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WELCOME!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the UND Nurse Anesthesia Specialization newsletter! I am very excited to share the news and stories of our program, our students and our alumni.

In 1986, the University of North Dakota admitted its first students to the 24-month COA accredited Nurse Anesthesia program. Today, we have graduated over 150 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, many of whom have stayed within the region and continue to provide a valuable healthcare service to the citizens of North Dakota and beyond.

Currently within the program, 14 second-year and 12 first-year nurse anesthesia students are enrolled and progressing. These students come from a variety of states including North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Washington, and Idaho. They bring a variety of experiences and strengths and will undoubtedly contribute greatly to the future of the nurse anesthesia profession. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to work with and meet so many great people and future colleagues.

It is my hope to form an alumni network that will help to strengthen the future of the nurse anesthesia profession and to ensure the continued success of our educational mission. Many of our alumni currently participate in the clinical and classroom education that is essential to our student's success; thank you for your contributions. If you would like the opportunity to get involved, please feel free to contact me.



*Darla Adams, MS, CRNA,
Interim Director of Nurse
Anesthesia Program*

Together we will move our profession forward!

POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- The Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs granted UND the maximum 10-year accreditation until 2011, which attests to our compliance with rigorous academic standards.
- Historically, UND nurse anesthesia graduates post outstanding scores on the national certification examination as well as receive very positive reviews from employers.

SIMULATION IN THE ANESTHESIA CLASSROOM



Full body patient simulation is the latest technology used in nurse anesthesia education today. Purchased in 2001 by the UND College of Nursing, the Laerdal SimMan patient simulator is a full body computerized simulator. It is anatomically modeled to a human specimen and has multiple features and abilities including an airway that allows students to auscultate, ventilate, and intubate; audible heart sounds; palpable pulses; and drug identification. SimMan is computer operated by a member of the anesthesia program faculty, allowing training sessions to be individualized for the educational level of the student. Beginning anesthesia students learn skills such as mask airway management, monitor placement, induction sequencing, and intubation. Advanced students learn more complex procedures and complicated case management utilizing the patient simulator.

STUDENTS AND NDANA GO TO WASHINGTON



Left to right: Blake Griffin, SRNA; Heidi Stahl, CRNA, NDANA Secretary; Congressman Earl Pomeroy; Lori Bazey, CRNA, NDANA President; Daphne Schnase-Steier, SRNA; Rebecca Heilman, CRNA, NDANA Board Member; and Kevin Buettner, SRNA

The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) Mid-Year Assembly, held in Washington, DC, provided an opportunity for CRNAs and SRNAs to develop competencies in dealing with federal legislative and regulatory issues. CRNAs and students from across the nation attend the annual assembly. The North Dakota CRNA representatives met with North Dakota state representatives on Capitol Hill. Time was spent with Congressman Earl Pomeroy and US Senators Byron Dorgan and Kent Conrad discussing the future of healthcare for our state. Major issues included legislation to reverse Medicare part B cuts, Title VIII funding for nursing education in FY 2007 and encouraging Congress to enact comprehensive medical liability reform legislation that ensures patients' access to healthcare.

The North Dakota Association of Nurse Anesthetists (NDANA) board encourages and supports students to attend national meetings to spark their interest in being future leaders. It offers them an opportunity to get involved early and watch, first-hand, the gears turning behind the association. The two class representatives to the NDANA board (Kevin Buettner and Daphne Schnase-Steier) and second-year student Blake Griffin were selected to attend this year.

PRECEPTORS GUIDE THE WAY

Jeff Simon, MS, CRNA (BS Biology, 1981; BSN 1988; MS 1993) has served as clinical coordinator for UND's nurse anesthesia students at Trinity Medical Center in Minot, ND since 2001. Jeff is a graduate of the UND Nurse Anesthesia program and attributes his success with students to his experiences. "My interest in working with students was strongly influenced by my own experiences as a UND graduate student. I appreciate the many professional and educational opportunities that were afforded to me during my education."

Students describe Jeff as a supportive and encouraging clinical educator and role model. He promotes student learning and challenges the students without intimidation. Jeff requires students to participate in departmental activities such as updating and improving emergency carts and providing clinical lectures for nursing staff. According to Jeff, "students are rewarded for their hard work and additional effort by increased confidence and independence." He further adds that "I benefit from these efforts as much as the student does, but I am only one person in the student's educational process. Credit must also be given to each clinical site and those anesthetists and anesthesiologists who are genuinely interested and actively involved in each student's progress and success."



