

FALL 2017

Department of
Nurse Anesthesia

Link

N E W S L E T T E R

Coming in 2018!



NAFA'S NEW E-LEARNING PORTAL

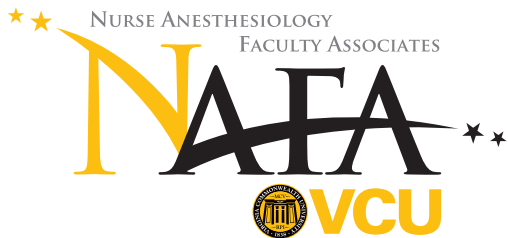


VCU

School of Allied Health
Professions
Nurse Anesthesia

“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 MEETINGS

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



32nd Annual Anesthesia Seminar
May 30 - June 2, 2018
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina



4th Annual Anesthesia Crisis
Resource Management
September 15 - 16, 2018
Richmond, Virginia

42nd Annual Anesthesia Conference
November 5 - 8, 2018
Williamsburg, Virginia



37th Annual Anesthesia Meeting
November 26 - 29, 2018
Walt Disney World, Florida

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.



CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Our Passion is Making Patient Safety Real

Dear alumni and friends,

Once again, it's hard to believe we are graduating the Class of 2017 and welcoming our second entry to practice DNAP cohort in January 2018. This year has flown by with several NAFA conferences, colleagues from China visiting us in Spring 2017, a mission trip to Honduras, Department faculty presenting at the AANA Annual Congress in Seattle, teaching the next generation of CRNAs, and planning for a very exciting new initiative offering online continuing education beginning soon.

Available in Spring of 2018, NAFANow is the online continuing education arm of the Nurse Anesthesiology Faculty Associates (NAFA). NAFANow will provide on-demand continuing education experiences that are highly engaging, interactive, and relevant to current practice. These CE offerings are approved by the AANA and can count towards either class A or class B credit. Furthermore, NAFANow tracks your CEs, allowing you to return to presentations and materials at any point as well as keep a tally of credits earned. Take all NAFANow, AANA approved, CE courses for free for Class B credits. Class A credits are available for purchase upon completion of an assessment. We are excited to offer this new learning platform through NAFA, alongside our successful live conferences held throughout the year. And please remember that VCU Alumni receive a 10% discount for NAFA Conferences- just use discount code, "VCUALUM" (non case sensitive) when registering online.

I hope you enjoy reading about the Alumni Advisory Council, an update on our efforts to endow the Gerald ("Jerry") F. Clarke Endowment Fund, a NAFA sponsored mission trip to Honduras, faculty/staff highlights, an update on the School of Allied Health Professions new building (and how to add your name!) and more. The Department remains busy through several research initiatives, and innovative ways to "Make Patient Safety Real." Please stay connected to the Department - we would love to hear your success stories!

Please know how much we appreciate your continued support and dedication to the success of the Department of Nurse Anesthesia. Your success as a CRNA is a reflection of our success as educators and we are so proud of you.

Thank you for continuing to "Make Patient Safety Real."

Best Regards,
Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA FAAN



Josh Barker ('14/DNAP '15) and Cassandra Freeland ('11/DNAP '13) in Seattle, WA at a VCU happy hour gathering during the AANA Annual Congress 2017 meeting. Thanks to Josh Barker for planning the event!



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 17, 2018

SECOND 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 meeting July 2017. The council discussed feedback from the inaugural alumni social held in March and decided to move forward with implementing this event on an annual basis. Plans are underway for the 2nd annual Alumni Social to be held on March 17, 2018 at the Boathouse, Rocketts Landing. The council heard from Dr. Fallacaro who provided an update on the Department including faculty/staff changes, an update on the entry to practice DNAP program, NAFA, and future plans for offering online CEs. The council also heard from Heather Millar, Director of Development, Marketing, and Communications who provided an update on the new School of Allied Health building and reported on the end of fiscal year '17 goals. We are pleased to report that the Department met the goals set forth by the Alumni Advisory Council in exceeding the alumni participation (alumni who donate to the Department) rate of 15%. The council discuss new goals for fiscal year and decided to raise the participation goal to 20% and three new endowments.

