

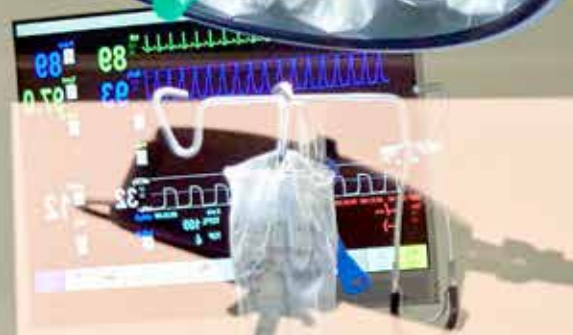


# VCU

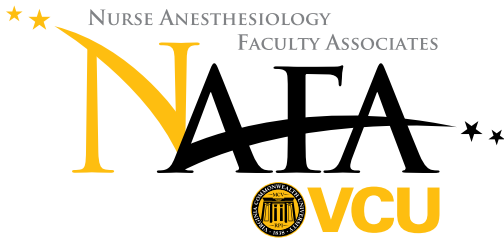
Nurse Anesthesia  
College of Health Professions

FEATURING OUR BRAND NEW

## Center for Research in Human Simulation



ALSO INSIDE:  
**50th Anniversary  
Celebration**



*"This was definitely one of the best conferences I've attended in recent years. Helpful engaging staff, current topics, and pleasant accommodations all added to an overall great seminar."*

—Gerard Zappa, CRNA

# CE FOR CRNAs 2020 MEETINGS

## February 5-8, 2020

*Snowshoe, West Virginia*  
11th Annual Summit at Snowshoe

## March 20-22, 2020

*Richmond, Virginia*  
Ultrasound Guided Peripheral Nerve Block Workshop

## April 4, 2020

*Richmond, Virginia*  
Ultrasound Guided Vascular Access Workshop

## May 2-3, 2020

*Richmond, VA*  
2nd Annual Faculty & Administrator Workshop

## May 27 - 30, 2020

*Hilton Head, South Carolina*  
34th Annual Anesthesia Seminar

## August 29, 2020

*Richmond, Virginia*  
5th Annual Anesthesia Crisis Resource Management

## October 10, 2020

*Richmond, Virginia*  
Ultrasound Guided Vascular Access Workshop

## October 26 - 29, 2020

*Williamsburg, Virginia*  
44th Annual Anesthesia Conference

## November 30 - December 3, 2020

*Orlando, Florida*  
39th Annual Anesthesia Meeting

*Locations and dates are subject to change.*



Earn your CE Online with the NAFA Now Annual Pass. A one time purchase of \$79.99 will provide you with unlimited access to all current and upcoming content from July 1 - June 30.

**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](http://www.nafa-va.org)**



## CHAIR'S UPDATE

# Our Passion is Making Patient Safety Real

### *Dear alumni and friends,*

This year has been an exciting one for the department. We moved into our space on the 3rd floor of the new College of Health Professions building in June, enrolled our newest entry-to-practice and post-master's DNAP graduate students and welcomed a new dean of the College of Health Professions, Susan L. Parish, Ph.D. We expanded our NAFA conference offerings and have further developed our NAFA Now online continuing education portal which provides opportunities to earn both Class A and Class B credits. Remember, alumni receive a 10% discount on all NAFA programs, including our NAFA Now Annual Pass, which provides all the CE you can complete in a calendar year for only \$79. We could not enjoy the success we do without your generous support of our continuing education efforts.

More than 150 alumni, graduate students, faculty and friends joined us in April 2019 as the department celebrated its 50th anniversary. It was a grand celebration, attended by all former department chairs from the past five decades. We hope you will save the date and plan to join us on April 17, 2020 for our next annual alumni social at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Virginia.

