University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program and UPMC Mentoring Partnership win AANA Crystal Apple Award

In 2004 Ms. Krista Bragg CRNA, MSN, a program alumnus was named the Nurse Anesthesia Program Mentoring Coordinator. Krista immediately initiated a campaign to develop a CRNA to SRNA mentoring program. Through her efforts the University of Pittsburgh/UPMC Mentoring Partnership began and received an unrestricted educational grant from Glaxo Smith Kline. This program incorporates well established mentoring approaches and was used to assist the transition of our incoming students by matching mentors and mentees according to key areas of interest. In the Fall of 2004 an educational program was held for CRNAs interested in learning more about mentorship. The AANA Education Committee, recognizing the value and success of the mentoring effort, awarded the Nurse Anesthesia Program the Crystal Apple Award in February 2005 in Ft. Lauderdale at the Assembly of School Faculty. This award is the most prestigious program level award given by the AANA Education Committee.

Student Elected to National Position

In August 2004 at the AANA Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington, Kelly Wiltse (Class of 2005) was elected by fellow nurse anesthesia students to serve as the AANA National Student Representative to the Education Committee. This is the second time in 3 years that a student from our program was selected for such a prestigious national position. In this role, Kelly focused on finding more opportunities for students to get involved either at the state or national level. Kelly is a member of the Taskforce put together by the Education Committee to look at faculty recruitment and retention, and will be serving as a student representative at the DNP Summit Meeting in June. She will serve as the presiding officer for all student functions at the AANA Annual Meeting in Washington this August, attended the AANA Joint Committees Conference in Chicago, and the AANA Assembly for School Faculty in Florida this February. Kelly publishes a monthly column in the AANA News Bulletin reflecting student issues.

*Previous Program Updates are available on the Nurse Anesthesia Program Website under “General Information”. www.pitt.edu/~napcrna (The First edition from 2001 is a 10 year review)
We are very pleased to report the University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program Class of 2004, National Certification Examination results. A total of 35 students graduated from the Nurse Anesthesia Program on December 18, 2004. All students sat for the National Certification Examination between January and March 2005. The exam is computer adaptive and is based on a scaled score with a maximum of 600 and a minimum pass level set at 450. The test is a maximum of 3 hours in length and candidates take between 90-160 items depending on performance. 34 of 35 (97%) of our students passed the examination on the first attempt. A total of 21 of the 35 of our 2004 graduates (60%) received a 600 score on the exam.

Class of 2004 Graduation Dinner

On Friday, December 10, 2004 the William Penn Omni Ballroom was the site of the Graduation Celebration for the Class of 2004. The event was attended by over 300 guests sharing in the festivities celebrating the accomplishments of the graduates. This was the largest graduation dinner in program history.

Dr. Henker Volunteers in Cambodia

Richard Henker PhD, CRNA, Vice Chair of the Acute and Tertiary Care Department is the newest fulltime member of the Nurse Anesthesia Program faculty. During the 2004 AANA National meeting in Seattle, WA, Rick met with representatives of the Health Volunteers Overseas program and applied for an assignment. His teaching background and anesthesia experience were matched to Sihanouk Hospital Center of Hope in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Over a two week period in January 2005, he provided clinical instruction, clinical care, and 14 hours of didactic presentation on various topics including Airway Management, Respiratory Physiology, Anesthetic Pharmacology and Thermoregulation. The Sihanouk Department of Anesthesia employs 3 nurse anesthetists and 1 Anesthesiologist- all natives of Cambodia. The hospital was also staffed with “expatriate” surgeons and nurses from other parts of the world including two nurses and two internal medicine physicians from the United States. Rick found the people in Cambodia to be congenial and welcoming and hopes to return for additional volunteer work in the future.
Our first community outreach project was initiated by Ms. Sandy Sell CRNA, MSN in 2001 at East Hills Elementary School. The intent of our outreach programs is to expose grade school, middle school, and high school students to careers in healthcare. Our primary mission is to target underprivileged and diverse populations who tend to be underrepresented in healthcare professions. Subsequent projects have followed involving Milliones Middle School, Manchester Elementary, the Falk School, Serra Catholic High School, and South Fayette High School. Working in collaboration with the Carnegie Science Center and UPMC we also presented a program to many area schools at the Carnegie Science Center. An in-depth description of our outreach program was featured in the AANA Journal (April 2004) in an article titled *Community initiative: elementary and middle school students—a creative approach*, by Sandra Sell and Laura Palmer.

