

WINTER 2015

Department of  
Nurse Anesthesia

# Link

N E W S L E T T E R



MORE ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS INSIDE!

**A Celebration**

*45th Anniversary*

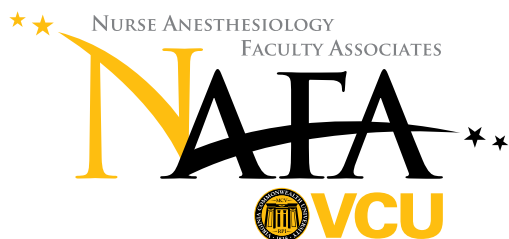


**VCU**

School of  
Allied Health Professions



Student reception with AANA President, Sharon Pearce, MSN, CRNA, during NAFA's Williamsburg Conference in November 2014.



## 2015 MEETINGS

29th Annual Anesthesia  
Seminar at Hilton Head, SC  
**May 27 – 30, 2015**  
*Hilton Head Marriott Resort & Spa*

Regional Anesthesia Course  
with Cadaver Lab at  
Quillen College of Medicine, ETSU  
**June 12 – 14, 2015**

Anesthesia Crisis Resource  
Management in Richmond, VA  
**September 26-27, 2015**

Pediatric Advanced Life Support  
**Oct 31 – Nov 1, 2015**  
*Williamsburg Lodge*

39th Annual Anesthesia  
Conference in Williamsburg, VA  
**Nov 2 – 5, 2015**  
*Williamsburg Lodge*

34th Annual Anesthesia Meeting  
at Walt Disney World, FL  
**Nov 30 – Dec 3 2015**  
*Disney's Yacht and Beach Club*

Visit <http://www.nafa-va.org/> for registration and more information.

*Locations and dates are subject to change.*



## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

# Our Passion is Making Patient Safety Real

Dear alumni and friends,

We've had an amazing last six months in the Department! Since the last newsletter, we welcomed a new class of SRNAs as well as CRNAs working towards a DNAP degree and several PhD students. We also launched our new "Making Patient Safety Real" website at [makingpatientsafeyreal.vcu.edu](http://makingpatientsafeyreal.vcu.edu). Please visit the site to learn more about how the Department makes patient safety real through research, simulation, distance learning and several other faculty led initiatives.

In November we celebrated the 45th anniversary of our Department at the Williamsburg Lodge. Please enjoy the pictures and reading more about the Anniversary celebration in this issue (see pages 6-7).



In addition to the 45th anniversary celebration in 2014, we held our annual Nurse Anesthesiology Faculty Associates (NAFA) meetings in Williamsburg, Hilton Head and Disney World. We had banner attendance with over 700 CRNAs in total attending these continuing education offerings. We are excited to announce that in 2015 we have added two specialty workshop meetings to our schedule of events. Remember that VCU alumni receive a special discount to NAFA meetings.

It's hard to believe we graduated another class in December! Congratulations to all of our graduates. We are exceptionally proud of their accomplishments and wish them well in their career. All graduates have found jobs: from Virginia, to Maine, to California and Washington State.



Crisis Resource Management simulation training at the Advanced Orthopaedics Surgery Center in Glen Allen, VA directed by VCU faculty, Dr. Suzanne Wright.

We are busy once again with several research activities and patient safety initiatives. On January 24, 2015, in concert with the Advanced Orthopaedic Surgical Center and NAPA Anesthesia Associates, we held our third inter-professional "Crisis Resource Management Training Seminar" at the Schrader Road Surgical Center in Glenn Allen, Virginia. This unique program featured physicians, nurses, anesthesiologists and CRNAs all training together on VCU simulator technology, in their own surgical facility. It is our hope that similar models of interprofessional team training will arise from these initiatives to improve teamwork, communications and ultimately patient safety.

In closing, it is with a bitter sweet sentiment that I announce that two of our special family will be retiring in 2015: Dr. William Hartland and Ms. Marjorie Goodwin. You will have an opportunity to help celebrate their outstanding accomplishments; stay tuned for more details.

