

School of Allied Health Professions Department of Nurse Anesthesia

2009 - 2010

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

& Friends



The Department is able to thrive during these difficult economic times due to the generous contributions of friends and partners like you.

Last year was a remarkable year for our Department. We proudly graduated our first 14 Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice degree students, and the interest in this degree offering remains strong. Our enrollment has remained steady and the inaugural Roanoke cohort of graduate students began in August 2009. VCU is pleased to continue to offer high quality education to graduate students not only in Richmond, but across the Commonwealth to include medically underserved regions in Appalachia.

Enclosed you will find information on many exciting activities planned for 2010-2011. We hope you will

mark your calendars for our Preceptor Workshops or for one of our Nurse Anesthesiology Faculty Associates (NAFA) Continuing Education meetings. As an alumnus you are eligible for discounts at many of these events.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude for your past support and in turn offer our departmental resources should you ever require assistance. I would also invite you to take the opportunity to visit the school at your convenience. Please call ahead to Marjorie Goodwin at (804) 828-9808 to arrange a time when I can greet you and show you about.

*Best regards,
Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS,
CRNA
Professor and Chairman*

Chairman's Update:

Current Issues affecting our Department and Profession.

Dear Alumni & Friends,

It is my pleasure to share with you some of the ongoing activities in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia and to thank you for your continuous support.

Please fill out the reply card on the back and return it to the Department so we can keep up with you! We want to know what's going on in your life! Weddings, Babies, etc...

Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/vcunrsa



**June 2-5, 2010
24th Annual Anesthesia Seminar**

Hilton Head, S.C.



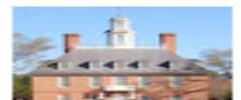
**June 25-July 2, 2010
Summer Cruise Seminar**

Alaska



**Aug. 28-Sept. 4, 2010
Fall Cruise Seminar**

Eastern Caribbean



**Nov. 1-4, 2010
34th Annual Anesthesia Conference**

Williamsburg, Va.



**Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 2010
29th Annual Anesthesia Meeting**

Disney World



Class of 2009

What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you
BECOME by achieving your goals. -Zig Zigler

Class of 2009

Jamie Andrews - April Asbury - Jody Baum - Katherine Billman - Misty Brashears - Jeanna Chapman - Joan Cornachio
Christopher Deel - Emily Dougherty - Michael Druke - Christian Falyar - Ryan Freeman - James Gaither
Maritza Gallegos - Michelle Gaydash - John Goelz - Haley Gordon - Amanda Greer - Karen Grosh - Allison Hall
Eliza Hampton - Tim Hudson - Janet Jinglusi - Susan Jones - Amy Loflin - Annette Lyons - Hamid Mahmood
Phillip Martin - Shaanon O'Neil - Rylan Reynolds - Diana Riffe - Elizabeth Sekinger - Vanessa Sims
Dionne Tyree - Andrea Yates

A W A R D S

Agatha Hodgins CRNA Memorial Award

APRIL ASBURY - JEANNA CHAPMAN - HALEY GORDON
JANET JINGLUSKI - RYLAN REYNOLDS - ANDREA YATES

C. Paul Boyan Clinical Excellence Award

AMANDA GREER AND EMILY DOUGHERTY

Thomas C. Barker Professional Excellence

JODY LYLE

Nurse Anesthesia Research Award

CHRISTIAN FALYAR

Instructor of the Year Award

WILLIAM HARTLAND AND SCOTT HAWKS

Herbert T. Watson Faculty Award

PETER DEFOREST



Congratulations to Suzanne Wright!

