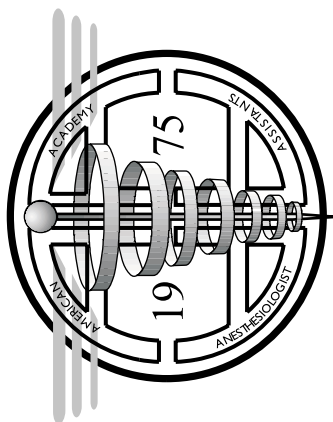


The Anesthesia Record

2nd Quarter 2006

The Newsletter of the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants



The President's Message

By Ellen Allinger, AA-C

Bragging Rights

I want to do something that doesn't happen much in the AAAA. I want to brag about us. For those of you who attended, you know that this year's annual meeting was in a beautiful resort on the lovely location of Hilton Head Island, SC, that this meeting had the highest attendance in the history of the AAAA, that we had an exhibit hall filled with exhibit booths, and that there was an abundance of support from AA program personnel and anesthesiologists from across the country. In other words, this was one of the best overall meetings that the AAAA has ever put together.

However, it is recent conversations with two anesthesiologists who were at the AAAA meeting that has motivated me to brag on our organization. Dr. Jim Gibbons from Missouri attended the entire meeting along with several of his colleagues from MO to promote AA employment opportunities in Missouri and to garner support for a new AA program at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. Accompanied by his lovely wife, Dr. and Mrs. Gibbons told me at the meeting that they were both impressed by the amount of energy that they felt throughout the conference. Most impressive to them was the fact that everyone attended and was interested in the general business meeting held during Sunday's lunch. Despite its length of 1 hour and 20 minutes, very few people left the room before the end of the meeting, and everyone paid attention to the speakers.

In addition to the Gibbons' compliments, I received what I consider high praise from one of the speakers. I saw Dr. Jerry Maccioli recently in Washington, D.C., where we were both attending the ASA's Legislative Conference. He has lectured extensively in his career as an anesthesiologist. He specifically said to me that he has probably given over 125 guest lectures at meetings in his lifetime, but that he would place the AAAA meeting in his top ten of his lecture recipients. Specifically, the questions that followed not only his but the other lectures showed that participants were there to learn and not just to put in the time to acquire CMEs. He stated that the questions were good ones and showed knowledge, interest, and thought.

I think that the progress of our annual meeting to a point where anesthesiologists are complimenting us on its quality is indicative of our entire organization's progress. When I first got involved with AAAA leadership in 2001, the biggest concerns on the leadership level were AAAA membership numbers and how to open new states to AA practice. Now, the AAAA leadership is dealing with so many more issues that it is nearly mind-boggling. We are involved in federal government issues such as gaining recognition in the Veteran Affairs

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The Editor's Column

By Liz Decker, AA-C, Co-Editor
A Chance Encounter

Six years ago I had an incredible stroke of good luck. I was in my hometown of Greenville for the weekend, out downtown with some friends, one of whom happened to run into an acquaintance from high school (I'll call her Jennifer). My friend comes up to me and says "Liz, I have found your career." This was big news! At that point in my life, I was 3 years out of college, living in the middle of nowhere Louisiana as an Army wife, and still trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my life, if and when I got to leave Fort Polk, Louisiana. My friend knew that I had considered just about every healthcare career out there — physician, dentist, dental hygienist, physical therapist, occupational therapist, nurse, speech pathologist. If it was in a health professions career booklet, I had researched it. Well, I ended up talking to Jennifer that night and found out she was finishing up a Masters program in Cleveland, Ohio to become an anesthesiologist assistant. She was extremely enthusiastic about her new vocation and more than willing to educate me as to how I, too, could become an AA. I got her email address, eventually moved out of Louisiana, and 5 years later received my own Master's degree as an anesthesiologist assistant.

I tell you this for two reasons. First, had my health professions advisor known about AAs when I was a senior in college, maybe it wouldn't have taken me so long to find my career. The External Communications Update in this newsletter mentions the exciting news that the AAAA will be sending a representative to the NAAHP (National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions) in June to educate these health advisors about our profession. What a great link to potential students.

Second, even though my advisor did not know about anesthesiologist assistants, and I never read about the profession in my own personal (and I must say pretty comprehensive) search, here I am because of a chance encounter. I personally cannot take any credit for the great strides made by the AAAA these past several years. Besides paying my dues, I may not have the time, energy, or even the inclination (though I am grateful to those who do) to take on a leadership role or volunteer for a committee. But I have come up with something that I can do — I can become that stroke of good luck for someone else. I have chalked one up on my belt already. It is pretty neat to think about the fact that there is an AA student out there right now because he heard about the profession through me.

Our profession needs new recruits. In the past two years, the number of educational programs has doubled (with more on the way) and job opportunities for AAs continue to grow. It seems to me that a great way to fill these openings with quality people is to personally recruit future AAs. Be it a friend, friend's child, relative, or acquaintance, each of us should be able to identify one potential future AA and purposely introduce them to our profession. Even if you can't think of a specific individual right now, resolve to recruit at least one AA applicant by the year's end. And don't forget about the opportunities awaiting in the form of chance encounters. By the way, thanks Jen!

Inside AAAA

North Carolina AA Licensing Battle:

Going Well But Not Done Yet!

