



# VCU School of Allied Health Professions

## Department of Nurse Anesthesia Summer 2013



### Chairman's update: State of the department

It is my pleasure to share with you some of the ongoing activities in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia in the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Allied Health Professions, and to thank you for your continuous support.

This past year has been another remarkable year for our department. We have strong cohorts of students at our Abingdon, Roanoke, Northern Virginia and Richmond campuses. We also have Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program graduates across the country doing excellent work to rave reviews. Two of our more recent D.N.A.P. graduates are especially notable. Janice Izlar, CRNA, D.N.A.P., is the 2013 president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and Christine Zambricki, CRNA, D.N.A.P., is serving as deputy executive director of the AANA. We are delighted to have such dedicated professionals among our alumni. Congratulations to all.

It is my extreme pleasure to announce that two of our own were honored at the 2013 AANA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. Lemont "Monty" B. Kier, Ph.D., has been teaching medicinal chemistry to VCU nurse anesthesia students for more than 20 years. His book "Medicinal Chemistry for Nurse Anesthetists" has become a mainstay in educational programs across the country. On Aug. 10, 2013, he received the AANA's Didactic Instructor of the Year Award at the annual meeting opening ceremonies.

Herbert T. Watson, M.Ed., CRNA, professor emeritus and past chair of the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia, as well as longtime director of Nurse Anesthesiology Faculty Associates, received one of the AANA's highest honors, the prestigious Helen Lamb

Outstanding Educator Award on Aug. 13, 2013, at the AANA annual meeting banquet. This honor acknowledges Watson's lifelong dedication to nurse anesthesia education and reflects on his place as a living legend within our specialty. This is an exceptional accomplishment for these two academicians and highlights the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia. Congratulations, Professors Kier and Watson.

In April 2013, I was privileged to take part in a university ceremony acknowledging the investiture of the Herbert T. Watson Endowed Professorship made possible through Watson's profound generosity. At the same time, we were able to celebrate the tremendous support from our faculty. Each faculty member has initiated a scholarship or endowment to support the next generation of nurse anesthetists. It is an honor to be associated with such a fine group.

These are just a few highlights from 2012-13! On the following pages, you will find information on other departmental activities, as well as many exciting pursuits for the year to come. We hope you will mark your calendars for our NAFA continuing education meetings. As an alumnus, you are eligible for lifelong discounts to any of these events.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your past support and in turn offer our departmental resources should you ever require assistance. I would like to invite you to visit the school at your convenience. Please call ahead to Marjorie Goodwin at (804) 828-9808 to arrange a time when I can greet you personally!

Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA  
Chairman, VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia

[www.sahp.vcu.edu/nrsa](http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/nrsa)

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### Upcoming NAFA events



**Sept. 20-22, 2013**

2nd Annual Anesthesia Symposium and Song  
Abingdon, Va.

**Nov. 4-7, 2013**

37th Annual Anesthesia Conference  
Williamsburg, Va.

**Dec. 2-5, 2013**

32nd Annual Anesthesia Meeting  
Walt Disney World  
Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

**May 28-31, 2014**

28th Annual Anesthesia Seminar  
Hilton Head, S.C.

**November 3-6, 2014**

38th Annual Anesthesia Conference  
Williamsburg, Va.



