

## What's Important?: A Survival Guide for AAs

Michael S. Nichols, AA-C, AAAA President



When I started my journey toward ‘AA-dom’ at Case Western Reserve University, the basic science professors attempted to drill into me the *importance* of pharmacology and physiology to the practice of anesthesia; the clinical preceptors taught me the *importance* of vigilance, compassion, and patient safety; the senior students impressed upon me the *importance* of studying and time management. Now seeing how I turned out, these people may not want to take credit for the creation ☺, but these were the influential guides leading me through the labyrinth of what was *important* in order to survive in the AA profession.

What these professors, instructors, and mentors rarely touched on was what was *important* after graduation, the ongoing skills acquisition and self-education which have to do more with our survival as a profession than merely my survival as an anesthetist. On my first day of school, Pete Kaluszyk handed me a 25-page list of medical abbreviations and told me to memorize it because they were important to the profession I was about to enter. However, many years later I realize that there exists an entirely different set of abbreviations that are just as important to being a practitioner in the community of anesthesiology; abbreviations such as AAAA, ASA, CMS, SGR, P4P, PQRI, ACT, RUC, APSF, SB, HR, just to name a few. Year after year, I see fresh new AA graduates grasp the importance of the medical knowledge they have been given, but fail to realize the worth of advocacy for the profession and support of the organizations that support them.

*There is more to being an AA than just being a good anesthetist!*

Our AA students, past, present, and future, are ambassadors of the profession. Through their clinical rotations they reach past the geographic bounds that limit current AAs and expose the world to the AA concept. If they are the ambassadors, then it is up to those of us out practicing to be the protectors of the profession. This means reaching out from behind the 4’x4’ area next to our anesthesia machine and actively advocating for the profession and the Anesthesia Care Team; this means supporting the AAAA, the ASA, and our state component societies with our time and money; this means nurturing the future practitioners of our trade and being clinical preceptors to AA students; this means staying up-to-date on issues that effect not only your clinical practice but the greater community of anesthesiology and medicine.

See “President’s Message,” continued on page 2

### In This Issue . . .

President’s Message.....	1	AAAA Presence at Annual	
Editor’s Column.....	2	ASA Meeting .....	6
Inside AAAA		Committee on the Anesthesia	
2008 AAAA Election Results .....	3	Care Team.....	8
NCCAA Exam Review .....	3	The Students Page	
My Journey		We are an Integral Part of the	
It’s Just Second Nature .....	4	Anesthesia Care Team .....	9
Professional News		Nova Southeastern University’s	
Great Meeting, Great Forum.....	5	Students at ASA .....	9
Spokesperson Training Session		Other News	
at ASA.....	5	JobLine/Opportunities .....	10
		Calendar.....	11

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# The Editor's Column

Alyson Finamore, AA-C, co-editor

## Giving Thanks to Anesthesia



I was sitting in LaGuardia airport a few weeks ago, and anyone who knows me understands that I have no patience for airports. For me, getting lost in a book or sleeping sitting up doesn't happen, so I people watch, listen to my ipod, gaze out the window, think about the world, and of course, brainstorm about what to compose for the next edition of *The Anesthesia Record*. Here are my thoughts from a mile high. I hope you find them uplifting.

The year 2007 has been a great year for me, perhaps the best ever, and I'm excited to think that it is only the beginning. What greater happiness is there than discovering that each day can potentially be better than the last? What do I owe all this euphoria to? You guessed it – anesthesia! Well, actually my job in anesthesia as an AA. I've been out of school and in the 'real world' for a whole year now. Most days I go home quite content. Even though I untangle the same wires day after day (hour after hour), I feel so good when I've done my part to calm a patient and to help a surgery run smoothly. I often think how lucky I am to be healthy and to be the one standing over the operating table and not on it. Also, thanks to this wonderful job, for the first time in my life, I had enough money to buy my own car; furnish my own apartment; and have my own bathroom – now that's big. It also afforded me the chance this past September to take my very first cruise – it was in the beautiful Mediterranean. I got to climb Mount Vesuvius. I walked through the gates of the Coliseum, enjoyed Venice, and shopped at the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul. Thank you anesthesia. Thank you too, to all the AAAA leaders who work so tirelessly for the advancement, protection, and recognition of our great profession and to everyone who has played a role in training me to become a skilled, compassionate professional. I do not take what I have for granted one bit. It's great to be an AA! As Françoise de Motteville said, "The true way to render ourselves happy is to love our work and find in it our pleasure."

