

# Department of Nurse Anesthesia

# Link

N E W S L E T T E R



Making *patient safety* real



**Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) Entry to practice degree**

sahp.vcu.edu/nrsa  
(804) 828-9808  
makingpatientsafetyreal.vcu.edu



## **APPROVED! DNAP, ENTRY TO PRACTICE DEGREE BEGINNING JANUARY 2017**

VCU's full-time entry to practice Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) degree program is now fully approved by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. This 36-month program is designed to train Registered Nurses in advanced-practice nursing while also meeting the requirements for national certification as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA).

A three-day, on-campus session in Richmond begins the program followed by a combination of on- and off-campus instruction during the first two semesters that enables students to continue working as RNs during this time. From the third semester on, a traditional schedule format is used with the clinical component starting in the fourth semester.

Six Clinical Practicum courses stress the application of relevant science and research to anesthesia practice while engaging in direct patient care. Graduate students are assigned to various locations with selected affiliate hospitals, where students are directly supervised, instructed and counseled by CRNA and/or physician anesthesiologist clinical instructors.

*For more information about the entry to practice DNAP program, please call 804-828-9808.*



Our passion is making *patient safety* real

- 29** courses
- 93** credit hours
- 36** months
- 9** full-time semesters
- 50+** clinical sites

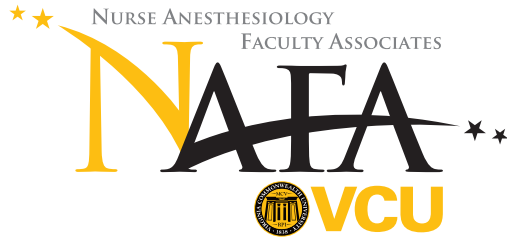


# VCU

## School of Allied Health Professions

“I have attended five NAFA conferences. I am always impressed by the enthusiastic, highly qualified speakers they bring to their courses. I leave the conferences professionally refreshed and reinvigorated.”

—Boyd Phillips, CRNA



## 2016-17 MEETINGS

40th Annual Anesthesia Conference  
Williamsburg, VA  
**Nov 7 – 10, 2016**  
*Williamsburg Lodge*

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35th Annual Anesthesia Meeting  
Walt Disney World, FL  
**Nov 28 – Dec 1, 2016**  
*Disney's Yacht and Beach Club*

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Summit at Snowshoe Mountain  
**March 1 – 4, 2017**  
*Snowshoe Mountain Resort*

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

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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,*

**W**e are very excited to announce that the entry to practice DNAP degree option was fully approved by VCU and the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA). We accepted the last Masters of Nurse Anesthesia degree cohort in Fall 2016, and will accept the first entry to practice DNAP cohort in January 2017. The new entry to practice DNAP program offers students a hybrid schedule format using a combination of on- and off- campus content delivery methods during the first two semesters. During this time, students are able to continue working as RNs. Students are required to attend a three-day, on-campus session in Richmond at the beginning of the program, followed by another three-day, on-campus session at respective distance sites in early May. From the third semester on, a traditional schedule format is used with the clinical component starting in the fourth semester.

We are so pleased, and especially humbled by your support of the "Marjorie T. Goodwin Scholarship Fund." I am proud to announce that, because of your support, we were able to fully endow this scholarship in fiscal year 2016. This means that we are able to offer this scholarship for the very first time this fiscal year. We can't thank you enough for your enthusiasm, and your generosity; we had the highest alumni participation rate in the history of our program. Thank you!!!

We continue to provide anesthesia seminars through Nurse Anesthesiology Faculty Associates (NAFA) across the eastern United States with locations in: Snowshoe, West Virginia, Hilton Head, South Carolina, Williamsburg, Virginia and Walt Disney World, Orlando. We have also hosted an Anesthesia Crisis Resource Management (ACRM) seminar in the Center for Research in Human Simulation in our Department at VCU.

We have reached capacity for this seminar each year. Please remember that, as alumni, you will receive a 10% discount to any NAFA conference. Just use the discount code "VCUALUM" (non case sensitive) when registering online. We have also started to host special VCU alumni gatherings at certain NAFA conferences.