Sincerely,  
Mike Fallacaro, *Professor and Chair*

# Congratulations Graduates



**DECEMBER 2014**

**1st Row:** Lauren Walker, Jennifer McLeod, Diana Kemmerer, Louise Knudson, Jenna Hardison, Cassandra Horn, Lauren Kitts, Carrie Sheppard, Patricia Morrissey, Mary Cheatham, Margaret Finnigan, Livia Lee. **2nd Row:** \*Dr. Christian Faylar, \*Dr. Corey Davis, \*\*\*\*Dr. Cecil Drain, Kristin Mirenda, Hannah Forbes, Kelly Harrington, Holly Hall, Caleb Lesch, Ivan Belmonte, David Mapile, Robert Barker, Anthony Antonio, Jennifer Howe, Kathryn Harris, Katherine Shaffer, \*Dr. William Hartland, \*Dr. Sue Wright, Rebecca Piedel, \*\*\*Dr. Micheal Fallacaro, Marie Skoczlas, \*Dr. Chuck Biddle. **3rd Row:** \*\*\*\*\*Herb Watson, \*\*Heather Millar, \*Dr. Nickie Damico, Elizabeth Wilder, Timothy Newell, Jacob Swenson, Daniel Phillips, Kim Sheffey, Joshua Barker, Marie Simonetti, Benjamin Hartland, Robert Bonifant, Brian Vaughn, Olulade Adegoke, Harold Barnwell, Benjamin Horton, \*Beverly Gay

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



**DNAP Graduates** (l. to r.): Belinda Cook, Deniz Dishman, David O'Connor, Lissa Blahnik, Cathy Ritchie, Cheryl Spulecki. (Not pictured): Barrie Brown

*Well Done!*

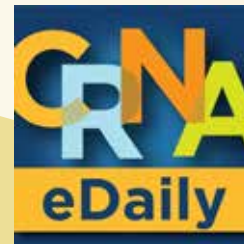
A special note of congratulations to our very own Nickie Damico, PhD, CRNA (pictured at left with her advisor, Dr. Suzanne Wright) who defended her dissertation and earned her PhD in Health Related Sciences in December 2014.

# ANESTHESIA e-Nonymous

“IF WE CAN HELP AVOID HARM TO JUST ONE PATIENT BY SHARING THESE STORIES, WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED OUR GOAL,” says Suzanne Wright, PhD, CRNA.

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/>



## FEATURES:

- An optional daily e-mail alert serves as notification that a new review question is ready for viewing
- Unlimited access to all of the user’s previously answered questions
- Performance tracking to measure overall proficiency as well as proficiency within each of the 4 individual categories
- Information about current and future NAFA-sponsored CE programs that correspond to the 4 subject categories and that will expand upon the subject matter addressed in the eDaily review questions

Sign up to use CRNA eDaily at: <http://qod.sahp.vcu.edu/register/> OR text CRNA to 77948

## Incidence and risk factors for postoperative cognitive dysfunction in older adults undergoing major noncardiac surgery: A prospective study

A multidisciplinary work of nurse anesthetists, anesthesiologists and pharmacological outcomes scientists which was funded by VCU and NAFA and published in the January-March 2015 issue of the *Journal of Anesthesiology Clinical Pharmacology*

**Authors:** Osama A. Shoair, Mario P. Grasso, Laura A. Lahaye, Ronsard Daniel, Chuck J. Biddle, Patricia W. Slattum



## NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Derrick Glymph, DNAP, CRNA**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology Nursing in the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing and Health Sciences has been appointed by Governor Rick Scott to serve on the Florida Board of Nursing. The Board is composed of thirteen members drawn from nurses in practice, education, and administration as well as their consumer representatives. The Board plays an integral role in health care regulation and provides oversight of the practice of nursing

in the State of Florida. Dr. Glymph’s term will begin February 9, 2015 and run through October 2017. Dr. Glymph received his Masters of Science and DNAP from VCU (2004 and 2010).