This year our community efforts continued with a return visit from South Fayette High School, again coordinated by one of our NAP graduates and adjunct faculty, Aaron Ostrowski CRNA, MSN (Class of 2002). Forty students from the honors anatomy class visited the school for a day of educational offerings, including visiting the ORs at UPMC Presbyterian and Montefiore, a tour of the WISER Simulation Center, and hand-on activities in our simulation lab and skills lab. Our community efforts will continue with another “Your School Goes to the OR” program at Colfax Elementary School in early June.

**Nurse Anesthesia Program Adds Clinical Sites**
In order to meet case requirements in the area of regional anesthesia, accommodate the growth of our program, and to provide enrichment experiences, we continue to expand clinical site opportunities. Additional clinical sites added this year included Stormont-Vail Healthcare in Topeka, Kansas and Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA bringing the number of facilities utilized by the program to 25.

**Admission Update**
CRNA workforce issues continue to be a concern due to the average age of CRNAs nationally nearing retirement and increased needs regionally. With the support of our Dean, the Nurse Anesthesia Program has decided to continue to take steps to meet some of these demands. Our current first year class of 44 is the largest in program history. After careful evaluation, we have admitted 40 full time and 11 part time students for the Fall of 2005. Despite the increase in students, we have continued to maintain the quality of graduates the program is known for and will re-evaluate our admission numbers each year.

**In the Fall of 2004, the Faculty of the Nurse Anesthesia Program presented a Regional Anesthesia Workshop for CRNAs at Magee-Womens Hospital and a Difficult Airway “Train the Trainer” Workshop for several CRNAs at UPMC Presbyterian.**
Innovative Educational Approaches: Simulation and Technology

A variety of technologies help students and faculty meet educational goals. These include a web supported platform (CourseWeb) for all didactic courses, distance education transmission capability to 4 simultaneous clinical sites, secure on-line case data submission and evaluation systems, creation of educational websites and the integration of human simulation educational efforts across the curriculum.

Human simulation educational approaches have made a tremendous impact on the educational environment of the program. In 1995 an active partnership was developed with our Anesthesiology Residency program when we became the first Residency/Nurse Anesthesia Program pair nationally to offer a combined, multidisciplinary anesthesia crisis leadership program. Now in its 10th year, the program continues to highlight the value of multidisciplinary educational approaches.

Since the opening of the Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation Education, Research (WISER) and the School of Nursing Simulation Laboratory in 2001, our simulation efforts have continued to increase in both quality and quantity. Students participate in a wide range of simulation modules spanning part task training to full context scenarios with high fidelity mannequins. Full context simulations include Difficult Airway (DAW) management, Crisis Leadership Training, Crisis Resource Management, Problem Based Learning in Anesthesia Specialty areas (Cardiothoracic, Vascular, Trauma, Transplant, and Neuroanesthesia) as well as additional scenarios geared to remediation of targeted problem areas for individual students or groups. Part-task efforts include Basic Airway Management, IV insertion training (both standard arm and use of the VirIV System, Laerdal Inc.), Arterial Line Insertion, Patient Positioning, Gas Machine Checkout and Troubleshooting, Spinal and Epidural Workshop, Central Line Insertion, Fiberoptic Bronchoscopy Lab, and Double Lumen Endobronchial Tube Placement and Positioning. Current Nurse Anesthesia Program simulation efforts are highlighted at www.pitt.edu/~napcrna/simulation.htm

Simulators Available in the School of Nursing Lab

The School of Nursing has purchased two SimMan (Laerdal Inc.) simulators and most recently SimBaby (Laerdal Inc.) in April 2005.