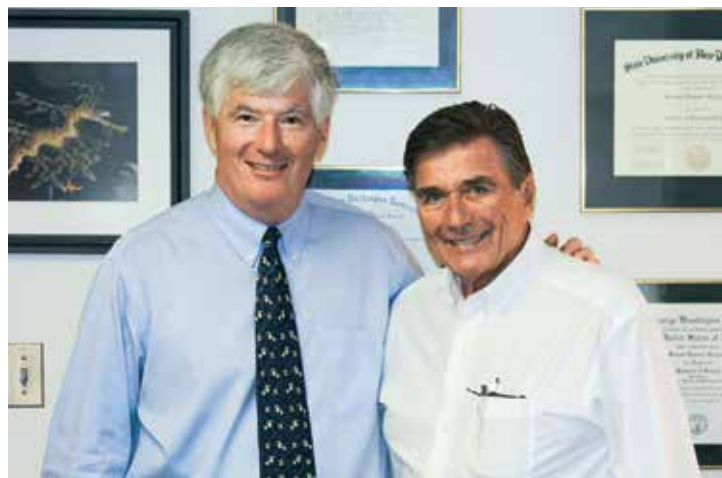
From left: Sheldon Retchin, M.D., M.S.P.H.; Michael Rao, Ph.D.; Herbert T. Watson, M.Ed., CRNA; Cecil B. Drain, Ph.D., CRNA, FAAN, FASAHP; and Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA, gather at the Scott House to invest the inaugural Herbert T. Watson Endowed Professorship.

## Department hosts celebration at Scott House

On April 29, 2013, the Department of Nurse Anesthesia hosted a celebration at the Scott House to invest the inaugural recipient of the Herbert T. Watson Endowed Professorship — Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA, and to recognize the entire nurse anesthesia faculty for each starting an endowed scholarship or fund. Michael Rao, Ph.D., president of VCU and the VCU Health System, presided over the ceremony. Remarks were given by Fallacaro; Sheldon Retchin, M.D., M.S.P.H.; Cecil B. Drain, Ph.D., CRNA, FAAN, FASAHP; Herbert T. Watson, M.Ed., CRNA, and Elizabeth Howell M.S.N.A., CRNA. More than 100 family, friends, alumni, faculty, past department chairmen and students attended this historic event and made the afternoon very special.

Colonel Watson created the first individually endowed professorship in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia and in the specialty of nurse anesthesia. Holding an endowed professorship is one of the highest forms of recognition provided by the university and is awarded to only a select few recipients meeting very stringent requirements. This professorship was established to support distinguished educators and researchers in the specialty of nurse anesthesia. The primary goal of this professorship is to enhance education and continued education in nurse anesthesiology through recruitment and retention of quality educators.

The establishment of a couple of faculty scholarships or funds is quite an accomplishment for any department, but to have endowed scholarships or funds from every faculty member is unprecedented. Several faculty members shared that their donations were inspired by the strong leadership and vision of their chairman, the generosity of Watson and the dedication of their students, past and present. It is the hope of the faculty that these scholarships and funds will help the department retain and recruit the best and brightest students, and continue to offer the best educational opportunities for these students even during economic hardships.



## Two professors receive prestigious awards

Herbert T. Watson, M.Ed., CRNA, professor emeritus and past chair of the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia, earned the most prestigious Helen Lamb Outstanding Educator Award from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. The award recognizes an individual's commitment to the profession of nurse anesthesia and to the advancement of educational standards that further the art and science of anesthesiology resulting in high quality patient care. This is the ultimate honor from the specialty to recognize academicians and their institutions.



Herbert T. Watson, M.Ed., CRNA



Lemont B. Kier, Ph.D.

On March 1, 1977, after a distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force, Colonel Watson was selected as chairman of the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia. In 1980, he was awarded tenure and promoted to full professor in 1982, only the second CRNA in the nation at that time to earn that rank. Under Watson's leadership, the department gained national recognition as a leader among nurse anesthesia educational programs. His commitment to education and continuing education and recertification has been a hallmark of his career. He believes that a profession must take responsibility for setting standards for its scope of practice and in turn needs to ensure the educational preparation of its members to achieve the necessary knowledge and clinical skills for safe practice. In this spirit, Watson founded Nurse Anesthesiology Faculty Associates, a continuing education organization that he donated to the department. On April 29, 2013, he was honored by VCU for his significant philanthropy in creating the Herbert T. Watson Endowed Professorship.