Doctor of Philosophy

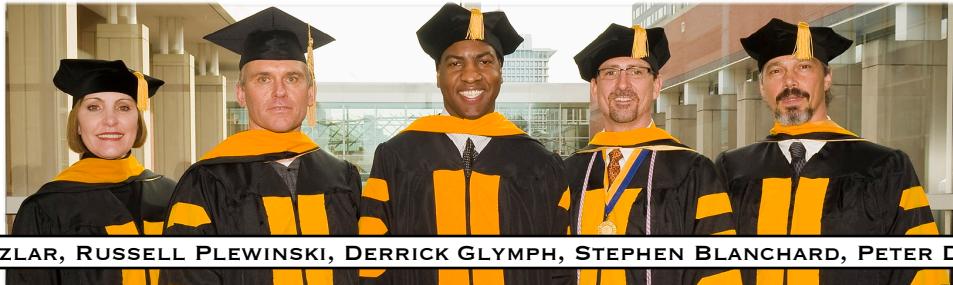
Dr. Wright received her Doctor of Philosophy in Health Related Sciences from VCU School of Allied Health Professions on December 12, 2009. Her dissertation is entitled *Predictors of Situation Awareness in Graduate Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists*. Dr. Wright is Director of the Center for Research in Human Simulation and the Director of Doctoral Education for our Department. She is pictured left instructing a student in one of our difficult airway labs.



The First VCU Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice Graduates

May 16, 2009 was a historical, and exciting, day for our department. The first 7 Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice students were awarded their degree. In December, 7 additional students donned their caps and gowns and joined this list of graduates. A year after the first graduates, a total of 31 students have completed the requirements for the DNAP and received their degree.

Congratulations on your accomplishment!



JANICE IZLAR, RUSSELL PLEWINSKI, DERRICK GLYMPH, STEPHEN BLANCHARD, PETER DEFOREST

May 2009 Graduates

SARAH AUSTIN - STEPHEN BLANCHARD - JEANNIE CHILDRESS - ASHLEY HUTCHINSON - KRISTOFFER MORGAN
SCOT PETTEY - MARTIN RAYMENT

December 2009 Graduates

JOHN AKER - PETER DEFOREST - DERRICK GLYMPH - JANICE IZLAR - RUSSELL PLEWINSKI - DANA SHARP
MATTHEW TOOMEY

May 2010 Graduates

KATHERINE BILLMAN - JEANNA CHAPMAN - KELLY ELMHORST - CHRISTIAN FALYAR - MARITZA GALLEGOS -
JANEEN GIBSON - AMANDA GREER - TIM HUDSON - JANET JINGLUSKI - KIM KOST - JODI LYLE - ERIC MING -
RYLAN REYNOLDS - DIANA RIFFE - ELIZABETH SEKINGER - JUDY THOMPSON - DIONNE TYREE

The World is a Classroom.

April Asbury graduated from our program this past December. You may recall seeing her name listed as a recipient of the Agatha Hodgins Award for having a 4.0 G.P.A. or remember her as one of the many hardworking students in clinical. What you may not know about April is that during the summer of her senior year she left her family and boarded a plane headed for Beijing to learn about anesthesia practices in the People's Republic of China.

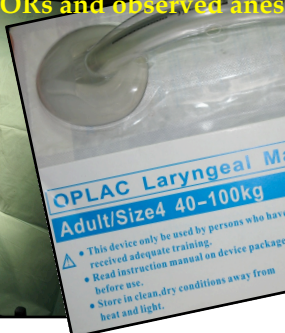


Hal Allerton (Left), April Asbury (Middle) -

Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital in Hangzhou, China where April visited the ORs and observed anesthesia administration.



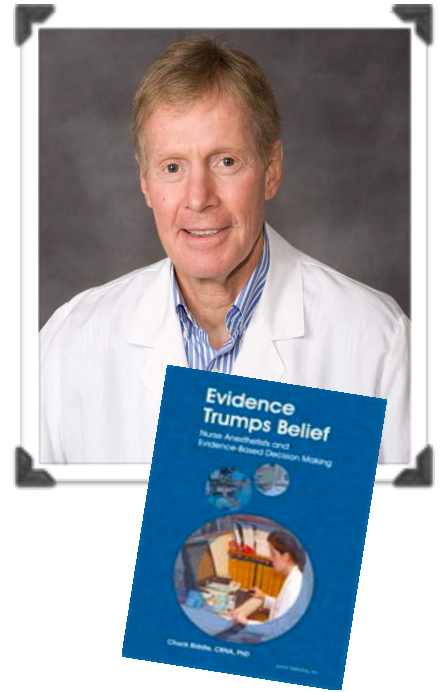
April undergoing Cupping: According to Chinese medicine, the main purpose of cupping is to invigorate the blood which helps the body's inherent ability to rejuvenate and maintain balance. The suction created by the cooling of warm air inside the cup while on the patients skin creates a 'reverse pressure massage'.



