

SUMMER 2015

Department of
Nurse Anesthesia

Link

N E W S L E T T E R

“Please don’t go, Marjorie!”



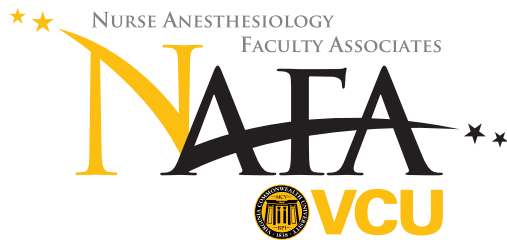
MARJORIE GOODWIN TO RETIRE DECEMBER 2015



VCU

School of
Allied Health Professions

“Absolutely the most well done conference I’ve attended. Not only was the material pertinent, comprehensive and well prepared, every consideration was made in regard to comfort and convenience.” - **MA Barrett, CRNA**



2016 MEETINGS

7th Annual Summit at Snowshoe Mountain

March 2 - 5, 2016

Snowshoe Mountain Resort, Snowshoe, WV

40th Annual Anesthesia Conference, Williamsburg, VA

Nov 7 – 10, 2016

Williamsburg Lodge

30th Annual Anesthesia Seminar, Hilton Head, SC

June 1 – 4, 2016

Hilton Head Marriott Resort & Spa

35th Annual Anesthesia Meeting Walt Disney World, FL

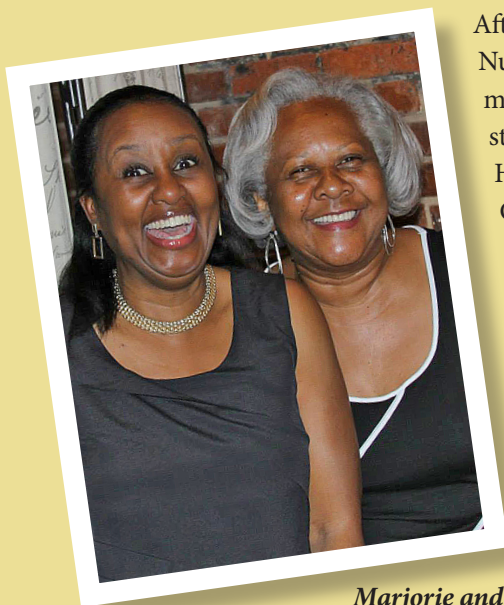
Nov 28 – Dec 1, 2016

Disney’s Yacht and Beach Club

Visit <http://www.nafa-va.org/> for registration and more information.

Locations and dates are subject to change.

Marjorie Goodwin planning to retire at the end of December 2015



After 21 years with VCU, Marjorie Goodwin will be retiring from the Department of Nurse Anesthesia. Marjorie will be sorely missed. When asked what she has enjoyed most during her time with the Department, she says “Getting to know countless students, and wonderful people who worked here such as: Paula Oslin, Mimi Hotchkiss, Addie Pontiflet (deceased), Jim Embrey, Barbara Donnavant, Lorraine Christ, Elizabeth Benning, John Beeston among several others. My greatest achievement was receiving the Presidential Award for Multicultural Enrichment Staff Award in 2004. We also had four African American students to graduate from the program that year.” Marjorie said she is going to miss the “wonderful type A students!” Her plans for retirement are to enjoy life ... and travel to see family. Her advice for alumni: “Don’t forget that our students are going through what you have already accomplished. Be a mentor and a good clinical instructor. Teach them ... don’t criticize or beat them up!!”

Please save the date and join us on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at the Boathouse (Rocketts Landing) in Richmond, Virginia as we celebrate

Marjorie and all of her contributions to the Department! Formal invitations to come.