By Ellen Allinger, AA-C

On Wednesday, May 31st, North Carolina HB 1330 to authorize licensure of anesthesiologist assistants passed another hurdle. The Senate Finance Committee unanimously passed the bill. In addition, this bill was given a favorable recommendation by the committee. This bill now goes for a second and third reading on the floor of the Senate in order to be passed.

However, the battle for AA licensure in NC is far from over. HB 503, which was passed by two NC House Committees last year, has still not been released to the full House by the Committee Chairman of the House Health Committee, Rep. Wright. This bill must be released so that it may be read for passage by the full House. The AAAA and the NCSA will work together to convince the Speaker of the House, Rep. Jim Black, to move this bill forward for consideration by the House.

If HB 1330 is passed by the Senate and HB 503 is likewise passed by the House, the two bills will go to a special committee that reconciles similar bills that have different language. The approved final version of the bill would then go to NC Governor Mike Easley for his signature into law. All of this must be accomplished before the 2005-2006 NC legislative session ends in order for AA licensing in NC to become law. Currently, the end of the NC biennial session has not been set.

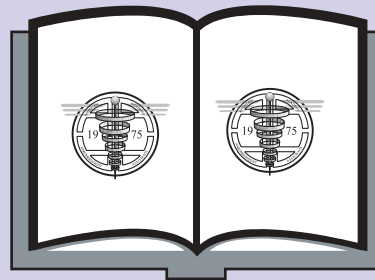
Several AAs and AA students have given of their time and energy to be physically present at these two important committee hearings. I would like to thank the first and second year Emory University students that took the time to come to Raleigh for the Senate Health Committee meeting, especially Lauren Bronikowski and Ed Cardinal for helping to organize their classmates for this event and coordinate this with the NCSA and

the AAAA. Also, thanks to Megan Varellas, Amie Schilling, and Jill Stevens for their physical presence at these meetings. Also, thanks to those of you who wrote personal letters supporting AA licensure that went to NC Senators. Special thanks go to Maggie O'Neal for her tireless efforts in emailing and visiting legislators as well as the many trips that she has made to Raleigh, both this year and last, in support of AA licensing in North Carolina.

Bylaws Change Notice

Saral Patel AA-C , Bylaws and Ethics Committee Chairman

The AAAA Educational Program Committee will now be known as the *AAAA Education and Practice Committee*. The bylaws change passed as of April 1st, 2006. I would like to thank all members for returning their ballots and participating in the vote. Your support is always appreciated.



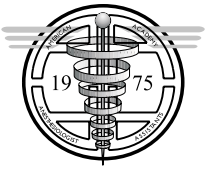
“President’s Message,” continued from page 1

system and the armed forces. We are dealing with the expansion and quality assurance of AA education, not only within the AAAA but also in conjunction with the ASA. We are making great headway in promoting a positive image of the AA profession by news releases, articles, and t.v. spots through our public relations and media initiative. These are just a few of the items that the AAAA is working on this year and for the future.

The last thing that I want to brag about goes back to the annual meeting. The AAAA leadership no longer handles the annual meeting. It is handled by the Annual Meeting Committee

and the AAAA management office. The AAAA is progressing to the level that our professional organization needs to attain; where the leadership can focus on leading and the committees and office effectively handle the areas for which they are responsible. I want everyone in the AAAA to know that many of the successes that have occurred already this year, and the great strides in progress that we are making, can be attributed to the volunteer committee chairs that this organization has this year and the dedication that they have to their positions. My many thanks to all of you for helping me with making this first part of 2006 a great success for the AAAA.

Inside AAAA



30th Annual Conference – Another Successful Meeting!

The 2006 AAAA meeting was our 30th annual national conference and the interesting courses, excellent speakers and beautiful location proved to be a successful combination! Our meeting schedule once again featured plenty of opportunities for free time, optional additional CME credits, and lots of fun-filled social events.

Meeting attendees evaluated the speakers on a scale of 1-5 (5=excellent). All speakers received a very high rating, along with the choice of topics, meeting location, and meeting format. The favorite speakers of the meeting were Stanley Mogelnicki, MD, PhD and Gerald Maccioli, MD. Both received excellent feedback and their topics were judged to be very stimulating and educational.

Our welcome reception and awards ceremony was held at sunset on Saturday evening. The ocean breezes, great food and music relaxed our attendees and their guests as everyone caught up with friends and colleagues. We honored Dr. Steven Goldfien, of California and Dr. Stanley Mogelnicki, of Georgia for their continued support and active involvement in the growth of our profession. An award is also presented every year to an AA for their outstanding service to the profession. Theresa Green, AA-C, of Michigan, was honored this year for her many years of service and dedication to our organization and profession.

Students from Case, Emory, and South competed, head to head, in our 2nd annual game of Jeopardy lead by Dr. Joel



Dr. and Mrs. Stan Mogelnicki accept his award for Distinguished Service by a Physician.

Zivot. It was an entertaining hour where graduates were able to cheer their Alma Mater teams on and support the students in the quest for the plaque that remains in the winner's program for a year. Congratulations to this year's winner — Case! All three teams made a fantastic effort and competed intensely. A new addition to the competition was the donation of anesthesia books by our exhibiting medical publisher, W.B. Saunders. These books were shipped to the winning program's office to be added to the program library.

A huge thank you to all the sponsors, exhibitors and job fair participants for the support of this year's meeting in Hilton Head Island. A list of our sponsors, exhibitors and job fair participants is on page 5.

