

# THE CIRCUIT

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MERCER/MCCG NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM

## School News

### What's New in the Den

The school is proud to announce that Rickey King, CRNA has accepted the position of Associate Director! Welcome Rickey!

He has been diligently working to ensure the students succeed academically and clinically.

Rickey King: *"I would like to say that it is a privilege to be accepted into this position. The associate director position is important for the development of the profession. As program faculty, we shape the future and are gatekeepers to a profession that is demanding, tough, and exhilarating. I consider it an honor to be involved in the education of some of the most intelligent, hardworking, and interesting people that I have ever met. I take this position very*

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## GANA VP Steve Smith

by Julie Canada

Steve Smith, CRNA and GANA Vice President has always been known as a student advocate. The circuit is proud to present this interview.

Of course, we all know that you are the

current GANA Vice President and Federal Political Director, but you have been a passionate advocate for CRNA's for quite some time. What motivated you to move from

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Courtney Craine and Heather Jones  
2010 MCCG/MUSM Graduates



Anthony Chipas, Sheree Wolfenden,  
Shawn Ledford, and Davida Hilton at  
Fall 2010 GANA meeting



Davida Hilton and Tracie Abplanalp at Capital  
Day 2011

## School News cont...

*I take this position very seriously and believe that it deserves my best effort. I give thanks to all of you that help me do the job that I believe needs to be done."*

### GANAS News

The school as a whole participated in GANA Capitol Day on January 28, 2011. While the legislators were not in session that particular day, students were still able to effectively communicate to the lawmakers the important role of CRNAs in Georgia. Students also advocated the value of CRNAs through scheduled meetings, chance encounters throughout the Capitol building, phone calls, and emails. This was the largest gathering for GANA at the Capitol to date, and MUSM/MCCG was able to contribute to that milestone by having 100% of its students in attendance!

On February 12, 2011 MUSM/MCCG played host to the GANA board meeting. This provided the students the opportunity to learn how the meetings are conducted, to see what issues are currently under focus, as well as understand the importance to support our members that are running for national positions in the AANA. The meeting also demonstrated the importance for members to be actively involved at the state and national level.

### Mission Trip News

Program Director Sheree Wolfenden and two senior students, Davida Hilton and Brooke Kesler, embarked on a weeklong mission trip in March. They went with SCORE International to the Dominican Republic to serve the local population's medical needs. This was the first mission trip for the school.

The senior class is currently completing their outside and specialty rotations as well as making travel arrangements to attend Valley Review and other anesthesia review courses to prepare for the NBCRNA.

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## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

1. Your pt experienced a myocardial infarction 3 months ago and now requires non-cardiac related surgery with a general anesthetic. Which of the following most increases chances of re-infarction?

- A. Labile hemodynamics
- B. Moderate increase in heart rate over baseline
- C. Stable angina

## FALL 2010 GANA MEETING



Ron Griffin, Jake Whitaker, Brooks Cauley, and Ola Akigbogun at the Fall 2010 GANA meeting in Atlanta



Kevin Roark, Davida Hilton, and Tonya Millions at the Fall 2010 GANA meeting in Atlanta



Susan Anderson and Mary MacWilliams practicing retrograde wire intubation at Fall GANA meeting



## Q&A WITH Alyssa Syribey, CRNA

*Alyssa Syribey is the Assistant Chief Anesthetist at MCCG and has always taken her role as a CRNA and clinical instructor very seriously. The circuit is excited to finally get to ask her some questions!*

A question I'm sure you've been asked before....what made you want to become a CRNA?

Alyssa- I decided to become a CRNA my sophomore year in high school. I always wanted a career in the medical field that would afford me a significant degree of autonomy and responsibility with an attractive compensation package. After a little research, I shadowed a CRNA and experienced first hand the poise, intelligence, and capabilities a career in Nurse Anesthesia would provide.

Where did you achieve your Masters in Anesthesia?

Alyssa- I graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina in 2004 with a Masters of Science in Nurse Anesthesia.

What was your most memorable case as a student?

Alyssa- My most memorable case as a student came in one night while I was on call at Grenville Memorial Hospital. It was a trauma truck vs motorcycle. The case rolled up to the OR and the patient was very unstable. Chest compressions were in progress.

They had suffered a closed head injury, a large liver laceration, and there was a tear in their superior vena cava. Despite our massive resuscitation efforts, we were ultimately unable to save their life. I knew that we had done everything possible, but I will never forget the defeat I felt that day. Our actions affect outcomes and lives everyday. It is a huge responsibility and one should never take it lightly.

