



VCU

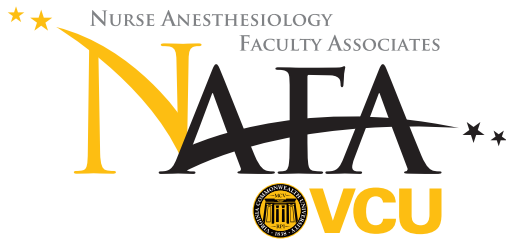
Nurse Anesthesia College of Health Professions

VCU Nurse Anesthesia Goes Global!



“Having attended NAFA for more than 20 years, I return because of the excellent speakers/topics, the wonderful meeting facility, the tremendous locations, and a wonderfully organized program.”

—Theodore Searle, CRNA



CE FOR CRNAs 2018-2019 MEETINGS

4th Annual Anesthesia Crisis
Resource Management (ACRM)

September 29 - 30, 2018

Richmond, VA

Ultrasound Guided Vascular
Access Workshop

October 6, 2018

Richmond, VA

42nd Annual Anesthesia Conference

November 5 - 8, 2018

Williamsburg, Virginia

37th Annual Anesthesia Meeting

November 26 - 29, 2018

Walt Disney World, Florida

10th Annual Summit at
Snowshoe Mountain

February 27 - March 2, 2019

Snowshoe Mountain Resort, West Virginia

33rd Annual Anesthesia Seminar

May 29 - June 1, 2019

Hilton Head Island, South Carolina



*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 www.nafa-va.org

Locations and dates are subject to change.

CE for CRNAs

“NAFA conferences are informative,
research driven and applicable to a
wide variety of practices. Their
conferences never fail to deliver.”

—Gloria Barbara, CRNA
See what others are saying.



SIGN UP

Early bird discounts!



CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Our Passion is Making Patient Safety Real

Dear alumni and friends,

The last six months have been exceptionally busy, and filled with many exciting endeavors! From accepting our second DNAP entry to practice cohort in January, to hosting NAFA conferences in Snowshoe and Hilton Head, to our annual Alumni social in March, Anatomy Camp in May, our Department exhibiting at the NTI conference in Boston, and presenting this June at the World Congress for Nurse Anesthetists in Budapest, Hungary. We are also excited to announce that NAFA Now, our online continuing education arm of NAFA is open for business! We look forward to hearing feedback from our alumni; and please don't forget that alumni receive a lifetime discount of 10% from NAFA; just use discount code, "VCUALUM" (non case-sensitive) when registering online.

One of the most notable changes this year was announced in May; Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Allied Health Professions is now the VCU College of Health Professions. As noted in the official announcement, the new name reflects the expanding breadth and level of academic programming, as well as the college's increase in research, faculty and student enrollment. VCU defines a college as a "large academic unit with a broad scope of degree-granting programs covering multiple disciplines." Since its establishment in 1969, the College of Health Professions has significantly expanded its scope, refining its course offerings to fit the ever-changing health care landscape and adding innovative degrees in traditional and nontraditional formats. The new name echoes another significant change on the horizon — construction of the new College of Health Professions building, which is scheduled to open for classes in fall 2019. The 154,000-square-foot building will provide a unified

space for the college's nine academic units, the doctoral program in health-related sciences, the dean's office and the Virginia Center on Aging. The college's top-ranked programs have occupied 13 buildings in the past 49 years and are currently scattered among five buildings on two campuses.



Heather E. Millar, and
Melissa Sherrod CRNA, DNAP

I hope you enjoy reading more about the annual MCV Scholarship brunch where donors to the Department are provided with the opportunity to meet their scholarship recipients, and we have an exciting new endowment in the Department created by alumnus and faculty member, Harold Barnwell, DNAP, CRNA ('14/'15). This continues the trend of 100% faculty who have created endowments for the Department. We are also excited for the myriad of opportunities for alumni to add their name to the new "College of Health Professions" building! Please read more about this on page 9.