Finally, being from Ohio, I must mention that the Indians beat the Yankees in the playoffs, the Browns are above 500, and Ohio State is ranked number one. Let us give thanks.

"President's Message," continued from page 1

As I look toward the future, I realize that I have about 30 years left before I retire. Those before me have laid the groundwork and forged a path toward success, but I'll be damned if I'm going to let someone drive the car! I will ALWAYS be a member of the AAAA, the ASA, and my state component society; I will attend every AAAA and ASA Annual Meeting that life allows; I will continue to donate my time to the AAAA and my money to the Legislative Fund and the ASAPAC; I will continue to teach students in the OR and the classroom; and I will always advocate for our profession. The question you have to ask yourself is: *Will you join me?*

## Inside AAAA

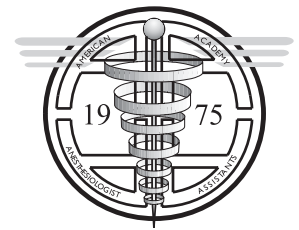


# AAAA Election Results for 2008 Positions

Ellen Allinger, AA-C, Nominations & Elections Committee Chairman

Election results for open positions on the 2008 AAAA Board were certified as of October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Since all positions were uncontested, the results are not surprising. The newly elected officers and directors are as follows:

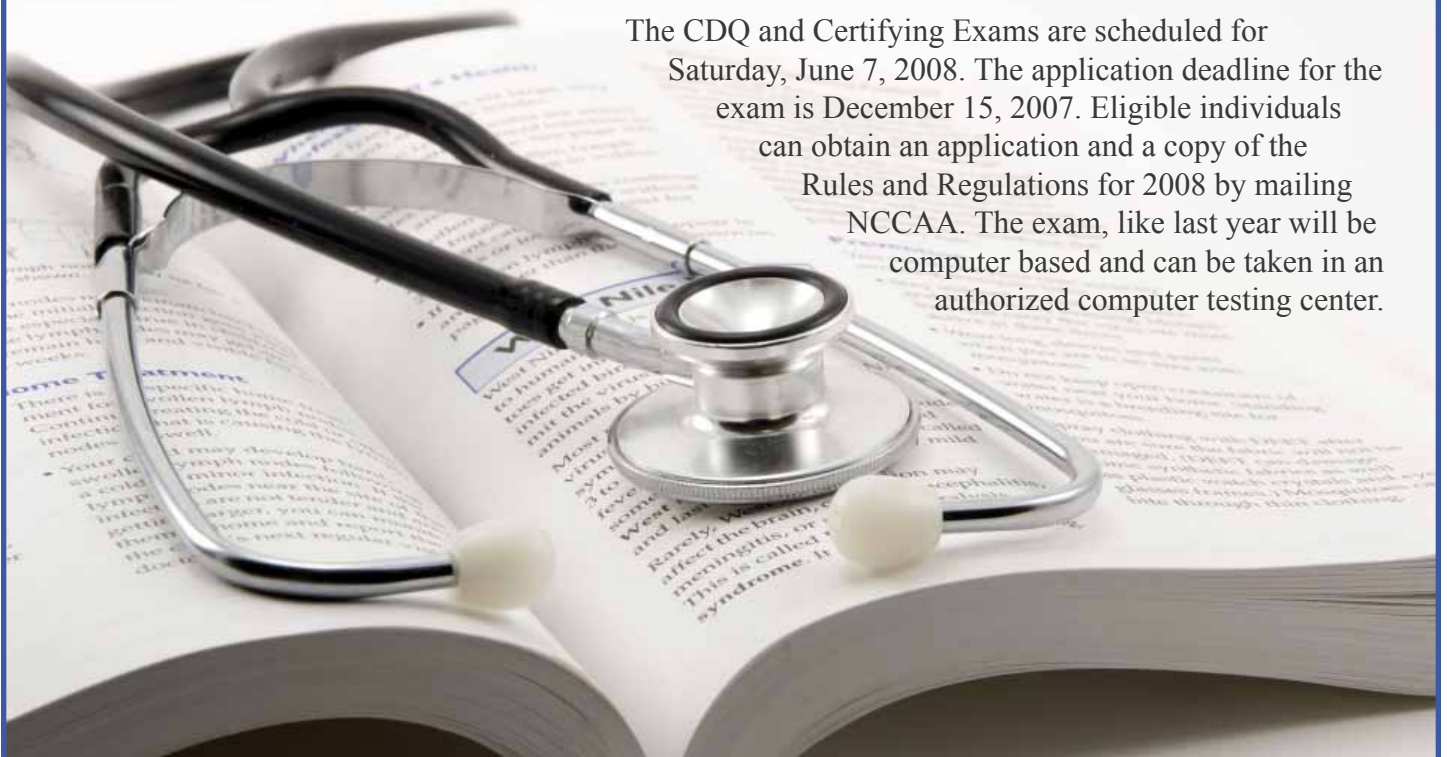
**President-elect:** Pete Kaluszyk  
**Secretary:** Ellen Allinger  
**Directors:** Lance Franklin  
 Len Boras