You have sat on the interview panel for several years at MCCG/MUSM. What are you looking for in a CRNA applicant? What are the qualities you believe make a person successful as a CRNA student?

Alyssa- I think that all CRNA students must be intelligent, self-motivated, organized, hardworking, compassionate, and trustworthy. CRNA school can be a bit of a roller coaster, so students must also have perseverance.

What do you carry into the OR with you? What's in your bag?

Alyssa- My precordial stethoscope for pediatric cases, my baby Barash, my Mass Gen, and anesthesia secrets for quick reference.

As a practitioner, what are your favorite types of cases?

Alyssa- My favorite cases are the big busy ones. I really like thoracotomies and hearts. I like procedures, so I like OB too.

If you had to pick your favorite go-to reference book which one would it be? Is there a book you think all SRNAs should have in their bags?

Alyssa- I really like Barash, but I frequently refer to Miller online.

What are your clinical expectations of SRNAs (first-year to senior)?

Alyssa- This is a tough question. I think it is different for each student the first year. I mostly need to feel like the student cares, is trying their best, and wants to learn. There will come a time when it finally clicks, and things start getting easier. There will be a lot more highs and significantly fewer lows. Every successful student

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STEVE SMITH

Continued....

behind the drape and get active in your state and national associations? For me it has always been about giving back to the profession I love so dearly. Unfortunately, I waited over 20 years after I graduated from nurse anesthesia school to get actively involved in the state association. I regret waiting as long as I did. I encourage you all to get involved sooner than later.

If you had to describe yourself in five words, what words would you select? Honest, Compassionate, Dedicated, Optimistic and Lucky

What is the best advice you've ever received and what are your favorite words of wisdom to impart to new graduates? The best advice I ever received was from my dad who told me I could do and be anything I wanted to be. Strive to become the best full service provider you can be despite all of the obstacles.

Once elected to the AANA Resolutions Committee (RC), what will your role entail? I like your optimism! As a member of the AANA resolutions committee I will review and consider all resolutions (main motion which contains serious subject matter potentially having significant impact on the policy of the association) signed by at least 5 AANA members and submitted to the Executive Director of the AANA.

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## MERCER STUDENT RECEIVES AWARD

Katie Truitt, a 2010 graduate, is the 2010 winner of the GANA Outstanding Student Nurse Anesthetist Award! Katie was selected based on her academic achievement, involvement in organizations, school activities, community activities outside of school, and the intent to practice as a nurse anesthetist within the state of Georgia while becoming a member who is actively involved in the GANA. As a student Katie participated in: multiple GANA board meetings, multiple GANA Annual Fall meetings, multiple GANA Capitol Days, the last two AANA Annual meetings (where she ran for national student representative) AANA Mid-Year Assembly (where she participated in the AANA mentoring program) and the GANA GPB-TV telethon (whew, thats a lot). Katie graduated in December 2010 and has accepted a job with Sentry Anesthesia in Lagrange, GA. Congratulations Katie!!!!



### Alyssa Syribeys continued...

Every successful student reaches this point eventually, but it happens at different rates. Our field is mostly physiology, pharmacology, and airway!

As a student enters his or her second year they are doing their specialty rotations and this will be more new stuff, so anxiety returns...This is to be expected. Students should be fine tuning the more basic cases at this point. Before a student graduates, I think it is imperative that we as educators feel confident in their abilities to provide safe, effective anesthesia on an entry level basis. **by Catherine Buxton**

### School News cont...

Senior students are also helping to assist the Juniors in transitioning into the clinical environment. The Juniors state that they are finding the new experience exciting, challenging, and intimidating yet motivating. Rickey King offers some word of encouragement to the students as they begin their journey in the operating room.

*"The junior class, Class of 2012, started their clinical aspect of the program in January. Along with their 3 other classes, they must now enter the fray of careplans, stress, fear, and excitement. I love to see the wide-eyed adrenaline stare that they have as they enter the OR room for the first time. They have, as a whole, performed exceptionally well thus far. This is probably the most hectic semester that they will have in the program and it takes a monumental effort to just survive. Take heart Juniors, you are now starting to become the professional that you aspire to be."*

## Mark Your Calendars!!

*March 15: Nominations Due for AANA Recognition Awards (Agatha Hodgins Award for Outstanding Accomplishment, Helen Lamb Outstanding Educator Award, Alice Magaw Outstanding Clinical Practitioner Award, Ira P. Gunn Award, Clinical Instructor of the Year, Didactic Instructor of the Year, Program Director of the Year)*

*April 1: Deadline for entry to Student Writing Contest*

*April 10-13: Mid-Year Assembly, Arlington, VA*

*May 14: GANA Spring Meeting – Atlanta, GA*

*August 6-10: AANA 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Boston, MA*

