



## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



**Class of 1993**

Back L to R: Michelle Yarberry, Marci Fragale, Marlene Carnahan, Bryan Daniels, Michael Schuster  
 Middle L to R: Donna (Dunlap) Nyght, Derek Ceola, Renee Thompson, Kathleen McBratney, Dee Schacher  
 Front: Jose Ubalde

Greetings to all alumni of the KU Nurse Anesthesia Program! The KU Nurse Anesthesia Program is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2017! In 1966, the KU Anesthesiology Department started the nurse anesthesia certificate program and four students were admitted in June 1967. The Program received full accreditation status from the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists in 1968. In 1978, the Kansas Board of Regents approved baccalaureate status and the first Bachelor of Science in Nurse Anesthesia degrees were granted to the 1982 graduates. In 1982, the Program was also granted full department status in the School of Allied Health, now the School of Health Professions (SHP). The department transitioned to graduate level in 1984 and the first Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia degrees were awarded in 1987. The KU Nurse Anesthesia Department again embraced academic change and excellence by transitioning to the clinical doctorate degree in 2012 and graduating its first DNP cohort in 2015. The degree designate was changed to Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice and will be the degree awarded to the 2017 graduates in May. Congratulations to all of the outstanding graduates of the KU Nurse Anesthesia Program! Graduates have served both urban and rural facilities in Kansas and across the USA, have proudly served in all branches of the US military, and have been employed by federal facilities such as VHA and public facilities such as Cherokee Nation W.W. Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah, OK. All Program faculty, past and present, are very proud of KU CRNAs and the safe care that they provide to patients every day. The department is also extremely proud of its CRNA graduates filling leadership roles in universities as faculty and administrators, in state and national professional organizations, and on various boards and committees. KU CRNAs make a difference and it is a great time to celebrate the Program and recognize 50 years of excellence!

<b>Inside this issue:</b>	
Director's Message	1
SRNA Spotlight	2
Alumni Fundraiser	3
Chief CRNA Message	3
Lobby Day 2017	4
AANA Fall Leadership	5

The 23 members of the senior class are preparing for graduation on May 14th and passing the National Certification Examination. Nine seniors have signed contracts with KU Hospital and will teach and mentor KU SRNAs. Other seniors have accepted positions in Kansas City area facilities, Oklahoma, Illinois, Nebraska, South Carolina, California, Alabama, and Maryland. Congratulations and best wishes go out to the Class of 2017!

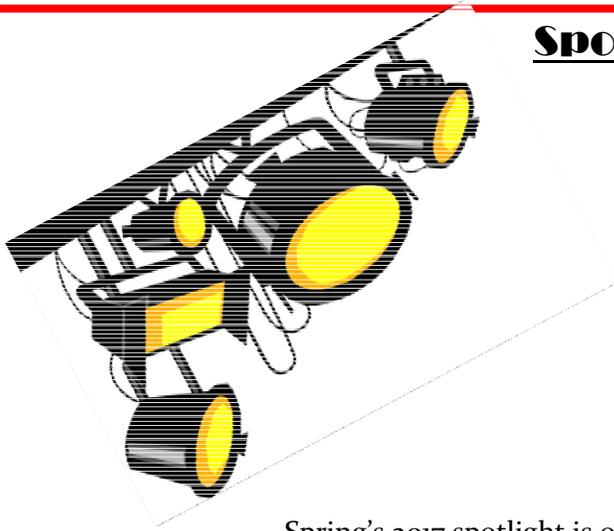
The University of Kansas Health System continues to grow at an astounding pace. The new Health Education Building located at 39th and Rainbow will open in July. This building will house state of the art classrooms and simulation centers, including an apartment and store for use by physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy graduate students within SHP. Growth on the hospital side includes the opening of the first of four towers located between Cambridge and State Line Road, a new parking garage with a planned opening in July, a new facility in Johnson County at the Indian Creek Campus, and expansion of services at facilities across the Kansas City metropolitan area. You can follow the construction progress at <http://www.kumc.edu/construction.html>.