Congratulations to these elected AAAA members. May they fulfill the trust place in them by the voting members of the AAAA organization.

## NCCAA Exam Update

The CDQ and Certifying Exams are scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2008. The application deadline for the exam is December 15, 2007. Eligible individuals can obtain an application and a copy of the Rules and Regulations for 2008 by mailing NCCAA. The exam, like last year will be computer based and can be taken in an authorized computer testing center.



## My Journey

**New Segment!**

# It's Just Second Nature

**Joe Peachman, AA-C**

Often times I'm asked how I am able to do something, usually from one of my three children. A lot of the things they ask about are second nature to me. I've done them so often that it's hard to explain. Riding a bike, tying shoes, throwing and hitting a baseball, reading a book, and taking care of things to name a few. As a father, I try to instill to my children that there is not only a right and wrong way to do things but also a right mindset and approach to going through life.

I think that the same things can be said about our profession. So I thought I would take the opportunity to talk about some of the experiences that have made me who I am as a clinician, instructor, and person.

When I graduated the Case program in 1998, I had every confidence that I was instructed in the proper ways of being an AA. I learned not only how to administer a safe anesthetic but also learned how to be a professional. The clinicians and instructors I had were dedicated to not only teaching the skill

sets that were second nature to them but the right and wrong way to do things. I now have the privilege of being an instructor and continuously strive to pass on a great tradition of training, not only high quality anesthetists, but also compassionate and dedicated professionals. My goal is to give both my children and my students the tools for success. It's exciting to witness a student start to put it all together or one of my children ride a bike solo as I let go. In both ways, I am there to guide them and share in their joy and success.

After graduation, I began my career in Toledo, Ohio as one of the first two AAs there. I was fortunate enough to have worked with a very talented Anesthesiology department. They were not only superb clinicians but also superb human beings. There I became a part of their family. Occasionally, I got to teach students and found that I really enjoyed it. During my nearly eight years at what was formally Medical College of Ohio, I got an opportunity to see three additional AAs hired. I am proud to have them as colleagues but even prouder to have them as friends. In the spring of 2005, my family and I decided that we wanted our children to be surrounded by grandparents and other family so we moved to Cleveland. In the process, I got the added bonus of teaching students.

Since coming to Cleveland, I have had the great privilege of working at two top-notch hospitals, University Hospitals and currently MetroHealth Medical Center. Although brief, I enjoyed my time at UH getting reacquainted with previous instructors and colleagues. At Metro, the theme is the same, incredible colleagues and great friends. Being at MetroHealth reminds me of how lucky I've been professionally to be able to go to work knowing I am a small part of a great tradition. Being an AA is the second best thing I have ever done and my second best dream job. My dream job is being a husband and a father (but playing for the Cleveland Indians and bringing home a World Series championship would be good.)

So I guess, I can sum things up by quoting the great philosopher Tow Mater of the movie Cars, "I don't have to know where I'm going, I just have to know where I've been." No matter where I've worked I've always been surrounded by people passionate about their work and excited to share it with others. It's rubbed off on me, and hopefully I can have an impact on our future colleagues. Thanks for listening and God bless you and your families!



