



University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program

ONE YEAR UPDATE

JULY 2013

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The Pitt MSN to DNP Program Gains Momentum

As most of us are aware, the AANA has determined that the terminal degree for the profession will be a DNP or DNAP by the year 2025. This decision was made by the AANA Board of Directors in 2007 as a culmination of two years of work by the Task Force on Doctoral Preparation of Nurse Anesthetists (DTF) which was convened in June 2005.

Nurse Anesthesia programs must all be at the doctorate as the entry level by January 2022 as no masters students may enroll after this date. Two degrees will be recognized: the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) and the Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP). Current CRNAs with existing MSN, MS, MSNA, BSN, BS or Certificate level educational preparation will continue to practice in accordance with guidelines in their respective states and institutions.

The University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program received approval for a MSN to DNP program (and online program) in 2009. We were one of the first DNP completion programs in the United States. We are also in the process of planning an entry level DNP curriculum which will be offered after receiving University of Pittsburgh and AANA Council on Accreditation approval. To follow are profiles from our first graduate, as well as some current DNP students and their projects.

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The first graduate of the Nurse Anesthesia Program MSN to DNP option is Laura Palmer. She began the journey in Fall of 2008 and was granted her degree in December 2012. Being the first in an educational program is not new for her—she was the first CRNA to receive a Masters Degree in Nursing from the University of Pittsburgh in 1982. Laura also received her BSN from the University of Pittsburgh in 1973 and her certificate in Nurse Anesthesia from the Health Center Program in 1981. She has been involved in education for all of her professional life as a CRNA, joining the Pitt faculty full time in 1994 and is currently an Assistant Director. As expected, her capstone project was an educational method comparison study entitled: “*Comparison of Nurse Anesthesia Student 12 Lead EKG Knowledge, Interpretation Skill and Attitude: Traditional Instruction vs. Asynchronous Online Video Lecture*”. She was promoted to Assistant Professor in February 2013.



Laura Palmer, DNP, CRNA, MNEd

Program Faculty

John O'Donnell CRNA, DrPH
Program Director

- 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 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
- 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

DNP Student Profiles

Kate Durkan, MSN, CRNA (Pitt BSN 2004)

The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing provided a solid start to her career in nursing. After working for three years at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia she went on to nurse anesthesia school at Duke University ('09). Her time at Duke was described as challenging and rewarding, and opened many doors — including an opportunity to begin her career as a nurse anesthetist at Johns Hopkins University.

Currently, she is an online DNP student at the University of Pittsburgh working on an international front to create, implement, and evaluate a nurse anesthesia education program in Belize. Belize has a real need for more anesthetists, with current providers overworked and no formal training program to create new providers. She is working with Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) to deliver the educational program with Rick Henker, PhD, MSN, CRNA, FAAN and Suzanne Brown, BSN, CRNA as mentors on this project.



She was awarded the AANA Foundation Doctoral Fellowship and the funds will be used for education and research to support her project in Belize. Her overarching goal is to make a positive impact on the public health in Belize by educating safe, effective anesthetists to relieve the surgical case backlog.

She believes the University of Pittsburgh has been the cornerstone of her nursing education and the dedicated, approachable faculty, facilitated her decision to choose Pitt for her doctoral education and anticipates graduating in 2015.

Suzanne Morrison, MSN, CRNA

Suzanne Morrison is a CRNA for West Penn Anesthesia Associates. Her primary site for practice is Heritage Valley Health System, Sewickley, PA. Suzanne has served as clinical coordinator for the Pitt anesthesia students at Sewickley since 2011. She also serves as adjunct faculty for the University of Pittsburgh Anesthesia Program and is a member of their Community Advisory Board.



Suzanne is currently pursuing her DNP in Anesthesia at the University of Pittsburgh with an anticipated graduation date of December, 2013. She is presenting a poster titled "Methodology for Retrospective Inquiry of Perioperative Glycemic Control in Vascular Surgery Patients" at the annual AANA meeting in Las Vegas, NV in August, 2013. The AANA Foundation recently selected Ms. Morrison as the recipient of the Kay Wagner Memorial Fellowship and the New York Life Fellowship for her capstone project, "A Retrospective Analysis of Perioperative Glucose Levels in Patients Undergoing Vascular Surgery."

Suzanne appreciates the academic advisement, mentorship, and resources that are available to her as a DNP student in the University of Pittsburgh program. She credits her advisor, capstone committee, and grant office for enabling her to have such a successful academic career.

Suzanne lives in Moon Township, PA with her husband, Mark. Without his support, none of this would have been possible. When not working, Suzanne enjoys sailing on Lake Erie in the summer months and vacationing in the Caribbean in the winter months.

Newest Student! Aaron Ostrowski MSN, CRNA (Pitt MSN 2001)



Mr. Ostrowski has been involved in guest lecturing with the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program since his graduation in December, 2001. Since 2008, he has been a member of the faculty on a half-time basis and has enjoyed the dual didactic and clinical roles. He recently applied to and was accepted to the Pitt Nurse Anesthesia Program MSN to DNP program starting in the Fall of 2013. His focus will be related to policy and he is specifically considering how he might develop an approach to educate CRNAs regarding CRNA billing and reimbursement. This topic is complex and has become more so since the Affordable Care Act was signed into law in 2010. Aspects of this law have already been implemented and more changes are coming. Through his work, Aaron hopes to empower CRNAs by allowing them to understand their value within healthcare organizations. He also hopes to assist understanding of new roles CRNAs may be asked to play in the changing healthcare landscape. This landscape will be shaped in large part by the reimbursement policies of both private and public insurance payers.

Additionally, Mr. Ostrowski has served as a Trustee on the PANA Board of Trustees since 2012. He is seeking a second term and has learned a lot about the legislative process and the challenges that CRNAs face in the legislative arena. His last several years of experiences have motivated Aaron to seek deeper professional involvement because he has realized that CRNAs must serve as their own advocates; "no one else can speak on our behalf as well as we can speak to our own ideas." His moment of revelation regarding DNP enrollment came to him during a PANA Board meeting when he realized that, though credentials can seem like alphabet soup after someone's name in some situations, they do give you instant credibility when your name comes through to a stranger by email or a letter. With aspirations for leadership in positions yet to be determined, he knows he is on the right path with a doctoral degree from Pitt.

For more information on the DNP Program

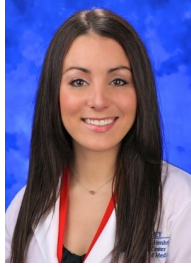
Visit the School of Nursing Website.....

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

Alumni and Student Profiles

Jessica Maritto MSN, CRNA (Class of Fall 2012)

Jessica Maritto is both an undergraduate and now graduate alumna of the University of Pittsburgh. She originally graduated from Pitt Nursing in 2009 and the Nurse Anesthesia Program in December 2012. She is currently employed as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania. This facility is a Level I trauma center providing adult and pediatric anesthesia at three sites: the Hershey Medical Center; the Hershey Children's Hospital; and the Hershey Outpatient Surgical Center. During the program, Jessica was extensively involved with simulation and research at the Peter M. Winter Institute of Simulation, Education and Research (WISER). She had been volunteering and doing research at WISER during her undergraduate coursework as well. Her love for simulation and education has now spurred her involvement with simulation at the Hershey Medical Center. She also enjoys the student role and wants to challenge herself in either a DNP or PhD program within the next three years. Jessica plans to become a mentor and educator and wants the opportunity to impact students in the same positive way that she has experienced. She is extremely proud of her Pitt education and on reflection realizes that the curriculum impacted her in myriad ways including her clinical skills, leadership ability, desire to continue volunteer service and in understanding research. She notes "my education has provided me with the aptitude, skills and insight to safely care for patients of all ages and acuity levels. I feel really comfortable here in my first job and I know that my education will continue to help me tremendously throughout my nursing career! Hail to Pitt!"



