

SPRING 2017

Department of Nurse Anesthesia

Link

N E W S L E T T E R

VCU Nurse Anesthesia Alumni Social

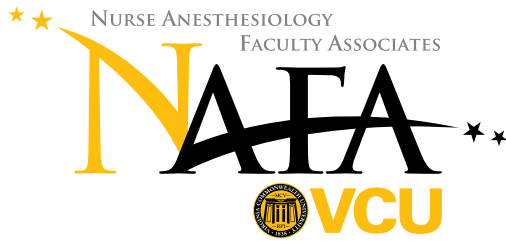


VCU

School of
Allied Health Professions

“The lectures are wonderful, informative, and cutting edge. The faculty is approachable and available to answer questions. Overall, a solid 5 out of 5 stars to NAFA!”

—Patrick Taylor, CRNA



2017-18 MEETINGS

31st Annual Anesthesia Seminar
May 31 – June 3, 2017
Hilton Head Island, SC



3rd Annual Anesthesia Crisis
Resource Management (ACRM)
*Center for Research in Human Simulation,
Department of Nurse Anesthesia*
Richmond, VA
September 16 - 17, 2017



41st Annual Anesthesia Conference
and Colonel Herbert T. Watson Reception
Williamsburg, VA
November 6 - 9, 2017 2017
Williamsburg Lodge



Students visit with Colonel Herbert T. Watson at the 40th NAFA conference in Williamsburg, Virginia.

36th Annual Anesthesia Meeting
Walt Disney World, FL
November 27 - 30 2017
Disney's Yacht and Beach Club

9th Annual Summit at
Snowshoe Mountain
February 28 - March 3, 2018
Snowshoe Mountain Resort

VCU Alumni receive a 10% discount for NAFA conferences - Just use discount code, "VCUALUM" (non case sensitive) when registering online for a 10% alumni discount.

Register online at <http://www.nafa.va.org>

Locations and dates are subject to change.



CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Our Passion is Making Patient Safety Real

Dear alumni and friends,

It has been an incredible year! The Department has been bustling with excitement and activity from welcoming our first DNAP, entry to practice cohort in January, to hosting the inaugural Alumni social in March, to the School of Allied Health Professions' groundbreaking ceremony in April, and our DNAP graduation in May. Congratulations to 39 DNAP graduates in May 2017! Pictures to come in our Fall newsletter.

On April 28, 2017, nearly 250 students, faculty, staff, alumni, elected officials and community members gathered beneath a white tent bordered by mounds of dirt and bulldozers at the future site of our new home in the School of Allied Health Professions. The event attendees were assembled at 600 N. 10th St. to celebrate the groundbreaking of the school's new 154,000-square-foot building. Special guests included Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, Delegate Chris Jones, VCU President, Michael Rao and Vice President for VCU Health Sciences, Marsha Rappley. Gov. Terry McAuliffe remarked, "What is great about this building is that it will bring all of

these health care professionals together. The eight-level facility will, for the first time in the school's nearly 50-year history, centralize all 11 of the School of Allied Health Professions' units."

There are several other exciting things to share in this Spring's newsletter; an update from Melissa Sherrod, Chair of the Alumni Advisory Council, an update on faculty and staff in our Department, a Q & A with former faculty member and alumnus, Christian Falyar, and pictures from our December graduation. Please stay connected to the Department—we are so proud of you and want to share your success!

Again, thank you for your continued support of the Department. Whether you are guest lecturing, sharing your expertise as one of our clinical partners, serving on the Alumni Advisory Council, volunteering your time or donating, together we continue our passion to "Make Patient Safety Real."

Best Regards,
Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA FAAN
Professor and Chair



Governor Terry McAuliffe addresses the crowd of 250 people during the groundbreaking ceremony



Joel Gill, SRNA '18, Shirley R. Gibson, DNP, MSHA, RN, FACHE, AVP of Nursing of VCU Health System, and Marsha Rappley, M.D., VCU Vice President for Health Sciences and VCU Health System Chief Executive Officer



At left, all of the School of Allied Health Professions Department Chairs and Dean Drain (center) took part in the groundbreaking for the new school site in April.