ON THE COVER (l. to r.): Marjorie Goodwin is surrounded by the Class of 2016 during Anatomy Camp in Johnson City, TN, June 2015. Pictured above, Beverly George-Gay and Marjorie



CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Our Passion is Making Patient Safety Real

Dear alumni and friends,

I hope this message finds you well after an enjoyable summer! The Department has been especially busy this year educating our exceptional students. Additionally, we held our 29th Annual NAFA Hilton Head conference; new NAFA Regional Anesthesia Crisis Resource Management conference; and planned for Fall Williamsburg and Disney events. This summer we proposed a new DNAP entry to practice degree, had several staff changes, and traveled to China to sign a faculty/student exchange program.

Our Class of 2017 has arrived and consists of 42 of the finest graduate students from across the United States. Fifty percent of our new class are distant students receiving their education through high fidelity two-way synchronous telecommunications to north, west and southwest Virginia. We now have over 40 clinical sites located in four states. We are extremely grateful to these clinical partners without whom we could not accomplish our mission.

For the first time, we offered a Regional Anesthesia Conference and Cadaver Lab, immediately following our Anatomy Camp at East Tennessee State University, in Johnson City, TN. We were pleased to provide such a conference, as the demand in this field of study continues to grow. We will explore offering similar regional training this year in addition to hands on simulation training in crisis management. We are also looking forward to our annual NAFA conferences this year in Williamsburg, Disney, Snowshoe and Hilton Head. Please make plans to attend, and remember that alumni receive a discount on conference registration fees!

We are currently working on transitioning the curriculum to clinical doctoral entry. The Council on Accreditation has mandated that all programs move to the DNP or DNAP prior to 2025. It is our hope to graduate our first DNAP entry-to-practice class in 2019 or 2020. The curriculum design will focus exclusively on patient safety and we plan to incorporate many

examples of interdisciplinary education in our design.

The Department has witnessed several faculty/staff changes this year. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Brenda Wands, CRNA, PhD as our new Director of Interprofessional Education. Dr. Wands joins us as an Assistant Professor and brings with her a wealth of teaching and scholarly experience. Dr. Wands comes to us from the Geisinger Health System/Bloomsburg University Nurse Anesthesia Program in Bloomsburg, PA. We are also pleased to welcome Mr. Adam Eddy as our new Graduate Student Services Administrator. Adam will be working alongside Ms. Marjorie Goodwin for the next several months until her retirement this December. We hope you will join us on January 21, 2016 in Richmond as we congratulate Marjorie on her retirement! More information is forthcoming on the actual celebration event.

In August, Dr. Nickie Damico and I had the pleasure of traveling to Shanghai in the People's Republic of China to formalize a faculty/student exchange partnership. While there, we presented at a national conference on anesthesia nursing and signed a formal exchange agreement with the Shanghai Ninth People's Hospital / Jiao Tong Medical University. We hope to begin our program in the Summer of 2016 by hosting 2-3 colleagues from China.

Please know how much we appreciate your support of the Department. We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments and we hope to serve as a resource for you should you ever need additional training or continuing education, contacts for networking, or research. I hope to see you at our celebration for Marjorie Goodwin on January 21, 2016—I know she would love to see all of you!

Sincerely,
Mike Fallacaro, *Professor and Chair*

ANESTHESIA e-Nonymous

Anesthesia e-Nonymous was created as a mechanism for anesthesia providers to share information about real events they experience with other providers in a timely manner. Using a secure online portal, providers can submit their stories of near miss events to Anesthesia e-Nonymous. We also solicit their analysis of factors that may have contributed to the event. Faculty of VCU's Department of Nurse Anesthesia review and de-identify all information, then prepare and post a case presentation that captures the essence of the event. It is not a requirement to submit a story in order to read and learn from posted cases.

Register today at: <https://www.anesthesiaenonymous.org/>

Alumni Advisory Council Update

The Alumni Advisory Council (AAC) met on June 17, 2015 in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia. Department updates were provided for the AAC including: staff and faculty changes, the anticipation of a new School of Allied Health Professions building, and curriculum plans for moving from a masters to a doctorate program in nurse anesthesia. The AAC heard reports from the Nominating/Awards Committee and the Resource Development Committee. Nominations for new AAC members will be sought online and voted upon by the summer annual meeting. Nominations for the newly developed "Outstanding Alumnus/a Award" will be sought online between September and November to be awarded during the December graduation. Please check the "Alumni" section of the Department's website for additional information.

