



**Georgia Health
Sciences University**

Nursing Anesthesia Program Alumni Association

Volume II ♦ Issue 2

Fall/Winter 2011

From the Director: Jim Masiongale



Greetings from the GHSU Nursing Anesthesia Program

I am happy to report that many positive things have taken place since our last newsletter. The 20 individuals making up the Class of 2013 arrived on campus full of energy and excitement in mid August. They have all done extremely well with the transition from working ICU Nurses to anesthesia students. We received a higher number of out of state applications for that class indicating

that our program is starting to gain national attention. With the Mercer Program not accepting applications this year we anticipate a larger number of applications this year than in the previous years.

Arrival of the Class of 2013 signaled the beginning of clinical for the Class of 2012. The evaluations we have been receiving have all been very positive. The numerous emails along with the feedback given during my clinical site visits indicate that each year the new students transition into the clinical setting smoother than the previous class. I can think of two things in particular that may account for this: 1.) We started the new “front loaded” curriculum three years ago and each year the faculty make improvements and become more adept teaching it, and 2.) We continue to improve upon our simulated training prior to actual patient contact. We have one of the best simulation experiences of any anesthesia program in the country and I would love to show it to you if interested. Contact me and we will make arrangement for you to watch as students train on our high fidelity

simulator. I am confident you will be impressed with the experience.

The Class of 2011 have all obtained the number of cases and specialty cases necessary to take the certification examination. They are now honing those skills obtained thanks to many of you that volunteer as clinical faculty, and are anxiously awaiting the December 9th convocation. They are also spending hours upon hours reviewing information in preparation for the certification examination. The bar was raised as high as it could go by the Class of 2010 getting 100% first time pass of the examination. I am pleased to report that 100% of the Class of 2011 have already been offered jobs and most will be staying and practicing in the State of Georgia.

GHSU was well represented at the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetist (GANA) Fall Meeting in Atlanta, September 30th through October 2nd. Cassandra Walton and Lee Owen, Class of 2011, provided informative and well-designed poster presentations. Jonathan Griggs, Class of 2012, did an exceptional lecture on hypothermia as part of the Dan Elbald Memorial Lecture. I had several CRNAs in attendance ask me if Jon had a previous job as a public speaker prior to entering anesthesia school. Whitney Huffman, Class of 2011, was awarded the GANA Outstanding Student Award. This award is given annually to a student from GHSU or Mercer that was nominated then selected by the GANA Board of Directors. Whitney has served as GHSU student representative to GANA for the last two years. The program continues to be well represented on the GANA Board of Directors and

elected officials. Daniel Dell (Class of 2008) is serving his second year as a Board of Director and was named the Chair of the Government Relations Committee. Maegan Brass (Class of 2010) was elected Secretary and is also Chair of the Public Relations Committee. I was elected President-elect and will be serving as Co-Chair of the Government Relations Committee. Many other alumni are also members of various committees.

The Nursing Anesthesia Program underwent a scheduled accreditation visit from the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs October 24th and 25th. For those unfamiliar with this process, the program submits a self-study to demonstrate compliance with the standards. This self-study consists of over 1000 pages of narrative and documents and took over 9 months to prepare. I am delighted to report that the two site visitors found the program to be in 100% compliance with no citations given. The head site visitor stated that we were only the third program he has given zero citations in his 17-year history as a site visitor. Both site visitors also stated that they believe we are one on the top 5 programs in the country. Although I was shocked to receive no citations (unheard of), I was not surprised at all the relishing remarks about the program. We have four dedicated CRNA faculty that love teaching anesthesia to our students; our Program Manager is second to none; we have hundreds of volunteer clinical CRNAs and Anesthesiologists sharing their clinical skills with our students; we have a multi-million dollar facility with top of the line

equipment; and most importantly, we have excellent students.

I would like to thank those that made donations to the Nursing Anesthesia Foundation. As I have stated in other newsletters, this money is used solely on the students. The goal is to build the foundation to allow us to partially fund events such as Mid-Year Assembly and the AANA National Meeting. If you would like to contribute, send your donation to:

GHSU Foundation # 11306
1120 15th Street
Augusta, GA 30912

Also please see the item by Sarah Johnston on scholarships (Page 10).

Feel free to contact me at jmasiong@georgiahealth.edu if you have questions or comments.

Till next time,
Jim



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Current Class Updates

Welcome Newbies!!!

We are excited to introduce the Class of 2013; *Lori Boswell, Malorie Brewer, Alexia Bursi, Vito Crespo, Allison Custred, Shaundra Davis, Jessica Epperson, Matt Gartner, Kelly Gowdy, Taylor Hosner, Kristin Huey, Megan Joyner, Tiara McCaskill, Regina Norton, Ryan Perry, Sarah Reed, Blair Reeder, Nathan Smith, Jon Speed, and Matthew Stringer.* They are busy finishing up their first semester of didactic. Best of luck!

