

SUMMER 2014

Department of
Nurse Anesthesia

Link

N E W S L E T T E R



CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES

Making Patient
Safety Real

45th ANNIVERSARY

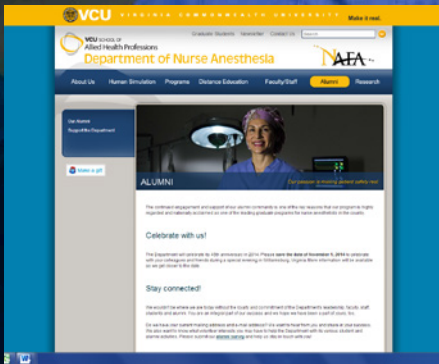


VCU

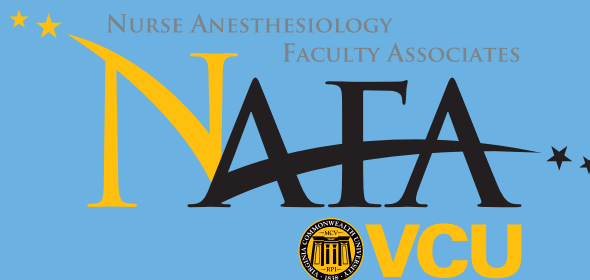
School of
Allied Health Professions



Pictured above, the Dayday Family with Michele (Class of 2007), Alvin and their daughter. The Department has started to recognize and plan VCU alumni gatherings at NAFA meetings. It's been so much fun to see conference attendees make connections with fellow VCU alumni!



2015 MEETINGS



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Thank you to alumna **Maritza Gallegos-Mahmood, CRNA, DNAP** for representing the Department of Nurse Anesthesia in the School of Allied Health commercial on NBC 12! You can still view the commercial on our website at www.sahp.vcu.edu.

29th Annual Anesthesia Seminar at Hilton Head, SC
May 27 – 30, 2015
Hilton Head Marriott Resort & Spa

Regional Anesthesia Course with Cadaver Lab at Quillen College of Medicine, ETSU
June 12 – 14, 2015

Pediatric Advanced Life Support
Oct 31 – Nov 1, 2015
Williamsburg Lodge

39th Annual Anesthesia Conference in Williamsburg, VA
Nov 2 – 5, 2015
Williamsburg Lodge

34th Annual Anesthesia Meeting at Walt Disney World, FL
Nov 30 – Dec 3 2015
Disney's Yacht and Beach Club

Locations and dates are subject to change.



Lifelong LEARNING

The practice of anesthesia continually seeks new technologies that can improve patient outcomes. The incorporation of ultrasound into numerous anesthesia procedures requires practitioners to develop a new skill set not related to anesthesia. Continuing education programs through the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia are helping nurse anesthetists keep pace.

Faculty member Christian Falyar, DNAP, CRNA started VAULT in 2011 to provide a forum where CRNAs could discuss and network about the latest trends in ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia. The incorporation of ultrasound into regional anesthesia and vascular access was intended to reduce potential complications such as inadvertent vascular puncture and pneumothorax.

Find out more at vaultrasound.com.



CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Our Passion is Making Patient Safety Real

Dear alumni and friends,

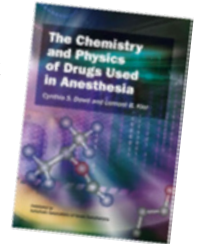
Congratulations to all of our 2013 – 2014 graduates! We look forward to following your success and please remember to stay in touch with us as you embark on the next journey in your career. It's hard to believe a new school year is already upon us! We are thrilled to welcome 40 new students into the master's program and 50 students into our doctorate program.

We have made great strides over the last few months in our efforts to "make patient safety real" through several new initiatives:

- A mobile app designed to help CRNAs and SRNAs pass the CPC exam and recertification exam
- A private and secure online portal for anesthesia providers, **ANESTHESIA e-Nonymous**, to share and learn from each other's real patient experiences
- A new **PATIENT** protocol checklist

I am pleased to highlight one of our doctorate graduates, Christine Zambricki, CEO of American Blood Centers. Dr. Zambricki has had a great impact in the healthcare industry as a practicing CRNA, serving in many leadership roles in hospital administration and healthcare advocacy association.

I am also pleased to congratulate faculty member, Lemont B. Kier, PhD on his most recent published book with Cynthia S. Dowd, PhD, *The Chemistry and Physics of Drugs Used in Anesthesia*.



