DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

Hello to all alumni of the KU Nurse Anesthesia Program! Spring semester is well underway and graduation for the 2016 class is quickly approaching. I want to wish our seniors the very best as they finish classes and clinical, prepare for their oral competency exam, and study for the National Certification Examination. Most of the seniors have accepted jobs and many will remain at KU Hospital and work with our future SRNAs. Congratulations seniors!

The KU Nurse Anesthesia Education Department has successfully changed the degree awarded from Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) to Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP). In summer 2015, Dr. Karen Miller retired after 17 successful years as Dean of both KU School of Nursing and KU School of Health Professions. When the KU Nurse Anesthesia Program (NA) transitioned from masters to clinical doctorate in 2012, Dr. Miller made the decision to award the degree through the School of Nursing (SON) rather than through the School of Health Professions (SHP). The CRNA faculty members wanted to remain in SHP and retain full department status because the SON does not have departments and Dr. Miller agreed to this compromise. KU made the decision to hire separate Deans for the schools and because of this decision, CRNA faculty believed that earning the degree from the SON would no longer be feasible. With the full support of KUMC administration, the NA program worked through the appropriate channels at the university graduate level and received permission from the Kansas Board of Regents to change the degree. The Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA) was notified of the degree change by Dr. Robert Klein, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at KUMC, and the COA determined that this was not a major programmatic change and acknowledged the degree as DNAP. The Kansas State Board of Nursing was also notified of the degree change. The current senior class will earn the DNP through SON, but the 2017 and 2018 cohorts will receive DNAP degrees and all incoming students will enroll in the DNAP curriculum.

I want all of our alumni and students to welcome the new Dean of SHP, Dr. Abiodun Akinwuntan, who came to KUMC in mid-January from Georgia Regents University. Dr. Akinwuntan earned a Bachelor of Science in physiotherapy from the University of Lagos in Nigeria and a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in neuromotor rehabilitation from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium. He also earned a Postgraduate Certificate in Education from the University of East London and a Master of Public Health from Georgia Regents University. Although Dr. Akinwuntan has only been at KU one month, he has learned what it means to be a Jayhawk basketball fan and has made an immediate impact on all departments within SHP. The Nurse Anesthesia Education Department looks forward to working with Dr. Akinwuntan on the challenges facing graduate education and the nurse anesthesia profession.

Donna Nyght, CRNA, DNP
David Pennington is a 1988 graduate of the KU Nurse Anesthesia Program and has been working at KU Hospital since January of 2013. Prior to returning to his Jayhawk roots, he worked as a CRNA at Providence Medical Center for 25 years. David has just recently been promoted to the role of Lead CRNA at KU Hospital. This is a new position to the department and one that he hopes to develop. Some of the suspected responsibilities will include scheduling, assisting with hiring, and representing CRNAs in meetings outside of the OR. Below you can read more about David does when he is not in green scrubs and a blue cap.

Community involvement:
I coach track and cross country at Shawnee Mission East High School. In the spring I coach hurdles in track from March until Memorial weekend [editor’s note – David won the Kansas High School Assistant Track Coach of the year in 2015]. In the fall I coach Cross Country from Mid Aug until Halloween. I love molding young athletes into college caliber athletes, but love even more molding them into quality individuals.

What you like to do outside of KU or an interesting fact about yourself:
I like to run as many days a week as I can fit it in. I have a beautiful wife, Debbie, who runs the Neonatal home here at KU. I also have three grown children: Boy/girl twins that are married (not to each other), and a daughter that just graduated from KU.

Anything else you would like to include:
I enjoy working with the SRNA students. It’s exciting to see how quickly you all pick up this whole anesthesia thing and in such a short time frame you are able to confidently do a case from start to finish. I will be working to improve communication and relationships between the SRNA group and the hospital CRNAs.
SAVE - THE - DATE
THE SCHOOL OF NURSE ANESTHESIA

3RD ANNUAL
CELEBRATION
&
FUNDRAISER
SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH
7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

STOCKYARDS BREWING CO.
1600 Genessee St. Suite #100

All proceeds benefit CRNA students as they pursue participation in Mission trips and attend professional meetings

OPEN BAR — FOOD — SILENT AUCTION — ENTERTAINMENT

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**CHRIS BROUGHTON**

Official Title of your position: Academic Affairs Coordinator

Date you started with the Department: 1/25/2016

Job Responsibilities: A variety of administrative support, over all assist students academically

Previous Job before coming to our department: Administrative Assistant; Cardiovascular Research Institute - KUMC

What you like to do outside of KU or an interesting fact about yourself: Spending time with my family, outdoors, riding our motorcycle and trips to the lake!