We were pleased to offer two distinguished awards this year to our alumni; the Alumni Advisory Council's (AAC) "Most Outstanding Alumnus Award" was presented to Cathy Harrison, DNAP, CRNA (1979/ DNAP '15) at the December 2017 graduation (see page 4) and the Chairman's award was presented to Chair of the Alumni Advisory Council, Melissa Sherrod, DNAP, CRNA ('10/ DNAP '11) during the annual Alumni Social at the Boathouse, in March. Melissa has served as the AAC Chair for four years, and will continue to serve as Chair until 2020.

These are exciting times in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia, and in the College of Health Professions as we move into the last year of classes being held in West Hospital after nearly 60 years.

Thank you, again, for your continued support and dedication to "Making Patient Safety Real." Best Regards,

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



SAVE THE DATE
Friday, April 5, 2019

THIRD ANNUAL VCU
NURSE ANESTHESIA
ALUMNI SOCIAL
AT
THE BOATHOUSE
ROCKETTS LANDING

*Formal invitations will be sent
as we get closer to the event.*

Alumni Advisory Council Update



Melissa Sherrod,
CRNA, DNAP

The Department of Nurse Anesthesia's Alumni Advisory Council held its bi-annual meetings in January 2018 and June 2018. The council listened to updates from the Department leadership about the new building construction, the new DNAP entry to practice cohort, the DNAP post masters program, information on the Council on Accreditation NCE passing rates, NAFA meetings, and the new NAFA Now online platform for CE's. Since it's inception in 2014, this summer marked the end of AAC council member term limits. Therefore, the AAC decided to

vote on new term limits to extend service for another two years. A few council members decided to roll off, allowing the opportunity for several new Council members to join. Thank you to those who submitted nominations for new council members. Those names will be included in the next newsletter. A big thank you to those council members for their service: Greg Bonifant, Ellen Dean, Geoff Early, Andrew Lamar, Jody Lyle, Ann Winer.

The Council is pleased to report that the Department met it's goal of two new endowments for fiscal year 2018. We are also pleased to report that several alumni are supporting the new building

campaign through purchasing a bench, and/or brick(s). Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Department; sometimes, private support is the only assistance provided to graduate students. Private support also helps support research efforts, anatomy camp, professional development, simulation equipment, and distance technology needs.

The Council enjoyed seeing many of you at the Alumni social in March at the Boathouse (see page 6). We hope you'll save the date and make plans to join us again April 5, 2019 at the Boathouse, during VCU's reunion weekend!!

If you have any questions about the AAC, please contact Heather E. Millar in the Department of at hemillar@vcu.edu or 804-628-3787.

Alumni Advisory Council

Melissa Sherrod (Chair)	Andrew Lamar
Faresha Sims (Vice Chair)	Jody Lyle
Tiffany Yhip (Secretary)	Mary Elizabeth Cheatham
Ellen Dean	Tim Newell
Donna Fiaschetti	Danny Phillips
Kristin Friedline	Ann Winer
Geoff Early	
Greg Bonifant	Honorary members:
Gary Hahn	Marianne S. Cosgrove
Harold Barnwell	Martin Safo
Elizabeth Howell	

VCU Nurse Anesthesia's Most Outstanding Alumni Award: Cathy A. Harrison, DNAP, MSN, CRNA

VCU Nurse Anesthesia's Outstanding Alumni Award is presented annually to a graduate of the VCU Nurse Anesthesia program who has either become distinguished in the nurse anesthesia profession and/or has made impactful contributions to society. It is the highest honor that the VCU Nurse Anesthesia Alumni Advisory Council (AAC) can bestow. The AAC seeks nominations from all nurse anesthesia alumni (nearly 900 alumni) and presents the award annually during the December graduation awards ceremony. The 2017 "Most Outstanding Alumnus/a Award" was presented to Cathy A. Harrison, DNAP, MSN, CRNA, a 1979 graduate from the VCU Nurse Anesthesia Program receiving a Certificate in Nurse Anesthesia.

For the past 40 years, Cathy has been privileged to care for civilian and military patients in Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, and Germany as a CRNA. She joined the Navy (Reserve Component) in 1990 and was immediately called to Active Duty in support of Operation Desert Shield/ Storm and was mobilized to the Naval Medical Center at Portsmouth in 2003 and Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany in 2007 as the Senior Nurse Executive for the Navy. Cathy was the first CRNA to be board appointed to the position of Executive Officer for Operational Health Support Unit, Camp Lejeune and Commanding Officer of Operational Health Support Unit, Bethesda. After 26 years, Cathy is now officially retired from the Navy.