Several chapters were written by VCU faculty members: Lemont B. Kier, PhD, Chuck Biddle, CRNA, PhD, Nicole Damico, CRNA, MSNA, Michael Fallacaro, CRNA, DNS, and Suzanne M. Wright, CRNA, PhD.

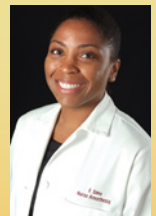
In 2015, we're excited to offer our three most popular Nurse Anesthesia Faculty Associates (NAFA) conferences in Hilton Head, Williamsburg and Disney, plus a new Regional Anesthesia Course with Cadaver Lab, June 12-14 in Johnson City, TN. **We hope you plan to join us for our 45th Anniversary celebration on November 1, 2014 in Williamsburg, VA! Use the link below to register.**

Thank you for your continued support of our practice and your commitment to keeping patient safety real. **Your success as nurse anesthetists is a reflection of our success as educators and we are so proud of you.**

Sincerely,
Mike Fallacaro, *Professor and Chair*

Alumni Advisory Council Update

The **Alumni Advisory Council** (formerly known as the Advisory Committee) met in June to discuss the Council's reorganization structure and goals. Leadership of the Council was undertaken by **Faresha Sims, '13** who will serve as Chair, **Melissa Sherrod '11** as Vice Chair and **Tiffany Yhip '12** as Secretary. Currently, there are sixteen Council members who have agreed to serve.



Faresha Sims

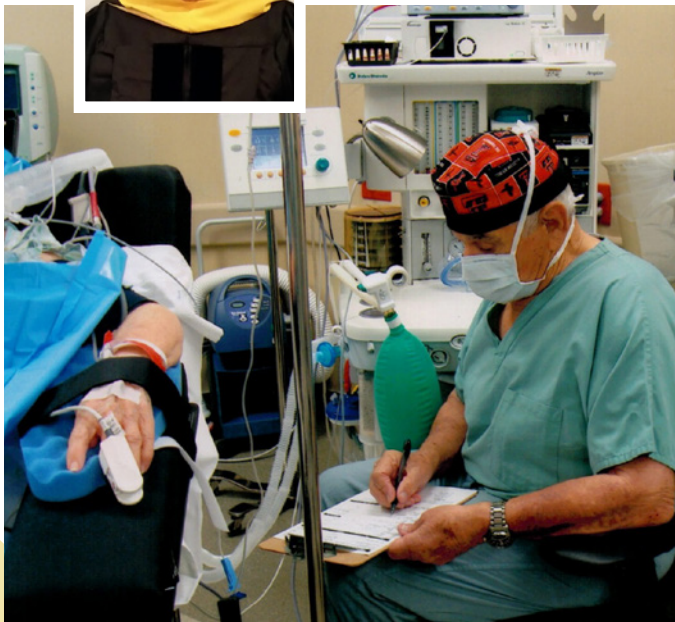
The Council's goal is to cultivate lifelong advocates for the Department of Nurse Anesthesia through a thoughtful and strategic effort with the intent to sustain a positive impact on the livelihood and future of the Department.

If you are interested in joining the Council, please contact Heather Millar, Director of Development in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia at hemillar@vcu.edu or 804-628-3787.



REGISTER ONLINE AT:
<https://www.support.vcu.edu/event/45thanniversary>

Congratulations Graduates



In 2012, at age 77, Charles (Dale) Stevenson, CRNA, M.Ed, joined the DNAP program while working as owner and chief nurse anesthetist at Complete Anesthesia Care in Waxahachie, TX. Dale traveled from Texas to Virginia each August, January and May to attend the DNAP on-campus sessions. Dale sought out the doctoral program at VCU because he wanted to make a contribution to the education of nurse anesthetists, "VCU's DNAP program was my first choice because of its national reputation; I see this as evidence of my commitment to our specialty and to my patients."

Dale graduated from the DNAP program in May 2014.



DNAP Graduates

Class of 2016

THE INCOMING JUNIOR CLASS

includes students from Texas, Ohio, Massachusetts, Utah and Washington bringing an average GPA of 3.74. Twenty-two students will be in Richmond with nine

students in Southwest Virginia, six students in Roanoke and five students in Northern Virginia.

Christine Zambricki, CRNA, DNAP

Chief Executive Officer, American Blood Centers

Dr. Zambricki has been a certified registered nurse anesthetist for more than 30 years, including extensive experience in healthcare administration. In 2010, she graduated from the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia's Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) program.

In October 2013, Christine was selected to serve as the Chief Executive Officer with American Blood Centers, culminating a career of extensive healthcare advocacy, association and hospital leadership experience. America's Blood Centers' member organizations make up North America's largest network of non-profit community blood centers, which operate more than 600 blood donation collection sites. Together the network provides half the U.S. blood supply to over 3,500 hospitals and healthcare facilities. America's Blood Centers is not affiliated with the American Red Cross. (www.americasblood.org)

Prior to leading American Blood Centers, Dr. Zambricki served as Administrative Director and Chief Nurse Executive with William Beaumont Hospital (1987-2006), and Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nursing Officer of Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, Michigan (2006-2010). Dr. Zambricki helped plan and open the West Bloomfield Hospital in Detroit, a \$360 million facility, orchestrating patient friendly architectural designs, wellness services, and integrative medicine clinic. Dr. Zambricki also helped select and train more than 1200 employees for the hospital's opening.

Dr. Zambricki has been deeply involved in legislative and regulatory areas including governor's appointments as chair of the Michigan Board of Nursing and the Michigan Nursing Specialty Task Force, chair of the Governor's Task Force on Specialty Nursing, a member of the Joint Commission Professional and Technical Advisory Committee and as a member of the Michigan Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse. Since receiving her doctorate degree from VCU in 2010, Dr. Zambricki served as Senior Director of Federal Affairs Strategies with the 47,000 member American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA).

She arrived at VCU with a desire to expand her knowledge base and realize her full potential as a scholar. She firmly believes in the curriculum at VCU with its primary emphasis on patient safety. Dr. Zambricki credits the VCU DNAP program with helping her think more critically and analytically, allowing her to be more effective in her role as CEO with American Blood Centers. After researching several of the top doctorate programs in the country, Dr. Zambricki said, "Most doctoral programs can offer flexibility, networking with colleagues from various backgrounds, quality curriculum, and a supportive staff. But 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 ... and the number one ranking doesn't hurt its reputation."

Dr. Zambricki enjoyed the integration of research and simulation provided by the Department of Nurse Anesthesia in the DNAP program. She recalls these learning experiences as ones that provided ample opportunities for research and analysis, culminating with a Capstone project that focused on eliminating reimbursement barriers to the use of nurse anesthetists in providing needed chronic pain care. She commented that her decision to attend VCU's DNAP program was never in doubt, "I knew I made the right decision by going to VCU."

Christine Zambricki is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and was the 2001 recipient of the prestigious Agatha Hodgkins Award for Outstanding Accomplishment. This AANA award was established in 1975 to recognize individuals whose foremost dedication to excellence has furthered the art and science of nurse anesthesia.

NOTABLE AWARDS



Judy Thompson, clinical assistant professor of nursing and director of the nurse anesthesia program at Quinnipiac University has been named the 2014 Program Director of the Year by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. The award recognizes a CRNA who has made a significant contribution to the educational process of student nurse anesthetists and recognizes the commitment of individuals to the profession of nurse anesthesia and the advancement of educational standards that further the art and science of anesthesiology and result in high quality patient care.

Thompson received her DNAP from VCU in 2010.



Nicki Damico, Assistant Professor and Director of Professional Practice, was awarded the AANA Foundation Doctoral Fellowship to support her dissertation research project entitled "Factors That Predict Incident Reporting Behavior in CRNAs." The Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005 was passed to encourage voluntary reporting of patient safety incidents by health care providers. To promote voluntary reporting of anesthesia related incidents by CRNAs, Damico and VCU faculty members Dr. Michael D. Fallacaro and Dr. Suzanne Wright along with web developer Douglas Vann, developed the reporting mechanism **Anesthesia e-Anonymous**.

Congratulations to **Lukeythia Bastardi, CRNA, DNAP '11** on receiving the Diversity CRNA's, "CRNA of the Month" award and congratulations to **Jovan Trent, SRNA, '16** on receiving the Diversity CRNA's, "SRNA of the Month award!"

App: CRNA eDaily

The eDaily app is a convenient, user-friendly way for practicing CRNAs and student CRNAs to enhance and reinforce their anesthesia knowledge base. The eDaily app was designed as a tool for practicing CRNAs to begin preparing for the upcoming expanded CPC recertification process set forth by the NBCRNA.

The review questions are categorized into the four core competencies as described in the CPC guidelines and objectives. All questions are written and vetted by experienced CRNAs and educators using a variety of established anesthesia texts and best-evidence literature. All correct answers are explained and referenced.