Juniors Out and About...

The Class of 2012; *Rebecca Barger, Kim Black, Linda Brown, Courtney Carroll, Nicole Daniels, Brandon Dillard, Christine Futch, Jon Griggs, David Hardy, Sarah Hightower, Palmer Hummel, Allison Jester, Brian Lindenborn, Lori Littlejohn, John Mestas, Rachel Murchison, Kadee Newberry, John Redding, Amy Shapiro, and Jennifer Simonetti* started their clinical rotations in August. Keep your eye out for them!

Seniors Winding Down...

The Class of 2011 start their final clinical rotation this month; *Alex Abraham, Pierce Cannington, Cristy Cole, Jennifer Hayes, Rebecca Hok, Krissie Hoosan, Whitney Huffman, Tanya Ifill, Julie Jackson, Mary Leary, Tom Opilka, Lee Owen, Brandon Reddock, Jennifer Rhodes, Brittany Schmitt, Lacey Staten, Kellie Tinley, Cassandra Walton, and Maggie Williams* are set to graduate on December 9th!

GANA/AANA Upcoming Events

- January 2012: GANA Capitol Day (TBA)
- January 22-28: National Nurse Anesthetists Week
- February 23-35: AANA Assembly of School Faculty (San Diego, CA)
- April 15-18: AANA Mid-Year Assembly (Washington, DC)

Recent GANA/AANA Events

2011 AANA Mid-Year Assembly

The Class of 2011 accompanied by Amy & Jim Masiongale joined more than 700 CRNAs and students to participate in the annual AANA Mid-Year Assembly held in Washington D.C. Each year the senior class, as part of their Professional Aspects class, attends this extremely educational meeting. The meeting consists of three days of lectures on the issues affecting CRNA practice and how to convey these issues to elected officials. CRNAs and students were there from all fifty states, and this year a record was set for the largest number of attendees, as well as the largest number of students to ever attend the Mid-Year Assembly. After the train up session, we spent two days visiting with Congressmen and Senators from our respective states. Each state has a CRNA federal political director that made appointments with elected officials prior to the meeting. We then divided up into groups of individuals from their respective districts and went to discuss the issues.

This trip is extremely educational for the nurse anesthesia student. First, it allows them to hear first hand how our national organization is working to keep our practice viable. Second, it allows them to experience something few ever get the opportunity to do, sit in a US State Senator's or Congressman's office and discuss issues. Each year when asked, the students always rank this trip as the most educational and enjoyable.

The days are crammed full, but there is still time to get out see the absolute beauty of our nation's capital. A new tradition was started last year, where Georgia CRNAs take the students to Georgetown the last night for food, drinks, and dance, a perfect way to end a great experience!



Pictured from left to right: GANA Political Director Steve Smith, Prof. Jim Masiongale, Brittany Parker, **Congressman Rob Woodall**, GANA President Rose Synsmir, Tanya Ifill, Maggie Williams, and Prof. Amy Masiongale



Pictured left to right: Krissie Hoosan, Maggie Williams, Kellie Tinley, Jennifer Rhodes, GANA President-Elect Brent Dubois, **Congressman Austin Scott**, Brittany Schmitt, Mary Leary, Whitney Huffman, Lacey Staten, and GANA Political Director Steve Smith

2011 AANA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA



← Back row: Courtney Carroll, Allison Jester, Sarah Hightower; Front row: Jennifer Simonetti, Nicole Daniels, Linda Brown

From left to right: → Christine Futch, Palmer Hummel, Rebecca Barger, and Lori Littlejohn



2012 GANA Annual Fall Meeting in Atlanta



← From left to right; Kristin Huey, Malorie Brewer, Taylor Hosner, and Ryan Perry

GHSU senior Whitney Huffman, → pictured here with Prof. Jim Masiongale, won the GANA Outstanding Student Award!



Members from the Class of 2013 attend a GANA Board Meeting held at the GHSU campus

Alumni Updates

Class of 2007:

Tim Thomas is still working at Doctors Hospital and his family is healthy and doing great.

Class of 2008:

Jennifer Jones just moved in August from Augusta to Charleston, SC with her family. She is now working at MUSC in the Ashley River Towers and loving it. She has two little girls that turned 2 and 7 this year. They are in the process of building a house in Mount Pleasant and cannot wait to be finished!

Class of 2009:

Elizabeth Hansford got married in July. Her new name is Elizabeth Hansford Skowronski and she recently started working at Archbold Medical Center in Thomasville, GA.

Class of 2010:

Deanna Anselmo pictured below with her son, John Salvat Anselmo, born on June 24, 2011.