Alumni Advisory Council Update

More from VCU Nurse Anesthesia Alumni Social



The Department of Nurse Anesthesia's Alumni Advisory Council (AAC) is pleased to report on another successful year! The AAC met in January 2017 to discuss ongoing alumni engagement strategies, and development goals for the Department of Nurse Anesthesia. Council members heard from Dr. Fallacaro who provided an update about the



Melissa Sherrod, CRNA, DNAP

Department including the first DNAP, entry to practice cohort, DNAP post masters updates, NAFA updates and faculty/staff news. The Council also heard an update on the new School of Allied Health Professions building which is slated to open Fall 2019. Discussion also revolved around the inaugural Alumni social.

The VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia held its first Alumni social on Wednesday, March 22, 2016 at the Boathouse, Rocketts Landing. Over 80 alumni and friends, including faculty and staff, enjoyed a fun filled evening complete with live jazz music from one of the Department's alumni, Aaron Binder, CRNA. Aaron graduated from the Department of Nurse Anesthesia in 2013 and also holds a Bachelor's of Music degree from VCU. Dr. Cecil B. Drain, Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP) addressed the crowd with updates on the new building for SAHP. Suzanne M. Wright, PhD, CRNA, Vice Chair for Academic Affairs and Director of Doctoral Education in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia provided welcoming remarks and Department updates. Melissa Sherrod, CRNA (Class of 2010/2011) the Department's Alumni Advisory Council Chair, provided remarks about alumni goals for the year, and honored two alumni from the Class of 1979: Ann Winer and Cathy Harrison.

The AAC decided to alter the nomination period for the "Outstanding Alumnus/a Award" which is awarded at the December graduation awards

ceremony held at the Richmond Convention Center. Council members would like to offer alumni more time to submit nominations. Please look for the nomination form online and in your inbox. This award is presented to a graduate of the VCU Nurse Anesthesia program who has either become distinguished in the nurse anesthesia profession and/or has made impact contributions to society. The 2016 most **"Outstanding Alumnus/s Award" was awarded to Danny Frasca ('92, DNAP 2010).**



Gary Hahn presents Danny Frasca with the 2016 "Most Outstanding Alumnus/a Award."

Daniel P. Frasca has been a practicing CRNA for 24 years. He received his Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia from Virginia Commonwealth University's Department of Nurse Anesthesia in 1992. As a recipient of the Agatha Hodgins Award, Daniel graduated at the top of his class with a 4.0 GPA. He went on

to obtain his Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice from VCU in 2010. Daniel was a member of the Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists' board as District 5 Director from 2010 – 2014. He is a charter member and previous chair of the District 5 Winter Workshop, an annual meeting offered to CRNAs and SRNAs. He is a student coordinator and Affiliate Faculty with VCU and has worked with students for over 20 years. He has published in the AANA Journal and lectured extensively in Virginia. Daniel is the proud recipient of both the Herbert T. Watson and the most recent VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia's Outstanding Alumnus award for his efforts and dedication in furthering student education. Congratulations, Danny!! We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished.

"Thank you!"

VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia alumni Daniel P. Frasca ('92/DNAP 2010) and Kevin Baker '05, have created the **APEX Anesthesia Review Endowment** fund to be made available for departmental expenditures to enhance the Department of Nurse Anesthesia. And Coffee Bourne ('16/DNAP 2017) and her husband Adam, have established the **Bourne Family Scholarship** to be made available for full-time nurse anesthesia students with dependents, who are in good academic standing. *Information about these outstanding alumni and their contributions will be included in a special publication this summer.*

Checking in with Christian Falyar, DNAP, CRNA

Christian is a staff anesthetist at Great River Medical Center, in Burlington, IA. The hospital serves approximately 100,000 residents in southeastern Iowa, western Illinois and northeastern Missouri. With the exception of Neurosurgery, Transplant, and Cardiac Surgery, they provide anesthesia services for the full spectrum of surgical services, inpatient and outpatient, including Pediatrics and Obstetrics. Christian's department has two anesthesiologists and twelve CRNAs. It is a very collegial practice, and everyone practices independently.