**Justice Parrott, DNAP, MSN, CRNA, CDR (USN)** became the Program Director for the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS) Nurse Anesthesia Program in Bethesda, MD in September 2014. He is also an invited guest lecturer for VCU, Georgetown University and Old Dominion University. His previous tours have included staff nurse and division officer (PACU), Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune; staff nurse anesthetist and affiliate Navy Nurse Corps Anesthesia Program faculty, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth; chief nurse anesthetist, Naval Hospital, Naples, Italy; staff nurse anesthetist and adjunct USUHS faculty, National Naval

Medical Center, Bethesda; and chief nurse anesthetist and Head, Staff Education and Training Department, Sigonella, Italy. His military decorations and awards include the Navy Commendation Medal (3 awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (5 awards), the Navy Good Conduct Medal, and numerous unit and service awards, Dr. Parrott received his DNAP from VCU in 2013.

# 45th Anniversary



Current SRNAs Jackson Wild, Carey Elder, and Erin Bianchi, with Chairman of the Department, Michael Fallacaro and his wife, Nadine.



Mike Fallacaro with Melissa Sherrod CRNA, DNAP (2010 and 2011).

The VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia celebrated its 45th anniversary on November 1, 2014 at the Williamsburg Lodge in Williamsburg, VA. Special guests included former chairmen Bernie Kuzava, CRNA, Col. Herbert T. Watson, Dean Cecil B. Drain, PhD, CRNA and current Chair, Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA. Guests enjoyed a cocktail reception and dinner including a special commemorative anniversary video and remarks by the VCU Nurse Anesthesia Alumni Advisory Council Vice Chair, Melissa Sherrod who graduated from the MSNA (2010) and DNAP (2011) program.

**SEE THE VIDEO** at <http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/departments/nrsa/alumni/>.



Class of 1984 celebrates its 30th reunion!



Faresha Sims, CRNA, DNAP (2012 and 2013)



Mark Early, CRNA, DNAP (1993 and 2012), Sandra G. Early, Barbara Caton and Sue Wright



Misia Zygolewski (2009), Chuck Biddle and Scott Campbell



(l to r:) Top row, Col. Herbert T. Watson, Bernie Kuzava, Mike Fallacaro and Cecil B. Drain; Bottom row: Christine Zambricki, DNAP (2012), Valerie Caldwell, Nadine Fallacaro and Jessica Gurganus

## Making Patient Safety Real in Honduras With Support from NAFA

In a remote and undeveloped area of Honduras, a VCU team of two CRNAs and three SRNAs provided anesthesia services for a wide range of complex (nephrectomy, vascular) and more routine (herniorrhaphy, thyroidectomy) surgical cases performed by three general surgeons from Roanoke, VA. Preanesthetic assessments and postoperative followup revealed not a single adverse anesthetic event. Our VCU nurse anesthesia-only team provided care in a challenging domain (one of the two ORs did not have a mechanical ventilator nor end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub> analysis). The use of the precordial stethoscope, adherence to vigilance, careful titration of all drugs, and thoughtful planning, resulted in a safe and effective experience for all. It was our overarching goal to **“make patient safety real”** for those we cared for.



Diana Kemmerer, Robert Greg Bonifant, Ben Hartland, Kevin Baker, Cassondra Horn, Chuck Biddle



Like other Department faculty, Christian Falyar imparts knowledge to others at NAFA seminars.

Dr. Christian Falyar, the lead ultrasound faculty expert, is the Assistant Director of Doctoral Education in VCU's Department of Nurse Anesthesia. A graduate of both the VCU MSNA (2009) and DNAP (2010) programs, Falyar is also an experienced sonographer. His ultrasound background provides learners with the opportunity to benefit from someone who understands how to maximize ultrasound capabilities while minimizing limitations when performing ultrasound-assisted procedures. To share his expertise, Dr. Falyar has developed “Virginia Ultrasound” or VAULT.

**[www.vaultrasound.com](http://www.vaultrasound.com)**

1200 East Broad Street  
P.O. Box 980226  
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0226

School of Allied Health Professions  
Department of Nurse Anesthesia

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY