



# KU THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

## Nurse Anesthesia

### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Hello to all Program alumni and students! The 2014 class started the novice phase in the OR at KU Hospital at the beginning of January and will transition to full time clinical in April. Twenty two students are set to graduate on May 13<sup>th</sup> and begin their CRNA careers after passing the NCE. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, we will welcome the 24 SRNAs who will graduate in 2015: time passes quickly and is very cyclical for the Program faculty and staff members!

The Program has met its goal of applying for entry level DNP accreditation. The deadline for submission to the COA (Council of Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs) was March 1<sup>st</sup>. COA will make a decision whether to grant the request for the DNP at the May 2012 board meeting. If approved, the 2015 class which starts on May 29<sup>th</sup> will be our first DNP cohort. Please check the Program's web site for an announcement regarding the COA's decision and further information on the transition to the DNP.

KUMC administration made the decision that the Program would use the School of Nursing's DNP rather than stay completely independent in the School of Health Professions and transition from a Masters of Nurse Anesthesia to a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice. Because of this decision, the Program is unable to independently offer a post masters DNAP completion degree. The School of Nursing (SoN) is accredited for a post masters DNP, which is the degree that Karri Arndt, Shelley Barenklau, Paul Hertel, and I have completed. This degree is not a nurse anesthesia specialty tract but does require all of the courses which must now be included in an entry level DNP curriculum. If you are interested in pursuing a post masters DNP through KUMC, you must contact the SoN (nursing.kumc.edu) rather than the Nurse Anesthesia Education Department for information. Since I have completed this program of study and can speak first hand regarding the courses, I want to assure all of our alumni that the SoN is open to projects and assignments with an anesthesia focus. Assignments in every course were flexible and allowed for any advanced practice nurse to focus on their own interests. I found it interesting to take courses with other APRNs and many of them enjoyed learning more about our profession just as I learned about theirs.

I want to assure every one of our Program graduates that you will be a CRNA for the remainder of your career with the terminal degree you received upon graduation, be it certificate, baccalaureate, or masters. Clinical doctorates will only be required for certain positions, and that will be primarily for teaching. Universities will not allow instruction for a degree (doctorate) by faculty members with a lower degree (masters or lower) for most courses. The COA requires doctoral degrees for program administrators and assistant program administrators by 2018 and all clinical site coordinators must have master's degrees by 2014.

Karri Arndt and I just attended the AANA Assembly of School Faculty meeting in San Diego. It was an informative meeting with announcements and explanations regarding the NBCRNA recertification changes, revisions to the Standards for Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs, and good presentations related to student instruction.

I hope to see many of you at the KU Symposium in April: please join us for the annual alumni lunch on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, at the meeting. Finally, a big thank you to Alyson Algrim and Erica Floodman for taking over the Alumni Capstone Project and editing the newsletter!

Donna Nyght, CRNA, DNP

**Inside this issue:**

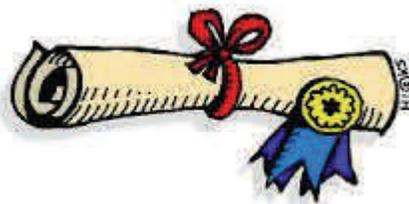
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## Student Spotlight: Sledge and Hicks



Senior KU nurse anesthesia student, **Andrew Sledge** was honored with the Ruth M. Wright, CRNA Memorial Scholarship. He is pictured left with **Ruth Lebeck CRNA, PhD** one of the sponsors of the scholarship and is Ruth Wright's daughter. The AANA offers a number of scholarships across the country to help support SRNAs who are achieving excellence in their program, and who have great potential in assuming leadership roles in their future career as a CRNA. Sledge was invited to attend the student luncheon at the AANA Annual Meeting where they received recognition for his scholarship and met with the scholarship sponsor.

Senior KU nurse anesthesia student, **Lawton Hicks** (right), was honored with the Lawrence Memorial Auxiliary Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded every other year to a student in the health care professions. The student must be a Douglas County resident, have a high GPA and display leadership potential.



## Welcome New Administrative Officer

Carrie Hewitt joined the Nurse Anesthesia office January 2, 2012. Carrie previously worked as an office manager for a foreign language service company for 10 years. She is married with three children ages 8, 10, and 12 that keep her busy! Don't hesitate to stop by the office and say hello to welcome her.

Ruth Lee is retiring after working 10 years for KU Nurse Anesthesia program as the Administrative Officer. Ruth will be in phase retirement this year to help Carrie with the transition. Ruth plans on traveling, spending time with her new granddaughter, reading, and staying involved in community organizations.



Pictured: (Left) Ruth Lee  
(Right) Carrie Hewitt

## 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 like the AANA or state affiliates, job promotions like chief CRNA, participation on mission trips, etc. We also want personal news, like 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.