What do you enjoy most about your position at Great River Medical Center?

As an independent practitioner, I am responsible for the entire perioperative course from preoperative evaluation to postoperative discharge. Burlington is a small community, so I care for co-workers, colleagues, neighbors and their families almost daily. The care is very personal.

How are you and your family enjoying Iowa?

Since we only lived in Richmond, we were a little nervous on how we would adjust to the Midwest. However, everyone has been very friendly and we feel really welcome in the community. We bought a house in the historic district downtown,

so we walk everywhere and try to support the local businesses and restaurants. We are members of several community groups (historic society, art center, triathlon club), and Susan (my wife) has started a very successful business in Burlington. Mason (our daughter) has assimilated very well into school. There is a very strong arts program, which she has thrived in. We also are hosting an exchange student from Croatia. She is a terrific kid, and it's been a great experience.

What do you miss about working at VCU?

Working with students in the lab. It was extremely rewarding to watch them learn skills they could use in their practice. A few of them even taught me some things. I cherish the relationships I've developed with DNAP students from around the country. I am Facebook friends with many of them, and I enjoy hearing about their successes in practice and life.

What are some things you miss about living in Richmond?

Listening to bluegrass on the deck at Legends on Sunday evenings, followed



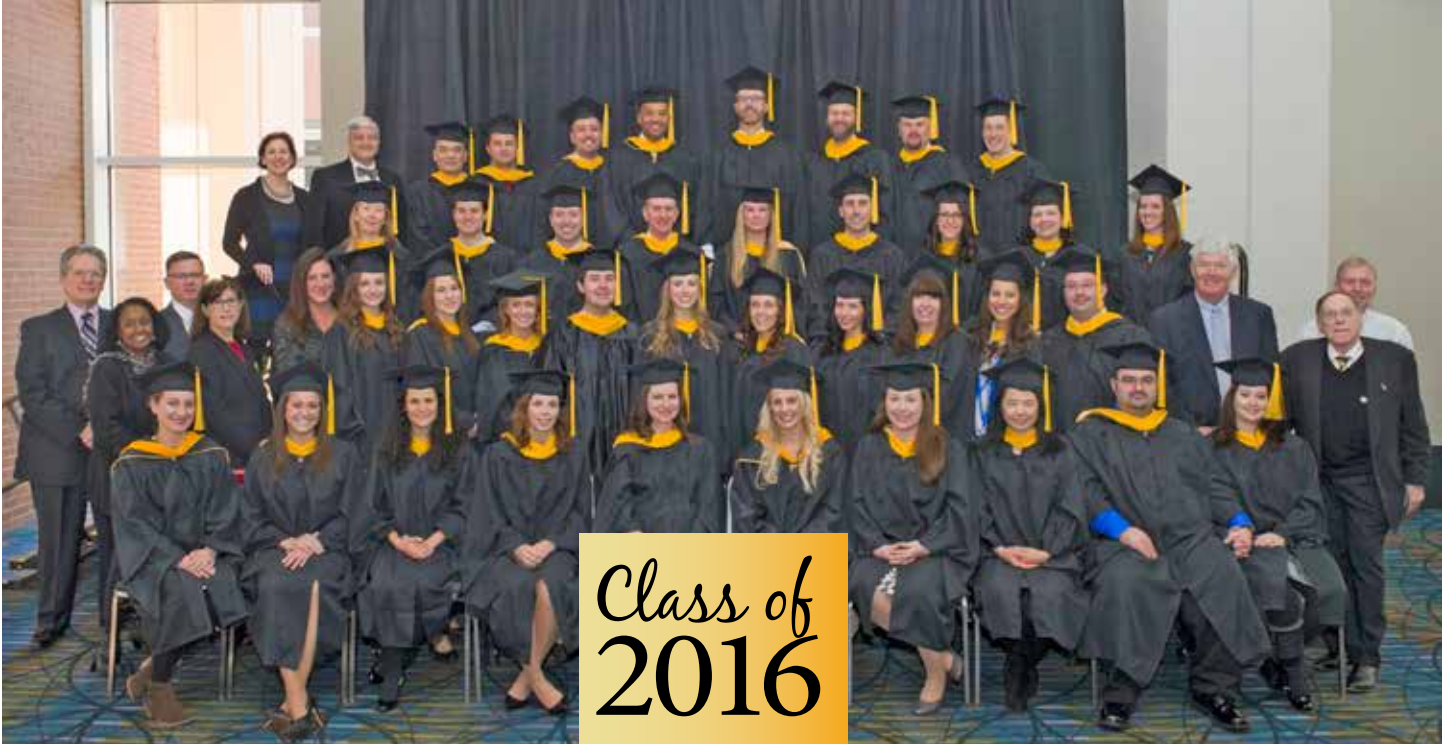
by a trip to Bev's for some homemade ice cream!

