accompanied by:
Anne Zapletal, CRNA Clinical Director, UPMC Shadyside

Scholarships

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
Cameos of Caring Scholarship
Awarded November 5, 2011
Spirit of Pittsburgh Ballroom at the David L.
Lawrence Convention Center

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

Joseph Ciampoli, Class of 2012 - Spring
Louise Cortinovis, Class of 2012 - Fall
Janelle Henkle, Class of 2012 - Fall
Jessica Maritto, Class of 2012 - Fall
Adrienne Ruzicka, Class of 2012 - Fall
Monique Saxon - Class of 2014 - Spring
Danielle Steeley - Class of 2013 - Spring
Meghan Vucetic, Class of 2012 - Fall



Left to Right: Henkle, Saxon, Cortinovis, Vucetic, Ruzicka, Steeley
Not Pictured: Ciampoli, Maritto



Presented by Mary Lou Taylor (left) and John O'Donnell, (right)

University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program
Educational Impact Award

December 17, 2011
The University Club - Pittsburgh, PA

*This inaugural award is in recognition of ongoing influences
on generations of anesthesia providers.*

Gary Stanich, CRNA, BSEd
Clinical Instructor, UPMC Shadyside

Retirement Announcement!

Join us in congratulating Gary Stanich who retired from UPP on June 30, 2012 after 41 years of service.
A Celebration Reception will be held at the University Club on August 18, 2012. Contact the program for details.

Awards and Scholarships: Faculty, Alumni and Students



American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Scholarships

Awarded August 2011
Boston, Massachusetts



Indiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists Scholarship
Adrienne LaFollette, Class of 2012 Fall



Lakeview Endowed Scholarship
John Reichert, Class of 2011 Fall



Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA)

Awarded May 5, 2012 at the Spring Symposium in Hershey PA

PANA Outstanding Clinical Instructor of the Year



Dale Fleck, CRNA, MSN (Class of 2000)

*Assistant Clinical Director and Instructor,
UPMC Presbyterian
Alumni, University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program*

This award was based on over a decade of excellence in teaching and mentoring students in the clinical setting. Mr. Fleck was selected from the more than 3000 CRNAs who live and work in PA.

PANA Outstanding Student of the Year



**Samantha Baldwin, CRNA, MSN
(Class of 2012 Spring)**

Currently there are 13 programs and more than 400 students in the state. Ms. Baldwin was recognized for academic excellence, clinical proficiency and her willingness to give back to the profession through volunteerism and teaching other students. Upon graduation, Ms. Baldwin took a position at UPMC Shadyside Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA.

More than 500 CRNAs and SRNAs attended the PANA Spring Meeting. The meeting was presided over by PANA President Kelly Wiltse CRNA, PhD (Pitt Class of 2005) who hailed it as "a great success". PANA has undergone several organizational changes this year including the hiring of a new lobbying firm (the Ridge Group, Harrisburg, PA), a new management firm (Accent on Management, Columbus, OH) and new legal representation (Mr. P. Daniel Altland JD, Mechanicsburg, PA).

PANA OFFICERS

Alumni and Faculty

2011-2012

PRESIDENT

Kelly Wiltse Nicely, MSN, CRNA, PhD (Class of 2005)

SECRETARY

Michael Neft, DNP, CRNA (Faculty)

TREASURER

John O'Donnell, CRNA, DrPH (Faculty)

TRUSTEES

2011-2013

Jason Bauer, MSN, CRNA (Class of 2004)

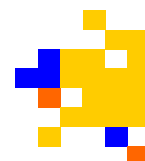
Brian Keller, MSN, CRNA (Class of 2006)

STUDENT TRUSTEE

Malinda Miller, SRNA (Class of 2012 Fall)

STUDENT MENTEE

Shannon Barr, SRNA (Class of 2012 Fall)



University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Honors and Scholarships

Awarded at Convocation - September 2011

Dorothy Drake Brooks Endowment

Kelley Smith, Class of 2011 Fall

Elizabeth Bayer Baxter Endowed Scholarship

John Reichert, Class of 2011 Fall

W. Edward and Jeannette L. Wolfe Memorial Fund

Candace Hipple, Class of 2012 Fall



The Advisory Committee of the St. Francis School of Nursing Alumni of Pittsburgh with approval of the Board of Directors of The Pittsburgh Foundation selected

Jessica Marrito (Class of 2012 Fall)

as the recipient of the

2012 St. Francis School of Nursing Alumni Scholarship.

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
Graduate Nursing Student Organization
2012 Officer