Emily Grost BSN, SRNA (Class of Fall 2013)

Emily Grost is a current student of the class of fall 2013 and came to Pittsburgh from San Diego. Emily was elected the National Student Representative to the AANA Education Committee at the 2012 Annual AANA Conference in San Francisco. As a member of the committee, Emily has had the opportunity to attend all the AANA conferences, including the Joint Committees Meeting, Assembly of School Faculty, Mid-Year Assembly, and the 2013 Annual Conference in Las Vegas. She has been responsible for a bimonthly student news publication in the AANA NewsBulletin and planning and hosting student and mentoring events. Serving on the Education Committee has allowed Emily to be the presiding officer at the Assembly of School Faculty, moderate the open forum sessions and doctoral standards hearings, and provided the opportunity to lobby congress on behalf of nurse anesthetists.



In addition to her work the AANA, Emily has proven to be successful in both the didactic and clinical realms. She was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society and has received several scholarships including the National Allied Health Scholarship through Sheridan Healthcare, the Dean and Fred Hayden Memorial National Scholarship through the AANA Foundation, and the Association of Veterans' Affairs Nurse Anesthetists Scholarship. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, traveling, and attending live concerts. Emily plans to return to California after graduation and is seeking employment opportunities in San Francisco.

Paul McMullen MSN, CRNA (Class of Spring 2011)

Paul McMullen is currently employed by Northstar Anesthesia at Northside Medical Center/Valley Care Health System in Youngstown, Ohio. His talent for organization and management was almost immediately recognized by management and he was named the Chief Nurse Anesthetist in October 2011. Once established in his role as Chief CRNA, he quickly partnered with the University of Pittsburgh to make Northside Medical Center an official rotation site for Pitt anesthesia students. Paul attributes



Proud Pitt Alumni: Paul McMullen MSN, CRNA (left) and Jason Karenbauer MSN, CRNA (right) at Northside Medical Center in Youngstown, OH.

much of his early success to the exceptional education he received at the University of Pittsburgh. He continues to serve as adjunct faculty at Pitt in which he lectures on "Anesthesia and the Cancer Patient" and teaches in the clinical setting. Paul currently resides in Mineral Ridge, Ohio with his wife Nicole, daughter Natalie and daughter #2 expected in September 2013.

Ashley Simmons MSN, CRNA (Class of Spring 2012)



Ashley Simmons has been working as a CRNA at UPMC St. Margaret since graduation. After her six month evaluation, she was offered the position as Clinical Site Co-Coordinator. She has been growing into this role through her participation as part of the Clinical Advisory Board (CAB) and supporting Pitt SRNAs throughout their clinical rotation. The education she received at Pitt allowed her to become a proficient clinical CRNA and also serve the

profession and the Nurse Anesthesia Program as an educator. Ashley notes that "as a student, we were encouraged to become involved in a mentoring program with experienced CRNAs. This led me to want to give back and become a Mentor myself to our future students. Also, we were given the opportunity to volunteer at various workshops for other students, which set the tone for how to establish an effective teaching – learning environment." Ashley reflects that she appreciates her well-rounded education on a daily basis and hopes to inspire others as they follow this same journey.

ALUMNI FACTS

There are **628 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!

Alumni Profiles

Derek Reckard, MSN, CRNA (Class of Fall 2006)

Derek Reckard could never be accused of being a self-promoter; he is the epitome of humility. From his beginnings in Fayette County, near Uniontown, Pennsylvania to now, it is evident that Derek has a keep-it-simple, “let’s get it done, and done well” work ethic. Since graduating from the University of Pittsburgh’s Nurse Anesthesia Program in 2006, Derek has practiced at UPMC Presbyterian as a Staff Nurse Anesthetist. He is an expert clinician, relied upon to care for the referral center’s sickest patients. He is a member of the Neuroanesthesia and Trauma-Transplant Teams, providing anesthesia for cases in which the patient may require a large dose of adenosine to induce cardiac standstill for the surgeon’s placement of an intracranial aneurysm clip, or another case in which massive amounts of blood must be transfused into one of our region’s trauma victims. While the same examples of expert care could be used to describe many of Derek’s colleagues at UPMC-Presbyterian, Mr. Reckard performs with a style and demeanor that does not seek recognition.



Beyond the operating room, Derek stepped up several years ago to assume non-clinical duties as the Education Coordinator for CRNAs in the UPMC health system, comprising approximately 450 providers. In that role, he tracks continuing education credits for all of the CRNAs throughout the system, which is comprised of separate CRNA staffs at each of its ten hospitals. He is directly responsible for ensuring that the educational program is accredited by the AANA and that CE credits are awarded in a timely fashion. In addition, he sits on numerous infection control committees, updates and writes guidelines and policies for the UPMC Presbyterian Anesthesia Department with evidence-based improvements, and he has become an instructor for several simulation courses, including Difficult Airway Management and Central Venous Cannulation. These courses give nurse anesthesia and anesthesiology trainees experience in simulated environments to learn high acuity, low frequency skills. His help in this realm has helped to advance UPMC’s interest in helping nurse anesthetists practice to their full level of training.

As Derek notes, “after entering anesthesia school, I knew I had found the challenge and reward I was looking for. After spending multiple years as an ICU and flight nurse, nurse anesthesia was the natural progression of my career. Everything I learned in school I utilize every day in my current job. I could not have asked for a better program to prepare me for the challenges that are faced on a daily basis as a CRNA. As a CRNA Education Coordinator, I find myself tapping the skills that were developed during school more and more. Skills that I once thought were improbable to master have almost become routine.”

Graduation Celebrations....



April 27, 2013
University Club — 22 Graduates



December 15, 2012
University Club — 20 Graduates

Current Class Profiles

CLASS OF 2013 – FALL

President: Allison Brooks

Vice President: Joey Ferriero

Secretary: Lorreen Mattson

Treasurer: Caroline Werner

Our class comes from far and wide to take advantage of the University of Pittsburgh's Nurse Anesthesia program. Our classmates have moved to Pittsburgh from all over the U.S., including Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado, Utah, Texas, Indiana, West Virginia, Ohio, and California. Of course, some of us have been born and bred as true native Pittsburghers. Our class also has an extensive, varied background that brings a wealth of diversity and experience to anesthesia. Many of us have had careers outside of nursing, before we headed down this career path. Some of us have been a stockbroker, a small business owner, and a computer scientist; and some of us have other degrees, including health management systems and physiology/neurobiology.

As our journey continues, we all have goals beyond graduating from Pitt's Nurse Anesthesia program. Many of us are interested in doing humanitarian work in other countries. Some of our classmates have also expressed interest in continuing their education and getting their doctorate in nurse anesthesia. Many of us are also working with different organizations, including the AANA, to advocate for CRNAs concerning issues such as patient safety, scope of practice, and many other legislative and regulatory matters in Washington, D.C. and across the country. Our degree from the University of Pittsburgh is one stepping stone that will take us far and wide in order to accomplish great things!



CLASS OF 2014 – SPRING

President: Jennifer Fisher

Vice President: Jessica Simonette

Secretary: Erica Wiesen

Treasurer: Lance Fusselman

The Spring 2014 cohort has 18 students from a wide variety of geographical regions and nursing backgrounds. We are a tight-knit group and have quickly formed into our own anesthesia family, providing balance, support, and humor throughout this journey. Many of us are native to Pittsburgh, while others span the globe as far as Gambia, which is in West Africa!

This August, many of us will be attending the AANA annual meeting in Las Vegas, NV to get more involved in our profession, network with CRNAs and students from other programs, and learn about the most current issues affecting our practice.

At a variety of facilities this year, we have been pioneers in placing central lines, which is a regional advancement in our clinical privileges. We hope to see further advancement at other clinical sites. In addition to clinical achievements, members of our class also helped plan our annual Spring Anesthesia Seminar, which was a huge success and helped raise money for our graduation dinner. As a class, we are continuing to fund-raise for this event by selling a variety of scrub hats, which were generously made by the mother of one of our own classmates. We look forward to celebrating our graduation together in 10 short months and embarking on our professional careers as CRNAs.



Current Class Profiles

CLASS OF 2014 – FALL

President: Jessica Freis

Vice President: David Hill

Secretary: Courtney Lively

Treasurer: Elizabeth Kerlik

The nurse anesthesia fall class of 2014 began the program in August of 2012. We are currently in our third semester and third clinical rotation and are looking forward to the completion of their first year. Many of us will be rising to the challenge of specialty rotations this fall, which include pediatrics and obstetrics. Our class is comprised of a diverse group of individuals from throughout the country as well as from China. A number of us are residents of Pennsylvania, while others come from states including Ohio, West Virginia, New York, Kentucky, Maryland, Florida, and Arizona.



Amanda Dillen was first in our class to be awarded clinical honors. She received this honorable award from UPMC Mercy for her second rotation. Betty Williams and Joseph Wanstrath are members of the Spring Anesthesia Seminar Committee, which is scheduled for March 29, 2014. A number of students are planning to attend the annual American Association of Nurse Anesthesia Conference scheduled for this August in Las Vegas, Nevada. The fall class of 2014 is scheduled to graduate on December 13, 2014 at the University Club and we are wholly looking forward to this day.

CLASS OF 2015 – SPRING

President: Lillian Resnick

Vice President: Joe Bertsch

Secretary: Thea Cole

Treasurer: Leah Ulizio

The Spring Class of 2015 is comprised of twenty one fun-loving and personable nurses with experience in Neurology, Cardiac, Surgical, Transplant, Trauma, and Medical Intensive Care Units, as well as the PACU and Emergency Room. While many of us from the Ohio and Pennsylvania region consider Pittsburgh familiar ground, we have classmates from Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, and Texas. We are also proud to claim we have a classmate born and raised in Jamaica. In addition to attempting to survive life as anesthesia students, our class strives to make the most of the education and experience the University of Pittsburgh has to offer.



Since beginning the program in January of 2013, the Spring 2015 class has forged a strong bond and developed ties outside of the classroom. In addition to study groups, the class has joined for several barbecues and after class events. Several of us will also be participating in Pittsburgh's The Great Race in September. We have celebrated the birth of the first Spring 2015 baby, Liam Bertsch, who was born on January 17. One of our classmates, Anthony Chao, won the prestigious Michael G. Wells Student Entrepreneurship Competition for development of a novel technological application for nurses. Nearly the whole class will be attending the Annual AANA meeting in Las Vegas in August, where we hope to enhance our anesthesia knowledge and take advantage of the excellent Nevada weather.

Admissions Update by Joseph Goode, CRNA, MSN

The Fall 2012/Spring 2013 interview and admissions cycle had about the same number of applicants as in the previous year. 216 candidates officially submitted applications to the Nurse Anesthesia Program. These applicants came from across the country, representing 33 different states.

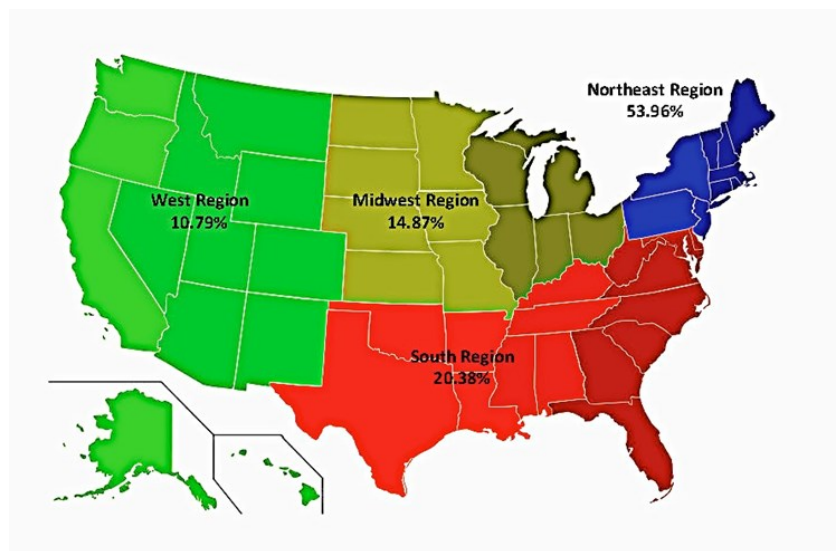
Of the 216 applicants received, 120 were offered interviews, 60 in the December interview session and 60 in the March interview session. We ultimately accepted 41 applicants for full-time admissions (20 for Fall of 2013 and 21 for Spring of 2014). In combination with applicants previously accepted in our Part-Time to Full-Time Track, we have a total of 22 students for the Fall 2013 cohort and 22 students for the

Spring 2014 cohort. These two admissions classes are comprised of students from 13 different states. We also provisionally accepted 7 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 2009 to 2013). During that period, we received a total of 954 applicants. Of these 237 were ultimately accepted into the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program (an approximate 25% acceptance rate). 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	3.75 ± 0.22	498 ± 75	606 ± 78	4.1 ± 0.6	3.7 ± 2.5	3.1 ± 2.2	27.6 ± 4.7	27.3
Spring Admits	3.64 ± 0.25	480 ± 75	586 ± 96	3.9 ± 0.6	4.6 ± 3.9	3.7 ± 2.8	28.8 ± 5.8	28.5
All Admits	3.70 ± 0.18	489 ± 86	596 ± 88	3.9 ± 0.7	4.1 ± 3.7	3.4 ± 3.3	28.2 ± 5.6	27.8

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 receive significant numbers of applicants from the other 3 regions, especially the Mid-Atlantic States (darker red) and the East North Central (dark olive). The South region now provides over 20% of our applicants.



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. Your day-to-day efforts in providing safe and effective anesthesia services across a wide spectrum of clinical and academic settings is the strongest message we can send regarding the quality of our program and our graduates.

It is clear from the data that we have no shortage of applicants during each admissions cycle. However, our alumni are 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. You also have a unique perspective on the qualities that are needed in achieving 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 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

Pitt Selected to Host the Annual AANA Diversity Program

On March 1-3, 2013, the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing and WISER collaborated to host the National Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentorship Program. This event brings together Program Directors, CRNAs, SRNAs and Nurses for an informative and interactive weekend of socialization and skill development. The event began Friday March 1st with an informal "Meet and Greet" reception to introduce the attendees to panel participants and Program Directors (John O'Donnell, University of Pittsburgh, MaryBeth Massie, University of New England, Marjorie Geisz-Everson, the University of Southern Mississippi and Danilo Lovinaria, University of Minnesota).