We have been exceptionally busy the last few months hosting training sessions for graduate students, CRNAs and other health care professionals in our brand new 3,000 square foot Center for Research in Human Simulation. We have created a podcasting studio to assist with the dissemination of faculty and graduate students' scholarly work and celebrated a number of alumni and other supporters including Cindy Wishmeyer Horner, CRNA (MSNA, 1987) who established a new scholarship for graduate students, Bernie Kuzava (Department Chair 1969-1978) who named the chair's office in the new building, and the MSNA Class of 1984 who returned to campus to celebrate their 35th reunion. Thank you to all alumni and friends; we could not thrive without you!

We were honored this fall to help host former VCU President, Dr. Eugene Trani and his wife Lois, (see picture below) for a tour of the new building. Lois Trani is a former CRNA and it was especially fun to share with her the details of our new curriculum, the growth in educational technology, and our expansive new space with state-of-the-art classrooms and simulated operating rooms.



There are always opportunities, both big and small, for you to be a part of the VCU team! Whether you are working hard in the OR every day or educating current and future CRNAs in and out of the classroom, we all have a stake in growing the nurse anesthesia workforce and we all have an interest in providing the highest quality and safest anesthesia care possible. Please know we are "open for business" to address any education and training needs you may have. Together, we will work hard to keep every patient safe. We are tirelessly committed to training, education and research that supports this mission.

Thank you, sincerely, for your interest in the department, and your ongoing contributions to our success.

Suzanne Wright, Ph.D., CRNA  
*Professor and Chair*

# Alumni Advisory Council Update



Melissa Sherrod,  
CRNA, DNAP

The Department of Nurse Anesthesia's Alumni Advisory Council (AAC) held its bi-annual meeting in June 2019 for the first time in the new College of Health Professions building followed by a tour of the new space. The council debriefed from the department's 50th anniversary celebration, listened to updates from Dr. Suzanne Wright including the vision for the Department, an update on the new Dean's arrival, global outreach, information on the Council on Accreditation, NAFA meetings, and the NAFA Now annual pass for continuing education. The council also reviewed

term limits, as several members will be rolling off in fiscal year 2020. Nominations for new members will be sought in Spring 2020.

A special thank you to former Chairman of the Department, Bernie Kuzava, for naming the Chair's office in the department, to alumna, Cindy Wisheymyer Horner, for supporting the department with a new student scholarship and to Leslie Jeter for supporting the department through her estate plans (see page 10). The Council is also pleased to report that several alumni and friends have purchased benches and sidewalk bricks and are taking advantage of naming opportunities to support fundraising for the new building. Donors who make a gift or a five-year pledge of \$5,000 toward

this effort by June 30, 2020, will be recognized on the College's special donor wall in the entryway of the building. All gifts already made in support of the new building are counted toward the \$5,000 benchmark.

The Department of Nurse Anesthesia continues to focus on raising unrestricted funds for departmental operations and for scholarships aimed at growing the nurse anesthesia workforce. Unrestricted funds and scholarships are vital to the department's continued success. They assist research efforts, help recruit the best and brightest graduate students, support instruction at our interprofessional Anatomy Camp, promote professional development for faculty and graduate students, secure simulation equipment and enhance distance technology.

If you have any questions about the AAC, please contact Heather E. Millar at [hemillar@vcu.edu](mailto:hemillar@vcu.edu) or 804-628-3787.

## Alumni Advisory Council

Melissa Sherrod, Chair  
Kristin Friedline, Vice Chair  
Tiffany Yhip, Secretary

Erin Bianchi  
Debbie Blizman  
Mary Elizabeth Cheatham  
Donna Fiaschetti  
Gary Hahn

Katherine Hopper  
Elizabeth Howell  
Ed Lesniak, Jr.  
Nikki Lucci  
Tim Newell  
Faresha Sims  
Judy Thompson  
Bruce Weiner  
Lisa Zeigler

## Bernie Kuzava Names the Chair's Office in New Building

Bernie Kuzava, the first Chairman of the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia in 1969, has named the Department Chair's office in the new College of Health Professions building. Members of the Department, along with the College of Health Professions Dean Susan Parish and Dean Emeritus Cecil Drain, celebrated Bernie's career and generous gift with a luncheon in late October.