Mark your calendars for the 31st Annual Conference! It will be held April 21-25, 2007 at the Shores Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach, FL. The Shores is a brand new, Noble House Property and a AAA 4-diamond resort located in the residential Daytona Beach Shores area. Every guest-room offers a stunning water view! Please check the website (www.anesthetist.org) for more details and a link to the hotel website. We'll see you there!



Attendees mingle in the Exhibit Hall.

Inside AAAA

AAAA Job Fair and Student Social

The 3rd annual Job Fair was very well attended. Seven companies from around the country joined us for a lovely evening amid the pleasant breezes and beautiful ocean vistas of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Employers, certified AAs and AA students discussed practice opportunities in numerous desirable locations while mingling at our evening social function.

Thank You to Our Conference Supporters!

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Job Fair Participants

Georgia Anesthesiologists, PC
Missouri Society of Anesthesiologists
Northside Anesthesiology Consultants
ProMed Assistance Group
Providence Hospital
TEAMHealth — Anesthesia Management Services
Washington Hospital Center



Marvin Lytle of Providence Hospital chats with potential job candidates.

Inside AAAA

National Affairs Update

By Pete Kaluszyk, AA-C, National Affairs Chairman

The start of the 2007 legislative year initially appeared to be as somnolent as a winter forest; however, the budding of some legislative opportunities offered some hope for an early and busy legislative year. The legislative picture for the first few months has really brought a mixed bag of news for our profession in terms of successes and setbacks.

An opportunity arose early this year from an unexpected quarter in the form of legislation from Kentucky related to the Kentucky Physician Assistant law that was due for a revision. Although this law was written for general physician assistants in the late 1980's, it included provisions for AA practice.

At that time, there were two AAs working in Kentucky and the state felt that AA practice needed to be defined. Our profession had just obtained recognition as a health care profession from the American Medical Association immediately prior to the Kentucky PA law being written. The AA accreditation and certification process had not yet been fully developed and approved, nor did we have any AA specific model practice acts to submit for consideration. The Kentucky legislature decided to use the PA model to define AAs, and as a result, it required that if an AA was to work in Kentucky the AA had to have a general PA certification. Consequently, if an AA wanted to work in Kentucky that AA would have the daunting task of maintaining two certification and recertification processes. This law thus inadvertently created a real barrier to accessing employment in Kentucky for AAs. Since then, our profession has developed an accreditation, certification, recertification process and developed a model practice act.

The amending of the existing PA law to remove the general PA certification requirement has been a goal of the AAAA. When the revision of the Kentucky statutes came up, the AAAA was notified, and we immediately responded with alternative wording to remove this provision. Ellen Allinger was assigned to head this project up and has been shepherding it along with the lobbyist from the Kentucky Society of Anesthesiologists (KSA). The AA part of the bill was split off from the PA Bill and Senate Bill 175 (SB 175) was introduced with language that mirrored AA practice in other states.

Needless to say SB 175 ran into opposition from the Kentucky Association of Nurse Anesthetists (KYANA). The basis of the opposition was the KYANA's assertion that keeping the PA requirement would keep Kentucky citizens "safe." No facts were submitted by the KYANA to substantiate this assertion. Due to pressure from KYANA the bill would have been pigeonholed in committee, relegating it to legislative limbo. However, efforts by Ellen Allinger and the KSA lobbyist prevented that from happening. As a result SB 175 was rewritten and included language to form

a Kentucky Legislative Research Commission (LRC). The bill directs the LRC to "study the certification and scope of practice requirements of anesthesiologist assistants in Kentucky to those requirements in all states that statutorily license or certify anesthesiologist assistants; require the results of the study to be transmitted to the appropriate committees by December 15, 2006." In this form the bill passed easily in both chambers of the Kentucky legislature and the Governor signed the Bill on April 5th, 2006. The KSA lobbyist will be monitoring the activities of the LRC and informing the AAAA as to the progress of this committee.

In South Carolina, Senate Bill 142 (SB 142) was introduced by the South Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists (SCSA) as a "housekeeping" bill to tweak the existing AA licensing law. The principal amendment was to change the AA:anesthesiologist supervisory ratios from 2:1 to 4:1 which mirrors the Federal standard for supervision. The bill has been plodding along and made it through two Senate committees and onto the Senate floor. One SC state senator opposed the bill and was able to block the Bill at this stage, purportedly because his daughter is a CRNA. As a result, the Bill will probably die on the floor when the current session ends on June 1, 2006. The AAAA was adamant about retaining the ratio change in the Bill at all costs. We will be working with the SCSA to introduce a new bill next year and to develop a strategy to counter the state senator's opposing view. I would like to thank Ellen Allinger for overseeing these two projects.

The AAAA has made it a goal to become more involved in the Federal process and to increase accessibility to politicians at the State and Federal level. The AAAA attended the American Society of Anesthesiologists annual Legislative Conference which is held in Washington, D.C. each year. This ASA meeting offers our leadership the opportunity to work along side the ASA to focus efforts in expanding our profession in more states. It also offers an opportunity to develop a professional relationship with the ASA and ensuring open lines of communication between our leadership. We feel that our participation was a success and may yield some results down the road. I would like to thank Ellen Allinger, Claire Chandler, Mike Nichols, and Rob Wagner for attending the conference.

At press time, the legislative process in North Carolina is back on line with the North Carolina General Assembly reconvening their legislative session on May 9th. Concurrent bills, Senate Bill 394 (SB 394) and House Bill 503 (HB 503) will be considered in this session. The AAAA has been working with the media concerning this Bill and North Carolina legislators and their staff will receive visits at the Statehouse from AAs and AA students from Emory the week of May 15th. The AAAA will keep you apprised of the committee developments as the Bills progress.

Inside AAAA

External Communications Update

Claire Chandler, AA-C, AAAA Secretary, Deputy Director External Communications

The first half of 2006 has been a very busy and exciting few months for the external communications division. Al Rothstein, our public relations consultant, has been working tirelessly collecting interviews for articles and press releases, which he has sent to numerous publications. Many of you may have seen the press release on AA licensure in Washington DC which was published in the most recent ASA newsletter and Outpatient Surgery's E-weekly. Another press release on the new program at Nova Southeastern University is expected to be published in Anesthesiology News and the FSA newsletter and was distributed to over 800 health profession advisors through the list serve of the National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions (NAAHP). This generated numerous inquiries from potential candidates across the country and prompted the AAAA to become a patron member of this organization. Upon request, we have submitted an article on the Anesthesia Care Team to the American College of Surgeons for publication in their bulletin and expect to see this in print shortly.

The Spokesperson training session for the delegate assembly was a great success at the annual meeting this year. We discussed how to create and master a message for different audiences, from physicians to legislators, and defined the major AAAA media talking points. Al gave an excellent presentation, which included tips on how to handle a media interview, and participants even had the opportunity to see themselves on camera. I would like to thank everyone that helped provide this new opportunity to our members and to congratulate the participants on a job well done. I hope to expand this training to include other AAAA members that are interested in leadership next year.

In Hilton Head, many of you heard about our desire to participate in the NAAHP national meeting. This meeting brings together over 500 health profession advisors, Deans of health profession schools, and educational institutions. It is a unique opportunity to reach out to college students and educate them about AAs. Dr. Gibbons from Missouri, who is an avid AA supporter, announced at the general business meeting that the Missouri Society of Anesthesiologists (MSA) would donate \$1000.00 from their educational fund in support of our attendance as an exhibitor at this meeting. CWRU, Emory, NOVA, and South all followed suit pledging equal donations. I am thrilled to say we successfully raised sufficient funds to attend the NAAHP meeting in Portland, Oregon June 25-29. This would not have been possible if it were not for the incredible show of support from all of the AA programs and the MSA, and I would like to thank them for their contributions.

Finally, the North Carolina General Assembly has reconvened for a "short legislative session." In preparation, Al

Rothstein collaborated with Dana Simpson, the NCSA lobbyists, and Jennifer Pavlish, an AA living in NC, to organize a meeting with three NC legislative reporters on April 28th. The goal was to let the NC reporters know that we are easily accessible so that the stories they write on AA licensure will be fairly balanced. He is also continuing to help the effort to obtain licensure in NC by advising on personal letters from AAs and generating informative documents on AAs for legislators.

I am inspired by what we have accomplished this far and am looking forward to what the second half of the year may bring. I encourage any member that is interested in getting involved with this division to contact me. There are many avenues we have yet to pursue on our progressive campaign to get the message out about AAs. Please let us know if you have any suggestions, ideas, or press release opportunities we may pursue.

Clinical Education a High Priority

By Deb Lawson, AA-C, Education and Practice Committee Chairman

The AAAA Committee on Education & Practice held a well attended meeting at the annual meeting in April, reflecting the great interest in its newest undertaking: maintaining the high quality of clinical education. All four programs were well-represented, as were AAs working at clinical rotation sites, and the students themselves. Clearly, we all have a stake in the results, and an understanding that as more programs come on-line, more effort should be made to maximize the benefits of the clinical experience available across the expanding board.

There was unanimous agreement that the AAAA could develop a network of clinical instructors through which input from all programs could be channeled. This would assist those who teach students with differing academic curricula to more effectively help them translate that knowledge to the realm of patient care. The current students and graduating classes are another resource pool for feedback that will help gauge the effectiveness of the venture.

Plans include a workshop at the AAAA Annual Meeting in 2007 to review the project, make plans for 2007-08, and feature lectures on teaching tools and strategies applicable to clinical anesthesia. Anyone involved in clinical instruction should be contacted soon, if not already; others may contact me directly at dalaac@sbcglobal.net.

Professional News

Health Professions Network News

Theresa Green, AA-C, MBA, HPN Representative and Advocacy Team Leader

During its spring meeting, March 16-19 in Atlanta, which was hosted by the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, the HPN focused on presentation and discussion of various topics, including

1. Characteristics of the allied health workforce
2. Supporting and expanding public health research
3. Inculcating cultural competence in allied health professional education
4. Workforce investment boards and allied health
5. The role of allied health professionals in the post-Hurricane Katrina relief effort.

Presenters included representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Department of Labor, Minnesota Department of Health-Office of Emergency Preparedness, and other public and private organizations. Presentations are available on line at www.healthpronet.org.

The 60 individuals in attendance represented a wide range of organizations, including the American Medical Association, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, Association of Academic Health Centers, American Hospital Association, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Educa-

tion Programs, and many allied health professional organizations such as the AAAA.