2010 marked the debut of the book entitled *"Evidence Trumps Belief: Nurse Anesthetists and Evidence-Based Decision Making"* written by our Director of Research, Chuck Biddle (right).

"This book is dedicated to the patients and students that I have had the privilege of caring for and working with. Both constantly remind me that our daily clinical orbit reveals gaps in knowledge and produces more questions than answers. The responsibility inherent in the practice of nurse anesthesia in closing those gaps and addressing the never-ending stream of questions in the most effective manner possible is at the heart of what we do and is the fuel that impassions me professionally."

Dr. Biddle is donating all proceeds of this book to student research scholarships. If you are interested in a copy visit the AANA website: www.aana.com/aanabookstore



The Department's first scholarship was established this April.

The Robert Lanning Nurse Anesthesia Scholarship

In celebration of her husband's life and in appreciation of the Department's support, Kelly Elmhorst created this scholarship to assist student nurse anesthetists who, while in study, must also deal with significant personal challenges.

If you are interesting in setting up a scholarship or fund there are many options. Please contact Elizabeth Howell (804) 628 - 3199 to help you create a giving modality that best suits your vision.

Would You Update Your Information?

This is for **Alumni Events** so we want it Right!

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Birthday _____

Preferred Name _____

Recent Events in Your Life _____

Class of _____

(please return this OR e-mail us with your current information - howelleg@vcu.edu).

Please Consider a Gift to Support Your Department

In these trying times our Department needs your help more than ever to ensure the best education possible for the next generation of CRNAs. Your financial support can help us achieve our educational goals.

Yes, I will support our School with the gift of \$ _____

_____ General Nurse Anesthesia Fund

_____ Herbert T. Watson Endowed Professorship

_____ Chuck Biddle Nurse Anesthesia Fund

_____ Lemont B. Kier Nurse Anesthesia Fund

Questions about these funds? (804) 628 - 3199



VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia's 40th Anniversary - Our Department celebrated 40 years of success (and hard-work) with a GALA in Williamsburg, Virginia on October 31, 2009. Over 100 Alumni were in attendance. Honored guests included all of the past Chairmen of our Department: Bernie Kusava, Herbert Watson, and Cecil Drain. The evening began fireside with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and entertainment by VCU Music Department's Student String Quartet. A buffet dinner followed cocktails. During dinner remarks were made by Barbara Payton from the MCV Alumni Association, a video of the history of the department from 1969 until present was shown, and department Chairman, Michael Fallacaro, shared current news and future plans for the department. After dinner Alumni, Faculty, Students and Friends danced the night away to the tunes from DJ JimmyG Entertainment. The proceeds from the event went to the Herbert T. Watson Endowed Professorship. *A special Thank You to our Sponsors: Commonwealth Anesthesia Associates, Hanover Anesthesia Group, West End Anesthesia Group, MCV Alumni Association, Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists, SENTARA, and VCU Health Systems.*

Community Outreach



Michael Kammerman is our newest addition to the department. He is pictured here touring a group of elementary school students around our Simulation Center and giving them a chance to be at the "head of the table". Mike would also be glad to tour you around the department so please come and visit soon. (Call 804-828-9808 to schedule a time).



Pictured above is one of the 36 stations the SRNAs experience at Anatomy Camp (Cadavers used but not pictured). Thanks to the generosity and support from Alumni like YOU we are able to offer state of the art anesthesia equipment and trainers to our students for all of their laboratories.

VCU School of Allied Health Professions

Department of Nurse Anesthesia

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VCU School of Allied Health Professions
Department of Nurse Anesthesia
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VCU Department of Nurse Anesthesia

Alumni Newsletter 2009 - 2010

In August 2009, Adrienne Montesanti was awarded the Alice Magaw Outstanding Clinical Practitioner Award during the AANA Annual Meeting. This award recognizes the accomplishments of CRNAs involved in direct patient care, who have made an important contribution to the advancement of nurse anesthesia practice.

Ms. Montesanti is also known for another reason. She is a special Alumnus as she and Barbara Wheat were the first two students to graduate from our program in 1969.

Thank you for all you've done and all you do to advance our profession!