The AANA, representing more than 45,000 anesthesia providers and 112 educational programs, also honored Lemont "Monty" B. Kier, Ph.D., with the Didactic Instructor of the Year Award. This award is granted by the AANA Board of Directors annually to a single professor who is deemed to have made significant contributions to the education of nurse anesthesia graduate students and to the specialty at large.

Over his nearly 60-year academic career, Kier's record depicts a fulfilled professional life sought by many but achieved by so very few — a life of service. At VCU, he holds joint appointments in medicinal chemistry and nurse anesthesia and has taught students for more than three decades, always to rave reviews. In the area of scholarship, the second edition of Kier's book, "Medicinal Chemistry and Physics for Nurse Anesthetists," is a leading source employed by most anesthesia programs across the U.S. His research and writings have influenced many in the scientific community, particularly those in his specialty of medicinal chemistry. More recently, Kier published a seminal paper on the theory of narcosis, a longtime mystery to the anesthesia community. This work joins a select few in explaining the mechanism(s) of action of our most-common anesthetics.

Today, at the ripe young age of 80-plus years, Kier remains as vibrant as ever teaching medicinal chemistry lectures to nurse anesthesia graduate students and serving as a capstone adviser to several Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice students.

Both men received their awards in August 2013, at the 2013 annual meeting of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists in Las Vegas.

Bernard Kuzava, CRNA, the first chair of the Department of Nurse Anesthesia, pictured at right with current chair Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA, started a student scholarship. After attending the April 2013 investiture celebration at the Scott House, Kuzava said that he wanted to "get on board with the faculty" and make a contribution that would benefit both the students and our profession.



# VCU DEPARTMENT OF NURSE ANESTHESIA CONGRATULATES ITS MOST RECENT GRADUATES



**Class of 2011**

## Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia

**First row (from left):** Elizabeth Howell, M.S.N.A., CRNA\*, Brandon Fletcher, Holly Hart, Heather McDonald, Gina Muscara, Erica Sampson, Naomi Jones, Sarah Howard, Willy Ching, Wellington Wang, Ellen Dean, Cecil B. Drain, Ph.D., CRNA, FAAN, FASAHP<sup>†</sup> **Second row (from left):** Gary D. Hahn, CRNA\*, William Hartland Jr., Ph.D., CRNA\*, Suzanne M. Wright, Ph.D.\*, Nickie Damico, M.S.N.A., CRNA\*, Nancy Blake, Kimberley Van Alstine, Jennifer Mays, Misty Scoggins, Jennifer Jamison, Anna Tchoudovskaia, Martin Blaney II, Whitney Bateman, Herbert T. Watson, M.Ed., CRNA\*, Beverly George-Gay, M.S.N., CCRN\*, Charles D. Anderson, Jr., Ph.D.\*, Mario Grasso, M.S.N.A., M.S.H.A.\*, Scott Hawkes, M.S.N., CRNA\*, Lois Stewart, M.S.N.A., CRNA\* **Third row (from left):** Corey Davis, Ph.D., CRNA\*, Cynthia Runnells, Virginia Bothwell, Tiffany Yhip, Jessica Hauck, Angel Ricker, Meredith Hoffer, Lindsey Sutton, Antonique Hayden, Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA\*\*, Chuck Biddle, Ph.D., CRNA\*\* **Fourth row (from left):** Kate Alden Hartman, Thessa Denton, Victoria Klostermann, George Gauamis, Thomas Watson, Cassidy Harman, Cassandra Freeland, Amy Crabtree, Laurel Burney, William Saunders **Not pictured:** Ray Slone

\*Faculty \*\*Chairman †Dean, VCU School of Allied Health Professions ‡Emeritus



**Class of 2011**

## Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice

**First row (from left):** Vaughna Galvin, Johanna Newman, Edward Salkind, Donna Fiaschetti, Marvin Hormann **Second row (from left):** Katrin Sames, James Furstein, Michelle Barker, Michon Giffey Coats **Not pictured:** Nancy Christiano, Sylvia Feeney, Monique Jabbour, Alexander John, Nilu Patel