The council discussed the timeline for accepting nominations for the Department's of Nurse

Anesthesia's "Most Outstanding Alumnus/a Award" and decided to extend the open period of nominations. The council has since received a few extraordinary nominations and will be presenting the award at the December graduation awards ceremony held at the Richmond Convention Center.

The council will meet again in January 2018 to finalize plans for the alumni social and discuss member succession of the council. If you are interested in joining the Alumni Advisory Council, please contact Heather Millar in the Department at hemillar@vcu.edu or 804-628-3787.

Alumni Advisory Council

Melissa Sherrod (Chair)
Faresha Sims (Vice Chair)
Tiffany Yhip (Secretary)
Ellen Dean
Donna Fiaschetti
Kristin Friedline
Geoff Early
Greg Bonifant
Gary Hahn
Harold Barnwell
Elizabeth Howell

Andrew Lamar
Jody Lyle
Mary Elizabeth Cheatham
Tim Newell
Danny Phillips
Ann Winer

Honorary members:
Marianne S. Cosgrove
Martin Safo



On Our Way

Thank you to all of you who have already supported our efforts in establishing the Gerald ("Jerry") F. Clarke Endowment Fund to support simulation training, distance education, student needs and faculty development in the School of

Allied Health Professions Department of Nurse Anesthesia. Establishing such an endowment will create a lasting legacy in the VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia in Jerry's name. We hope you will consider helping us reach the minimum requirement of \$25,000 to establish this endowment. While Jerry has made considerable improvements since his horrific traffic accident, he still has a long road to full recovery.

Thank you to everyone who has shown such love and compassion toward Jerry during this time. As Chairman Michael D. Fallacaro said, "Jerry has touched the lives of many, and continues to do so. His unselfish efforts to make a difference in the lives of others, especially his students and faculty colleagues, sets an example for us all."

Jerry wanted to share with all of you his two greatest struggles as a result of his accident. "First, being away from the best and most wonderful people I have had to work both for and with. There is no comparison. And, having to give up the best job I have ever had working with the greatest staff ever and, by far, the warmest and best students in the country. Students who have taught me so much about life, love and happiness."

To donate online, please visit <https://www.support.vcu.edu/give/nrsa> or contact Heather E. Millar in the Department at hemillar@vcu.edu or 804-628-3787.

Derrick Glymph, DNAP Embracing Service and Success

Dr. Derrick Glymph ('04/DNAP '10) was recently promoted to the rank of Colonel in the United States Army Reserves and serves as Chief Anesthetist of the 7456th Medical Backfill Battalion, USAR. Colonel Glymph's military achievements include command and holding numerous leadership positions and serving a combat tour during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

How do you feel your education at VCU helped shape your success? Do you have any advice to those who have recently graduated?

"VCU gave me a great foundation in anesthesia. I believe the curriculum and clinical prepared me for anything that I have run across. The lifelong friends and connections make VCU such a special place.

The main thing that VCU taught me is to be passionate about anesthesia safety and evidence based practice and I have executed these skills in every career endeavor or success I have had. To seek what the evidence says to come and draw conclusions and to understand that this might change.

The advice I would give recent graduates is to embrace the process of anesthesia school. It takes time to hone your craft, and then the process is what makes being an anesthesia provider so rewarding. You know that at the end of the process, you will become a better person. So take everything that you learn and apply it; then, give back and pay it forward."



Faculty and Students Help in Honduras



Patrick Wood, April Ritter and Chuck Biddle at the small emergency room of Hospital Centro in Honduras.

In early September, 2017, three members of the Department of Nurse Anesthesia at VCU, senior students April Ritter and Patrick Wood, along with faculty member Chuck Biddle and alumnus, Kevin Baker ('05), provided the exclusive anesthesia services during a week-long humanitarian surgical mission at Hospital Socorro De Lo Alto in central Honduras. Seven surgeons performed a range of general surgical procedures in this austere environment where public health services are scant (often nonexistent water, sewer, primary care and dental access) and anesthesia and surgical equipment austere at best.