Please join us at the 4th Annual Fundraiser on October 7th at Boulevard Brewery in Kansas City, MO. All proceeds go directly to student funds which support travel to national meetings and mission trips, student support (such as coffee!), and student scholarships. The Program will celebrate its 50th anniversary at the fundraiser, so support from all alumni would be a greatly appreciated!

Donna Nyght, CRNA, DNP

Donna Nyght, CRNA, DNP

**Spotlight**



Spring’s 2017 spotlight is on Samuel Martinez, 2017 SRNA. Sam, a native of Guatemala, moved to America at the age of 12. He attended school in San Diego, California and joined the Air Force after high school graduation. Sam served three years, then entered college and earned his BSN from San Diego State University. He worked for three years as a critical care nurse before entering the University of Kansas nurse anesthesia program. He met Annabelle, his future wife and registered respiratory therapist, while working in California and together they have a six-year-old daughter, Melody. Jazz, rock climbing and cycling are some of Sam’s hobbies.

Sam is in the spotlight for his Senior Scholarly Project, *Development and Implementation of Educational Learning Modules in a Foreign Language with Subtitles*. His project is an experimental study to investigate whether anesthesia professionals benefit from watching academic videos in a foreign language with subtitles presented in their own native language. The two cohorts were anesthesia residents from the *Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Neoplasicas* (INEN) in Lima, Peru, and Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists from the United States. INEN, a prestigious institution established in 1939, specializes in the prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of people affected by neoplastic diseases. Results from the study were positive: learning new concepts was, in fact, facilitated. Sam’s study provides an initial step into the future educational advancement of foreign anesthesia programs, particularly in countries with limited financial options. Hopefully, this option will facilitate improved education and communication between diverse anesthesia groups throughout the world.

Sam extends his gratitude to Dr. Soriano, head of the anesthesia department at INEN, Dr. Kovac, anesthesiologist at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Dr. Nyght, CRNA, DNP, nurse anesthesia education program director, Paul Bennetts, CRNA, PhD, assistant clinical professor, Alisa Blau, CRNA, DrAP, assistant clinical professor, the staff and residents from INEN and the SRNAs at KUMC for making his project possible.

Sam has accepted a position at McBride Orthopedic Clinic in Oklahoma City and will work with KU SRNAs on their peripheral nerve block rotations.

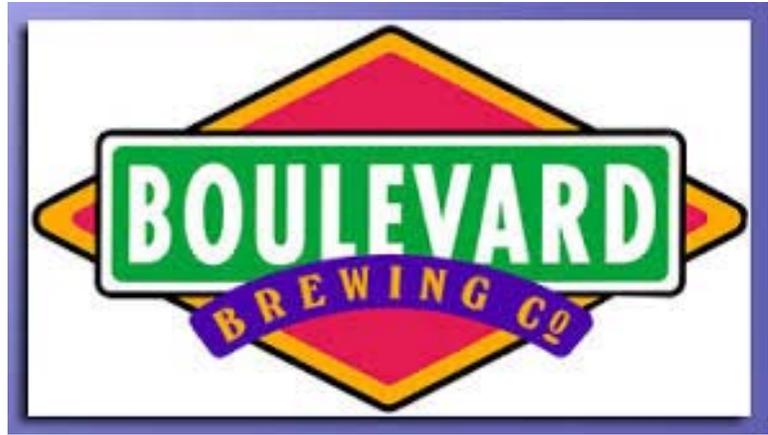


**SAVE - THE - DATE**  
**CELEBRATING KU NURSE ANESTHESIA EDUCATION**  
**50TH ANNIVERSARY: 1967-2017**

**4th Annual Fundraiser**  
 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7th  
 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Boulevard Brewing Co.  
 2501 Southwest Blvd.  
 Kansas City, MO 64108

LIVE MUSIC



All donations and proceeds benefit the KU nurse anesthesia students for participation in Mission trips and attending professional meetings

**University of Kansas Health System is Recruiting CRNAs!**

The University of Kansas Health System is excited to announce that nine KU SRNAs will be joining the team after graduating this spring. The addition of these nine CRNAs will bring the total number of Nurse Anesthetist's employed by the Health System to ninety: Sarah Clift, Taylor Buckler, Trent Blackwill, Kelsey Horton, David Tafreshi, Paige Dempsey, Brooke Dougan, Joe Weimholt, and Cassie Stone. Staff CRNAs at KU Hospital mentor and supervise SRNAs and the KU Nurse Anesthesia Program is proud to have many of its outstanding graduates remain at KU and give back to the profession and their program.