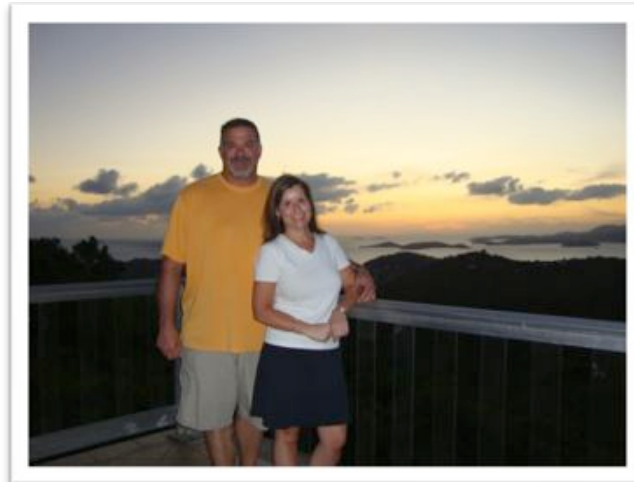


Marni Daniel is leaving Northside Cherokee Hospital and Canton and will begin working at St. Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta in January. She is also expecting her second child (a little girl!) in February to join her, her husband Clint, and their son Myles. They are planning to move to Sandy Springs in the upcoming months.

Alumni Spotlight... Angie Thomas Sarianides

Angie is a 2006 graduate of MCG, where she received her Master's Degree in Nursing Anesthesia. She received her BSN from Kennesaw State University in 1991. Angie is a CRNA at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta where she has worked since graduating from MCG. Angie serves as the clinical coordinator for MCG anesthesia students at Piedmont and loves working with students!

She married her husband, Joe Sarianides, in 2008 and they live in Acworth, GA with their two English Bulldogs, Brutus and Bella. In her spare time, Angie enjoys traveling with her husband, especially to St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands!



Keep in touch! Send in your personal and professional updates to mcg.crna.alumni@gmail.com!!!

Even “Normal” People Can Start a Scholarship

As you can see by reading the descriptions of our scholarships (<http://www.georgiahealth.edu/nursing/scholarships/index.html>), there are a broad range of reasons for wanting to start a scholarship. A great many of them were started to memorialize a family member or friend. Others were founded to honor an individual’s life accomplishments. Some were founded for business reasons, or simply desiring to return something to the community.

Now you may be thinking, “I am just a normal person” or “My gift won’t be large enough to matter.” The majority of you reading this newsletter probably share the same concern. What if we told you that your gift—of any size—really could make a difference! Here are two scenarios that could make a tremendous impact in the lives of our students:

1. Tammy and Jane have always been good friends. They grew up in the same small town outside of Savannah, both attended nursing school together and later went back to school to pursue similar dreams of being nurse anesthetists. Tammy and Jane are both grateful for their careers and all of the opportunities that they have had over their lifetimes (so far!). They have a desire for other capable South Georgia students to have similar opportunities so they created a scholarship fund at the college of nursing. Tammy and Jane each have pledged \$1,000 over the next five years to create a joint scholarship endowment. This \$10,000 will be invested in the foundation and will *forever* generate a \$400 award for a deserving student.
2. Jeff, like Tammy and Jane, is grateful for his education. He finished nursing anesthesia school three years ago and is now practicing in the Atlanta area. He has a wife and two small kids, so money is a little tight right now. However, Jeff remembers what it was like being a nursing anesthesia student. He had been working in a hospital for a few years before going back to school and losing the steady income was tough for him and his wife. Because of this, Jeff has committed to giving \$500 every year to a deserving student. Jeff and his wife together created scholarship criteria and get to participate in the annual Convocation ceremony.

Do these scenarios inspire you to want to start a new tradition at Georgia Health Sciences University? Our College of Nursing desperately needs scholarships for nursing anesthesia students. If you would like to learn more about starting a scholarship, please feel free to contact our development officer, Sarah Johnston, at 706-721-1457 or sarjohnston@georgiahealth.edu.

*Please join us in celebrating
GHSU Nursing Anesthesia Program's
2nd Annual Alumni Homecoming
and
Graduation Dinner for the Class of 2011*

Friday, December 9, 2011

6:00pm

Partridge Inn

Augusta, GA



*Please reserve your room at the Partridge Inn by calling
1-800-476-6888 and request reservations under
"GHSU Nursing Anesthesia Graduation" for special rates
(Superior room \$99/night, Suite \$109/night, and Balcony
room \$119/night)*

Cocktail hour starts at 6pm. Cash Bar.

Buffett dinner starts at 7pm.

*Live entertainment at the PI Bar & Grill
starting at 9pm!!!*

*Please make check payable to "Maggie Williams (GHSU NAP)"
and mail with RSVP card by November 23rd to:*

*1987 Breckenridge Drive
Atlanta, GA 30345*

RSVP CARD

Name _____

Total # of Adults _____ X \$35/person = \$_____

Total # of Children _____ X \$15/person = \$_____

TOTAL CHECK AMOUNT = \$_____