Anything else you would like to add: I love working at KUMC!

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**RAJEAN BUFFA**

Official Title of your position: Program Coordinator

Date you started with the Department: April 13, 2015

Job Responsibilities: Helping students stay ‘in line’, online, and toeing the line, as well as a plethora of varied and interesting responsibilities each day!

Previous Job before coming to our department: Mid-level Coordinator in the Department of Anesthesiology

What you like to do outside of KU or an interesting fact about yourself: I’m all about Faith, Family, and Friends...and throw in a little jazz on the side.

Anything else you would like to add: I love this place and all the people I work with and for. You all ROCK!!

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Kansas Nurse Anesthesia Lobby

The seventh annual KANA Lobby Day was held at the Kansas State Capitol in Topeka on January 27th, 2016. The day saw record-breaking attendance with 59 student registered nurse anesthetists (SRNA’s) and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA’s) present. Students from Newman University, Texas Wesleyan University, and the University of Kansas all participated with some students originally hailing from as far away as Guatemala and Cameroon. The diversity and excitement the students brought contributed to the strongest showing in the event’s history. The purpose of this important day is to promote the CRNA profession and increase student awareness and participation in political activities that impact nurse anesthesia practice.

The day was a great success. Many legislators acknowledged the important role of nurse anesthetists in Kansas for their constituents and praised the number of participants and level of organizational involvement. The feedback from SRNAs and CRNAs was overwhelmingly positive; those who attended recognized the significance of being an active participant in the political issues facing their profession. As an annual event coinciding with National CRNA Week in January, it is hoped that the great turnout and participation from this year will be surpassed next year. The energy and enthusiasm displayed by all involved with Lobby Day 2016 was much appreciated, and those who were unable to attend are encouraged to participate next year.
Paige Dempsey and Amy Dreiling, SRNAs in the class of 2017, are helping disseminate information about nurse anesthesia to high school students in the Blue Valley School District as part of their leadership project. The Blue Valley Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) allows junior and senior high school students innovative opportunities and education in their anticipated field of study and interest. CAPS is divided into strands dedicated to various professional studies, one of which is the medicine and healthcare strand. Erin Hayes, a healthcare strand instructor, gave the KU Nurse Anesthesia team the opportunity to speak with approximately 40 students regarding the profession of nurse anesthesia. The presentation included the history of nurse anesthesia, the role of CRNAs, and the education required to become a CRNA. Paige and Amy demonstrated on airway mannequins how to properly mask ventilate and intubate and then helped CAPS students practice these skills in a hands on simulation period. The goal of this presentation was to educate and inspire future generations of nurse anesthetists.

Wellness Committee

The stressful environment and high demand of earning a Doctorate in Nurse Anesthesia Practice can be a lot for students to handle. The KU Nurse Anesthesia Department has been working diligently to prepare students for these challenges and to help cope with the high demand on time learning. In addition to programs already in place for SRNAs, the Wellness Committee has now been created. This will be the 2nd year for this group and SRNAs Kelly Olmstead and Brooke Dougan hope to expand the positive impact. This year they are planning to have a more comprehensive approach to wellness, tackling both mental and physical well-being. Last summer they implemented “First Friday” birthday treats to celebrate all of the student birthdays within the month. Brooke and Kelly feel this has been a nice way to bring camaraderie among all three classes. They also plan to organize group activities that will focus on healthy ways to reduce stress. Examples might include group exercise classes, meditation classes, or even just finding ways to freshen up the break room to elevate moods.
UPCOMING EVENTS

- **66th Annual KU Postgraduate Symposium on Anesthesiology**
  - KU Nurse Anesthesia Program sponsors a lunch on Saturday at the Symposium each year for Program alumni
  - April 1-3, 2016, Kansas City, Missouri
- **Alumni/Program Tailgate: KU vs. Ohio University**
  - September 10, 2016 on the hill in Lawrence, Kansas
  - Tailgate/Game Time TBA
- **Third Annual Nurse Anesthesia Fundraiser**
  - October 8, 2016
  - Stockyards Brewing Co., Kansas City, MO

Alumni News

We want to have a regular column in the newsletter featuring alumni accomplishments, but we need your help in collecting those accomplishments. Please send us any professional achievements 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 or post it on Facebook on the KU Nurse Anesthesia page.

Alumni Scholarship

Thank you for all of your support to get the Alumni Scholarship endowed. We have reached the required $30,000! A scholarship committee will decide the specifics of the award. Your continued donations are 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 our 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 you can contact Peggy Person with KU Endowment at 913-588-5441 or

KU Nurse Anesthesia Education

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