The KU Health System continues to experience tremendous growth. Over the past five years surgical volume has increased 55%. The first of four new hospital towers, Cambridge North Tower, will open later in 2017. This facility will have twelve operating rooms designated for Neurosurgery, ENT, and Oncological cases. In the Spring of 2018, The University of Kansas Health System at Indian Creek will open eight operating rooms in their newly expanded building.

The CRNA recruitment team has traveled to university nurse anesthesia programs, State CRNA meetings, and National AANA meetings to spread the word about the Health System's growth, and recruit more CRNAs. The team sponsored a booth at the recent AANA Faculty Assembly, emphasizing the need for an additional 57 CRNAs in order to staff surgical and procedural areas during this time of rapid growth. Upcoming recruitment trips include TCU, South Dakota, Illinois Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Missouri Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and the AANA Mid-Year Assembly in Washington D.C. where over 600 students are expected to be in attendance.

If you or someone you know would like to discuss job opportunities at The University of Kansas Health System, please contact :

David Pennington, CRNA  
 Lead CRNA for the Department of Anesthesiology  
 The University of Kansas Health System  
 3901 Rainbow Blvd, Kansas City, KS 66160  
 Cell Phone 913-219-3129 | Pager 913-917-1539 | dpennington2@kumc.edu

# Kansas Nurse Anesthesia Lobby Day

## Lobby Day 2017: A Student Perspective

National Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) week was celebrated January 22-28, 2017. National CRNA week is the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) annual celebration for the 50,000+ CRNAs and student nurse anesthetists that provide anesthesia care across the nation. Kansas CRNAs celebrated with their annual Lobby Day on January 25th by travelling to the state capitol.

This annual event is hosted by the Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists (KANA) with the planning and implementation completed by KU Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists (SRNAs). This year senior students Keely Cardwell, Sarah Clift, Corinne Oxenford, and Cassie Stone made Lobby Day very special for Kansas nurse anesthetists. Planning for this year's Lobby Day started in the Spring of 2016 with meetings between key participants. A new addition this year was the opportunity to have the morning meeting take place at the KANA management headquarters located in the office of Gaches, Braden & Associates. Dr. Paul Hertel, President of KANA, started the morning meeting discussing how the day would progress. As students, we have been involved in previous Lobby Days and even travelled to Washington D.C. to meet with Kansas legislators. These past experiences were invaluable to help us successfully execute Lobby Day 2017.

This year, KANA had a true reason to be in Topeka beyond the scope of meeting and greeting legislators. Kansas House Bill 2046 was introduced into the House Health and Human Services committee prior to our Lobby Day. HB 2046 was written to allow anesthesiology assistants to obtain licensure in Kansas. Both the AANA and KANA strongly oppose this legislation and the platform of Lobby Day was an opportunity to present our case to legislators.



For students, this was an incredible opportunity to advocate for the nurse anesthesia profession.

As students, we are thankful that Dr. Donna Nyght and the entire faculty support student efforts to gain leadership experiences. We would also like to thank KANA President Paul Hertel and the entire KANA board for helping organize Lobby Day and mentoring us this past year. Thank you for sharing your time and expertise with us. Our hope is that as future alumni we will continue to be involved and make a positive difference for nurse anesthetists.

### Update your information:

As we lead our busy lives, some may forget to pass along changes in mailing addresses or email addresses. Many of our newsletters and emails are returned. If you are receiving this newsletter, then we have your current address. However, many never get this newsletter.

Please pass along the following web site to update information to any alumni who you keep in touch with: [www.kumc.edu/alumni.html](http://www.kumc.edu/alumni.html). Click "Membership" then click "Update Your Info". You may update email addresses, current occupation, family information, etc., at this site as well. Keep in touch!