Approximately 50 surgeries were accomplished on patients who ventured up to 7 hours to receive their care, care that otherwise would not be available to them. Approximately 2/3 of the patients received general anesthesia with 1/3 receiving a neuraxial block. The anesthesia team provided comprehensive perioperative services and care, and attended the pre-and post-surgical rounds on the patients along with the surgical team members.

Careful documentation and follow-up of the cases (that included two complex airway cases due to extremely large thyroid masses) revealed no complications related to anesthetic management. We continue to follow-up on our patients via email from a Honduran-based physician who manages the patients' long-term postoperative care.

NAFA financed the airfare and lodging for the students who performed flawlessly over the duration of the mission. Compliments for the competency of the anesthesia services rendered were voiced by each of the surgeons. This is the second such surgical mission trip by our Department to this remote location in Central America.

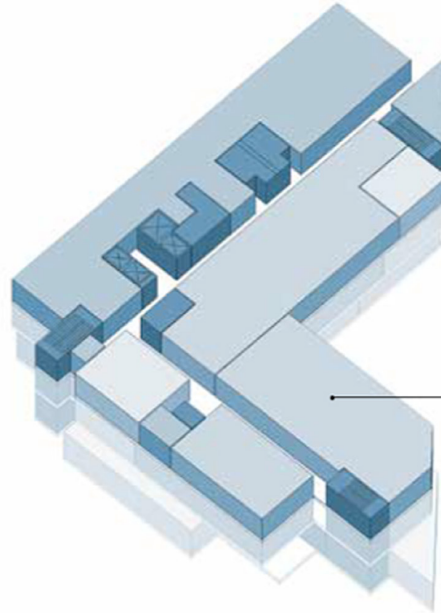


\$87.3 Million School of Allied Health Professions Building Plans Underway

The School of Allied Health Professions at VCU includes 11 units, five of which *US News & World Report* ranks in the top 20 programs nationwide; including three programs that are consistently ranked in the top five. As you all know, the Department of Nurse Anesthesia remains as the top ranked program in the country.

Creating a unified space for the school and its exceptional programs is a priority in the VCU Master Site Plan, which was developed by university officials with stakeholder input. The new \$87.3 million School of Allied Professions building will provide a consistent supply of excellent practitioners to

LEVEL 3 | Nurse Anesthesia
Radiation Sciences



The state-of-the-art Center for Research and Human Simulation will include a surgical suite complete with a pre/post operating room, an obstetrical delivery room and laboratory space. The center will also include full-body human patient simulators (HPS) that mimic the anatomy, physiology and responses to treatment similar to that of a human patient. HPS can provide students a unique opportunity to deliver direct patient care void of the risk of injury to a real patient.



Artist's rendering of the auditorium in the new School of Allied Health Professions building.

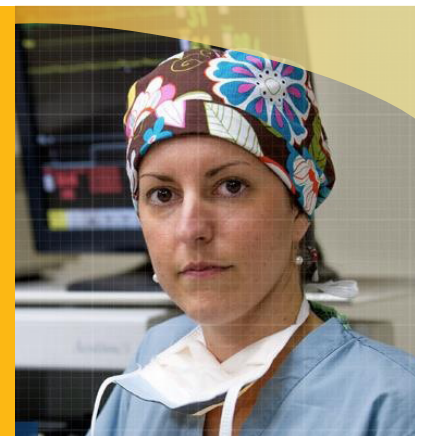
address the needs of an aging health care workforce and serve the increased needs of an aging population. The new building will increase our capacity to grow high-demand programs; promote a culture of inter-professional practice to mirror the future of health care delivery; and facilitate organizational and operational efficiency in program administration.



Artist's rendering.

Add Your Name to the New Building!

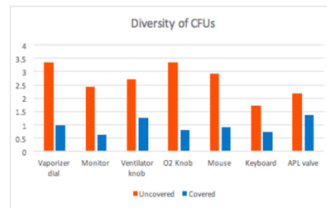
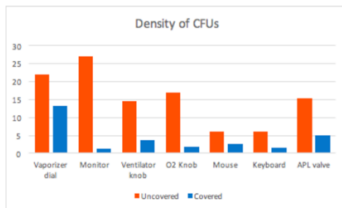
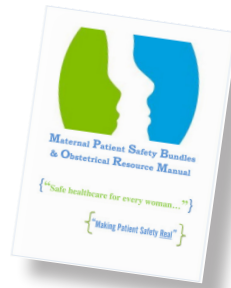
A big thank you to Jody Lyle ('09/ DNAP '10) who has purchased a bench for the new building! There are several naming opportunities in the new building .