## Focus on Alumni: Jennifer Anson

KUMC Alumni Reunion Weekend was October 7-8, 2011 with family and friends gathering for an unforgettable celebration. Many events took place, including, tours of new research facilities, multiple award ceremonies, and visiting with classmates .

The University of Kansas School of Health Professions Alumni Association was proud to bestow the 2011 Early Career Achievement Award upon Jennifer Anson, MS, CRNA, for her constant efforts to expand her healing reach and bring care and comfort to those in need.



After earning her bachelor's degree in nursing from Nebraska Methodist College in 2000, Anson began her career at the Round Rock Medical Center's emergency department in Round Rock, Texas. Over the next five years, she furthered her experience by specializing in flight nursing and ICU nursing. After extensive work in level 2 and 3 trauma care, she enrolled in the nurse anesthesia education program in the KU School of Allied Health (now called the School of Health Professions). After completing the 36-month program, she accepted a position as a CRNA at Heartland Anesthesia Services. Currently, she is working as a CRNA at the Creighton University Medical Center in Omaha, Neb., where she specializes in emergency, cardiothoracic, neurogenic, pediatric, and obstetric anesthesia.

Despite her outstanding professional career, it's Anson's work outside the hospital that has earned the respect and admiration of her peers. Philanthropy has long been a cornerstone of Anson's life, and from a young age, she took a great interest in helping those in need. In 1993, she began taking part in the Faith Community Church's Mexicali Outreach program, where she provided nursing care to the children of Mexicali, Mexico. After completing the nurse anesthesia program, she participated in medical mission trips, providing anesthesia services to the people of Africa, Peru and the Dominican Republic.

Anson has also devoted her time to easing the suffering of individuals affected by natural disasters. As part of the Creighton University Disaster Relief Team, she provided medical and non-medical care in the Dominican Republic. On short notice, Anson traveled to earthquake-affected areas and worked in less-than-optimal conditions and with limited supplies. And she was on the ground within a week after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, bringing much-needed anesthesia to those in need of surgery.

Anson has plans to lead a medical mission trip to Arequipa, Peru, to provide anesthesia services and help individuals dealing with diseases common to the area. As part of her commitment to better help those in need, Anson has continued her education by studying Spanish at Metro Community College. Jennifer Anson is an inspiration to all CRNAs and the Program congratulates her on this award.

## Name Change for School of Allied Health

Approved by the Kansas Board of Regents, the new title has changed to the University of Kansas School of Health Professions. This became official August 25, 2011 to better reflect the wide-array of health care professionals it educates. This was initiated by a group of students at the University of Kansas Medical Center; the name change reflects a growing trend among similar academic health care institutions in an effort to gain greater notice. Established in 1974, the school offers more than 25 degree programs in nine academic departments. Five of those programs- nurse anesthesia, physical therapy, speech-language pathology, and audiology, are ranked in the top 25 of all public programs by *U.S. News and World Report*. To learn more, visit the website at <http://healthprofessions.kumc.edu>

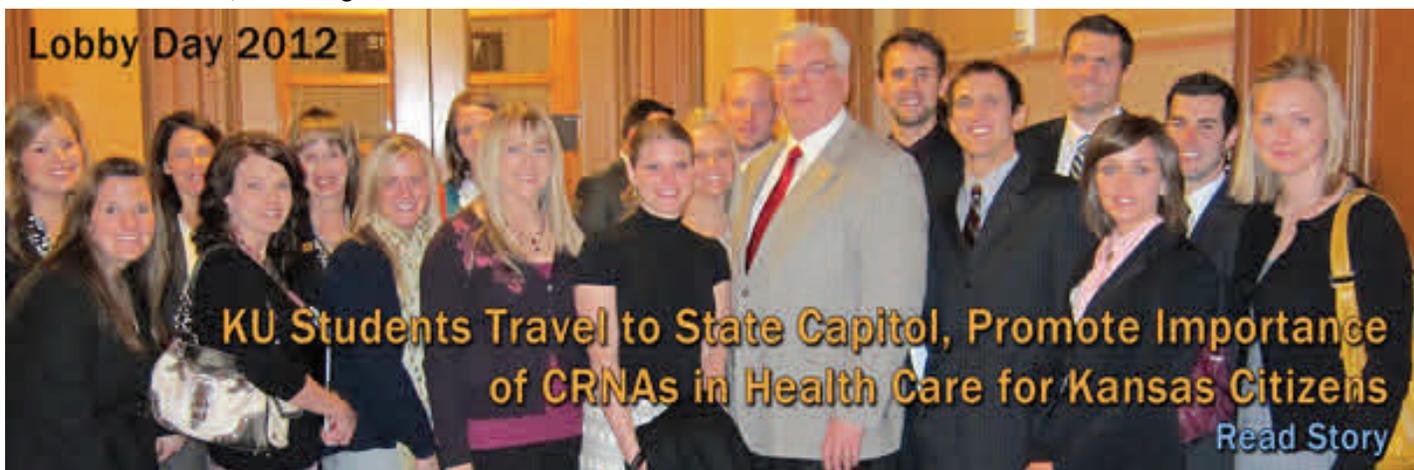


## Lobby Day: January 24, 2012



Donna Nyght, CRNA, DNP; Paul Hertel CRNA, MS; Kansas Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer, MD (Center).