## Professional News

# Great Meeting, Great Forum

**Deb Lawson, AA-C, President-Elect**

The meeting of the ASA's AA Education & Practice Committee met for several hours in San Francisco. Chaired by Steve Goldfein, attendees included representatives from the AAAA, AA programs, and anesthesiologists from around the country, some new to AA affairs, and some who have long histories of support.

As is proven at every AAEP meeting, such a group leads to lively discussion; this year's topics included the move in the nursing profession to require all current masters level educational programs to become doctoral programs. While it will take quite a few years to reach this goal, the impact on other professions is being gauged. How AAs should evaluate options for their profession in anticipation of this significant change in the landscape will not be easily determined, nor should it be without careful consideration. The comments within the committee reflected the complexity of the matter.

Wes Frazier, longtime director of the Emory program, now retired, was present to discuss AA education and options for an added period of specialty training, similar to a fellowship. Questions arise, such as whether this should be a required extension of existing training, or an optional path; whether the degree conferred would remain a masters; how such an endeavor would be structured and supported; and of course, consideration of what would be accomplished (both pro and con), should programs move in that direction.

Pete Kaluszyk's update on persistent activities to impede AA employment drew animated discussion on ways to respond to restraint of trade, and how to enlist the aid of anesthesiologists to neutralize the tactics. More states opening up to AAs means more potential for problems, and help for anesthesiologists to overcome pressure not to hire AAs is unfortunately still necessary.

Working with a forum of so many distinguished participants, ranging from the powerhouses of AA education, accreditation, and certification, to the dedicated state society leaders, to whom we owe our success in opening new states, is a great opportunity for the representatives of the AAAA. The ability of the profession to move forward depends on collaboration such as this, and is greatly enhanced by the support AAs have shown by becoming ASA Educational Members. Your vote of membership makes a difference.

# Spokesperson Training Session at the ASA Meeting in San Francisco, California

**Al Rothstein – Media Consultant**

**Lauren Hojdila, AA-C, Director of Communications**

At the ASA meeting, Al Rothstein, our Public Relations Consultant, and Lauren Hojdila, our Director of Communications, combined for a powerful session on Spokesperson Training. The participants were mostly students from the Nova Southeastern AA program along with other practicing AAs, and AA program personnel. Through a highly interactive session, the participants learned how to develop their media messages and express those messages during interviews with reporters. They also reviewed some of the real issues they will be dealing with in the real world, once they graduate and are in practice.

Included in the session were the AAAA's important talking points in dealing with the issues of our training and skill level. It was also emphasized during the session that their newly-developed skills can be applied to meetings with lawmakers and other professions who work with AAs.

The Office of Communications will sponsor another Spokesperson Training session at the AAAA Meeting in Hilton Head, SC. The focus of the upcoming session is message creation in which we will deal with how to educate others about the AA profession in a clear, concise, truthful and positive way. Please look for more information regarding this session in the Annual Meeting Brochure that will be out shortly.

## Meeting with the News Media at the ASA Conference

Also during the ASA, Al and Lauren met with the ASA's new communications director and discussed story ideas with Anesthesiology News. Lauren did a national radio network interview that the ASA feeds to stations across the country, so her fee for autographs just doubled!

## Professional News



# AAAA Presence at Annual ASA Meeting Making More Inroads

Ellen Allinger, AA-C

Many AAs and AA students attended this year's annual American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) meeting in San Francisco, CA, from

October 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. As educational members of the ASA, these attendees were able to obtain valuable CMEs without paying the meeting's registration fee. In addition to being an education opportunity, the AAAA leadership continues to use this annual event to conduct business, offer opportunities to AAAA members, and continue to build a solid relationship with ASA leadership and other anesthesiologists around the country.

The AAAA Board, comprised of seven directors, five officers, the student committee chairman and the executive director, met on October 12<sup>th</sup> to conduct business pertaining to the AAAA. The final 2007 quarterly Board meeting was held to transact business pertaining to running the AAAA organization

and making it a better organization. This business included review of the annual budget to make sure that there are no cost overruns for the year in the quest to be fiscally responsible to the AAAA membership and improvements in the organization of the AAAA by adopting new policies and procedures. In addition, the Board's strategic plan for 2007 – 2008 was reviewed for progress and pitfalls.