BIG NEWS:

HPN has been offered an opportunity to be the lead on a national campaign promoting allied health professions in the media, similar to the Johnson and Johnson campaign for nurses. Official approval was voted on by the Coordinating Team in January. To more effectively promote allied health professions, using funds obtained from public/private grants, the HPN is planning to incorporate. Many HPN meeting attendees volunteered to serve on new committees that will make decisions about the membership, governance, and financing of the newly constituted organization. After general discussion, it was agreed that the current name of Health Professions Network would remain. The incorporation paperwork would be filed in Virginia and the offices of SNM would be the permanent office on the initial filing. The original Board was elected and I was elected as one of three Board members. These are very exciting times in the growth of the Health Professions Network, and in recognition of allied health professionals.

As always, contact me with any questions or comments at tgreen@berriencohlthdept.org.

APSF Update

Deb Lawson, AA-C, APSF Representative

One of the best contributions the AAAA makes on your behalf is to the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation, which states its mission simply: *To ensure that no patient is harmed by anesthesia*. The quarterly APSF newsletter highlights a wide range of safety issues and presents work done by those within the APSF to cultivate awareness of risks and the many collaborative efforts to minimize or eliminate dangers associated with anesthesia.

The APSF is an aggressive advocate, studying risks and leading efforts to change clinical practice to avoid negative outcomes. A particularly unique approach to the study of anesthesia-related complications is described in the cover article of the Winter 2005-2006 edition (also available at www.apsf.org on the 'Newsletter' tab). Titled "Patient Perspectives Personalize Patient Safety," by John H. Eichhorn, MD, the article describes a workshop, held by the APSF Board of Directors, in which family members of patients who fell victim to anesthetic disasters spoke of their experiences and the subsequent treatment by

the medical community. Another feature involved a woman who miraculously survived inadvertent bupivacaine toxicity, and the anesthesiologist who endured the experience with her.

Every anesthesia practitioner knows such things can and do happen, but the response by the medical establishment toward those in both the patient and clinician roles deserves serious re-examination. "A key goal of the program was to inaugurate a new perspective for the APSF that will be driven by the power of patients and the power of stories." The APSF plans in-depth accounts by the workshop presenters in future newsletters, in pursuit of overcoming the current mindsets that prevent better responses in the aftermath.

Quite an undertaking, but the APSF is an organization determined to redesign the way we think and practice in the constant pursuit of better service to patients under our care. Supporting that effort is one of the better things we do.

Professional News

ASA Legislative Conference Update

Claire Chandler, AA-C, AAAA Secretary

Anesthesiologists have been primary supporters of Anesthesiologist Assistants since the inception of our profession. They have been our champions with respect to legislation in individual states, and on a National level, they helped us achieve recognition as Tricare providers and are continuing to aid our pursuit of employment within the VA system. It is overdue that we educate ourselves on what is important to their profession and support them in any way we can. At the same time, we will always be our own most effective advocates when educating legislators about the issues our profession faces; it is important that all AAs learn how to voice our message effectively. It was with these thoughts in mind that President Ellen Allinger, President-Elect Mike Nichols, and Past President Rob Wagner joined me in Washington, DC for the 2006 ASA legislative conference this May.

The annual ASA legislative conference provides an opportunity to hear about the latest policy challenges facing physicians, to learn advocacy skills, and to meet with ASA leadership and government representatives. The topics of discussion this year included legislative issues from Medicare reimbursement and medical liability reform to restoration of full funding for teaching anesthesiology programs. The educational panel discussions provided background and perspective on the different issues while encouraging members, including residents, to get involved with public policy. The meeting was concluded with Hill visits and the opportunity to meet lawmakers face to face.



Mike Nichols and Rob Wagner in Washington, DC at the ASA Legislative Conference.

For the first time, the AAAA had its own legislative agenda. Appointments were scheduled prior to arrival to ensure meetings with the appropriate parties, and information about AAs was distributed in advance. Ellen, Mike, Rob and I had the opportunity to meet with Representative Spratt from South Carolina (of whom our President, Ellen Allinger, is a constituent) and the health advisors for Georgia Senators Chambliss and Isakson and Senator Burr from North Carolina. Our main point of discussion concerned the ability of AAs to work in the VA system and how to obtain a copy of Handbook 1123, newly drafted

to include AAs but not yet approved. To our advantage, Senator Isakson from Georgia and Senator Burr from North Carolina both sit on the Veterans Affairs committee and their offices were very eager to help us achieve our goals. Some interesting statistics proved to be enlightening to our Georgia Senators. For example, Georgia has the highest concentration of AAs, nearing a 50:50 population with CRNAs and the city of Atlanta has more practicing AAs than CRNAs! Hopefully, our efforts on the Hill will help us get the information we need so we may take the necessary steps to get AAs working in VAs across the country.

Our afternoons were filled with tours of local hospitals, networking with the ASA members, and dinners with State component societies. The FSA was kind enough to invite us to join them for a Monday evening dinner where we discussed current issues in the State of Florida. The DC and Maryland Societies



Claire Chandler at the ASA Legislative Conference with Dr. John Dombrowski and Senator Andy Harris.

See "Legislative Conference," continued on page 11

Educational News

NSU Update

Rob Wagner, AA-C, Program Director, Nova Southeastern University

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) proudly announces its Master of Health Science Anesthesiologist Assistant Program. NSU is located on 300 beautiful acres in Ft. Lauderdale-Davie, Florida, and is the largest independent, non-profit university in the southeast and the seventh largest independent institution nationally. The NSU AA program received full accreditation by CAAHEP this past March, and the first 32 students will be matriculating on June 5, 2006.