## 2010-11 VCU DEPARTMENT OF NURSE ANESTHESIA GRADUATION AWARD WINNERS

### Agatha Hodgins CRNA Memorial Award

Amy Crabtree  
Ellen Dean  
Cassandra Freeland  
Naomi Jones  
Victoria Klostermann  
Jennifer Mays  
Angel Ricker  
William Saunders  
Misty Scoggins  
Anna Tchoudovskaia  
Thomas Watson

### C. Paul Boyan Clinical Excellence Award

Ellen Dean  
Brandon Fletcher  
Whitney Bateman

### Thomas C. Barker Professional Excellence Award

Martin Blaney II

### Nurse Anesthesia Research Award

Martin Blaney II  
Sarah Howard  
Honorable mention:  
Willy Ching, Naomi Jones  
and Lindsey Sutton

### Instructor of the Year Award

Kristoffer Morgan  
Susan Rokisky  
Chris Stewart

### Herbert T. Watson Faculty Award

Nickie Damico



# VCU DEPARTMENT OF NURSE ANESTHESIA CONGRATULATES ITS MOST RECENT GRADUATES



**Class of 2012**

## Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia

**First row (from left):** Carol Bokinsky, Jennifer Voges, Tandy Gustin, Brittney Wallace, Christina Gibson, Paul Brinton, Fatesha Sims, Christi Freeman, Andrea Cline, Jessica Gotham, Cecil B. Drain, Ph.D., CRNA, FAAN, FASAHP<sup>1</sup> **Second row (from left):** William Hartland Jr., Ph.D., CRNA\*, Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA\*\*, Nickie Damico, M.S.N.A., CRNA\*, Melissa Henry, Meghan Doyle, Elizabeth Howell, M.S.N.A., CRNA\*, Suzanne M. Wright, Ph.D.\*, Herbert T. Watson, M.Ed., CRNA<sup>3</sup>, Christian Falyar, D.N.A.P., CRNA\* **Third row (from left):** Silvia Druke, Christina Wheeler, Nicole Struss, Jennifer DeHaven, Lilly Nguyen, Jeffrey Doyle, Barbara Vigue, Cassie Sklut, Amber Perdue **Fourth row (from left):** Corey Davis, Ph.D., CRNA\*, Cameron Rushing, Terise Anderson, Brenda Arter, Eric Stettler, Andrew Passey, Casey Lewis, Helen Fremichael, Kenneth Davis, Todd Pottorf **Fifth row (from left):** Lovetta Wargo, DeLyne Klein, Jennifer Garces, John Gemmell, Jonathan Barnett, Brian Gibson, Jesse Deskins, Nithin Prabhu **Not pictured:** Teddy Davis, Beverly George-Gay, M.S.N., CCRN\*

\*Faculty \*\*Chairman <sup>1</sup>Dean, VCU School of Allied Health Professions <sup>3</sup>Emeritus

## 2011-12 VCU DEPARTMENT OF NURSE ANESTHESIA GRADUATION AWARD WINNERS

### Agatha Hodgins CRNA Memorial Award

Jeffrey Doyle  
Jennifer Garces  
Brian Gibson  
Christina Gibson  
Lilly Nguyen  
Nithin Prabhu  
Andrew Passey  
Cassie Sklut  
Barbara Vigue  
Jennifer Voges  
Christina Wheeler

### C. Paul Boyan Clinical Excellence Award

Fatesha Sims  
Brian Gibson  
Jesse Deskin

### Thomas C. Barker Professional Excellence Award

Christina Gibson

### Nurse Anesthesia Research Award

Christina Gibson  
Cassie Sklut

### Instructor of the Year Award

Corey Davis  
Lois Stewart  
Emily Dougherty

### Herbert T. Watson Faculty Award

Danny Frasca

### Robert "Bob" Lanning Nurse Anesthesia Student Scholarship

Barbara Vigue

### 2012-13 District 5/VANA D.N.A.P Scholarship

Ahmad Ismail



**Class of 2012**

## Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice

**From left:** Debbie Blizman, Anicette Deza, Christine Zambricki, Marilyn Hashimoto, Janina Marcenaro, Catherine Gutshall **Not pictured:** Julie Moore