We have many other exciting news items to share in this Fall's newsletter; faculty and graduate students traveled to China as part of our exchange agreement, an exciting Alumni Advisory Council update including new members on the Council, special news about the next AANA President, exciting alumni news, and much more! Please remember to stay connected to the Department and keep us informed of your success. We are so proud of your accomplishments and we know how much it inspires current and prospective graduate students to succeed in their own careers.

Most importantly, thank you for your continued support of the Department. Whether it is through serving on the Alumni Council, guest lecturing, sharing your expertise as one of our clinical partners, volunteering and/or donating, together we continue our passion to "Make Patient Safety Real."

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

### **Congratulations to this summer's post masters DNAP graduates!**

Marc Robert Bentz, Erik Carawan Cline, Brian Keith Dunn, Angelique Marie Garay, Mary Catherine Liang, Diane Elizabeth Sheffield, Jean F. Snyder

*Pictures from December's graduation and awards ceremony will be included in the winter/spring newsletter 2017.*

## **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



Melissa Sherrod, CRNA, DNAP

The Alumni Advisory Council (AAC) has many exciting updates for the alumni community. New AAC members were voted upon at the bi-annual meeting on July 13, 2016 in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia's conference room (see sidebar of the list of members). We are proud to share that the Department met its alumni development goals for fiscal year 2016 with a 25% alumni participation rate supporting the Department, including two new fully endowed scholarships. We can't thank you enough for your continued support of the Department; alumni support verifies loyalty and the confidence of others in our mission. Thanks to you, we were able to raise enough funds to fully endow the "Marjorie T. Goodwin Scholarship Fund" to be awarded this current fiscal year!

The Council also discussed planning an annual alumni event in the spring for nurse anesthesia alumni (similar to the 45th anniversary celebration, and the celebration for Marjorie's retirement). Details will be coming soon!

It is that time of year, again to submit nominations for the "Outstanding Alumnus/a Award" to be awarded during the December graduation awards ceremony held at the Richmond Convention Center. It is the highest honor that the Alumni Advisory Council can bestow. This award will be presented 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. Please explain in 500 words or less why you believe this nominee should be awarded the Nurse Anesthesia Alumni Advisory Council's Outstanding Alumnus/a Award. Please check the "Alumni" section of the Department's website for additional information, <http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/departments/nrsa/alumni/>.

Please remember to share any new contact information with the Department so we can stay in touch. For more information, please contact Heather E. Millar, Director of Development, Marketing and Communications at [hemillar@vcu.edu](mailto:hemillar@vcu.edu) or 804-628-3787.

The AAC will meet again in January 2017.

## Current Alumni Advisory Council members:

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	<i>Honorary members:</i>
Gary Hahn	Marianne S. Cosgrove
Harold Barnwell	Martin Safo
Elizabeth Howell	



Bruce Weiner

## 2016-17 AANA PRESIDENT-ELECT Bruce Weiner, MS, CRNA

Bruce Weiner, MS, CRNA, a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), and resident of

Tampa, Fla., takes office as the 2016-17 president-elect of the 50,000-member American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA), during the AANA Nurse Anesthesia Annual Congress, September 9-13, 2016 in Washington, D.C.

Weiner is a CRNA at Florida Hospital, Carrollwood in Tampa and guest lecturer at the University of South Florida Nurse Anesthesia Program. He has long been active in nurse anesthesia, serving in

many capacities on his professional associations; boards of directors at the state and national levels. Also active in committees, Weiner has a particular passion for clinical excellence, patient safety, advocacy, and technology. He is also an active member in the Florida Nurses Association, and the Sigma Theta Tau National Honor Society.

"Value-based healthcare, driven by changes in payment policy that includes bundling and alternative payment systems, provides an opportunity for our profession to promote access, quality and cost-effective care that CRNAs provide to patients every day," said Weiner. "As

the dynamics of healthcare change, it is crucial for us to form partnerships with organizations integral to effecting change that leads to greater patient access and efficiency. As president-elect, I look forward to working with our board of directors to make these goals a reality."

A CRNA for more than 30 years, Weiner is currently pursuing doctoral studies at the University of South Florida, has a master's degree in nurse anesthesiology from Virginia Commonwealth University, in Richmond, Virginia and holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Delaware.