Following the Board meetings, AAAA media consultant Al Rothstein and AAAA Director of Communications Lauren Hojdila held a two-hour Spokesperson Training seminar. This spokesperson training taught participants helpful tactics when talking to reporters and media. "Participants seemed to understand the concept that our responses to the news media should be positive, and show the audiences how they benefit from the existence of the AAs" stated Mr. Rothstein.

On Sunday, AAAA leaders attended ASA Reference Committee hearings. Four different reference committees hear testimony from any interested ASA member on items that will be proposed for adoption by the ASA House of Delegates (HoD). The HoD is the governing body of the ASA and is comprised of representatives from each state. The Reference Committee on Administrative Affairs is currently the most connected with the AA profession since it receives the annual reports for the ASA's Committee on Anesthesia Care Team (CACT) and Committee on Anesthesiologist Assistant Education and Practice. Two very important items were brought up during the meeting of this reference committee. AAAA leaders Mike Nichols, Pete Kaluszyk, Deb Lawson and Joe Rifici composed a thoroughly researched and referenced document comparing the education of AAs vs. CRNAs. This was submitted to the CACT, which included the document in its report to the reference committee. In addition, the CACT report focused upon its efforts this past year to determine a final listing of "qualified anesthesia



Mary Spencer AA-S, and Pete Kaluszyk, AA-C, are all smiles in San Fransisco.

See "AAAA at ASA," continued next page

## Professional News

“AAAA at ASA,” continued from page 6

providers”. Information gathered from ASA members revolves around nurse anesthesia students and anesthesiologist assistant students. This is a complex and emotionally charged subject, and the revised ACT statement by the ASA is still being drafted. Encouragingly, all testimony at this reference committee hearing supported both committee reports.

On Monday, both the Committee on ACT (CACT) and the Committee on AA Education and Practice held their annual meetings. These two committees of the ASA contain AAs as standing committee members. For 2007, Pete Kaluszyk served on the CACT while Rob Wagner, Mike Nichols, Deb Lawson, Ellen Allinger, Bill Paulsen, Don Biggs, and Joe Rifici served on the AA Education and Practice Committee.

At the CACT meeting, liaison reports from the ASA, NCCAA, and American Dental Association were given. The president-elect of the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPAN) gave a presentation on goals and protocols. A thorough debate over how to proceed with defining “qualified anesthesia providers” occurred and a newly proposed recommendation will go to the entire CACT. The only goal for the committee for 2008 is to finalize this definition.

The Committee on AA Education and Practice meeting was lengthy and covered a variety of topics. Issues such as holding a panel discussion on new AA topics at the 2008 ASA meeting, promoting more AA programs, advanced practice nursing programs inflating degrees to the doctorate level, and the ongoing practice of blocking AAs from available positions were thoroughly discussed. Directives to work on those issues that are persuasible by the committee were initiated and will continue to be reviewed in the upcoming year.

AAAA leaders also attended the ASA House of Delegates session on Sunday and Wednesday mornings. In addition to learning of the accomplishments of the ASA over the past year, the incoming ASA president, Dr. Jeffrey L. Apfelbaum, spoke on his objectives and ideals for the coming year. It is an eye-opening experience to observe the ASA House of Delegates in action and to see the issues with which they debate. It is important to note here that the House of Delegates accepted both the CACT committee report, with the document comparing AA and nurse anesthetist education, as well as the Committee on AA Education and Practice report. Thus, the education comparison document becomes a part of the ASA’s permanent record and may now be used publicly.

Some “firsts” occurred this year at the ASA meeting. For the first time, the AAAA president was allowed to address the ASA Resident’s House of Delegates. Mike Nichols gave a brief presentation on the AA profession and stressed the similarities of a strong pre-medical science background and

support of the ACT model of patient care between the AA and anesthesiologist professions. Also, for the first time, the AAAA did not participate in staffing the ASA exhibit hall booth traditionally shared with the AA Education Programs. The AAAA Board made this decision based upon two issues. The first was to reduce mounting cost to the AAAA to participate in the ASA meeting. The second issue was the realization that the ASA membership at large has adequate access to AA information through both the ASA’s and AAAA’s websites and printed materials. We have progressed past the era of education the ASA general membership as to “What Are AAs?” to now connecting personally with the ASA leadership and participating in discussions and policy-making that directly affects the AA profession. AAAA materials requested by the AA Education Programs for use at the ASA exhibit booth will continue to be provided.