Bethany Fontaine, '95, '04 consults with Jeff Simon

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Nurse Anesthesia Advisory Committee meeting was held May 4th, 2006. This advisory committee meets annually to support the mission of the Nurse Anesthesia program through discussion of relevant program issues and needs, including program compliance of accreditation standards. The advisory committee is comprised of several College of Nursing administrators, nurse anesthesia faculty, clinical site administrators, clinical coordinators, a public member, and student representatives. **Those in attendance from the College of Nursing included:** Darla Adams (Interim Program Director); Heidi Stahl (Assistant Program Director); Chandice Covington (Dean); Ginny Guido (Associate Dean); Loretta

Heuer (Department Chair); Becky Courmia (Alumni & Development Coordinator); Brandi Bear (1st year student); Brad Rauzi (2nd year student); and Sandy Monette (program secretary/recorder). **Clinical site administrators, clinical coordinators and public members in attendance included:** Jody Slominski (Altru - Grand Forks, ND); Jamie Sperle (Altru - Grand Forks, ND); Karen Kostecki (MeritCare - Fargo, ND); Floyd Nemer (MeritCare - Fargo, ND); Tami Rasmussen (MeritCare - Fargo, ND); Eric Roed (RiverView - Crookston, MN); John Mundy (St. Mary's - Duluth, MN); Wendy Sandelin (St. Mary's - Duluth); Joel Vance (Veteran's Administration - Fargo, ND); and Dale Carlson (CRNA, public member).

GRADUATES CONTINUE TO SHINE

The UND College of Nursing is excited to announce that 100% of the nurse anesthesia graduates passed their licensing exams on the first attempt in 2005. In fact, for the *past six years*, UND nurse anesthesia graduates have achieved a 100% passage rate on their licensing exams; what an amazing trend!

“We commend the College of Nursing faculty, preceptors and adjunct faculty across the region who dedicate their time to the preparation of these fine professionals. We are extremely proud of this continuing 100% pass rate, which is well above the national average” shares Dr. Chandice Covington, Dean of Nursing.

Darla Adams, Interim Program Director, adds “I am extremely lucky to be able to work with students who dedicate so much time and effort towards achieving their goals. It’s wonderful to be a part of their success. “

Send us updates on what you have been doing since graduation, we would love to hear from you!

Send your updates to Becky at beckycournia@mail.und.edu

STUDENT FOCUS

There are currently 26 students enrolled in the UND Nurse Anesthesia Specialization program. In addition to the multiple hours students spend in the classroom and in the operating room, they are also involved in many other activities.

First year students:

- Utilized the patient simulator for obstetrics and pediatrics • Learned anatomy for regional anesthesia in the cadaver lab at the medical school • Kevin Buettner defended his thesis titled, *An Analysis of Verbal Abuse Directed at Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists*. He also received the Sharon Lambeth scholarship award for his research • Presented research posters at the annual College of Nursing Research Colloquium • Kevin Buettner attended the AANA Mid-year Assembly in Washington, DC in April • Will attend the UND nurse anesthesia board review course in June • Will begin full-time clinicals at the end of June

Second year students:

- Presented independent and thesis projects at the NDANA spring meeting in Fargo, ND in April • Provided airway and intubation skill training to third-year medical students in May • Studying for the upcoming board exam • Interviewing and applying for jobs, several have already accepted positions in both North Dakota and Minnesota • Daphne Schnase-Steier and Blake Griffin attended the AANA Mid-year assembly in Washington, DC in April • Will attend and present at the UND Nurse Anesthesia Review Course in June • Will be participating in the Central Line placement lab in June

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI - LORI BAZEY



Lori Bazey

Lori Bazey, '85, '91, received three degrees from UND; a BS in psychology, BSN and MS in Nurse Anesthesia. After graduation, Lori worked in the anesthesia team setting at Altru Health System until 1999 when she left a secure job to test the waters with independent practice. She worked as an independent contractor in the

region and then with Greg Reese at Riverview Hospital in Crookston, MN.