The mission of the Anesthesiologists Assistant program is to prepare students for lifelong learning and leadership roles that will benefit the healthcare community. The educational process will be committed to training and educating competent anesthetists who will embrace the anesthesia care team to provide safe, quality and compassionate anesthesia care of all degrees of illness for the surgical patient.

The innovative 27 month curriculum will focus on utilizing state-of-the-art instructional technologies and methods that will prepare the anesthesiologist assistants to be superior clinicians. The NSU AA program includes an intensive didactic classroom curriculum along with more than 2,600 extensive clinical hours. Students will be trained in the newly constructed 6000Sq. ft. AA facilities. The state-of-the-art facilities will contain a

mock operating room, which will house the latest METI-Man anesthesia simulator, a laboratory, a mock post-operative care unit/intensive care unit, interactive classroom, student break area, and anesthesia faculty offices.

The Anesthesiologist Assistant program at Nova Southeastern University is dedicated to providing state-of-the-art educational facilities and environment, that will allow the anesthesiologist assistant student to cultivate into health care providers who are driven by compassion and guided by science, to provide the best and safest patient care. The Program will be locally, nationally and internationally recognized as an authority and primary source for anesthesiologist assistant information and services related to promoting the practice of delivering safe and quality anesthesia as a member of the anesthesia care team. The faculty and students of the Program will be recognized as leaders within the profession through our collective service to the AAAA and other professional organizations. Every student and faculty member is required to be a member of both the AAAA and ASA.

Nova Southeastern University has established itself as a major supporter of the AAAA and AA profession. NSU was a major financial contributor of the AAAA meeting in Hilton Head this past year, and continues to financially support the AAAA in its efforts to promote the AA profession on local, state, and national levels. NSU has made a financial commitment to the FSA annual meeting in West Palm Beach this summer to help educate the Florida anesthesia community about the AA profession and about the hiring of AAs.

NSU's faculty members will routinely keep the AAAA membership updated on the progress of the program and the students. To find out more information about the NSU AA program, please visit their website at <http://www.nova.edu/mhs/anesthesia>.

The Student's Page

Attention Students

The AAAA membership is interested in your opinions and experiences. If you would like to see your school represented, please email the newsletter editors.

Student Editor Needed

If you are interested in becoming the editor for the student section of the newsletter for 2006 – 2007, please email the newsletter editors.

REMINDER

The deadline for CME submission to the NCCAA for the 2004 – 2006 registration cycle is June 30th. For more information visit www.aa-nccaa.org

Educational News

Case Program Update

Joseph M. Rifici, AA-C, M.Ed.

Academic Director, Master of Science in Anesthesia Program, Case Western Reserve University

Another academic year is coming to a close. Our Honors Dinner was held on Saturday, May 20, 2006, and the Class of 2006 attended commencement the next day on May 21. Congratulations to all of our new graduates and good luck! Please stay connected to the AAAA. The list of the Case Class of 2006 and their intended first place of employment includes: Sarah Davies, undecided; Alyson Finamore, MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland; Megan Isbell, The Christ Hospital in Cincinnati; Elenora Mazover, Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C.; Jake Peterson, Gundersen Lutheran Hospital in LaCrosse, WI; Domenica Randau, St. Vincent Charity Hospital in Cleveland; Romnii Ross, The Christ Hospital in Cincinnati; Jennifer Rossire, Lake West Hospital in Willoughby, OH; Leslie Schaming, University Hospitals of Cleveland; and Angelique Scott, who will also be employed at University Hospitals. Again, good luck to all and stay in touch.

The newly matriculated Class of 2008 began their program of study on June 5, 2006. Those individuals are listed with their home town and baccalaureate institution: Daniel Bates, Independence, KY, Northern Kentucky University; Thomas Bender, North Royalton, OH, College of the Holy Cross; Joshua Berkowitz, Westlake, OH, Miami University of Ohio; Laura Burch, West Farmington, OH, John Carroll University; Matthew Ciotti, Salem, OH, The University of Akron; David Dunipace, Toledo, OH, Ohio University; Allison Graves, Reminderville, OH, Miami University of Ohio; Mary Hladky, Springfield, OH, John Carroll University; Marc LaMacchia, Dearborn, MI, University of Michigan; Daniel Newshutz, Lakewood, OH, Miami University of Ohio; Marshall Priest, Orem, UT, Brigham Young University; Mary Spencer, Parma, OH, Kent State University; Chandra Wozniak, Miami, FL, University of Miami-Florida.

We look forward to assimilating these neophytes into the classroom and clinical environment. Once again, all 1st year and 2nd year MSA students will be registered as members of the AAAA and the ASA by program administration.

We have a fair amount of changes (we hope improvements) scheduled for the upcoming academic year, including an initiative to better communicate with our clinical faculty so that the student-instructor relationship can improve and the clinical teaching will better reflect what is being taught in the classroom. This project will be headed up by Doug Graham, MD, our newly appointed Associate Medical Director, Mike Patrick (Class of 2005), and Shawn Duvall (Class of 2004). We look forward to assessing the benefits of this innovative initiative.

Also, our newly appointed Medical Director, Don Voltz, MD, has begun the immense task of integrating all of our basic science courses with the clinical curriculum. The following is an example of this concept focusing on the cardiac system: In the new curriculum, the physiology, pharmacology, biochemistry, patient monitoring, and anesthesia simulation courses would all cover the cardiac system simultaneously within each respective semester. A packet of conversation topics with relevant clinical content would be distributed to the clinical faculty to facilitate discussion of the basic science with correlation to clinical practice. This educational concept is dynamic and, if implemented well, can be very enriching to both faculty and students. Good luck to Dr. Voltz as he embarks on this journey.