For more information on different naming opportunities, 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.

Research Update

■ Senior student **Bradley Ketron**, through considerable research and dissemination activity, created a maternal safety bundle which addresses the three major etiologies of maternal mortality, hemorrhage, infection and hypertension. This extensive effort is a great example of VCU Nurse Anesthesia faculty and students advancing patient safety.



The density of microbial contamination (measure in Colony Forming Units) and the diversity of microbial species, were greatly reduced with the experimental wrap was used during general anesthesia in surgical patients.

■ Senior students **Melanie Tucker** and **Patrick Wood**, along with **Beverly Gay**, **Corey Davis** and **Chuck Biddle** have completed a first of its kind project looking at microbial contamination of the anesthesia machine during actual cases. Using a novel 'wrap' to protect the anesthesia machine, a clinical trial was designed comparing 'wrapped' and 'unwrapped' machines, finding that the wrapped machines were protected from contamination during routine care, and raising questions about how machines are disinfected between cases, and how they may serve as a vector in nosocomial infection.

■ Faculty member **Beverly Gay, MSN, CCRN** was lead author on a recent publication in the *AANA Journal* (2017;85:250-255) entitled "A high-fidelity simulation study of intraoperative latent hazards and their impact on anesthesia care-related handoff outcomes." This unique study used archived videos of simulated critical events and identified strengths and weaknesses in communication that will be used to inform new strategies in enhancing patient safety.



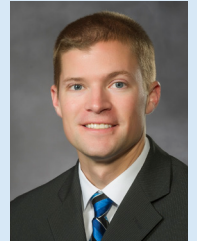
■ **Chuck Biddle** just finished a two year tenure on the Federal Health and Human Services Medicare Decision Making Matrix Committee that developed federal guidelines on reimbursement for healthcare services based on interpreting research models.

Faculty & Staff News

Harold Barnwell ('14/DNAP '15) joined the Department of Nurse Anesthesia as Assistant Professor and Assistant Director of Doctoral Education in October 2018. Harold earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Liberty University, and Master of Science - Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Barnwell is a practicing anesthetist with the VCU Health System and his research interests include ultrasound applications in anesthesia, modernizing education for the millennial, and international collaboration of nurse-anesthetists.



Adam Eddy, formerly the Department's Graduate Student Services Administrator, has taken a new position as the Department's Business and Continuing Education Manager. In this role, Adam's responsibilities include managing all fiscal responsibilities in the department, as well as serving as the departments HR liaison and personnel administrator. As the Continuing Education Manager for Nurse Anesthesiology Faculty Associates (NAFA), Adam manages event communications, attendees, hotel accommodations, and on-site logistics. Adam earned his B.S. degree at Liberty University in Education. He is interested in pursuing an MBA and meeting planner certification.



Amanda H. Alley, MS joined the Department of Nurse Anesthesia this summer as the Graduate Student Services Administrator. Amanda serves as the main point of contact for prospective and current students. Amanda earned her B.S. in Psychology and M.S. in Counselor Education, concentrating in College Counseling and Student Affairs. Prior to serving in this role, Amanda worked in the College of Graduate and Professional Studies at Longwood University. Amanda's areas of expertise include academic, professional, and career advising. Amanda has presented at several National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) conferences, focusing on best practices in academic advising related to multiculturalism and intersectionality. Her research interests include academic advising experiences for first generation and non-traditional students, social justice and advocacy for underrepresented and marginalized student populations and experiences of students with learning disorders living on vs. off campus.



Michael Forder, M.Ed., Director of E-Learning, recently presented "Developing Online Learners Through Course Design" at IDEAx, hosted by the Virginia Community College System in Richmond, Virginia.



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/>



School of Allied Health
Professions
Nurse Anesthesia

Congratulations

May
2017

DNAP Graduates



S. Coble, K. Evans, E Smoak, J. Bianchi, J. Wagner, K. Mabis, A. Metz, D. Metz

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