The Resource Development committee adopted a goal for fiscal year 2015 and fiscal year 2016 for the number of nurse anesthesia alumni who donate to the Department to reach 15%. At the end of fiscal year 2015, the Department had reached 12% participation. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting the Department. State funding only covers about 35% of VCU's yearly operating expenses. Your gifts help support student scholarships, technology needs (including simulation), continuing education initiatives, faculty and student research, and general operating support. **Alumni donor participation rates can have a major impact on institutional reputation; rankings create reputation, and reputation affects enrollment.**

The AAC is excited for the year ahead to assist the Department with planning Marjorie's retirement celebration to be held January 21, 2016 at the Boathouse (Rocketts Landing) in Richmond, VA. Please save the date and make plans to join us! Please also remember to share any new contact information (including employment information) with the Department so you can stay up to date.

The AAC will meet again in January 2016.



Melissa Sherrod, CRNA, DNAP

ALUMNI PROFILE

Joyce Sauvager, CRNA

Celebrating thirty years of service with gratitude



Celebrating 30 years as a nurse anesthetist and graduate of the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia, Joyce Sauvager attributes her successful career to then Chairman of the Department, Col.

Herbert T. Watson. As the daughter of an anesthesiologist mother, who is a strong advocate for CRNAs, Joyce was exposed to many facets of the operating room engaging her desire to become a nurse anesthetist. As a nursing student at VCU in 1982, Joyce was determined to continue her education as soon as possible in the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia. She recalls scheduling several meetings with Col. Watson to discuss the best course of action to become admitted to the program. Joyce knew that successful applicants needed experience in the ICU and worked part-time while in nursing school to gain such experience. Ultimately, she was admitted the year following her graduation from nursing school. While she states that "Col. Watson took a chance" allowing her into the program with one year of ICU experience—her drive and commitment to the nurse anesthesia practice was clearly evident.

Joyce says, "It's really hard to believe that it has BEEN 30 years! I've worked full time since graduating and truly enjoy each day. Thank you Col. Watson and thank you VCU!"

Congratulations, Joyce, on celebrating 30 years!



Jane Belcher, CRNA, DNAP

Carilion Clinic, Roanoke

Jane Belcher, a 2005 graduate of the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia, has served as the 2014-2015 President of the Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists (VANA). Jane has been instrumental in leading efforts to restructure VANA committees, update bylaws, ensure necessary policies are in place, and spearhead the implementation of a new strategic plan. The strategic plan initiatives include: the foundation of Operational Structure, promoting Advocacy and Education, Member Engagement and Communication, as well as Branding/Marketing. While VANA has been busy behind the scenes the last couple of years,



As a nurse anesthetist at the Carilion Clinic in Roanoke, Virginia and celebrating ten years since her graduation from VCU, Jane continues to support the Department through serving as a mentor to current students like Sam Jones, MSNA Class of 2015.

“I first met Jane Belcher when I was 17 years old,” Jones recalls. “I was a part of a school program that paired students with professionals who would serve as mentors and I was lucky enough to be paired with Jane. I remember my first day like it was yesterday—how Jane was able to capture and hold my attention with what was happening on her side of the drapes. She patiently explained everything she was doing in terms that I could understand. I saw how she was able to make all of her patients feel at ease and keep them comfortable through the whole perioperative experience. At the end of my first day with Jane, I asked her how I could become a CRNA.

“I continued to shadow her as often as I could, and she always made it work with her schedule. At the end of her time as my mentor, Jane helped me get a job as an anesthesia technician and continued to serve as a mentor to me over the next four years; teaching me about physiology, pharmacology, and the basics of anesthesia. She helped me get into the MSNA program at VCU and was my clinical instructor in Roanoke. She has been one of the best mentors in my life and she has always been willing to help others succeed. I will always be indebted to her.”