Saturday, March 2nd began with an introduction of the day's events by the SRNA moderator Ms. Tahirah Marks (University of Pittsburgh) with welcome from Dr. Lena Gould CRNA, DNP, Founder and Director of the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentoring Program and Mr. John Bing CRNA, Chair of the Diversity in Nurse Anesthesia Mentoring Program Board of Directors. Dr. Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacob, PhD, RN, FAAN (Professor and Dean, University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing) and Ms. Paula Davis, University of Pittsburgh Senior Vice Chancellor of Diversity in Health Sciences the welcomed more than 100 participants to the University of Pittsburgh. 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, clinicals, and balance of life and school, were fielded by the panel participants. The student moderator for the event was Ms. Tahirah Marks SRNA, BSN (University of Pittsburgh). Following the student panel was AANA President Mr. Dennis Bless CRNA, MS who described the state of the anesthesia profession and prospects for the future. Finally, a CRNA practitioner panel fielded questions on CRNA practice, national certification examination preparation, expectations of clinical preceptors and characteristics of successful students. Panel members

included Ms. Loren Pulliam, CRNA, MSN; John Bing, CRNA; Captain Cesar Visurru-ga, CRNA, MSN and Bob Gauvin, CRNA, MS. Other University of Pittsburgh students who volunteered as mentors and facilitators included Jamal Hawkins, Thea Cole and Micheline Jeter-Ogagnan. "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 an amazing gift." Ms. Marks said of the event.

On Sunday March 3rd, a clinical skills and simulation session was held at WISER. The participants that attended were amazed with the facility. Activities included intubation (nasally, orally and with fiber optics), LMA placement, mask ventilation, spinal anesthesia, induction of general anesthesia and a personal interview with a CRNA educator.



Pitt SRNA Dawn Mills (Class of Spring 2014) provides mask ventilation instruction

Instructors included SRNAs, Hideru Inoue, Dawn Mills, Michael Laughter, Audrey Miller, Kristin Adkins, Tahirah Marks, Lang Conteh, Joey Ferriero, and Leah Ulizio. During the session, Dr. Lena Gould, CRNA, DNP and the founder of the mentoring program stated "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.



Incoming AANA President (2013-2014) Dennis Bless CRNA, MSN (right) assists one of the participants with endotracheal intubation during the workshop

John M. O'Donnell CRNA, MSN, DrPH Promoted to Professor of Nursing



Dr. John O'Donnell was recently promoted to the rank of full 'Professor' at the University of Pittsburgh. The process which includes internal School of Nursing review, University review and review by faculty from around the United States took place over the past 6 months and culminated in his 'official' promotion on July 1, 2013 by University of Pittsburgh Provost Dr. Patricia Beeson. O'Donnell's has been the Director of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Program since 1994. The program has been ranked as a Top 10 Graduate Nurse Anesthesia Program by US News and World Report since 1998 - one of only 3 programs nationally to be ranked in the top 10 over this period. The program has also received two consecutive 10 year accreditation reports (1999-2009, 2009-2019) without a single citation or area of weakness. In addition to his Nurse Anesthesia Program work, he is the Associate Director of WISER and was recently named Co-Director of Research. In this role he assisted the center to become the first civilian simulation center to achieve full accreditation in all four domains (Research, Assessment,

Teaching and System Integration) from the accrediting arm of the International Society for Simulation in Healthcare. He also is Associate Editor for Clinical Simulation in Nursing and since 2003 he has been one of only 2 CRNAs to sit on the national Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (APSF) Board of Directors where he also serves on the APSF Newsletter Editorial Board.

NBCRNA, SEE and NCE Update



The National Board of Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA) administers both the Self Evaluation Examination (SEE) and the National Certification Examination (NCE). Most of us became acutely aware of the NBCRNA at the 2012 National Meeting when the new Continued Professional Certification (CPC) was announced. The program has been modified since that initial exposure but the requirements for annual CE credits will increase to 25 (15 assessed, 10 non-assessed), providers will be asked to complete work in 4 modules covering airway management techniques, applied clinical pharmacology, applied physiology/pathophysiology, and anesthesia technology. Additionally, the accreditation period will increase to 4 years and CRNAs will be required to take a recertification examination every 8 years (this will not fully implement until 2032). The program initiates in January 2016. For more information: <http://www.nbcrna.com/cpc>

In addition, changes are occurring in the National Certification Examination. In February 2013, the NBCRNA announced that they had initiated a standard setting process and that as of January 2014, the passing standard on the NCE would increase. Information on this can also be found on the NBCRNA website. Currently, the NCE is a scaled, score examination ranging from 300-900. The passing threshold is now 450. Professional issue items (e.g. malpractice, reimbursement etc.) have been replaced by additional items focused on equipment and technology. National first-time pass rates on the examination have demonstrated a fairly tight historic range (88-90%) with Pitt first time pass rates typically exceeding the national average (2011—98%, 2012—93%, 10 year mean—96%).

Given the increase in the threshold for National Certification Examination passing score, we have taken steps within the Nurse Anesthesia Program to address the issue. The comprehensive examination/ NCE review process has been dramatically changed. As of Spring 2013, students in both graduating cohorts (Fall 2013, Spring 2014) were notified that the review process would be held within NURSAN 2760 Professional Role. In addition, students would be required to take the SEE examination within the course in lieu of a midterm examination. The national 50th percentile rank score range on the SEE was used as an anchor of a grading rubric and students scoring in this range will receive an 85% score for their midterm grade. Scores above this level will receive higher grades and scores below will receive lower grades. Ongoing analysis of SEE scores with correlation to study hours, study strategy (e.g. Prodigy, Core Concepts, Valley Review or Dannemiller products), Comprehensive Examination scores and NCE outcomes will be used to provide feedback to future classes and assist with adjustment of instructional approaches.

AANA Practice Committee Update by Michael W. Neft, DNP, MHA, CRNA, Chair 2010-2013

This is my fourth and final year serving on the AANA Practice Committee. I have been chair of the committee since 2010. As can be seen from this article, we work on multiple practice-oriented topics that affect the nurse anesthesia profession. I have found serving on a national committee to be very rewarding. It has given me a broader perspective on how the AANA operates and the scope of the issues it faces. Consequently, I have been able to bring some of this view to my work at the University of Pittsburgh and also on the state board of directors.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Practice Committee members include clinicians, educators, practice managers, and one student nurse anesthetist. The purpose of the committee is to review the practice of nurse anesthesia and the implications concerning work environment, practice management, and patient safety to make recommendations for consideration by the AANA Board of Directors and to give guidance to the membership.



The committee's primary role is to review professional practice documents in accordance with the AANA Board of Directors committee charges and policy. FY 2013 charges included evidence based review and recommendation for Board of Directors approval of the standards for nurse anesthesia practice, scope of nurse anesthesia practice, safe practices for needle and syringe use, safe surgery and anesthesia, the infection control guide, securing propofol, malignant hyperthermia, and adverse critical incident debriefing. Position statements relating to several of these topics were updated by the committee and approved by the AANA Board of Directors. Additional projects are in various phases of completion to be continued by FY 2014 Practice Committee.

In addition to the update of numerous position statements, three major AANA documents were restructured this fiscal year. *Standards for Nurse Anesthesia Practice* were revised to reflect current standards for practice and to improve the clarity of the document, resulting in a streamlined, updated set of standards. The completion of the *Infection Control Guide for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists* reflects several years of research, literature synthesis, and writing from the Infection Control Task Force. At the Board of Director's direction, the *Scope of Nurse Anesthesia Practice* was revised. The new document integrates qualitative and quantitative data derived from the evidence-based review process, six focus groups, and an AANA membership survey to represent the contemporary and comprehensive span of nurse anesthesia practice.

Additional committee work included consulting on practice issues, evaluating external endorsement requests, updating the AANA Policy on Requests for Endorsement of Documents Developed by External Organizations, submitting articles to the *AANA Journal*, and providing input on the reorganization of the Professional Practice webpages. The committee also evaluated and reprioritized the FY2014 scope of work for Board of Directors approval.

Clinical Site Update

The last year has seen some exciting changes regarding clinical sites for the Nurse Anesthesia Program. We received approval from the Council on Accreditation for four enrichment clinical sites:

1. Atrium Medical Center, Middletown, OH
2. Northside Medical Center, Youngstown, OH
3. UPMC Northwest, Seneca, PA
4. UPMC Mercy South Side Outpatient Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Atrium and Northside Medical Center afford our students the opportunities for central line placement and peripheral nerve blocks. Additionally, the gamut of cases is seen at both of these facilities ranges from newborns to centenarians and includes obstetrics. More senior students can build on their previous clinical experiences and didactic knowledge at these facilities. Northside Medical Center is located in Youngstown Ohio, approximately 45 minutes from the North Hills area.

UPMC Northwest offers students the opportunity to gain anesthesia practice experience and work with patients from a more rural population. With an inpatient capacity of approximately 100 beds as well as inpatient rehabilitation and transitional care units, this facility serves the Franklin, Oil City and Warren areas. Additional obstetric experience with seasoned CRNA clinicians is available at Northwest which has a very active labor deck. Additionally students will be offered the opportunity to perform peripheral nerve blocks. The UPMC Mercy South Side Outpatient Center is a new site which will allow development of skills needed in managing care for an entirely outpatient population. The surgical services offered at this facility are: General Surgery, ENT, Ophthalmology, Podiatry, Plastic Surgery, Orthopedics and Sports Medicine. Rapid room turnover skill development will be essential as the case load is high.

Additional exciting developments parallel the changing scope of practice at UPMC. As CRNAs in the system are credentialed for central lines and regional anesthesia, we anticipate these opportunities increasing for our students. We have already seen an uptick in these experiences with students at UPMC Shadyside, Presbyterian, Passavant, Magee-Womens and other system facilities gaining more of these experiences.

Discussion has been started about implementing a specialty rotation for the students at UPMC Mercy. This would add to our current specialty sites of Presbyterian, Shadyside, Butler and Passavant. The case mix at Mercy lends itself to a specialty rotation, with hearts, heads, burns, traumas, and major vascular cases being routine. There are currently seven general rotation students there who routinely are assigned to these challenging cases. The consensus among the students is that they love the rotation at Mercy as evidenced by multiple recent graduates accepting employment there.

In summary, the Pitt clinical program is thriving with new, positive changes happening all the time! If anyone among the alumni knows of any health care organizations that might serve as good clinical sites, please contact Dr. Michael Neft at neftm@pitt.edu.

Passing of a friend to the Pitt Nurse Anesthesia Program

Dr. Rodney B. Dayo

July 7, 1969 to July 5, 2013

[Full obituary from the Pittsburgh Post Gazette](#)

We are sad to report that Dr. Rodney Dayo has passed. Dr. Dayo was a pain management physician at the DNA Center in West Mifflin. Dr. Dayo completed medical school at West Virginia University and residency at UPMC Mercy Hospital. Dr. Dayo was a superb clinician and educator. Students and faculty of the Nurse Anesthesia Program benefitted greatly from his



knowledge and teaching. He always took the time to explain the 'how and why' and was unfailingly positive in his approach with students. Students evaluations highlighted his kindness and generosity as a teacher and person. Multiple alumni have commented that his teaching made a difference in their perspective, lives and career pathway. Dr. Dayo will be sorely missed.

Current Clinical Sites

UPMC Presbyterian	University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine
UPMC Shadyside	Veterans Affairs Medical Center
UPMC McKeesport	Jefferson Regional Medical Center
UPMC Mercy	DNA Health Systems (Pain Service)
UPMC Mercy South Side Outpatient Center	Weirton Medical Center (WV)
UPMC Passavant	WVU - Ruby Memorial (Morgantown, WV)
UPMC Cranberry	Affinity Medical Center (Massillon, Ohio)
UPMC St. Margaret	Atrium Medical Center (Middletown, Ohio)
UPMC Bedford	Altoona Regional Medical Center (PA)
UPMC Northwest	Clarion Hospital (PA)
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC	Conemaugh Health System (Johnstown, PA)
Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC	Heritage Valley Health System (Sewickley, PA)
Butler Memorial Hospital	Northside Medical Center (Youngstown, Ohio)
The Washington Hospital	Southwestern Ambulatory Surgery Center (West Mifflin, PA)
	University of Washington (Seattle, WA)

Publications: Faculty, Alumni and Students

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

- Palmer L (Faculty)**. *Anesthesia 101: Everything you need to know*. [OR Nurse 2013](#). First published online on June 14, 2013 Print: July 2013 7 (4):20-29. [CE Feature—Open Access]
- Renata ZR, **Chao A (Class of 2015-Spring)**, Enright G, Schubert M R, et al. *The use of gum chewing in postoperative care of patients with abdominal surgery: Developing an evidence-based clinical protocol. Part I*. [Nursing and Midwifery](#). 2013. 4(1):537-545.
- Henker RA (Faculty)**, **Lewis A (Class of 2012-Spring)**, Dai F, et al. *The association between OPRM1 and COMT genotypes and postoperative pain, opioid use, and opioid-induced sedation*. [Biological Research in Nursing](#) first published online on June 20, 2012 Print: Biol Res Nurs July 2013 15: 309-317.
- Talcott K, **O'Donnell JM (Faculty)**, Burns HK. *Technology and the Nurse Educator: Are You ELITE?* [Nurse Educator](#) 38(3):126-31. 2013 May/June.
- Wesmiller SW, **Henker RA (Faculty)**, Sereika SM, et al. *The association of CYP2D6 genotype and postoperative nausea and vomiting in orthopedic trauma patients*. [Biological Research in Nursing](#) first published online on June 20, 2012 - pending print
- Harvey, J. (Class of 2013-Spring)**. *Anesthesia for a Patient with Osteogenesis Imperfecta, Achondroplastic Dwarfism and History of Malignant Hyperthermia*. [Anesthesia E-Journal](#). 2(1):35-43. http://www.aei-digital.com/aei/volume_2_issue_1#pg37 2013 May.
- Bragg KA (Class of 2000)**, Bragg KW. *Night Shift Nursing: Self-Care is Key*. Advance for Nurses (Advance Web) <http://nursing.advanceweb.com/Features/Articles/Night-Shift-Nursing-Self-Care-is-Key.aspx>. May 2013
- Bragg KA (Class of 2000)**, Bragg KW. *Clarifying the Caffeine Controversy*. [TrailRunner Magazine](#). May 2013:58-59.
- Neft M (Faculty)**, Quraishi JA, Greenier E. *Closer Look at the Standards for Nurse Anesthesia Practice*. [AANA Journal](#). 81(2):92-96. 2013 April.
- Bragg KA (Class of 2000)**, Bragg KW. *Burning the candle at both ends*. [UltraRunning Magazine](#). April 2013:13-16.
- Neft M (Faculty)**, Greenier E. *An Update From the AANA Practice Committee: Application of the Evidence-Based Process*. [AANA Journal](#). 81(1):9-12. 2013 February.
- Bragg KA (Class of 2000)**, Bragg KW. *Tips for coping with the emotional aspects of sports injuries*. [Fitness X Magazine](#). Dec 2012:24-25.
- Cheng A, Rodgers DL, van der Jagt E, Eppich W, **O'Donnell JM (Faculty)**. *Evolution of the Pediatric Advanced Life Support course: enhanced learning with a new debriefing tool and Web-based module for Pediatric Advanced Life Support instructors*. [Pediatric Critical Care Medicine](#) 13 (5):589-95. 2012 September.
- Bragg KA (Class of 2000)**, Bragg KW. *Anemia answers: Ironing out causes and prevention*. [TrailRunner Magazine](#). Sep 2012:42-44.
- Bragg KA (Class of 2000)**, Bragg KW. *Pumping iron with your muscles and your heart*. [Fitness X Magazine](#). July 2012:80-82.