What are you hoping to accomplish in the next 5-10 years?

I want to continue developing my clinical practice while maintaining some academic affiliation. I continue to coordinate the ultrasound lab at the AANA national meeting, I've published several peer-reviewed articles since moving here, and have been an invited speaker at state meetings in Iowa, Arizona and Alaska. This fall, I will be serving as adjunct faculty for the acute pain fellowship through the AANA and MTSA, and the University of Iowa Nurse Anesthesia Program. Two years ago, I never imagined I would be living in Iowa, who knows what the next two will bring.

Alumni and Students Serve the Community

Several current students volunteered to represent the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia at a Richmond Area YoungLives Career Day alongside alumna, Lukeythia Bastardi ('10/DNAP 2011). Lukeythia has been working with the Richmond Area chapter of YoungLives for several years and enjoys speaking with the teens about future career options; especially in nursing and nurse anesthesia. YoungLives is an organization that provides the traditional Young Life experiences of Club, Campaigners, and Camp for teen moms "while also matching the teens with a mature Christian woman who serves as a mentor to help support, guide, and encourage them through this unique and often challenging times in their life." Starting in 2009, YoungLives has made an important impact in Metro Richmond with a 100% graduation rate with girls who stay the course. After graduation most teen moms have pursued college, have developed a trade or entered into the workforce. Special thanks to current students, Amber Coleman, Nashon Levi, Armand Vargas, and Tressie Turner who presented with Lukeythia in January 2017.



Congratulations

FIRST ROW: Carey Elder, Kristin Bonstingl, Erin Bianchi, Kathryn Robinson, Coffee Bourne, Nicole Lucci, Catherine Evans, Jie Liu, Andrew Metz, Alisyn Metz. SECOND ROW: *Gary Hahn, *Beverly George-Gay, *Dr. Rory Nesbitt, *Dr. Nickie Damico, *Heather Millar, Brittany Neeley, Laura Chubb, Erin Smoak, Jesse Wagner, Kathleen Mabis, Michelle Couper, Cindy Linenthal, Susan Hammond, Alba Britton, Bradley Wical, **Dr. Michael Fallacaro, ***Dean Drain, *Dr. Chuck Biddle. THIRD ROW: Jessica Kelley, Michael Mercer, Matthew McConnell, Jennings Heilig, Allison Robbins, Michael Beaudoin, Jiliam Bianchi, Susan Coble, Abigail Conley. FOURTH ROW: *Dr. Brenda Wands, *Dr. Corey Davis, Zhenjie Lu, Justin Rose, Jackson Wild, Vincent Ford, Benjamin Pike, Matthew Preston, Blakley Stone, Thomas Donnelly.