FEATURES:

- An optional daily e-mail alert serves as notification that a new review question is ready for viewing
- Unlimited access to all of the user's previously answered questions
- Performance tracking to measure overall proficiency as well as proficiency within each of the 4 individual categories
- Information about current and future NAFA-sponsored CE programs that correspond to the 4 subject categories and that will expand upon the subject matter addressed in the eDaily review questions

Sign up to use CRNA eDaily at:

<http://qod.sahp.vcu.edu/register/> OR text CRNA to 77948

ANESTHESIA e-Anonymous

"IF WE CAN HELP AVOID HARM TO JUST ONE PATIENT BY SHARING THESE STORIES, WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED OUR GOAL," says Suzanne Wright, Ph.D., CRNA, an Associate Professor at the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia.

With its commitment to patient safety, VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia hopes to improve the ability to understand how a wide array of factors lead to complications in patients undergoing procedures that require the use of anesthesia. Anesthesia e-Anonymous was created as a mechanism for anesthesia providers across the country 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-Anonymous. 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.anesthesiaanonymous.org/>



Anatomy Camp 2014!



Far left, alumni Brian Gibson '12, second to right, Dustin Roberts '13 and far right Darby Neshat '10 at the Department of Nurse Anesthesia's student/alumni reception during Anatomy Camp in Johnson City, TN at the Battery.

PATIENT Checklist

The Department of Nurse Anesthesia is proud to present the PATIENT transfer protocol checklist.

The checklist, developed through the research of Suzanne Wright, CRNA, PhD, provides a mnemonic transfer-of-care protocol developed for anesthesia providers. The systematic PATIENT protocol has been shown to prevent human errors that may occur during the transfer of care, as in the following scenarios:

- At the end of a work shift
- During a meal break or scheduled shift change
- During unexpected events that cause the provider to be called away from the patient

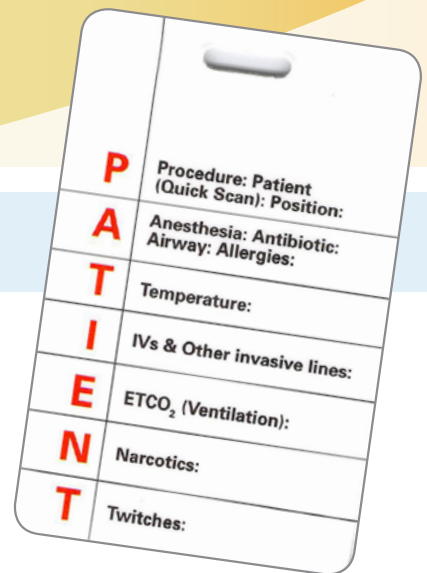
In Dr. Wright's study, it was found that 72.8% of surveyed CRNAs do not currently have a systematic process in place for transfer of care.

Dr. Wright's hope is that the PATIENT checklist, or some similar protocol, will become standard procedure in anesthetizing locations across the world and that the result will be an overall improvement in patient safety.

Make the PATIENT checklist a part of your practice today.



Suzanne Wright, PhD and Michael Fallacaro, DNS were published in the February 2014 *MedSim Magazine*: "Interprofessional Crisis Resource Team Training in an Ambulatory Surgical Setting: Growing a Culture of Safety" Faculty at VCU believe that the true value of crisis resource team training as it translates to clinical performance lies in the learner's lived experience. The "Growing a Culture of Safety" project model provides an opportunity for inter-professional team training with high physical and psychological fidelity that promotes and supports a positive culture of patient safety.





SCHOLARSHIP BRUNCH

Back row (l. to r.): Kaley Lanzetta '15, Michelle Duvall '15, Kelly Elmhorst -Lanning CRNA, DNAP, Dean Cecil B. Drain, John Lanzetta. Front row (l. to r.): Heather E. Millar, COL Herbert T. Watson, Michael D. Fallcaro, Chair and Professor, Danny Frasca, CRNA, DNAP, VANA District 5 Director.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND DONORS enjoyed meeting each other at the Ninth MCV Campus Endowed Scholarship Brunch held in February 2014 at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. Scholarship recipients for 2013 included Kaley Lanzetta '15, (Robert “Bob” Lanning Nurse Anesthesia Scholarship); Michelle Duvall '15, (Robert “Bob” Lanning Nurse Anesthesia Scholarship); and Lauren Kitts (VANA District 5 Scholarship Award).

*With Our
Thanks*

The Department of Nurse Anesthesia is proud to announce the establishment of two new scholarship funds in FY 2014: the **Bernard A. Kuzava Scholarship in Nurse Anesthesia** and the **Michael J. and Jennie L. Kammerman Clinical Simulation Fund**.

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School of Allied Health Professions
Department of Nurse Anesthesia

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

