FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Best in the Nation: First Practice Doctorate: NAFA Partnership!

Michael D. Fallacaro DNS, CRNA

Dear Alumni and Friends:

I am pleased to report that once again US News and World Report has ranked the Department of Nurse Anesthesia at VCU “Best in the Nation” in its May 2007 national survey. This repeat #1 designation for VCU is unprecedented since these rankings began over 10 years ago.

The Department of Nurse Anesthesia is proud to announce two major national initiatives:

1. In May of 2007, the Department received authorizations from both the State Council on Higher Education for Virginia and the Council on Accreditation for Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs to offer the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) degree. This post-masters offering will be the first DNAP offering in the United States. This practice doctoral degree is specifically designed for the CRNA in response to the growing complexity of the healthcare system. Comprised of 33-credit hours spread across three semesters, this offering focuses on patient safety, education, and leadership within the specialty. Dr. Elizabeth Siebert has been appointed as Director of Doctoral Education and classes will begin in the Fall of 2007.

2. Effective January 2007, Professor Emeritus Herbert T. Watson has chosen to transition his highly successful Nurse Anesthesiology Faculty Associates (NAFA) Continuing Education (CE) enterprise to the Department of Nurse Anesthesia. NAFA is now a CE Division of the Department and Ms. Danika Robinson has been appointed to serve as full time Director of Continuing Education. Professor Watson now has an office at VCU where he will continue to advise on, and participate in, future NAFA events. While enhancements to NAFA are in progress, the foundation and highly successful format of these events will remain intact. In May we successfully held our first NAFA meeting in Hilton Head South Carolina. We have 5 annual events planned including 2 cruise seminars, as well as meetings in Williamsburg, Disney and again Hilton Head. This year we will be honoring Professor Watson and his wife Beverly at our Williamsburg event. (See details regarding this and other NAFA events inside this Newsletter)

“Professors Watson (Right) and Fallacaro on NAFA partnership”

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
HONORS & AWARDS CEREMONY DECEMBER 2006

AWARDS

AGATHA HODGINS
Christopher Adams
Michelle Butters
Jennifer Cross
Felice Tan
Matthew Toomey

C. PAUL BOYAN
Christopher Adams
Matthew Toomey

THOMAS C. BARKER
Felice Tan

NURSE ANESTHESIA RESEARCH
Gina Corbett

INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR
Peter Haley
Michael Leersnyder

HERBERT T. WATSON FACULTY
Martin Eason, MD, JD

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK CONTINUED...

Currently we have 59 graduate students enrolled in two classes and we have already accepted 26 Richmond and 10 Southwest Virginia graduate students beginning this fall. We now have 4 matriculated PhD students and anticipate 20-25 new DNAP students as well.

I am pleased to announce the arrival of Ms. Stephanie Byrd who joins the Department as our Administrative Support Specialist. Ms. Byrd is originally from New York and received her bachelors degree in English from Seton Hall University. Ms. Byrd plans on continuing her education at VCU in the Master of Public Administration Program beginning Fall of 2008.

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 and our simulation laboratory and the Watson Library at your convenience. Please call ahead to Ms. Byrd at (804) 828-9808 to arrange a time when I can greet you and show you about. Also, please take a look at our Web Site at: http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/nrsa/index.html.

The Department of Nurse Anesthesia remains strong and well positioned to make substantial contributions to meet societal challenges; we welcome and value your continued participation in these efforts.

Best Regards,
Michael D. Fallacaro, DNS, CRNA
Professor and Chairman

CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2006

Christopher Adams
Ervina Baruti
Edward Boyd
Richard Cluff
Jennifer Cross
Jamie Graham
Tenaja Liska
Maria Montemayor
Felice Tan
Matthew Toomey
Christie Whitt

Kelly Barron
Agnes Bothwell
Michelle Butters
Gina Corbett
Darcella Curtis
Crystal Jones
Andrew Mitchell
Paul Rowe
Cynde Thomas-Peters
Charles Waddell

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
DISTANCE EDUCATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSE ANESTHESIA

Our Southwest Virginia Campus in Abingdon has graduated its first class. The first class of five students for our distance program marched at the VCU commencement exercise in December 2006. All five in the cohort have taken positions in and around the SW region, which was the ultimate goal of the program.

Johnson City Medical Center, Johnson City Tennessee (3)
Lonesome Pine Hospital, Big Stone Gap, Virginia (1)
Norton Community Hospital, Norton, Virginia (1)

We had our first Anatomy Camp for regional anesthesia held at the Quillen College of Medicine (QCOM) in Johnson City Tennessee in May of 2006. Here the students have full access to cadaver and simulation labs. Both Richmond and SW campus junior students attend this camp. Anatomy lectures and laboratory experiences are led by Dr. Thomas Kwasigroch, Anatomist and Associate Dean, QCOM. Lectures and laboratory sessions on regional anesthesia are led by Dr. Martin Eason, Anesthesiologist and Director of Human Simulation, QCOM. This initiative will be an annual event and will benefit both campuses.

Another first for the Southwest Campus was the “Southwest Campus Research Symposium” held at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC). Both junior and seniors classes had a day of research and discussion lead by Dr. Chuck Biddle. This too shall be an annual event for the SW campus students.

Beverly Gay, RN, MSN, CCRN
Coordinator Distance/Continuing Ed

NAFA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEMINARS AT SEA - ANESTHESIA MEETING
ALASKA
Onboard The Celebrity Cruise Line’s Infinity
July 15 - 22, 2007

SEMINARS AT SEA - ANESTHESIA MEETING
WESTERN CARIBBEAN
Onboard the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line’s Liberty of the Seas
September 8 - 15, 2007

THIRTY FIRST ANNUAL ANESTHESIA CONFERENCE & Pre Conference PALS Course (10/27-10/28)
Crowne Plaza WILLIAMSBURG
at Fort Magruder
Williamsburg, Virginia
October 29 - November 1, 2007
Reception honoring Professor & Mrs. Watson

TWENTY SIXTH ANNUAL ANESTHESIA MEETING
Disney’s Coronado Springs Resort
WALT DISNEY WORLD
Lake Buena Vista, Florida
November 26 - 29, 2007

TWENTY SECOND ANNUAL ANESTHESIA SEMINAR
Marriott Resort
HILTON HEAD ISLAND
South Carolina
May 28 - 31, 2008

ALUMNI
PLEASE WRITE TO US
RETURN THIS INSERT WITH YOUR COMMENTS

NAME:
CLASS OF:
NEWS / COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS:

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
NEWS FROM THE RESEARCH CORNER

The Department continues to make scholarly contributions to the profession via its focus on the broad domain of patient safety. One of the most active components of our activity is in the area of producing teaching and safety videos that address specific concerns in the anesthesia care arena. In collaboration with members of the clinical teaching staff such as Paul Buffa, CRNA, MSN, we are producing films such as checking out and trouble shooting the anesthesia machine, technically performing spinal anesthesia using both real patients and cadavers, and novel approaches to teaching fundamental airway management such as endotracheal intubation. The Department is also embarking on an ambitious campaign to produce patient safety videos for distribution and sponsorship by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists as part of an aggressive patient safety program. Below you will find an update on the Department’s research-related publications and presentations since our last Newsletter.


Anesthesia Clinical Performance Outcomes: Does Teaching Methodology Make a Difference? Nina McClain (Candidate for the PhD). Doctoral defense, Virginia Commonwealth University March, 2007


Best regards,
Chuck Biddle, CRNA, PhD, Director of Research

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