ABSTRACTS AND POSTERS:

- Mitchell AM, **O'Donnell JM (Faculty)**, **Neft MW (Faculty)**, et al. *Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) for Inter-professional Groups of Anesthesia Students (InGAS)*. June 2013 WISER Nursing Simulation Symposium, Pittsburgh, PA [poster].
- Neft MW (Faculty)**, Mitchell AM, **O'Donnell JM (Faculty)**, et al. *Alcohol and Other Drug Use in Anesthesia: Simulation for Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment*. June 2013 WISER Nursing Simulation Symposium, Pittsburgh, PA [poster].
- Mitchell AM, **O'Donnell JM (Faculty)**, **Neft MW (Faculty)**, et al. *Integrating an EBP Education Model of Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) for Inter-professional Groups of Anesthesia Students (InGAS)*. Presented at the March 2013 Spring Anesthesia Seminar, Pittsburgh, PA [poster].
- Chao A (Class of 2015 Spring)**, **Fusselman L (Class of 2014 Spring)**, **Hefferan D (Class of 2014 Spring)**, **Wright C (Class of 2013 Fall)**. *Anesthesia providers contribute to operating room contamination*. Poster Presentation at the PANA 2011 Fall Symposium.

BOOKS AND CHAPTERS

- O'Donnell JM (Faculty)**, Phrampus, PE. *Debriefing: Using a Structured and Supported Approach*, Chapter 6, in *The Comprehensive Textbook of Healthcare Simulation*. Levine AI, DeMaria Jr. S, Schwartz AD, Sim AJ. [Springer](#) 2013
- Wiltse Nicely K (Class of 2005)**, **Macksey L (Class of 2005)**. [CRNA Certification Exam Review](#) and *Navigate TestPrep: CRNA Certification Exam Review Guide*. 2014 Jones and Bartlett.
- Klain, MM, **Goode JS, Jr (Faculty)**, High Frequency Jet Ventilation Chapter in *Atlas of Airway Management: Techniques and Tools, 2nd Edition*. Orebaugh, SL & Bigeleisen PE. [Lippincott Williams & Wilkins](#) 2012.
- Macksey L (Class of 2005)** [Surgical Procedures and Anesthetic Implications: A Handbook for Nurse Anesthesia Practice](#). 2012 Jones and Bartlett .

OTHER

- Groft, Emily (Class of 2013-Fall)**. Student Column in [AANA NewsBulletin](#). November 2012, January 2013, March 2013, May 2013.
- Neft M (Faculty)**, Askren S, Stanley, S. *UPMC, Pitt celebrate national nurse anesthetist week*. January 2013 http://insideupmc.blogspot.com/2013_01_01_archive.html
- Pomerantz, Valerie (Class of 2013-Fall)**. Blog on MHAUS website. May 2013. <http://www.mhaus.org/blog/post/3458/my-time-at-the-north-american-malignant-hyperthermia-registry-a-student-nurse-anesthetists-perspective>

Awards and Scholarships: Faculty, Alumni and Students



American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)



Indiana Association of Nurse Anesthetists Scholarship

Adrienne LaFollette, Class of 2012 Fall

Dean M. Cox Memorial Scholarships

Meghan Vucetic, Class of 2012 - Fall

Jessica Maritto, Class of 2012 - Fall

Awarded August 2012 San Francisco ,California

Student Researcher of the Year Award

One of 10 students nationally recognized

Elicia Morris, Class of 2012 Fall

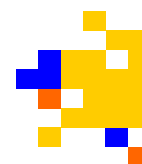
Awarded December 2012

Podium Research Presentation and Poster
 "Ilioinguinal - iliohypogastric block with intrathecal morphine decreases nausea but not pain VAS post cesarean section"

AANA Meeting—August 2012



Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists (PANA)



Awarded May 2013 at the Spring Symposium in Hershey PA

PANA Clinician of the Year

Brian D. Berry, Jr., CRNA, MS

Adjunct Faculty, University of Pittsburgh

Nurse Anesthesia Program

Staff Anesthetist, UPMC Presbyterian

PANA OFFICERS 2012-2013

Alumni and Faculty

PRESIDENT ELECT:

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

PAST PRESIDENT:

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

VICE PRESIDENT:

Michael Neft, DNP, CRNA (Faculty)

TREASURER:

John O'Donnell, CRNA, DrPH (Faculty)

TRUSTEES 2011-2013

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

Jessica Erjavac, CRNA, MSN (Class of 2012 Spring)

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 2012

Dorothy Drake Brooks Endowment

Eric Wiech, Class of 2014 Fall

Jane Wiggins Award

Ryan Werblow, Class of 2013 Spring

W. Edward and Jeannette L. Wolfe Memorial Fund

Katie Webber-Plank, Class of 2013 Spring

Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists ([AVANA](#)) Scholarship
 One of five chosen nationally each year.

Susan Miller
 (Class of 2012 Fall)
 August 2012



Emily Grost
 (Class of 2013 Fall)
 June 2013



Nightingale Awards of Pennsylvania 2013 Advanced Degree Scholarship

One of two advanced degree students selected from all of the nursing programs in Pennsylvania

Announced in April 2013. Will be awarded at the 24th Annual Gala on October 25, 2013 at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel & Convention Center in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

Benjamin Adcock, Class of 2013 - Fall



Susan Miller
 (Class of 2012 Fall)
 August 2012



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

One of three chosen nationally each year.



Emily Grost
 (Class of 2013 Fall)
 July 2013

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing Graduate Nursing Student Organization
 2013 Officers

President: **Jarah Jacquay**, Class of 2013 Fall

Vice President: **Allison Brooks**, Class of 2013 Fall

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing



November 3, 2012
 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.