Vice President: **Janelle Henkle, Class of 2012 Fall**

**These awards are given
to deserving students in
each graduating class**

University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program Awards

Agatha Hodgins Award for Academic and Clinical Excellence

Jessica Ketchum, Class of 2012 Spring

John Reichert, Class of 2011 Fall

Helen Lamb CRNA Educator Award

*In Recognition of Dedication and Valuable Contributions to
Instructional Excellence as a Nurse Anesthesia Student*

Allison Brown, Kelly Del, Class of 2012 Spring

Katie Szelong, Class of 2011 Fall

Academic Achievement Award

Samantha Baldwin, Joseph Ciampoli, Joseph Kleca,

Class of 2012 Spring

Nicole Cournoyer, Adam Jensen, John Reichert

Class of 2011 Fall

"Above and Beyond" Service Award

Ashliegh Sullivan and Julianna Watenpoole, Class of 2012 Spring

Tamara Baxter and Gabrielle Petrill, Class of 2011 Fall

Nurse Anesthesia Program Endowment Awards

Sandra Sell SPIRIT Award



Jacob Carlson, Class of 2011 Fall

Award presented by Laura Palmer



Jessica Ketchum, Class of 2012 Spring (center)

Award presented by Laura Palmer (left) and Bettina Dixon (right)

About the endowment.....

The Sandra Sell SPIRIT Award Fund began in 2009 as a memorial and recognizes those that embrace the qualities of this dynamic and respected colleague. Donations can be made through the University directly to the fund allowing future students to benefit.

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, CRNA, MSN

Nurse Anesthesia Program Student Clinical Honors

Nominated by the Clinical Coordinator for exemplary performance

Stephanie Sylvia — Class of 2012 Fall
Jessica Ketchum — Class of 2012 Spring
Kevin Dom — Class of 2012 Spring
Richard Bodura — Class of 2012 Spring

Ashley Simmons — Class of 2012 Spring
Tawni Fuller — Class of 2012 Spring
Selestine Onyango — Class of 2013 Spring
Jaclyn Harvey — Class of 2013 Spring

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.

Angie Frie, CRNA, MSN — April 2012
Brian Berry, CRNA, MHS — December 2011

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

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.

Dr. Lynn Broadman — April 2012
Dr. Patrick Callahan — December 2011

Program Graduate is First Recipient of Outstanding Alumni Award



*Pictured with Juliana Shane President,
Pitt Nursing Alumni Association*

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
and the Nursing Alumni Association
Outstanding Young Alumni Award
October 2011

Brent Dunworth, CRNA, MSN (1999), BSN (1996)
Senior Director, Nurse Anesthesia Services
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Adjunct Faculty, University of Pittsburgh Nurse
Anesthesia Program

From the [School of Nursing Website](#):

"Brent Dunworth becomes the inaugural recipient of this School of Nursing award, created to bring recognition to exceptional younger alumni. In his professional role, he supervises over 400 anesthetists and personnel in the largest anesthesia department in the United States. Mr. Dunworth's extensive clinical experience enriches the learning environment in the classroom where he lectures anesthesia students, and his expert skill and professional presence serve to motivate and inspire. He is a role model for students and well-respected among his colleagues."

**Did you know that
the CRNA Faculty
combined have
more than 148
years
of clinical
experience!**

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. Recently the date was moved to Spring to accommodate the AANA deadline for credit submission for recertification. The 2012 Spring Anesthesia Seminar included a morning lecture series with the afternoon as a hands-on simulation session. The format was also expanded to include continuing education credit for nurses and provided 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 2013 Seminar is scheduled for **Saturday March 23, 2013**
For more information, visit the SAS Website at www.sas.pitt.edu

Congratulations to PANA President Kelly L. Wiltse Nicely, PhD, CRNA, (Class of 2005) who has been appointed by the National Academies to represent the AANA on the Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education! Nominated by the AANA for the post, Dr. Wiltse Nicely will serve on this multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral, international group that is empanelled to advance the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine Future of Nursing and Lancet Commission reports. The Forum intends to conduct two public workshops per year as well as an annual meeting. Health care education consortiums in North America, South America, Africa and Asia will participate in the workshops along with Dr. Wiltse Nicely and members of the Global Forum. Dr. Wiltse Nicely is an Assistant Professor of Nurse Anesthesia at the University of Pennsylvania and currently serves as President of the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists. She received a bachelor of science in nursing from the University of Pennsylvania, a master of science in nursing from the University of Pittsburgh and a doctor of philosophy in nursing from the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania.

From the PANA website

All Program
Newsletters
are on the
website

WEBSITE
www.pitt.edu/~napcrna



Dr. Christopher Lyons (Class of 2009 Fall) received his DNP from Chatham University in August 2011. His capstone project was entitled "Epidural Anesthesia: An Educational Approach". Chris resides in Ohio and works for South Central Ohio Anesthesia.