*Faculty, **Chairman, ***Dean, School of Allied Health Professions



Kelley Stepek '15 and Dr. Fallacaro at Graduation 2016



School of Allied Health Professions "Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award" presented to our Department's own Nickie Damico, Ph.D., CRNA

Three members of the Ninth People's Hospital, School of Medicine, at Shanghai University visited with the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia as part of the Department's faculty exchange partnership. Hong Ruan, RN, Clinical nursing officer, Xianjing Xiang, MN, RN, Clinical tutor and Zhen Shi, RN, Clinical manager of the anesthesia department will join faculty members of the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia to discuss and advance collaboration, to learn simulation training, and visit the Department's pre-anesthesia education and assessment center.



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/>

MCV Campus Endowed Scholarship Dinner

The 12th annual MCV Campus Endowed Scholarship dinner was held in the Grand Ballroom of The Jefferson Hotel to celebrate the generosity of our donors and the educational achievements of scholarship recipients. More than 240 guests attended the dinner, which pairs benefactors with their scholarship recipients for the evening. Each year, many healthcare sciences students graduate with a debt load exceeding \$100,000. More than 75 percent of students on the MCV Campus receive some type of financial aid, which can make the critical difference between having a dream and being able to pursue it. Our Department was honored to have many of our donors attend who have established endowments for Nurse Anesthesia.



Mike Goodwin, husband of Marjorie T. Goodwin, with Tressie Turner, SRNA '17, recipient of the Marjorie T. Goodwin Scholarship Fund, and Marjorie T. Goodwin



Beverly Gay and her husband, Montevani with the Beverly George-Gay Scholarship Fund recipient: Kyu Kim



Jacob Swanson ('14) who donated a scholarship award this fiscal year, Heather E Millar from the Department of Nurse Anesthesia, Danny Frasca ('92/DNAP 2010) representing the VANA/District V Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) Scholarship and former Chairman, Bernie Kuzava who has established the Bernard A. Kuzava Scholarship in Nurse Anesthesia.

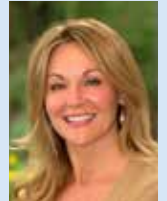
Faculty & Staff News

Michael Forder, M.Ed., is the new Director of E-Learning. He has held a variety of positions in education at both the secondary and collegiate levels.



Forder received his B.S. in business administration from the State University of New York College at Brockport and certification in business education from Buffalo State College. He earned his M.Ed in Instructional Design and Technology from the University of Mary Washington. After serving as an educator in an instructional technology and resource, Forder began working at Virginia Commonwealth University as the Educational Technology Specialist for the School of Pharmacy. From there he took on the position of Learning Spaces Specialist with the ALT Lab before transitioning into the role of Director of E-Learning for the Department of Nurse Anesthesia.

Faculty member, **Suzanne M. Wright, PhD, CRNA**,



gave a presentation to the New England Assembly of Nurse Anesthetists (NEANA) during their 70th annual Spring meeting in Burlington, MA, "How are you Making Patient Safety Real?" Dr. Wright also presented to a group of CRNAs at the Alabama Association of Nurse Anesthetists 2017 spring meeting in Destin, FL.

Deborah Rynberg, MBA, CMP-HC,



the Department of Nurse Anesthesia's Business/Continuing Education Manager has accepted a new position with Radford University as the Director of Conference Services where she will oversee conference services and work with the academic departments to expand continuing education activities. While we are sad to see Debbie leave the Department after a decade of service, we wish her great success in such a wonderful new opportunity.



The First **DNAP, entry to practice Cohort** Arrives at VCU!

The DNAP, entry to practice students arrived on campus in January and May for their three-day, on campus sessions. They will begin their full-time traditional schedule format beginning in August.

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School of Allied Health Professions
Department of Nurse Anesthesia

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