(Left to right) Matthew Thornhill; Jan Zarefoss, NP; Cathy Harrison, DNAP, MSN, CRNA; and Dr. William Harrington

Along with her anesthesia career, Cathy has cared for patients in major medical centers and office based settings. For 18 months, she even had the opportunity to teach nursing at a local (Richmond) college. She has an office based anesthesia practice providing IV Moderate Sedation to dental patients which began in 2000. Most recently, Cathy began a new employment adventure with the Department of Health Professions as an inspector for the Enforcement Division. She is responsible for inspecting the offices of dentists who have sedation permits issued by the Board of Dentistry. A life-long learner, Cathy has diplomas in

Nursing and Nurse Anesthesia, a BA in Health Care Administration, a Master's Degree in Nursing and Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice.

"As an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, I believe that the future of our profession is bright. I am a member of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists (GRC Chairperson/VANA AANA Foundation Advocate), Virginia Action Coalition (Access to Care and Leadership Committees) and newly appointed to the Advisory Committee of the Joint Boards of Nursing and Medicine."



(Left to right) Cathy Harrison with her son Lyndon Harrison Davenport and Col. Herbert T. Watson

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Nickie Jones, DNAP, CRNA



"I am so proud to say that I graduated from VCU, and that's what I want for my brand. VCU Nurse Anesthesia is synonymous with the highest quality."

Nickie is a travel CRNA with North American Partners in Anesthesia and is currently located in the Hampton Roads area, while also managing Royal Career Institute, a medical career-training center that she founded in 2012. The

Royal Career Institute is located in the Central Richmond area and provides vocational and technical training in medical fields such as nursing aides, emergency medical technicians, and veterinary assistant training.

As a nursing student at VCU, Nickie was unaware of the nurse anesthesia career path until she heard someone mention it in passing, and attended an information session. After consulting with Marjorie Goodwin, former student services support for the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia, she knew she wanted to become a nurse anesthetist. A network of colleagues and friends, and Addie Pontiflet, one of the first African American CRNAs in the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia, helped Nickie become a strong and competitive candidate for the program.

"My life changed because of a woman named Addie. I became very passionate about the responsibility, the challenges and the autonomy of nurse anesthesia."

Addie inspired Nickie's vision and life philosophy for going after your dreams. Nickie fondly recalls Addie's words, "If I can do that, you can do it."

And she did.

Nickie graduated from the VCU Masters in Nurse Anesthesia program in 2011, and with her Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice in 2012, the very same year she opened the Royal Career Institute.

It was Nickie's ultimate dream to be a teacher and own her own school, and now she has the best of both worlds. She provides the highest quality nurse anesthesia and patient care, along with molding young minds and helping them also achieve their dreams.

ON HER EXPERIENCE AS A STUDENT ...

"It's like climbing a mountain; the air gets thinner. It doesn't get easier, you just acclimate and you get through. Going through the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia was the best thing I've ever done."

MCV Scholarship Brunch

The MCV annual scholarship brunch provides an opportunity for donors to the five health sciences schools on the MCV Campus at VCU Health to meet the students who are benefiting from their gifts and investments. More than 330 donors, students and MCV Campus leaders attended this year's brunch. Several donors and donor recipients from the Department of Nurse Anesthesia were in attendance including Dr. Wands and Dr. Woods with their donor recipient, Zee Bakhtiar (SRNA '19), and Dr. Fallacaro with donor recipient, Ryan Wiatrowski (SRNA '19).



Legacies for students, faculty, programs and research on the MCV Campus can be established in a number of ways, including through named endowed funds, planned giving, tributes and memorials, and major gifts. The variety of tools available for giving enables anyone who is interested in supporting VCU to contribute in a way that best fits his or her needs.

To learn more, visit <https://www.mcvfoundation.org/>.