—courtesy of American Association of Nurse Anesthetists

## Deserving Accolades for VCU Alumnus

# James S. Furstein, PhD, DNAP, CRNA, CPNP-AC



James S. Furstein successfully defended his dissertation as a student in the Nurse Anesthesia specialty track of the Doctoral Program in Health Related Sciences this past Spring. The purpose of Dr. Furstein's dissertation research was to compare the effect of single-injection sciatic PNB to continuous sciatic PNB on 1) postoperative pain control as measured by self-reported pain

scores, pain medication use, and unplanned hospital admission due to poor pain control, 2) active knee flexion, and 3) patient satisfaction with pain control following ACL reconstruction with a hamstring autograft. The findings of his study have the potential to guide informed clinical reasoning and decision making regarding sciatic peripheral nerve blockade techniques following hamstring autograft harvest in adolescents undergoing anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction.

The MCV Alumni Association of VCU provides annual cash awards to reward and recognize the service and

accomplishments of future alumni. Awards are presented to one student in each health science division. The School of Allied Health Professions student recognized during the graduation ceremonies in 2016 was James Furstein. Dr. Furstein also received the 30th Annual Alice Magaw Outstanding Clinical Anesthesia Practitioner Award at the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) 2015 Nurse Anesthesia Annual Congress in Salt Lake City, Utah. The award recognizes the accomplishments of CRNAs involved in direct patient care who have made important contributions to nurse anesthesia practice.

Currently, Dr. Furstein is the Lead CRNA on the Liberty Campus at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Additionally, he is a member of the Pain Team which includes managing acute pain in the preoperative arena with such modalities as ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia and patient controlled anesthesia, as well as providing guidance related to the management of pain-related care of inpatients admitted to the Liberty Campus facility. Dr. Furstein also serves as an Adjunct Faculty for the University of Cincinnati Nurse Anesthesia Program, leading the course work related to pain management and ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia.

## Retiree Gary Hahn, CRNA, "Pays it Forward"

Funny how things turn out.

Gary was advised by his high school guidance counselor to be ... a forest ranger. How did that plan change to become a nurse anesthetist? As a teenager, Gary and a friend both worked as orderlies. His friend decided to go to nursing school and graduated from the Medical College of Virginia (as it was known then) School of Nurse Anesthesia. Some may have heard of him—John Nagelhout. With John's encouragement, Gary applied and was accepted into the same program in 1976. Bernie Kuzava was the Program Director for the first semester and then COL Herbert Watson became Program Director in his second year. Both of these men had a great influence on Gary's future:

"Mr. Kuzava showed me what could be accomplished with hard work and study and Mr. Watson took a big chance on offering me a faculty position at MCV after I graduated. This offer was met with encouragement from some and push back from others. The doubters felt that I should have much more clinical experience before I assumed the role as an instructor. There were days when I felt I should have listened to that advice."

Now, 40 years later, Gary views his good fortune as a CRNA and an educator with humble pride. Although Gary was encouraged to pursue this path as a vocation, he had serious doubts of his capability:



"Once I reached that milestone of graduating and then teaching, I made a promise to myself that I would never forget what it is like to be a student. I also can never repay the Medical College of Virginia/Virginia Commonwealth University and the profession of Nurse Anesthesiology for what it has given to me. It has been an honor to be associated with VCU and the nurse anesthesia program all these years. The richness that an educator receives is when you see a student that you have guided in some small way become successful."

Gary says that he wants to pay it forward. "The importance of remaining involved with education of future nurse anesthetists and our professional organizations is paramount to the success and presence in anesthesia health care delivery. Before any of us look where we are going, we have to look where we have been."

*Dr. Michael Fallacaro was awarded the Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award from the State University of New York at Buffalo on May 19, 2016.*



## VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia Returns to China

Dr. Brenda Wands, and VCU graduate nurse anesthesia students Erin Bianchi, and Jie Liu, visited the People's Republic of China in September to continue the international exchange agreement for students and faculty with the Ninth People's Hospital, Jiao Tong Medical University in Shanghai, China. Dr. Michael Fallacaro accompanied by Dr. Nickie Damico from the Department of Nurse Anesthesia, formalized this agreement in August 2015.