## Department celebrates a record number of faculty-established scholarships, funds

As of January 2013, endowed funds and scholarships have been established by every faculty member in the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia. This is unprecedented. The faculty has demonstrated their commitment to the educational needs of today and of future generations, in perpetuity. An endowed fund/scholarship is started with a commitment of \$10,000, either as a one-time gift or as multiple gifts over several years. These endowments include:

**Chuck Biddle Nurse Anesthesia Fund:** This fund was established to honor the service of faculty and the chairman of the department. The proceeds will be used to support nurse anesthesia education and research.

**Dr. Thomas "Corey" Davis Scholarship:** This fund will help support the department's practice of employing teaching assistants who are enrolled in the master's degree or D.N.A.P. program meeting academic excellence. As a student, Davis remembers the economic hardships and appreciated the financial awards he received. His endowment supports both students and the department.

**Dr. Michael D. Fallacaro Patient Safety Scholarship Fund:** This scholarship fund recognizes graduate students for their commitment to patient safety and will be awarded to the student who best represents the spirit of service through dedication and contribution to patient safety.

**Family Education and Wellness Fund:** This fund will provide support for healthy family wellness activities for students and their families while enrolled in the program. This effort was led by classmates and faculty member **Nickie Damico, M.S.N.A., CRNA**, as a way to express sympathy and to honor the memory of a classmate.

**Christian R. Falyar Endowment for the Advancement of Regional Anesthesia:** This fund promotes advances in nurse anesthesia education in regional anesthesia through support of, but not limited to, regional anesthesia equipment, student registered nurse anesthetist educational opportunities, faculty continuing-education opportunities and research initiatives in the department.

**Beverly George-Gay Scholarship Fund:** After working with students from Southwest Virginia for many years, Gay started this scholarship to benefit first-year students who represent underserved populations. Her hope is that this scholarship will help to decrease the financial burden incurred by these students during their nurse anesthesia education.

**Dr. William Hartland Jr. Fund:** Hartland has dedicated his life to the education of nurse anesthetists. He established this fund to encourage others to pursue a career in education. This fund provides support for educational opportunities and programs for development of teaching skills for faculty, clinical faculty, adjunct faculty and students.

**Elizabeth Glenn Howell Nurse Anesthesia Anatomy Camps, Workshops and Student Laboratory Fund:** During her time at VCU, Howell witnessed the impact that various student labs had on promoting understanding, learning and confidence in nurse anesthesia students. This fund provides support for anatomy camps and student laboratories in hopes of providing more experiences of these kinds to students.

**Lemont "Monty" B. Kier Nurse Anesthesia Fund:** After many years of teaching medicinal chemistry to nurse anesthesia students, Kier, a medicinal chemistry professor and former department chair,



Attendees celebrate the department's generosity at the 2012 MCV Campus Endowed Scholarship Brunch. Standing, from left, are Connie Wooldridge, Kelly Elmhurst-Lanning, D.N.A.P. (M.S.N.A. '08/NA; D.N.A.P. '10/NA), Dana Sharp, D.N.A.P. (M.S.N.A. '08/NA; D.N.A.P. '09/NA), and assistant professor of nurse anesthesia, Elizabeth Howell. Seated, from left, are Walter Wooldridge and Daniel Frasca.

established this fund providing educational assistance in chemistry, physiology and other related academic areas, tutoring our nurse anesthesia students.

**Dr. Suzanne M. Wright Diversity Fund:** This fund provides support creating opportunities for department activities such as workforce development, mentoring minority students and international student exchange, and to advance diversity in the department. Wright hopes that students will be provided with opportunities for success that might not have otherwise existed.