“I know I received the best education and training in the country. I have been able to maintain professional relationships with the faculty and staff of VCU and serve as Adjunct Faculty, which is a privilege that I do not take lightly.”

they’ve also been diligently working on top priorities such as CRNA reimbursement issues, obtaining APRN status, and forming grassroots efforts legislatively in cooperation with other advanced practice nurses.

It has been Jane’s goal since becoming a CRNA to inform the public, including all lawmakers, that CRNAs need to be allowed to practice fully to our level of education and training.

Jane was a student in the VCU Nurse Anesthesia program before location sites were available across the commonwealth (currently offered in Abingdon, Roanoke, Arlington and Richmond). When she became a nurse anesthesia student, she moved to Richmond while her husband stayed in Roanoke. As daunting as it is to

enter one of the top graduate programs in the country for nurse anesthesia, Jane courageously committed to living in a dormitory next to the Richmond, Virginia seminary in Church Hill after being married for 23 years.

With the support and encouragement of the Department and fellow students, Jane quickly acclimated to the vigorous curriculum of the nurse anesthesia program and became a stellar student. She took full advantage of the library facilities, academic advisors and found a tutor for physiology. Jane says, “I was very determined to be successful in the program. And while I did feel supported, it is a master’s level program and being self-driven and motivated is key to success.”

FACULTY & STAFF UPDATE

Welcome



The VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia is pleased to introduce and welcome **Dr. Brenda Wands, CRNA, PhD** as its newest faculty member. Dr. Wands

will join the Department in September 2015 as the new Director of Inter-professional Education. In this role, Dr. Wands will work collaboratively across disciplines within as well as beyond VCU focusing on patient safety initiatives related to anesthesia delivery. Dr. Wands will also teach MSNA, DNAP and PhD students as well as expand upon her current clinical research. Dr. Wands plans to maintain a limited clinical practice while at VCU so that she can continue to impart knowledge to students at the head of the operating room table.

Dr. Wands was most recently an Assistant Professor at Bloomsburg University and Program Director for the Geisinger Health System/Bloomsburg University Nurse Anesthesia Program. As a CRNA for 22 years, Dr. Wands has also achieved her MBA and Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education Administration. Her interests in research include ethics and adult education.

Relocating



After three years as Assistant Director of Doctoral Education in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia, **Dr. Christian Falyar, CRNA, DNAP** has

relocated to Great River Medical Center, in Burlington IA where he is leading a state of the art pain and regional anesthesia block service. Dr. Falyar will continue to work with the Department as adjunct faculty.



The Department held a student/alumni reception on June 9, 2015 to honor **Dr. Martin Eason, M.D., J.D.**, former Director of the Center for Experiential Learning, Quillen College of Medicine, in Johnson City, TN, for a decade of his dedication and partnership. He delivered several lectures for the Department on topics such as OB anesthesia, regional anesthesia, including the Anatomy Camp, and Professional Aspects. Dr. Eason has taken on the position of Director of Education at the Mountain Home Veterans Administration Medical Center and we hope that there will be opportunities to work with him in the future.

Retiring



The Department held a reception with over 75 guests on June 10, 2015 at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, Virginia to honor the retirement of **Dr. Rachel D. Fowlkes**. As Executive Director of SVHEC, Dr. Fowlkes initiated a partnership with the Department of Nurse Anesthesia in 2004. This partnership fostered a decade of nurse anesthesia education via distance

technology for students in the Southwest Virginia region. The center serves as the venue through which our entire MSNA and DNAP curriculum has successfully been and continues to be delivered. Dr. Fowlkes built the foundation upon which this successful distance initiative stands.