Vito Ranieri (left) with Dr. J. Williams,
 Chair UPP Dept. of Anesthesiology

UPP Department of
 Anesthesia Award
Vito Ranieri, CRNA, MSN
 Clinical Instructor,
 UPMC Presbyterian
 Alumni, University of Pittsburgh



Aaron Ostrowski (left) with Helen DeFranco CRNA, Clinical Director and
 Dr. J. Quinlan, Chief Anesthesiologist, UPMC Presbyterian

Advance Practice Nurse Award
Aaron Ostrowski, CRNA, MSN
 Faculty, University of Pittsburgh
 Nurse Anesthesia Program
 Student Specialty Coordinator,
 UPMC Presbyterian
 Alumni, University of Pittsburgh

Scholarships

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
 Cameos of Caring Scholarship
 Awarded November 3, 2012
 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
 Louise Cortinovis, Class of 2012 - Fall
 Janelle Henkle, Class of 2012 - Fall
 Candace Hipple, Class of 2012 - Fall
 Jessica Maritto, Class of 2012 - Fall
 Susan Miller, Class of 2012 - Fall
 Eric Plantinga, Class of 2013 - Spring
 Laurie Ratica, Class of 2014 - Spring
 Mary Rodkey, Class of 2014 - Spring
DNP Nurse Anesthesia Student
 Alexandria Easton, CRNA, MSN
 Alumni—Class of 2009 - Fall



From left: Louise Cortinovis, Laurie Ratica, Susan Miller, Janelle Henkle



University of Pittsburgh Senate - Faculty Assembly 2013-2016
 School of Nursing Representative
 Bylaw and Procedure Committee

Michael Neft, CRNA, DNP, MHA
 Faculty, University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program



Sigma Theta Tau International: Eta Chapter
 President July 2013 (2 year office)

Michael Neft, CRNA, DNP, MHA
 Faculty, University of Pittsburgh
 Nurse Anesthesia Program

STT is the only international nursing honor society worldwide with 469 chapters in 86 countries. Through this network, members lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service and learning to improve the health of the world's people.

These awards are given to deserving students in each graduating class

University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program Awards

Academic Achievement Award

Ashley Galadyna and Elizabeth Helfrich
Class of 2013 Spring
Kera Nicely-Furry and Janelle Henkle
Class of 2012 Fall

Helen Lamb CRNA Educator Award

In Recognition of Dedication and Valuable Contributions to Instructional Excellence as a Nurse Anesthesia Student
Punam Patel, Class of 2013 Spring
Adrienne Ruzicka, Class of 2012 Fall

Agatha Hodgins Award for Academic and Clinical Excellence

Katie Webber-Plank, Class of 2013 Spring
Jessica Maritto, Class of 2012 Fall

"Above and Beyond" Service Award

Jennifer Andrews, Eric Plantinga, Klariza Robles, Selestine Shimamana
Class of 2013 Spring
Shannon Barr, Louise Cortinovis, Malinda Miller, Meghan Vucetic
Class of 2012 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

Jennifer Andrews, Class of 2013 Spring



Award presented by Mary Lou Taylor, CRNA (left)

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

Elizabeth Helfrich, Class of 2013 Spring
Stephanie Sylvia, Class of 2012 Fall



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

Nurse Anesthesia Program Student Clinical Honors

Michael Jordan — Class of 2013 Spring
Valerie Pomerantz — Class of 2013 Fall
Katie Webber-Plank — Class of 2013 Spring

Courtney Estep — Class of 2013 Fall
Erica Weisen — Class of 2014 Spring
Amanda Dillen — Class of 2014 Fall

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 graduation 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.

Linda Szymanski, CRNA, MS — April 2013
Jeffrey Grindstaff, CRNA, MHS — December 2012

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

Dr. Cynthia Wells— April 2013
Dr. Carl Daltner — December 2012

Nurse Anesthesia Student Wins Entrepreneurship Awards

Michael G. Wells Student Healthcare Entrepreneurship Competition

On October 3, 2012, Nurse Anesthesia student **Tony Chao** (Class of 2015 Spring) won the 2012 Student Health Care Entrepreneurship Competition at the “First Look” Technology Showcase hosted by the Office of Enterprise Development at the University of Pittsburgh. Working with Steven Benso and Ric Fera, Chao developed an application for managing and streamlining continuing education credits for health care professionals using OCR and QR scanning. Chao and Benso, founders of the mobile software company “CE Agent”, received \$10,000 to further develop their technology.



Left to Right: Ric Fera, Tony Chao, Steven Benso

Oh-Penn for Business: College Business Plan Competition

Awarded April 20, 2013 at Grove City College, **Tony Chao** (Class of 2015 Spring) won second place for the product “CE Agent”. The award was given for viability of the business idea, business plan and presentation quality, and overall professionalism.

Three Rivers Venture Fair - Technology Showcase

Awarded April 11, 2013 at PNC Park, **Tony Chao** (Class of 2015 Spring) won third place for their product “CE Agent”.

Elected as the AANA National Student Representative to the Education Committee for 2013



Emily Grost (Class of 2013 - Fall)

This is the only nationally elected student position and one student is chosen from more than 4500 students by their peers

Emily Grost, RN, BSN (left) is congratulated by AANA President Janice Izlar CRNA, DNAP, at the Student Luncheon during the Annual Meeting in San Francisco—August 2012.



John O'Donnell was appointed to the **Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation Board of Directors** by the AANA in 2003 and is entering his 10th 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.



University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing PITT NURSE MAGAZINE Fall 2012 — page 15

Tony Chao (Class of 2015 Spring) is featured in the article he authored “The Power of Mentorship”

http://www.nursing.pitt.edu/pitt_nurse/archive/pittnurse_fall2012.pdf

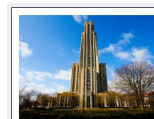
SAS UPDATE

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 2013 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 2014 Seminar is scheduled for **Saturday March 29, 2014**

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



International Initiatives: Update

Student Rotation in Siem Reap Cambodia

Jennifer Andrews and Rosie Barton went to Siem Reap Cambodia in November of 2012 for a clinical rotation at Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC). This rotation provides students with a unique experience to provide anesthesia care to an underserved population with health issues typically not seen in their clinical practice in the United States. In addition much of the anesthesia practice at AHC includes administration of a variety of regional blocks in pediatric patients. The students were not only able to work with the surgeons from AHC but they provided anesthesia services for a visiting ENT surgical team from Osaka Japan for the 1st week of the 2 week rotation at AHC. Students were supervised by the 3 nurse anesthetists from AHC. Teaching skills of the nurse anesthetists was followed by Rick Henker one of the Pitt Nurse Anesthesia Program faculty.

Although students typically work from 7:15am to 5pm during this rotation Monday through Friday there is time to visit the well known Angkor Wat temples on the weekends before and during the rotation. Angkor Wat is a 20 minute Tuktuk ride from Siem Reap and is visited by over 1.5 million tourists each year. Other popular sites to visit when in Siem Reap include the Artisans Angkor Silk Farm and the floating village on Tonle Sap.



Rosie Barton (left) Jen Andrews (center) with Chenda Sem (right) one of the nurse anesthetists at a hammock bar on the way back from Tonle Sap



Jen Andrews (left and Rosie Barton (right) at Bayon Temple at Angkor Thom

University of Belize Nurse Anesthesia Program Supported by University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program

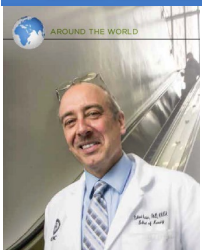
Ten years ago two cohorts of nurse anesthesia students in Belize were educated by volunteers working with health Volunteers Overseas. Since that time few anesthesia providers have been added in Belize. Surgical services in Belize are being expanded but the number of anesthesia providers has not increased. The result—empty operating rooms and a long wait for surgical services. The University of Belize, Belize Ministry of Health, Health Volunteers Overseas, and the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program are collaborating on developing a nurse anesthesia program that ideally will be ongoing in Belize City. Belize is a country of 312,000 on the Caribbean coast of Central America.



