Department of Nurse Anesthesia
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER 2007-2008
FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

NAFA gets a New Home!
Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice Initiated!
Michael D. Fallacaro DNS, CRNA

Dear Alumni and Friends:

It is my distinct pleasure to share with you some highlights of on-going activities in the Department of Nurse Anesthesia at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and to thank you for your past generous support of the Department.

In July of 2007, the Department began to offer the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) degree. This post-masters offering is the first DNAP offering in the United States. This practice doctoral degree is comprised of 33-credit hours spread across three semesters, this offering focuses on patient safety, education, and leadership within the specialty and can be obtained either as a post-masters offering or in a combined MSNA / DNAP format. In the Fall of 2007, 13 students enrolled in the combined degree and in January of 2008, 7 CRNAs from across the U.S. began the post-masters DNAP. The Department envisions an additional 15-20 combined degree students and 8-10 new post-masters students by the summer of 2008. Currently we have 59 graduate students enrolled in two classes and we have already accepted 26 Richmond and 10 Southwest Virginia graduate students in the fall. We now have 5 matriculated PhD students and anticipate a total of near 50 DNAP students by July.

January 2008 marks the one year anniversary of Professor Emeritus Herbert T. Watson’s transition of his highly successful Nurse Anesthesiology Faculty Associates (NAFA) Continuing Education (CE) enterprise to the Department of Nurse Anesthesia. NAFA, now a CE Division of the Department, has found a permanent home on the second floor of West Hospital. For 2007, NAFA enjoyed another very successful year offering 3 land based meetings and 2 cruises. Again in 2008 we have planned land based meetings at: Hilton Head Island, S.C., Williamsburg, V.A., and Walt Disney World. Additionally cruises are planned to Bermuda and the Caribbean. Herb remains active in the planning of these events and anticipates attending all land based events again in 2008. (See details regarding this and other NAFA events inside this Newsletter).

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

Dr. Harland (RT) greets Herb and Beverly Watson in Williamsburg
HONORS & AWARDS CEREMONY DECEMBER 2007

AWARDS

AGATHA HODGINS
Lauren Danks, Dwayne Grimes
Alicia Hazlehurst, Heather Kartchner
Tiffany McCoy, Amber Randolph
Nikki Stafford

C. PAUL BOYAN
Mary Sweat (RCH)
Nikki Stafford (SW)

THOMAS C. BARKER
Lauren Danks

NURSE ANESTHESIA RESEARCH
Heather Kartchner

INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR
David Kern (RCH)
Trulena Benner (SW)

HERBERT T. WATSON FACULTY
Beverly George-Gay, RN

CHAIRMAN’S AWARD
Herbert T. Watson,
past-Chairman, Professor Emeritus

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL EDUCATION

Congratulations to the Class of 2007, which included the second graduation of students from our southwest campus in Abingdon, Virginia. The department is very proud of all the graduates and wish them the very best that life has to offer in the years ahead. Welcome to the wonderful profession of nurse anesthesia!

In other news, the class of 2008 continues to perform well in the clinical arena, immersed in their specialty rotations of pediatrics, obstetrics, ambulatory, and cardiothoracic anesthesia. The job offers are pouring in, and it seems that choosing a place of employment will be their greatest challenge in the months to come…after that little quiz they will take sometime early next winter! The class of 2009 has survived the rigors of their first semester, and are managing to coordinate a heavy class load as well as their introduction into clinical anesthesia. They somehow find the time to study, write care plans, and give anesthesia two days each week. All of the credit for our students’ excellence in clinical anesthesia must go to our outstanding clinical affiliate sites and CRNA instructors. At the present time, our school is affiliated with 22 facilities from Fredericksburg to Johnson City, Bristol, Tennessee and even Pikeville, Kentucky. Plans are currently in progress to add to this list of affiliates to further enhance the clinical experiences of our students.

As a final, personal, note, I am always open to any discussion of improvements in the process of clinical education. Please do not hesitate to call or write to me.

Corey Davis, MSNA, CRNA

CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2007

Laura Bassham
Lauren Danks
Jennifer Fabre
Rebecca Griggs
Jeffrey Hackett
Marian Haselman
Mara Jomphe
Courtney Masimore
Angelina McMurray
Annette Mills
Diana Proctor
Edward Rogerson
Nikki Stafford
Michael Thomas
Kristen Chaffins
Michelle Dayday
Terresaa Farmer
Dwayne Grimes
Layla Hasbuhлина
Alicia Hazlehurst
Heather Kartchner
Tiffany McCoy
Daniel Menser
David Mikes
Amber Randolph
Charlotte Schellenger
Mary Sweat

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
DISTANCE EDUCATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSE ANESTHESIA

The second Southwest Virginia Campus class of 7 has graduated. Four of which received the Agatha Hodgins Award for completing the program with the highest grade point average. All have accepted positions within or very close to the region.

Agatha Hodgins Award recipients:

- Dwayne Grimes
- Tiffany McCoy
- Amber Randolph
- Nikki Stafford

There are currently 10 juniors starting clinical this year, our largest class. We have accepted 10 more for the Fall of 2008.

Bristol Regional Medical Center has been added as a new clinical site for us. Students can experience a wide variety of cases including cardiac surgery there.

Our 2nd "Current Trends in Clinical Education" clinical instructor workshop has been scheduled for Saturday, May 17th, 2008 from 8 AM to 3 PM. Please save the date and look for the upcoming invitation. It will be held at the Higher Education Center in Abingdon.

Trulena Benner, CRNA, Pikeville Medical Center was presented the Outstanding Clinical Faculty for the SW Campus. Also, Amy Erickson, CRNA, Johnson City Medical Center and Debra Welch-Gang, CRNA, Johnston Memorial Hospital were honored by the SW senior graduating class.

Beverly George-Gay, MSN, CCRN
Coordinator Distance/Continuing Ed

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ALUMNI

PLEASE WRITE TO US
RETURN THIS INSERT WITH YOUR COMMENTS

NAME: ________________________________
CLASS OF: ____________________________
NEWS/COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS: ______________________________

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Please check out our website for updates and current events:

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VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
NEWS FROM THE EDUCATION CORNER

Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program is up and running...

The Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) program was approved by the State Council on Higher Education for Virginia and the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs in the spring of 2007. The DNAP offers two tracks: a combined Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia (MSNA)-DNAP program for RNs with a baccalaureate degree and a post-master's program for CRNAs. Both tracks are offered in Richmond and at the Southwest Higher Education Center in Abingdon, VA.

The post-master's program for CRNAs is a 33-credit program that can be completed in 1 year of full-time or 2-3 years of part-time study and prepares CRNAs to assume leadership positions in education, management, and patient care. The curriculum is offered through a combination of on- and off-campus sessions. On-campus sessions are held 4 times a year with one class ending and another starting in the same week. Off-campus work is completed by a combination of assignments and web-based activities using the Blackboard learning platform. For further information on the post-master DNAP program for CRNA's, contact Elizabeth Seibert, PhD, CRNA, at 804-828-1364; or for the MSNA-to-DNAP Program for RN's, contact William Hartland, PhD, CRNA, at 804-828-6729.

CENTER ON RESEARCH IN HUMAN SIMULATION

Through an educational grant from Arrow and the CRHS's newly-acquired central line and arterial line simulators, the students will have an opportunity to practice central line and arterial line placement techniques 'hands-on' in a Vascular Access Lab planned on both campuses (Richmond and Abingdon) for the Spring of 2008. The simulators enable students to experience proper placement of lines in-like replications of a real patient. The central line simulators offer palpable carotid and femoral pulses and enable the practice of IV access to the internal and external jugular, subclavian, and femoral veins. The arterial line simulators generate a radial and brachial pulse through a peristaltic pump, providing realistic arterial stick and cannulation exercises. Faculty and students will discuss indications, contraindications, complications, and proper technique related to these procedures.

Suzanne M. Wright, CRNA, MSNA, Director, Center for Research in Human Simulation

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