### NON-FACULTY FUNDS

**District 5/VANA D.N.A.P Student Scholarship:** This fund was initiated by the VANA District 5 Winter Workshop committee because the members felt the need to promote leadership and continued education in nurse anesthesia. This fund supports a scholarship for a D.N.A.P. student or students to help promote scholarly work in the specialty of nurse anesthesia.

**Robert "Bob" Lanning Student Scholarship:** While Kelly Elmhurst-Lanning was a student nurse anesthetist, her husband, Bob Lanning, was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. His goal was to see his wife graduate and he died just a couple of months after seeing her reach her goal. Because of the continued support that the couple received from the department during her matriculation, Lanning asked Elmhurst-Lanning to start a scholarship in the department after his death. This scholarship provides monetary support to a nurse anesthesia student or students who are facing significant personal challenges similar to those the Lannings faced.

**Nurse Anesthesia Department Fund:** This general fund helps the department support students and faculty with research, travel to conferences and workshops, book purchases, and equipment and laboratory enhancements for our multiple campuses.



# VCU

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Department of Nurse Anesthesia**

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## Nurse anesthesia begins international exchange in China

The Department of Nurse Anesthesia has embarked on an international cooperation with the Shanghai Ninth People's Hospital and the Jiao Tong University School of Medicine in China. Department Chair Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA, and department faculty members Chuck Biddle, Ph.D., CRNA, and Suzanne Wright, Ph.D., CRNA, have traveled to China as visiting professors giving lectures in Beijing, Taiyuan and Shanghai. In 2011, a "Letter of Intent for International Cooperation" was signed with Jiao Tong University and discussions are now underway to formalize an "Agreement of Cooperation" to develop academic exchange and cooperation with VCU in teaching and research.

"Traditional Chinese medicine dates back nearly 5,000 years and includes techniques for pain management that can inform our scholarship," Fallacaro says. "Academic institutions, their faculty and the students served are all made richer with the free exchange of ideas across cultures."

Fallacaro has met with leaders in the Chinese Ministry of Health regarding the standards of practice for anesthesia nurses in China. He envisions future distance-learning collaborations between his department and Jiao Tong University. Earlier this year, Hu Jaile (Gary), a Jiao Tong University faculty member and anesthesia nurse from the Ninth People's Hospital, visited the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia and the VCU Medical Center. While in Richmond, he observed anesthesia education and practice and presented lectures to nurse anesthesia students describing anesthesia care in his country. In his concluding remarks, he cited the words of Thomas Jefferson that he saw on a visit to Monticello: "The international exchange of useful knowledge among intellectual peers was a hallmark of the Enlightenment."



Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA, and Hu Jaile, visit the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia's Center for Research in Human Simulation.



**From left:** Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA, stands with 2012-13 District 5/VANA D.N.A.P. Scholarship recipient Ahmad Ismail and Danny Frasca, D.N.A.P., CRNA, District 5 winter workshop chairman.

## New nurse anesthesia fund highlights diversity

Suzanne M. Wright, Ph.D., CRNA, assistant professor, director of doctoral education and director of the Center for Research in Human Simulation in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia, established the Dr. Suzanne M. Wright Diversity Fund in 2011.



Suzanne M. Wright, Ph.D., CRNA

"Many times over, the generosity of others has contributed to my well-being," she says. "I simply want to keep that ball rolling."

Wright created the endowment to help the department in activities such as workforce development, mentoring minority students and international student exchange, and to advance diversity in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia.

"I feel the establishment of a diversity fund may create at least some small opportunity for someone to succeed; an opportunity that may not have otherwise existed," Wright says. "I hope the fund will provide resources to allow for mentorship of diverse groups of future health care workers who will one day be challenged with meeting the needs of our ever-growing and constantly changing patient population."

## Send us your news!

The Department of Nurse Anesthesia newsletter welcomes your input. If you have an item you'd like to include in the next issue, contact us at [nrsa@vcu.edu](mailto:nrsa@vcu.edu).