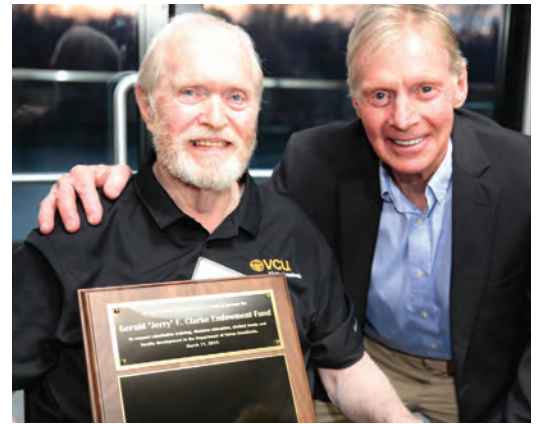


Representing the Beverly George-Gay Scholarship Fund, the Bernard A. Kuzava Scholarship, and the Brenda Wands and Ed Woods Scholarship. Pictured (l to r), front row, Dr. Ed Woods, Dr. Brenda Wands, Zee Bakhtiar (SRNA '19); back row, Bernie Kuzava, Beverly George-Gay and Dr. Mantovani Gay.

2nd Annual Nurse Anesthesia Alumni Social

The VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia held its 2nd annual alumni social on Saturday, March 17, 2018 with approximately 100 alumni and friends gathered at the Boathouse, Rocketts Landing in Richmond, Virginia. Representing the VCU Nurse Anesthesia Alumni Council (AAC), Tim Newell, ('14/'15) CRNA, DNAP, provided remarks to the crowd with updates on the AAC's goals, and ways alumni and friends can help support the Department. Dr. Suzanne Wright, PhD, CRNA, Vice Chair of Academic Affairs and Director of Doctoral Education for the Department of Nurse Anesthesia, provided remarks on behalf of Department Chairman, Dr. Mike Fallacaro and the College of Health Professions. Dr. Wright presented the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia Chairman's Award to Melissa Sherrod, DNAP, CRNA ('10/'11) for several years of dedicated and committed service to the Department.

Dr. Wright gave a special recognition to Jerry Clarke, the School's retired Distance Education Technology Director, presenting him with the Gerald ("Jerry") F. Clarke Endowment Fund. This fund was established in honor of Jerry Clarke to support simulation training, distance education, student needs and faculty development in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia. Additionally, on behalf of the Department and College of Health Professions, Dr. Wright formally announced that there will be a room named after Jerry in the new College of Health Professions building—the "Gerald (Jerry) F. Clarke Control Room" to be located on the 3rd floor.





Research Update

The recently published study, “Assessing a Novel Method to Reduce Anesthesia Machine Contamination: A prospective, Observational Trial” in the Canadian Journal of Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology represented a collaboration among VCU’s Department of Nurse Anesthesia, the Department of Clinical Laboratory Science, and the Department of Anesthesiology. The VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia also collaborated with investigators at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center on research that examined the utility of central venous pressure monitoring in liver resection; the work is currently being drafted for publication. Additionally, our department is collaborating with investigators in Miami, FL on what happens to patients (primarily those >55 years of age) at home after surgery using sophisticated miniaturized physiologic monitors that will record metrics for 48 hours. This will be combined with patient journaling and comorbidities and anesthetic/surgical management as important variables that will be examined. We also have a number of projects in the early stages of development with the Department of Biomedical Engineering here at VCU. These projects involve research minimizing infectious disease transmission and redesigning strategic components of the anesthesia workstation. Students in the program, led by Ryan Wiatrowski, SRNA, had a paper in the April 2018 issue of The Journal of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists involving their research examining a patient safety issue, residual effects of nondepolarizing muscle relaxants.