During Bernie's tenure as Chair in the early 1970s, VCU was the first nurse anesthesia program to incorporate the various scientific departments of a medical university in the teaching of basic sciences required to meet the standards of nurse anesthesia education.

In 1971 he was the first CRNA ever to be invited to present a scientific paper at the American Society of Anesthesiologists annual meeting, beginning a long series of invitations to present hundreds of lectures at state CRNA meetings.



Kuzava with Chair Suzanne Wright, PhD,  
outside the Chair's office.



Kuzava with Dean Susan Parish, PhD

Bernie established a number of affiliations with local, regional, and military hospitals to permit VCU students to have a diverse exposure to different practice types and patient demographics. Today, affiliations have grown to more than 50 clinical sites for VCU students.

Bernie's interests in continuing education began at MCV and in 1978, he and other academic colleagues formed the Institute for Post-Graduate Education (IPGE). Bernie serves a President and CEO of IPGE, providing continuing education courses and seminars for CRNAs seeking recertification as a nurse anesthetist. Over the years, IPGE produced approximately 400 clinical seminars including an affiliation with a University Hospital in Mexico where American CRNAs could receive clinical instruction in the epidural anesthesia technique.

“Thank you!”

## New Scholarship for Veterans and Their Spouses

After a decade as an intensive care unit nurse, Cindy Wishmeyer Horner contemplated returning to school to advance her career. At the time, she was a single mother to her 5-year-old daughter and had planned on taking only a class or two to re-acclimate to the rigors of school.

Her father, Russell, had a different thought. He understood determination and how to encourage other people. After all, he'd served in the U.S. Navy and retired as an FBI agent. Russell had confidence his daughter could handle the challenges of the nurse anesthesia program while being present as a parent for her daughter. He told Cindy to set aside her worries and apply for the nurse anesthesia program at the VCU College of Health Professions.

It turns out that her dad's push was just the one she needed. She graduated in 1987 with her master's in nurse anesthesia and hasn't looked back since.

“It's been a really great profession for me,” Cindy says, reflecting on her career as a nurse anesthetist. “It's enabled me to do a lot of things that I wouldn't have been able to do in terms of taking care of my child and buying a house. And I'm feeling challenged at work every day. Being happy at work makes it all worthwhile.”

Now, Cindy wants to ensure that others have the same support she did. She made a gift to fund a graduate scholarship at the College of Health Professions in nurse anesthesia. Cindy wanted to honor her father, Russell H. Horner, the service members in her family, and men and women in uniform she studied with as a graduate student.

“I admired what they were doing – coming to school and then going back on assignment to wherever the military was sending them,” Horner said.

Horner hopes the scholarship will provide a welcome financial boost to a deserving student. “If somebody had handed me a little stipend every month or a little bit of help at the beginning of the year, I would have been very grateful,” she said. “I think if each person just had a little bit of help to get through the program, it could be like my father standing behind them, pushing them a little bit.”



**Cindy Horner wants to ensure veterans and their spouses have a little extra support when going back to school to advance their careers in nurse anesthesia. To help, she created a scholarship to honor her father, who served in the U.S. Navy, and her classmates who served in the military.** PHOTO: ALLEN JONES, VCU UNIVERSITY MARKETING

**Did you know that you could establish a scholarship through a multi-year payment plan? Contact Heather E. Millar, Director of Development, Marketing and Communications, at [hemillar@vcu.edu](mailto:hemillar@vcu.edu) or 804-6288-3787 for more information.**