In 2001, Lori took advantage of another opportunity and began her own practice. Lori's independent practice, Grand Forks Anesthesia Services, PC (GAS), had a 26% increase in number of cases from 2001-2006. “As with any service business, the success depends on the quality of that service, which ultimately means the business is only as good as its providers.” Lori also shares that

“Lynne Hoverson, Darla Adams, Curt Krueger, Trent Siemers, Linda Scramstad, Jody Slominski, Eric Roed, and Lynn Osowski have all delivered safe, vigilant, efficient, cost-conscious, friendly anesthesia service to contribute to the success of GAS. They are all quality providers and all UND graduates!”

Lori also advocates for being involved in professional organizations. “I have reaped the rewards of networking opportunities through AANA and NDANA involvement. I have also developed a real appreciation for the behind the scenes work involved in making nurse anesthesia one of the greatest professions.” Nearly 96% of all CRNAs belong to the AANA, giving the group strength and bargaining power to achieve such accomplishments as being the first non-physician group to obtain direct reimbursement and a very autonomous scope of practice. Without these things it would not be possible to be in independent practice.

“The educational opportunities at UND definitely had a major impact on my career choices in pursuing nursing and becoming a nurse anesthetist.”

Lori Bazey

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**The Nurse Anesthesia program
is planning to celebrate the 20th
anniversary of the first admitted class
during Homecoming, 2007 - plan now to
come back to campus and join us!**

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

At UND, educating students is our #1 priority. We strive to hire the best faculty to educate students and to utilize state-of-the-art equipment and supplies to prepare our students to function independently and confidently upon graduation. However, keeping up with technology and staying updated on the latest tools, equipment and techniques is often expensive. In order to achieve our goals, we ask for your support to help strengthen the program and make a difference for our students.

A gift to the Nurse Anesthesia Specialization will be used to ensure the program has the necessary equipment, supplies, faculty, and staff to continually graduate top-notch nurse anesthetists.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Nurse Anesthesia Specialization please contact Becky Courmia at (701) 777-4526 or beckycourmia@mail.und.edu. You can also contact the UND Foundation directly at (800) 543-8764 or www.undalumnionline.org/contribution.htm. **Please indicate the Nurse Anesthesia Program, Fund # 15580.**

*"How wonderful it is that nobody needs to
wait a single moment before starting to
improve the world."*

Anne Frank

FACULTY & STAFF FOCUS

The success of the UND Nurse Anesthesia Specialization is the result of the talent and hard work of many faculty, staff, and students. Here is a look at a few of the individuals who make the program work.

Darla Adams, MS, CRNA, is the Interim Nurse Anesthesia Program Director and Clinical Assistant Professor at the College of Nursing. She received her BSN in 1984 and her MS in Nurse Anesthesia in 1995, both from UND. Darla is currently completing her doctorate degree in Teaching and Learning, Higher Education from UND. She has clinical privileges and provides anesthesia services at several health facilities in the region and is currently specializing in providing Obstetrical Anesthesia services at Altru Health System. Darla served as Assistant Program Director and Clinical Instructor for the Nurse Anesthesia Specialization from August 2000 to July 2004 and has served as Interim Program Director since February 2005.



Darla



Heidi



Sandy

Heidi Stahl, MS, CRNA, is the Assistant Program Director and Clinical Instructor for the Nurse Anesthesia program. She earned her BSN from UND in 1997 and graduated from the UND Nurse Anesthesia Specialization in 2003. Heidi has practiced clinical anesthesia since 2003 at Altru Health System in Grand Forks. She taught undergraduate nursing classes at UND from 2000 through 2002 and served as the Altru Clinical Coordinator for nurse anesthesia students since October 2003. Heidi was a Clinical Instructor for the Nurse Anesthesia Specialization from August 2004 to August 2005. Her current role as Assistant Program Director includes teaching didactic, lab and simulator experiences as well as clinical instruction and coordination.

Sandy Monette has been the program secretary since 2002. Sandy multi-tasks in several capacities and roles for the College of Nursing. In addition to the Nurse Anesthesia Specialization program, she also works with the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies and is the Web Page Coordinator for the College of Nursing. Additionally, Sandy provides technical and administrative support to the students, faculty and staff when needed. She has an associate degree in accounting, certification as a Computer Tech Support Specialist, and working toward a BS degree in Management and Organizational Leadership.