The purchase of SimBaby is through the incredible generosity of Ms. Jeanne Orr RN, MSN a School of Nursing alumnus.

Overall simulation activities at the School of Nursing have increased tremendously with 12,000 hours of student simulation time projected in 2005. The School of Nursing has unique resources in that a ‘live’ feed from the simulation laboratory can be transmitted to five multimedia classrooms concurrently with potential for 400 observers of any given scenario.

Program Director John O’Donnell awarded the School of Nursing Distinguished Clinical Scholar

John O’Donnell has taken on the additional role as Assistant Director at WISER, overseeing all nursing simulation efforts as a component of his academic role as the 2004-2005 School of Nursing Distinguished Clinical Scholar (DCS). His simulation projects across the year have included the integration of simulation activities into multiple undergraduate courses at the School of Nursing including Introduction to the Nursing Process (Freshmen), Obstetric Simulation Modules: Nursing Care for Mothers, Children, and Families (Junior), and Pediatric Simulation Modules: Nursing Care of Infants and Children (Junior), Critical Events in Obstetric Nursing (Junior), and Critical Events in Pediatric Nursing (Junior). These courses fall under the domain of the Simulation Efforts in Graduate and Undergraduate Education (SEGUE) Committee at the School of Nursing. This committee is charged with oversight of School of Nursing simulation coursework, assuring consistent quality of nursing simulation efforts, and will be working with the Graduate and Undergraduate Curriculum Committees in identifying the role for simulation educational offerings in meeting both BSN and MSN accreditation benchmarks. Because of the increase in responsibilities of Mr. O’Donnell with simulation efforts within the School of Nursing as the DCS, Joseph Goode, CRNA, MSN has provided substantial educational assistance to the Nurse Anesthesia Program supported by a collaborative effort with UPMC/UPP. Mr. Goode is a graduate of the Class of 2000 and is employed as a CRNA at UPMC Presbyterian with an Adjunct Faculty appointment. He is best known for his efforts in High Frequency Jet Ventilation and Radiofrequency Ablation procedures. His assistance has been invaluable to our program over the past year.

Visit our new Regional Techniques Website www.pitt.edu/~regional created from student projects by Richard Bauer BSN, SRNA (Class of 2005)
Awards and Honors:

Student

Sigma Theta Tau, Ruth Perkins Kuehn Award
April 2005
Deanna Alko, Class of 2005

Graduate Student Nursing Organization Officers 2004-2005
President: Kelly Wiltse, Class of 2005
Vice President: Kirk Foster, Class of 2005
Secretary: Lynn Macksey, Class of 2005
Treasurer: Tina Bowser, Class of 2005
Anesthesia Rep: Scott Pearson, Class of 2005

University of Pittsburgh Nurse Anesthesia Program
Agatha Hodgins Award
December 2004
Eric Wrenn, Class of 2004

Academic Excellence Award
New this year recognizing a 4.0 QPA
Michelle Andrews, Class of 2004
Patricia Goorin, Class of 2004
Kimberly Mason, Class of 2004
Raymond Pentz, Class of 2004

“Above and Beyond” Service Award
Amy Bettencourt, Class of 2004
Christine Darr, Class of 2004
Amy Hughes, Class of 2004
Greig Williams, Class of 2004

Susan Nath Bywaters Endowment Award
David Snyder, Class of 2004

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
W. Edward and Jeannette L. Wolfe Memorial Fund
Greig Williams, Class of 2004

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)
Joyce E. Kelly Scholarship
August 2004
Eric Wrenn, Class of 2004

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)
Student Researcher Award
December 2004
Susan Joseph, Class of 2004

Publications


ABSTRACTS