*August 27: GANA Board Meeting – MCG*

## Farewells....

MCCG/MUSM has said goodbye to two of its staff members over the last few months, Eric Herrold and Erica Tarpley. Eric has returned to anesthesia practice full time and says he is really enjoying it, but does miss the students. Erica Tarpley is going to be working from home

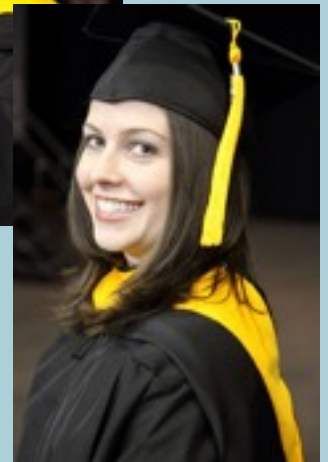
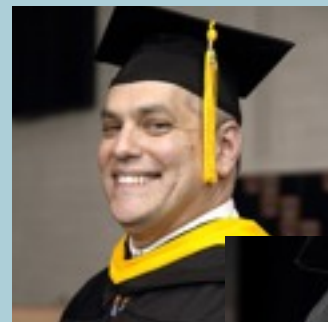
and taking care of her two young sons. We wish them both luck in their endeavors and will miss seeing them everyday! Thank you for all you have done for our program!



## CONGRATULATIONS MERCER 2010 GRADUATES!

**WE ARE HAPPY TO REPORT THAT ALL 2010 GRADUATES PASSED BOARDS AND HAVE SECURED EMPLOYMENT! GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE GRADUATES, WE ARE PROUD OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS!**

**KORIE AGUDELO  
GUOLI CHEN  
SETH CLAXTON  
COURTNEY CRAINE  
LEROY GROOVER, JR  
HEATHER JONES  
KYLE JONES  
SHAWN LEDFORD  
AMY MURDOCK  
KATIE TRUITT  
HARMON WEITZMAN**



## STEVE SMITH Continued...

The RC formulates recommendations on all resolutions and presents their recommendations to the membership at the AANA Annual Business Meeting. The resolutions are then voted on by the membership to be adopted or not.

How would you describe a perfect day on the job?

Simple, Safe and Uneventful

If you could wave your magic wand and either change, implement or repeal one piece of legislature that impacts Georgia CRNA's, what would it be and why?

I would remove OCGA 43-26-11.1 from Georgia law. This states that CRNAs can administer anesthesia but it must be done under the direction and supervision of a duly licensed physician (MD or DO). This along with the anticipated removal this summer of CMS Medicare Part A Supervision would allow our citizens of Georgia the access to health care by CRNAs that they deserve. Besides improved access to care the economic impact would be huge. It is a proven fact from the Lewin study that certain practice models by CRNAs are the most cost effective means of providing anesthesia.

What question have I not asked that you wished I would? What does the future hold in store for you?

Professionally, I plan on concentrating all of my efforts on my new anesthesia practice while still staying involved in the GANA and the AANA. I hope to serve on several AANA committees over the next 3-4 years.

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## DR McDONALD'S MALIGNANT HYPERTHERMIA TREATMENT REMINDER

THINK 3-1-3...

- 3: -STOP THE AGENT**
- 100% OXYGEN**
- HYPERVENTILATE**
- 1: -DANTROLENE @**
- 2.5MG/KG**
- 3: -COOL**
- ARTERIAL LINE**
- FOLEY CATHETER**

## Test Your Knowledge Answers

1. Answer: A

Labile hemodynamics (blood pressure). Although peri-operative re-infarction is higher within the first 6 months after myocardial infarction, normalization of hemodynamics appears to reduce peri-operative morbidity. (Memory Master 2010)

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# The Photo Gallery





**JANICE J. IZLAR**  
**CRNA, DNAP**  
**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

*Experience & Vision ...  
A Proven Leader*

- Extensive state leadership positions
- AANA Experience:**
- AANA Vice President
- AANA Region 2 Director
- AANA Foundation Board of Trustees
- Resolutions Committee Chair
- Finance Committee
- Ad hoc Associate Member Involvement Committee
- Ad hoc Leadership Development Committee
- Public Relations Committee
- Continuing Education Committee Chair

**Entrusted with nominations by: GA, KY, IA, MN, NJ, NY, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA, & WI Associations**  
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**Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists proudly supports its proven leaders for AANA 2011 ballot**



*Janice J. Izlar, CRNA, DNAP  
for President-elect*

*Stephen D. Smith, CRNA, MA  
for Resolutions Committee*

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