# INSIDE OUR NEW BUILDING:

Brand new classrooms and 3,000 square foot simulation space



**The Department moved into the new College of Health Professions building at 900 East Leigh Street in June 2019.**

With approximately 3,000-square-feet of simulation space in the new College of Health Professions building, the Center for Research in Human Simulation includes two new SimMan 3Gs. These tetherless manikins have palpable pulses, control of lung compliance and resistance for ventilating, heart/breath sounds as well as a choice of more than 20 different heart rhythms including heart blocks and electrolyte abnormalities, diaphoresis, secretions from the eyes, nose and mouth, seizures and reactive pupils. With the addition of a labor and delivery simulation room, the Center also includes a new SimMom, a birthing simulator with comparable functions to the SimMan 3G, except the SimMom simulates normal and abnormal birthing (breach, limb presentation, etc.) and can replicate complications (placenta previa and eclampsia). With two new 75-inch HDTVs in the debriefing and skills training room, students will be able to simultaneously watch and learn during hands-on training scenarios. Thank you to alumni and NAFA supporters for growing our capacity for high quality education!

***Check out our upcoming workshops in the simulation center: [www.nafa-va.org](http://www.nafa-va.org).***

# Add Your Name to the new College of Health Professions Building

The first installment of purchased bricks happened in time for the new building ribbon cutting ceremony on March 18, 2019; however, there is still time to purchase a brick before the end of the campaign on June 30, 2020. 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. Bricks are \$150.00 and you can purchase these online at [www.support.vcu.edu/chpbrick](http://www.support.vcu.edu/chpbrick)



## Another Way to Give

There is another opportunity to support the new building by featuring your name on the "donor wall" on the first floor when you enter the new building. All donors who make a gift or a five-year pledge of \$5,000 towards this effort by June 30, 2020, will receive recognition on our donor wall. Any donations already made towards the new building (either by purchasing a brick or bench) are counted towards the \$5,000. Please contact Heather E. Millar for more information on this effort.

Special thank you to Mary Hove, DNAP, CRNA ('15/'16), and Dr. Nickie Damico, CRNA and Kevin Damico for their support and adding their name to the wall!

**Purchase Your Brick by June 30, 2020**  
<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](mailto:hemillar@vcu.edu) or 804-628-3787.**

*Thank you to our alumni and friends who have supported the new building campaign effort!*

### Benches

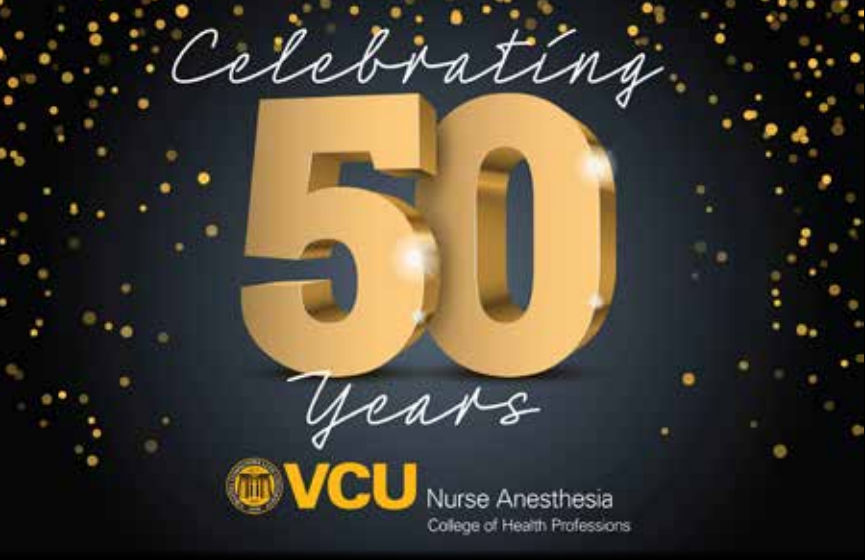
Jody Lyle ('09/DNAP '10)  
 Hamid Mahmood ('09/DNAP '10) and Maritza Gallegos-Mahmood ('09/DNAP '10)  
 Elizabeth Howell ('04) and Emily Lanning ('04)  
 Howard Goodwin (DNAP '14) and Jean Snyder (DNAP '16)  
*Members of MSNA Class of 1999 who purchased a "class bench":*  
 Jeremy Cushing, Rebekah Carmel, Wilbur Bice, Deborah Blizman Nicole Damico, Belinda Cook, Michael Wray, Deborah Salley, Patty Cash, Renee Greenfield Nichole Fogleman, Stephen Joseph Blanchard Raymond Lindsay, Thomas Dainty