Faculty in Budapest



ON THE COVER: Seated in front, (l to r): Dr. Frank Gerbasi, CEO, Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs; Dr. Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA, FAAN, VCU Professor and Chair of the Department of Nurse Anesthesia

Back row (l to r): Hong Ruan, Director of comprehensive department, Shanghai Ninth People's Hospital; Vice President, Shanghai Nursing Association; Yan (Sophie) Yang, Chief Director of Nursing Department, Shanghai Renji Hospital affiliated to Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine; Yulan (Noami) Fang, Nurse Director of Anesthesiology Department, Nanjing BenQ Hospital; Jiale (Gary) Hu, RN, MScN, PhD (c), University of Ottawa, Adjunct Faculty, Department of Nurse Anesthesia, Virginia Commonwealth University

Department of Nurse Anesthesia Chairman, Dr. Michael Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA, FAAN, and faculty members Dr. Harold Barnwell, DNAP, CRNA and Dr Brenda Wands, PhD, CRNA were in Budapest, Hungary this June to present and attend the International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists (IFNA) World Congress. The IFNA is the authoritative voice for nurse anesthetists and nurse anesthesia, supporting and enhancing quality anesthesia care worldwide. Dr. Fallacaro presented, "Developing and Implementing the First IFNA

Approved Anesthesia Nurse Education Program in Chinese Mainland" and "Intraoperative Patient Handover Between Anesthesia Providers: A Scoping Review" along with Gary Hu, RN, MScN, PhD(c), University of Ottawa Clinical Investigator & Research Assistant, Nursing Researcher, Shanghai #9 People's Hospital.

Dr. Barnwell and Dr. Wands poster presentations included: "Neurotoxic Potential of General Anesthetic and Sedation Drugs in Pediatrics," "Engaging Nurse Anesthesia Students with Medical Reader's Theatre," and "Effect of General Anesthesia on Blood Flow Dynamics in the Brachial Artery: A Proof of Concept Study."

In addition to the presentations, the visit provided an opportunity to meet with our collaborative partners from Shanghai, China and renew the Department's commitment to nurse anesthesia education. Meetings will take place in Spring of 2019 to continue the discussion about the student/faculty exchange agreement established in 2015. Multiple faculty of the VCU department of nurse anesthesia are actively involved in several research projects and scholarly work with our partners in Shanghai. This meeting continues to foster Dr Fallacaro's vision of building relationships internationally and collaboration around distance learning education.



New Endowment Announcement



Alexandrea Povlishock and husband alumni Tim Newell ('14/'15), Ashley and Harold Barnwell, III ('14/'15')

L. Harold Barnwell, III ('14/'15), DNAP, CRNA and assistant professor in the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia has established the "Dr. Harold Barnwell and Ashley Barnwell Endowment Fund in Nurse Anesthesia" to support faculty and/or student development in the discovery, implementation, and utilization of innovative and dynamic teaching and learning strategies. Dr. Barnwell is the Assistant Director of Doctoral Education in the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Liberty University, and Master of Science - Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice from Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Barnwell is also a practicing anesthetist with the VCU Health System. His research interests include ultrasound applications in anesthesia, modernizing education for the millennial, and international collaboration of nurse anesthetists.

"Thank you!"

Bricks and Benches for Building Campaign

Add your name to the new College of Health Professions building!

slated to open for classes in Fall 2019, this 154,000 square foot facility will coincide with the College of Health Professions' and Department of Nurse Anesthesia's 50th anniversary as we join all of the Departments "under one roof" for the first time ever in our history! While there are very limited number of benches to purchase (only four left!), another great way to participate in this exciting occasion is to fund an engraved brick with a gift of \$150. Our brick drive provides a great opportunity to make an impact during the VCU Make It Real campaign. Your brick can memorialize your years at the college, congratulate a graduate, recognize a faculty member who made a difference, or choose to honor a loved one. A personalized brick is a wonderful idea for holidays, graduations, birthdays or any special occasion. Each brick can include up to three lines of text and up to 18 characters per line. These bricks will pave the main entrance to the new building and are a permanent part of the College's history. There are only a few benches left if you are interested, and you should be receiving a notice in the mail about the brick campaign this summer!



From l to r: Elizabeth Howell, Emily Lanning, David Lanning

A big thank you to our alumni and friends who are already supporting the new building campaign effort!

