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.

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 alumus 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

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
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
Eliza Hampton - Tim Hudson - Janet Jingluski - 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

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<td><strong>Agatha Hodgins CRNA Memorial Award</strong></td>
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<td>Janet Jingluski - Rylan Reynolds - Andrea Yates</td>
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<td><strong>C. Paul Boyan Clinical Excellence Award</strong></td>
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<td>Amanda Greer and Emily Dougherty</td>
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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.
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!

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.

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 impasses 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 devours, 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.

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!