“Legislative Conference,” continued from page 9

of Anesthesiologists co-hosted a dinner with a presentation from the President of the ASA, Dr. Guidry. DCSA president, Dr. John Dombrowski, welcomed the AAAA leadership specifically and we were pleased to have the opportunity to show our gratitude for all of the local support. This dinner provided a unique opportunity to speak with the President of the ASA, the Presidents of both the DCSA and the MDSA, and many anesthesiologists interested in AAs. Another notable attendee was Maryland State Senator Harris, an anesthesiologist and the Senate Minority Whip. His interest in AAs and his political position prompted

the AAAA to donate funds and send Dr. Dombrowski and myself as representatives to his re-election campaign on May 6th.

Overall, the conference was a huge success. The knowledge gained on advocacy and relationships established will be useful for our future development as an organization. There is so much we have to look forward to and so much we have to accomplish. I encourage each and every one of you, student or practitioner, to get involved as the progress of our organization depends largely on the efforts of our members.

Opportunities

JobLine Listing

Alabama:

Anesthesia Services, P.C., Infirmery
Medical Center, Mobile
Contact: Andy Price 251-432-4497 or
fax 251-432-0577

Florida:

Community Hospital East
Central Florida
Contact: Caryn Robinson fax 321-434-
8075 or caryn.robinson@health-first.org

Optimal Anesthesia, Boca Raton
contact: Steven M. Kiffel, M.D., D.D.S.
561-271-6659

Georgia:

St. Joseph's Hospital, Atlanta
Contact: Marya Garner
recruiting@psa-online.net

Missouri:

Cardinal Glennon Memorial Hospital
for Children, St. Louis
Contact: Dr. James Deboard 314-577-
5622 or deboardj@slucare1.sluh.edu

South Carolina:

Surgery Center in Myrtle Beach
Contact: Dr. Joseph Maggioncalda voice
843-692-1062 or fax 843-497-9303

Washington, D.C.:

Children's National Medical Center,
Washington, D.C.
Contact: Dr. Richard Kaplan
202-884-2025 or Rkaplan@cnmc.org

Washington Hospital Center
apply online at www.whcjobs.com or
fax 202-877-7315

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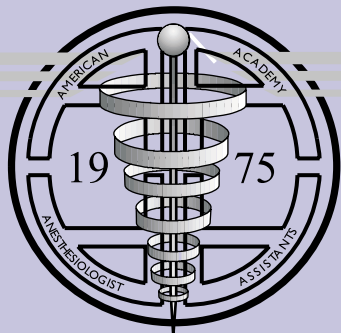
Reply to:

Attn: Marya Garner, HR Manager
Physician Specialists in Anesthesia, P.C.
5671 Peachtree Dunwoody Road
Suite 530
Atlanta, GA 30342
Fax# 404-851-1649
Email: recruiting@psa-online.net

About JobLine Listings

JobLine is a free service provided to potential employees of AAAA members. For more complete information, current members can visit JobLine on the AAAA web site at www.anesthetist.org.

Anyone wishing to post a job opportunity should contact Kris Tindol at kwtindol@comcast.net or Kari Glisson at kari@anesthetist.org.



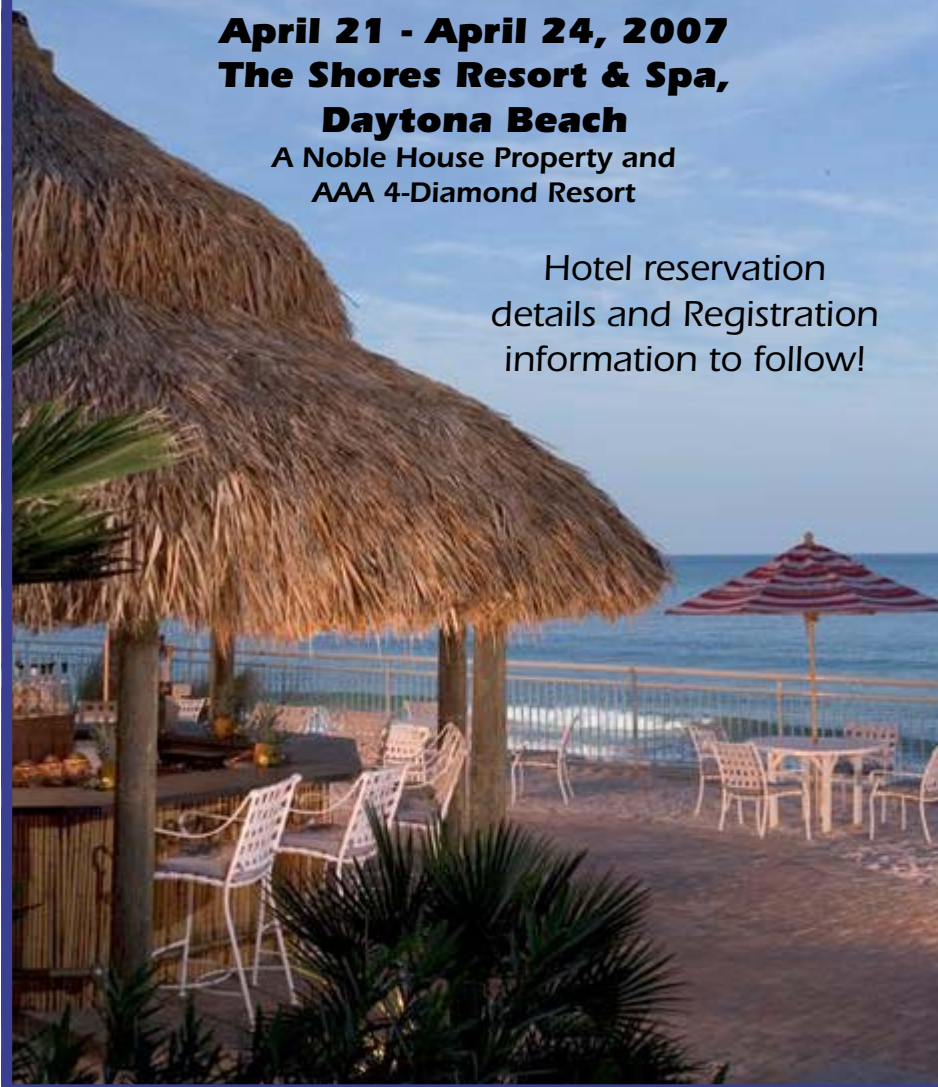
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April 21 - April 24, 2007
The Shores Resort & Spa,
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AAA 4-Diamond Resort