Benches

Jody Lyle ('09/DNAP '10)
Hamid Mahmood ('09/DNAP '10)
Maritza Gallegos-Mahmood ('09/DNAP '10)
Elizabeth Howell ('04) and Emily Lanning ('04)

Bricks

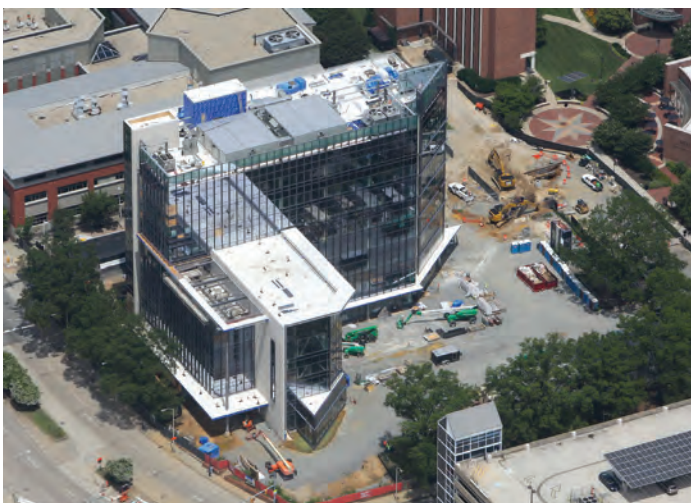
Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA, FAAN
and Nadine Fallacaro, MSN, CRNA
Edward Salkind, DNAP, CRNA
and Patricia Salkind



Buy a brick online!

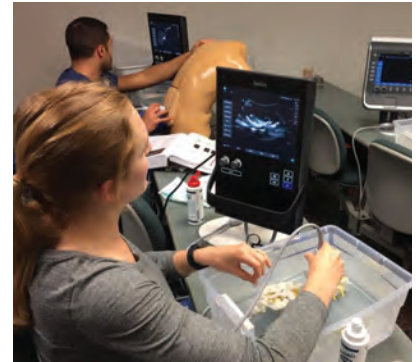
<http://www.support.vcu.edu/chpbrick>

For more information on ways you can support the new building, please contact Heather E. Millar, Director of Development, Marketing and Communications in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia at hemillar@vcu.edu or 804-628-3787.



Anatomy Camp

**Adventures in Anatomy Camp 2018 at
East Tennessee State University!**



Congratulations Graduates


Class of
2017



Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice

August and December 2017

Christina Flaming, Ashely Phillips, Robert Olson, Mekelayaie Dorsett, Marie Wilborn, Suja Cumarán



Nurse Anesthesia Class of 2017

1st row: ***Dean Drain, Rebekah Rupp, Patrick Wood, Bryce Patterson, Kyu Kim, Armand Vargas, Kayla Katz, Tressie Turner, ****COL Herbert T. Watson, *Beverly Gerge-Gay **2nd row:** *Dr. Nickie Damico, *Dr. Harold Barnwell, Ashley Borloz, Meghan Lenczyk, April Ritter, Emilie Gardner, Jacob Anderson, Tyler Graham, Meena Verma, Nadia Sefton, Jessica Gerard, Leah Parker, Dakota Wine, Erin Grimm, *Jason Clarke, **Dr. Michael Fallacaro, *Dr. Chuck Biddle **3rd row:** Kendall Satterwhite, *Dr. Corey Davis, Melanie Tucker, Mark Walker, John Kim, Amanda Doss, Alexandra Taylor, Courtney Earl, Bridget Dooley, Nikolas Kolocuris, Jessica Chambers, Kathryn Steward, Amy Owens-Watson, *Dr. Brenda Wands **4th row:** Justin Miller, Seth Johnson, Bradley Ketron, Matthew Lowe, Brynn Fleming, Brian Widener, Leslie Miller, Matthew Fisher

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



VCU

College of Health
Professions
Nurse Anesthesia

Congratulations

May
2018

DNAP Graduates



Doctor Of Nurse Anesthesia Practice

May 2018

1st Row: Kathryn Stewart, Kayla Katz, Colleen Costick, Meena Verma, Tressie Turner, Kimberly Schreiber

2nd Row: Rebekah Rupp, Jessica Gerard, Matthew Lowe, John-Eric Vallarta, Erin Grimm,

3rd Row: Bradley Ketron, Amy Owens-Watson, Matthew Fisher, Patrick Wood, Bryce Patterson, Armand Vargas, Jacob Anderson

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