“A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.” – Henry Adams



Dr. Hartland with his son, Ben Hartland, CRNA, DNAP '14 at graduation in 2014

Dr. Bill Hartland has retired from the Department of Nurse Anesthesia after dedicating 32 years of service to nurse anesthesia education. Dr. Hartland has been instrumental to the success of the Department over several decades from pioneering the development of patient safety video vignettes into the curriculum, to serving as the Director of Education - ushering the finest students into our program. Dr. Hartland has been a driving force over the years instilling professionalism and inspiring leadership among his hundreds of nurse anesthesia graduate students. He is a role model both to his students and faculty alike.

We cannot thank Bill enough for his unwavering support and dedication to the Department, his exemplary professionalism, his compassion toward his colleagues and his loyalty to student success. He will be greatly missed in the Department.



Anatomy Camp 2015



Students enjoyed Anatomy Camp at ETSU in Johnson City, TN in June 2015 followed by a weekend of fun in the mountains!

RESEARCH UPDATE

Chuck Biddle, CRNA, PhD, along with colleagues at the University of Iowa, collaborated on a state-of-the-art review of the effects of anesthesia on the developing brain (AANA J, April, 2015). This domain of inquiry has emerged as one of the most urgent issue in pediatric anesthesia. Using a classic model of epidemiologic inquiry, they identified key predictive elements as well as gaps in knowledge that remain to be filled. Article located at <http://www.aana.com/newsandjournal/20102019/04jcourse15.pdf>.

Biddle, working with a number of DNAP candidates, is seeking to better appreciate vectors of infectious disease spread in the anesthesia workstation, tracking transmission of biologic material from patient to workstation. The technique uses an invisible material that fluoresces under special lighting.

Other patient safety enterprises that Biddle is actively involving DNAP-candidates with include a first-of-its-kind study of risk factors for at-home desaturation in patients discharged from ambulatory surgery using real-time, portable physiologic monitoring. Additional research that Biddle is supervising, involves DNAP-and PhD-candidates identifying distractions (latent hazards) in the OR and how they conspire to place patients at risk for misadventures.

Finally, **Christian Falyar, CRNA, DNAP** and Biddle are nearing publication of a cadaver study that demonstrates a major patient safety threat in those undergoing selective, cervical nerve root injection. For the first time, the real clinical risk of dural spread related to a C5 nerve root injection was demonstrated. Knowledge of this potential risk, will greatly reduce the risk of a potentially catastrophic complication.



Welcome Class of 2017

B.E.S.T. The Baricity Educational Spinal Tool

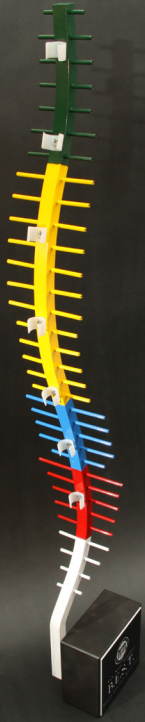
DNAP Capstone project - developed by Lukeythia Bastardi and Jill Schroder, Class of 2011

B.E.S.T. is a model of the spinal canal that is filled with a fluid similar to spinal fluid. Users inject local anesthetics (mixed with blue dye) at any point along the simulated spinal canal and observe the movement of the anesthetic within the canal. The trainer can then be positioned, as it relates to patient positioning for different procedures, and the behavior of the local anesthetic observed.

The DNAP program admits CRNAs on a full-time and part-time basis. Review of applications is ongoing; however, applications received by January 1 are given priority consideration. The objective of the DNAP program is to provide nurse anesthetists with a broader perspective and better understanding of the healthcare industry in an effort to assume leadership positions in teaching, professional practice, research and healthcare policy after graduation.

“What makes the VCU DNAP Program truly distinguishable is the premier quality of its faculty. There is an undeniable depth of intellectual and practical expertise that is prevalent in the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia.” - Christine Zambricki, CRNA, DNAP, CEO, American Blood Centers

For more information about the DNAP program, please visit us online at www.sahp.vcu.edu/DNAP or contact Dr. Suzanne Wright, Director of Doctoral Education at 804-828-2824 or smwright@vcu.edu.



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School of Allied Health Professions
Department of Nurse Anesthesia

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