Kate Durkan (left) Suzanne Brown (center) Rick Henker (right)



Kate Durkan, a DNP student in the Nurse Anesthesia Program is co-coordinator of the Belize program with Suzanne Brown, adjunct faculty at Pitt. Kate will be using the work she does in Belize as her capstone project and Rick Henker, Kate's capstone advisor is the Program Consultant. Rick Henker, Kate Durkan and Suzanne Brown made the initial site visit and provided some classes for students enrolled in the Belize program in March of 2013. In July, Mike Neft was the first volunteer to teach for two weeks in the Belize program. John O'Donnell will teach in Belize in August. Laura Palmer is providing support with the implementation of the TyphonGroup NAST™ Student Tracking System for the Belize program, and other faculty will be teaching in the Belize program using interactive video via the internet. Two cohorts of students for a total of 15 students were admitted to the program that is supported by the Belize Ministry of Health.



The Spring 2013 edition features nursing around the world, and Dr. Henker and our anesthesia program international activities are featured within this publication

http://www.nursing.pitt.edu/pitt_nurse/archive/pittnurse_spring2013.pdf



Steering Committee -
Chair
Nurse Anesthesia Overseas
August 2012

Richard Henker, PhD, CRNA, FAAN
International Education Coordinator,
University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
Professor, Nurse Anesthesia Program

WISER Granted SSH Accreditation in All Areas



In December 2012, the Winter Institute for Simulation, Education and Research was granted accreditation in all four possible areas by the International Society for Simulation in Healthcare. WISER was the second facility in the world to gain four area accreditation and the only civilian simulation center to have achieved this distinction.

The Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) has been granting simulation accreditation for the past two years. The accreditation process included a rigorous evaluation to ensure WISER is in compliance with or exceeds established best practice standards for simulation center administration, operations, curriculum development, teaching, quality assurance and improvement, governance, patient safety engagement, assessment, and education research standards. The nearly year long endeavor included a comprehensive submission package in excess of 2,000 pages, as well as a site inspection from reviewers that occurred in early November.

Accreditation was a multi-step process that WISER began in early 2012. Over a period of several months, WISER faculty members and staff collected information and developed reports to address each area of the application. The site visit by the SSH assessment team occurred on November 8th. The assessment team reviewed the facilities and interviewed dozens of students, faculty members and staff. Trace queries were selected on site by the assessment staff to provide thorough verification of the submitted material. After the site visit, the assessment team compiled a comprehensive report of its findings and submitted them to the SSH Accreditation Board of Review.

In evaluating all of the information provided to the Board of Review, WISER was accredited in the Core Competency domain as well as all four elective areas of Assessment, Research, Teaching, and Systems Integration. WISER is only the second program accredited in all four areas of focus recognized by the SSH Accreditation Process.

Hoops for Hope Update

On Saturday August 25, 2012 the Nurse Anesthesia Program sponsored the 4thth 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. Money raised by Hoops for Hope was used to support 2 nurse educators from Angkor Hospital for Children to attend a University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing International Program, *Summer Intensive for Nurse Educators*. Manila Prak and Seyla Keo attended the conference and had the opportunity to have dinner and meet with students in the nurse anesthesia program.

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 \$600 for AHC. 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, September 7, 2013**. For those interested in more information, contact the nurse anesthesia program.



Community Initiatives.....South Fayette Visits Pitt and UPMC

For the eleventh year, on May 2, 2013, junior and senior anatomy and physiology students from South Fayette High School participated in a field trip to the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing and UPMC Presbyterian to learn about nurse anesthesia. The students adhered to a tight schedule which included OR observation and anesthesia simulation, focusing on endotracheal intubation of mannequins, physical assessment and epidural insertions. Beyond the activities, the high school students had interaction with about 15 of our Pitt SRNAs to reinforce the messages of the day. The visit concluded with a pizza lunch sponsored by the CRNAs of UPMC Presbyterian and a presentation on how to become a nurse anesthetist. Aaron Ostrowski, a UPMC CRNA and member of the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program faculty, organized the event. Mr. Ostrowski and fellow faculty member, Laura Palmer, are alumni of South Fayette High School.

An important benchmark for this year is that we will welcome the first South Fayette alumnus to have made this visit in the past to the anesthesia class entering this fall of 2013! Chelsea Cord attended the South Fayette visit to Pitt in 2005, graduated high school, trained in the Community College of Allegheny County nursing program, gained experience in the medical intensive care unit of Allegheny General Hospital, and finished her BSN at Ohio University in the Spring of 2013.

Chelsea notes "having the opportunity to experience such a fascinating field at such a young and impressionable age opened my eyes to a future career. I attended the field trip through South Fayette High School and the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program during my tenth grade year and strived to become a nurse anesthetist ever since. After obtaining my Associate's Degree in Nursing from a local community college and while attending classes for a Baccalaureate Degree, I shadowed Aaron in the operating room and observed mock inductions done by the first year class before their first days of clinical."

Did you know that the CRNA Faculty combined have more than 156 years of clinical experience!

"I interviewed in the fall of 2012 and was honored to be surrounded by a distinguished group of candidates. A short time later, I received a phone call from Dr. O'Donnell offering admission to the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program. I heartily accepted and am delighted to be entering the program of my dreams in the fall of 2013. Without the initial exposure to nurse anesthesia from Mr. Ostrowski and the University of Pittsburgh, I would not be in this exciting position today. I believe this mentoring program will continue to spark an interest in young individuals with a passion for helping others."

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing

Lucie Young Kelly Faculty Leadership Award Summer 2012

Richard Henker, PhD, CRNA, MSN, FAAN

Lucie Young Kelly is a well known nursing leader and an alumni of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing.

This award honors Pitt School of Nursing faculty members who have distinguished themselves as leaders in the discipline of nursing education.

Dr Henker will use the funds for international work to support the following projects:

- Angkor Hospital for Children, Siem Reap Cambodia — Education of 2 nurse anesthetists. He will be at AHC in August, November and December 2013 and March 2014. Pitt students will join him for a clinical rotation in November 2013 and March 2014.
- Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital, Thimphu Bhutan — In addition to working with the anesthesia providers in the OR, he will continue to work with the Bhutan Ministry of Health and Royal Institute of Health Sciences on starting a nurse anesthesia program with Health Volunteers Overseas in August, September and October 2013.
- Boromarajonani College of Nursing, Nakon Phanom University, Nakon Phanom Thailand — He will continue to work with the faculty on evidence based practice and research for the month of February in 2014. While in Nakon Phanom he plans to practice anesthesia care and develop a site for nurse anesthesia students at Nakon Phanom Hospital.
- In addition, he will be lecturing in Bangkok in August 2013 and in Japan at Kanazawa, Asahikawa, Sapporo, Tokyo and Kobe in October and November 2013.



Chelsea Cord is the first South Fayette Alumnus from these visits to enter the Nurse Anesthesia Program.



Chelsea Cord (Class of 2015 Fall)



WEBSITE
www.pitt.edu/~napcrna