Hotel reservation
details and Registration
information to follow!



Calendar



If you know of an educational event that would be of interest to AAAA members, please contact the newsletter editor for inclusion in this calendar.

2006

June 3 — Atlanta, GA & Cleveland, OH

National Commission for Certification of Anesthesiologist Assistants (NCCAA) Certifying Examination and Examination for Continued Demonstration of Qualifications (CDQ).

June 8 — 11 — Kiawah Island, SC

Daily Anesthetic Challenges plus Self-Directed ACLS Certification presented by Medical College of Georgia (Offering up to 15.0 hours of AMA PRA category I credits for educational activity and a maximum of 12.0 hours of AMA PRA category I credits after completion of the ACLS Medgacode certification) Contact: MCG Division of Continuing Education at 800-221-6437 or 706-721-3967.

June 10 – 11 — Chandler, AZ

Second Annual Meeting of the Orthopedic Anesthesia, Pain and Rehabilitation Society (Offering up to 13.5 hours of AMA PRA category I credits) Contact: Register online at www.oaprs.org or call 1-866-837-4156

June 15 – 18 — Amelia Island, FL

UNC School of Medicine presents Carolina Refresher Lectures: Care of the Surgical Patient (Offering up to 20.0 hours of AMA PRA category I credits). Contact: 919/962-2118 or register online at www.aims.unc.edu/education/cme/crl/registration.aspx

June 23 – 25 — Palm Beach, FL

Florida Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting
Free Registration to first 25 AAs attending meeting for CMEs!
Contact: 1-800-400-3211 or executiveoffice@fsahq.org or go to www.fsahq.org.

June 30

Deadline for CME submission to NCCAA for 2004 – 2006 registration cycle.

July 7 – 9 — Perdido Beach, AL

Quad State Anesthesiologists Meeting
Contact: Richard Carson at 334/954-2577 or ASSAexec@aol.com or go to www.ASSA.md.

Aug. 1 – 3 — Waterville, ME

Summer 2006 CME at Colby College in Maine.
Contact: email summer@colby.edu or visit www.colby.edu/cme for complete course details, to register, or to sign up for email notices as new information becomes available.

Sept. 7 – 10 — San Antonio, TX

Texas Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting
Contact: Christina Bacak at 512/370-1659 or info@tsa.org or go to www.tsa.org.

Sept. 18 – 19 — Cleveland, OH

2nd Annual Perioperative Medicine Summit.
Contact: 216/297-7330 or 800/238-6750 or visit www.clevelandclinicmeded.com/perioperative06

Sept. 28 – 30 — Phoenix, AZ

HPN Fall Meeting
Visit www.healthpronet.org for more information.

Sept. 28 – Oct. 1 — San Francisco, CA

The Changing Practice of Anesthesia with Anesthesia Simulator Workshop. (Offering up to 18 hours of AMA PRA category I credits.)
For more information or to register online go to www.cme.ucsf.edu. Or call the Office of Continuing Medical Education at 415-476-4251.

Sept. 29 – Oct. 1 — Myrtle Beach, SC

NCSA Fall Session XXVI Annual Meeting.
“Make My Day: Situations That Complicate Your Job.”
Contact: Rebecca McGhee at 919/821-6698 or rmghee@ncsoa.com or go to www.nscs.com.

October 14 – 18 — Chicago, IL

ASA Annual Meeting
Visit www.asahq.org for more information.

Oct. 30 – Nov. 3 — Kohala Coast, HI

California Society of Anesthesiologists Hawaiian Seminar (Offering up to 20.0 hours of AMA PRA category I credits)
Contact: Register online at www.csahq.org or call CSA at (800) 345-3691

Nov. 5 – 8 — White Sulphur Springs, WV

Twelfth Annual Advances in Physiology and Pharmacology in Anesthesia and Critical Care. (Offering up to 17 hours of AMA PRA category I credits.) Also offering ACLS Course for a maximum of 10 hours of AMA PRA category I credits.
Call the Wake Forest University School of Medicine Office of Continuing Education at 336/713-7701 for brochure and registration.