### Bricks

Karen Barnes  
 Jane Belcher  
 Virginia Bertani  
 Virginia Bothwell  
 Melissa Brannigan  
 Kristin Cain  
 Shameka Cheeks Aponte  
 William Chisholm  
 Marianne S. Cosgrove  
 Nicole K Damico  
 Michael D Fallacaro  
 Mary Fitzgerald  
 Derrick C Glymph

Gary Hahn  
 Robert J Harman  
 Nancy Harrison  
 Janice J Izlar  
 Kyu T Kim  
 Loren Krause  
 Emily Lanning  
 Edward Leo Lesniak  
 Noreen McCartan  
 James McLaughlin  
 Mary Mlotzick  
 Daniel Noffsinger  
 Paula P Oslin  
 Carrie Reavis  
 Daniel Reside

Kaitlin H Rodgers  
 Justin S Rose  
 Edward M Salkind  
 Katrin Sames  
 Mchael Santantonio  
 Ann Schwartz  
 Barbara A Schwartz Weiserbs  
 Darla R. Soles  
 Cheryl Spulecki  
 Jacqueline N Sumanis  
 Judy Thompson  
 Suzanne Marie Wright



## A Grand Celebration

Over 150 alumni, students, faculty and friends joined us in April when the department celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Boathouse, Rocketts Landing. A big THANK YOU to members of the Alumni Council who helped with the planning of the event. We were so excited that all former chairs of the department from the last five decades were also in attendance. Please save the date of April 17, 2020 for the next annual alumni social to be held at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Va.







*“Thank you!”*



Thank you to alumna, Leslie Jeter, Class of 1990, who has decided to leave the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia in her estate plans through a bequest.

Bequests may be structured in a number of ways: your bequest may be unrestricted, directed to a specific purpose, or establish an endowed fund in memory or in honor of you or someone else. Planned giving donors create living legacies, forge enduring partnerships and help shape our future. Whether you memorialize a loved one, support talented students or underwrite pioneering faculty research, you choose how the Department will benefit from your generosity.

Other ways to include the Department in your estate plans include donating appreciated securities, an IRA charitable rollover, naming the Department as a beneficiary of retirement accounts, charitable gift annuities, and charitable remainder trusts.



Donors who leave VCU in their estate plans are also added to the “Donor Wall” in the College of Health Professions.

**If you are interested in learning more about how to leave the Department in your estate plans, please contact Heather E. Millar at [hemillar@vcu.edu](mailto:hemillar@vcu.edu) or 804-628-3787.**

## Anatomy Camp 2019



**Class of 2020 at Anatomy Camp the week of May 20th, 2019 at ETSU**



# 1984

## MSNA '84 CLASS REUNION



The VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia MSNA Class of 1984 celebrated their 35th reunion on October 26 - October 27, 2019. Members of the class visited the new College of Health Professions building on Saturday for a tour of the brand new space, including the 3,000 foot square simulation area where alumni got to experiment with new simulation equipment. The group celebrated with a dinner in Richmond at the Tobacco Company on Saturday evening, followed by a Sunday morning brunch at the Hard Shell. A few members of the class then joined over 100 CRNAs and alumni at NAFA in Williamsburg, Virginia.



## MEET OUR NEW DEAN Susan Parish, PhD

Featuring a Q & A in the latest College of Health Professions magazine!

<https://chp.vcu.edu/>



**VCU**

College of Health  
Professions

Nurse Anesthesia



The brand new Center for Research in Human Simulation includes classroom and lab space where students can watch and learn as others participate in hands-on training.

College of Health  
Professions  
Nurse Anesthesia  
900 E. Leigh Street  
P.O. Box 980226  
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0226

**VCU**