Twenty-four graduate nurse anesthesia students from the University of Kansas Medical Center, Newman University of Wichita, Kan., and Texas Wesleyan University of Fort Worth, Texas, participated in Lobby Day. Faculty representatives from the Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists and lobbyists from Hein Law Firm were also in attendance. This annual event was a planned component of the National Nurse Anesthetist Week. Certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) administer more than 32 million anesthetics annually, according to the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. CRNAs are the primary providers of anesthetic care in nearly 100 percent of America’s rural hospitals. CRNAs have also been the primary providers of anesthetic care on American military bases around the world since the Civil War. After being briefed by Hein Law Firm attorneys, students posed for a group photo with Kansas Governor Sam Brownback. Students then proceeded to individual legislator meetings to educate Kansas policymakers on the role CRNAs play in caring for the citizens of Kansas. Nurse anesthetists provide cost-effective, high quality services to patients throughout the state. During a lunch sponsored by the Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Aaron Jack spoke about the role of CRNAs in Kansas policy. Jack, Kansas securities commissioner and KU alumnus, said nurse anesthetists can impact policy decisions by donating to the CRNA-PAC fund and developing personal relationships with the local representatives. Following lunch, participants continued the legislator sessions and observed a session of the Kansas Senate. Many first-time participants said they were thrilled with the positive feedback they received from the Kansas legislators with whom they met. More than 20 members of the Kansas Legislature received individual appointments. Students said they are looking forward to another lobby day next year to continue educating Kansas policy makers on the issues facing their profession. National Nurse Anesthetists Week is celebrated the last full week in January on an annual basis. 2012 marked the 13th [National Nurse Anesthetists Week](#), which began in 1999.



## Clinical Affiliate Site Spotlight:

### University of Kansas Hospital - Center for Advanced Heart Care



University of Kansas Hospital Center for Advanced Heart Care, Kansas City, Kansas is currently the clinical affiliate site for CardioThoracic surgeries. SRNAs participate in the management of patients presenting for cardiothoracic, aortic, vascular surgery, one lung ventilation, insertion/monitoring of invasive catheters, and transesophageal echocardiography. SRNAs are also assigned to specialty cases in the EP lab. This is a senior level affiliate assignment and currently all students will be assigned here. The clinical instructors at this facility are Paul Bennets, CRNA, Paul Hertel, CRNA, and Patrick Donnelly CRNA.

### Faculty In The Spotlight:

Karri Arndt, CRNA, DNP, is Assistant Program Director for the KU Nurse Anesthesia Education Department. She has over ten years of experience in nurse anesthesia and in her role of clinical assistant professor, Dr. Arndt is responsible for both didactic and clinical instruction for nurse anesthesia students at all educational levels. Dr. Arndt received an ADN from Central Community College in Grand Island, Nebraska and BSN from Clarkson College. She earned her MS in Nurse Anesthesia from the University of Kansas in 1999 and received the George G. DeVane Clinical Excellence Award. Dr. Arndt recently completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from the KU School of Nursing. Dr. Arndt is a member of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, the Missouri Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Sigma Theta Tau International, and the National Association of Professional Women.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists Spring Meeting**
  - March 30th and 31st, 2012 at Westin Kansas City at Crown Center. One East Pershing Road KC, MO 64108
- **62nd Annual KU Postgraduate Symposium on Anesthesiology**
  - KU Nurse Anesthesia department sponsors a lunch at the Symposium each year for Program alumni
  - April 13-15, 2012, InterContinental Hotel Kansas City at the Plaza, Kansas City, Missouri  
<http://www.continuinged.ku.edu/kumc/anesthesiology/>
- **Alumni/Program Tailgate: KU vs. RICE**
  - September 8, 2012, on the hill in Lawrence, Kansas
  - Tailgate/Game Time TBA



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 Being Developed

The KU Program is working to establish an Alumni Scholarship Fund. To have an endowed scholarship requires \$30,000. The fund currently has \$6,800. Once the fund has reached the goal of \$30,000, alumni will be involved in establishing criteria and awarding scholarships to current students in the program.

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 you can contact Peggy Person with KU Endowment at 913-588-5441 or [pperson@KUEndowment.org](mailto:pperson@KUEndowment.org). Thank you for your donations!

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