During the visit, Dr. Brenda Wands presented on quality indicators for Nurse Anesthesia Practice at The 9th Annual Meeting of Federation of Asian Dental Anesthesiology Societies, and the 2016 Annual



Meeting of Chinese Association of Stomatological Anesthesiology. In addition, Dr. Wands engaged in a group discussion with anesthesia nurse students and faculty on patient safety, evaluation methods, curriculum planning, and perioperative assessment. During the visit, faculty and student discussion touched upon many topics such as clinical training, and student assessment. VCU's department of nurse anesthesia visitors also spent time visiting the operating rooms and traditional Chinese medicine clinics in Shanghai and also in Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital in Hangzhou, an additional future exchange site.



(Left to right) Dr. Michael D. Fallacaro, D.N.S., CRNA, FAAN, Cheryl Spulecki, CRNA, DNAP '15, Assistant Program Director at the State University of New York at Buffalo, Kristine Faust, CRNA, DNAP '12, Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and Tom Obst, CRNA, PhD, former Program Director at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

**Anatomy Camp 2016** at ETSU including the annual student/alumni reception held at Tupelo's in Johnson City, TN on June 7, 2016.



## TAKE A LOOK: CLASS OF 2017



Current SRNA, Vincent Ford with this year's Health Professions Career Exploration students.

## HPCE Program

The annual Health Professions Career Exploration (HPCE) program was held in June 2016. The HPCE program is designed to expose college freshmen, sophomores and juniors to the diverse health science careers within the VCU School of Allied Health Professions. The two week, non-residential program helps students learn about career opportunities, experience hands-on activities within each discipline, engage in professional development workshops, and more.

## DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

CURRENT FULLY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS

**The Mildred Anne Poitevin Scholarship** - Donated by Dana Sharp

**The Marjorie T. Goodwin Scholarship Fund in Nurse Anesthesia**

**The Beverly George-Gay Scholarship Fund**

**Bernard A. Kuzava Scholarship in Nurse Anesthesia**

**The Robert "Bob" Lanning Nurse Anesthesia Scholarship** established in memory of Bob Lanning, the late husband of alumna Kelly Elmhorst-Lanning

**The Dr. William Hartland, Jr. Fund**

**District V/VANA Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) Scholarship**

ENDOWED FUNDS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSE ANESTHESIA

**Wright Diversity Fund**

**Howell Nurse Anesthesia Anatomy Campus, Workshops, and Student Lab Fund**

**Brenda Wands and Edward Wands Scholarship**

**Chuck Biddle/Nurse Anesthesia Fund**

**THANK YOU to everyone who helped the Department of Nurse Anesthesia reach an all time high rate of 25% of nurse anesthesia alumni donating to the Department in fiscal year 2016!** Not only did we reach an all time high donor participation (and one of the highest across all of VCU), the Department raised enough money in one year to fully endow the "Marjorie T. Goodwin Scholarship Fund." We are so grateful for your continued support. Your support verifies loyalty and the confidence of others in our mission.

### WHY DO WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT?

General fund appropriations per student at four year institutions in Virginia declined 24.4% between 1992 and 2012. According to the 2016-2017 State Council of Higher Education in Virginia Tuition and Fees report, over the past 10 years, the average annual tuition increase in Virginia is about 6.4% at four-year institutions. To continue

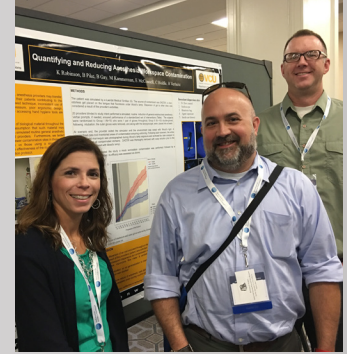
to attract and retain high quality faculty, provide excellent service and experiences for our students, and maintain the caliber of our clinical practice; **our goal is to augment and stabilize our core funding with endowments and unrestricted funding.**

Attractive scholarships are an increasingly important consideration for graduate students seeking nurse anesthesia education. VCU lags behind other universities in the number of graduate assistant-ships offered and in the amount of funding for stipends.

Alumni and private support are the only sources of significant funding for scholarships for our masters and doctorate programs.

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*For more information on establishing an endowment, contact Heather E. Millar, Director of Development, Marketing and Communications at [hemillar@vcu.edu](mailto:hemillar@vcu.edu) or 804-628-3787.*



# Snapshots

VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia alumni and students at the **2016 AANA Annual Congress** in Washington D.C.