## 2016 AANA Fall Leadership Academy

This past November, Carlson Foma and Kelly Weafer had the privilege of attending the 2016 AANA Fall Leadership Academy held in Chicago, Illinois. The meeting took place during a challenging political and professional time for CRNAs. The presidential election occurred the week prior to the meeting, leading to discussions about opportunities and challenges with a new administration. During this same time, CRNAs were in the midst of fighting a battle for full practice authority within the Veterans Health Administration. Kelly and Carlson found themselves in awe and admiration of the strength, articulation, dedication, and resiliency of the leading members of the nurse anesthesia profession. As students, they were also impressed with the level of participation among new members of the profession who have risen to the challenge of accepting leadership roles. The Fall Leadership Academy stresses the importance of leadership within the state associations and on a national level through AANA. Professional support on all levels is crucial for the nurse anesthesia profession and provision of safe and accessible health care for American citizens.



### *In Memory*

Craig Morris, 52, Leawood, KS, passed away peacefully Monday, December 12, 2016. Craig graduated in 2008 from the KU Nurse Anesthesia Education program. Thoughts and condolences are with his loved ones from his KU Nurse Anesthesia Education family. For more information please follow this link: <http://mcgilley-memchap.tributes.com/dignitymemorial/obituary/Craig-Lee-Morris-104240287>



### *KU Nurse Anesthesia Alumni Events*

- ◆ *Alumni Tailgate  
September 23, 2017  
Lawrence, KS - Time TBA*
- ◆ *Open House in Nurse Anesthesia Office -  
October 6, 2017  
Alumni Reunion Week-  
end—October 6-7, 2017*
- ◆ *KU Medical Center - KU  
Nurse Anesthesia Fund-  
raiser October 7, 2017 -  
Details on p. 3*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **67th Annual KU Anesthesiology Symposium**
  - KU Nurse Anesthesia Program sponsors a lunch on Saturday at the Symposium each year for Program alumni and current students Intercontinental on the Plaza, April 28th-30th, 2017
- **Alumni/Program Tailgate: KU vs. West Virginia**
  - September 23rd, 2017, on the hill in Lawrence, Kansas
  - Tailgate/Game Time TBA
- **Fourth Annual Nurse Anesthesia Fundraiser**
  - October 7th, 2017
  - Boulevard Brewery Co., Kansas City, MO
- **KANA Meeting**
  - September 16th, 2017
  - University of Kansas Medical Center- Wahl East Go10 Auditorium  
3901 Rainbow Blvd., Kansas City, KS



Visit us at  
[www.na.kumc.edu](http://www.na.kumc.edu)

OR

Find us on Facebook  
on the KU Nurse Anesthesia page

### Alumni Scholarship

Thank you for supporting the Endowed Alumni Scholarship with generous donations. Currently, one scholarship is awarded to a senior SRNA. Your continued generosity is crucial to student and program success, so please donate to the endowed scholarship fund or the general program endowment fund to support student travel and other expenses. You can donate on the alumni page: [www.na.kumc.edu/alumni.html](http://www.na.kumc.edu/alumni.html). Click on Make a Gift and indicate that the donation is for the scholarship fund or the general fund or contact Peggy Person with KU Endowment at 913-588-5441 or [pperson@KUEndowment.org](mailto:pperson@KUEndowment.org). Thank you for your donations!

### Alumni News

The Program would like to have a regular column in the newsletter featuring alumni accomplishments, but we need your help in collecting those achievements. Please send us any professional events such as articles published, awards received, new degrees earned, involvement in professional organizations, job promotions such as chief CRNA, participation on mission trips, etc. We also welcome personal news, such as weddings and babies! Please send your information to [na@kumc.edu](mailto:na@kumc.edu) or post it on Facebook on the KU Nurse Anesthesia page.

## **KU Nurse Anesthesia Education**

**Mail Stop 2020**

**3901 Rainbow Boulevard**

**Kansas City, KS 66160**

*FEE 15303*