All work and no play makes for an exhausting five days, so a few opportunities were found to mix fun with business. A mixer between AAAA leaders and AA students was held at the Westin Hotel so that both groups could interact personally. Also, the Florida Society of Anesthesiologists invited many AAs and AA students as guest to their cocktail reception on Sunday evening. And, last but not least, AAAA president Mike Nichols and AAAA president-elect Deb Lawson were guests to the ASA president and president-elect at a gala reception held at the San Francisco Asian Arts Museum.

As of August, 236 AAAA members are also ASA members. By growing AA membership in the ASA, this profession can increase our collective voice within a strong ASA community. The high level of participation of AAAA members at the ASA meeting this year, in both the CME and business areas, demonstrates that the AA profession has made significant strides in its acceptance by the ASA leadership and membership.



## Professional News

# Committee on the Anesthesia Care Team

## Pete Kaluszyk, AA-C, National Affairs Committee Chairman

The leadership of the AAAA was busy at the American Society of Anesthesiologists' (ASA) annual meeting in San Francisco involving themselves in a variety of committee meetings. One of those committee meetings involved the ASA's Committee on the Anesthesia Care Team (CACT).

The CACT's principal task for the last year was to try and define what an "anesthesia provider" means. The AAAA was invited to participate in an information gathering Task Force to advise the CACT members on how to go about defining these providers. The providers included anesthesiologists, anesthesiology residents, anesthesiologist assistants, anesthesiologist assistant students, certified registered nurse anesthetists, nurse anesthetist students, and some dental providers. The definition of these providers included how they functioned in the anesthesia care team, including supervision and clinical tasks, and how trainees functioned in the anesthesia care team. The topic that was the most intensely discussed by far was what the level of supervision should be for trainees in all categories, in anesthesia, to provide safe care to the patient.

There was an interest to change a practice found in anesthesia training that allows for "independent" experience for the trainee in the room with their supervisor out of the room and "readily available." The question was whether this practice should be changed to a more stringent degree where the supervisor doesn't leave trainee in the room alone for periods of time. It was brought out that there are financial incentives for a lower level of supervision as this allows the supervisory personnel to be used for other tasks. IT was argued that a lower level of supervision could also lead to the abuse of students in that they are being used as a labor pool. As a result, the students are not learning as much as if their supervisor was in the room. The CACT's document on this level of supervision was heartily debated. Arguments arose as to whether it was more effective to leave trainees alone in the room as they near completion of

training. It was argued that this lesser supervision allows the trainee be better prepared for the clinical setting in the "real world." The general feeling was that the document should reflect a shift to the more rigorous level of supervision but did not rule out the lesser supervision method totally. Dr. Plagenhoef, Chair of the CACT, was still modifying the document with suggestions from committee members. The document was intended to be presented to the ASA's House of Delegates for consideration this year; however, the debates within the CACT will delay this approval process until next year.

The other issue was that departments that train anesthesia residents and student nurse anesthetists can be reimbursed for their services. Whereas, there is no mechanism in place for reimbursement for student anesthesiologist assistants similar to these other two trainee categories. There was discussion on how to level the "playing field" for AAs in relation to the CRNA profession. On all of these topics the AAAA was asked for input and provided it. I would like to thank Ellen Allinger, Vice-Chair AAAA National Affairs; Deb Lawson, AAAA President Elect; Mike Nichols, AAAA President, and Rob Wagner, AAAA Board Member for participating in the discussions.

The National Affairs committee members were able to talk with the ASA's National and Legal Affairs director and update each other on current events around the country. Representatives from the North Carolina Society of Anesthesiologists (NCSA) reported on the adoption of Rules promulgated by the NC Board of Medicine for AA practice. The approval of the Rules in NC on September 21 allows AAs to apply for a license in NC sometime in November of this year. We were also able to meet with some State anesthesiologist society leaders to discuss introducing AAs into their State's anesthesia care team. Hopefully the new year will bring some new legislative efforts for the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants.

## AAAA 32nd Annual Conference

**April 26 - April 30, 2008**

**Hilton Oceanfront Resort ■ Hilton Head Island, SC**

Make your room reservation now by calling 1-843-842-8000 or 1-800-HILTONS. Don't forget to mention AAAA! Room Block open by July 1, 2007. Make your reservation by April 4, 2008 to receive the group rate.



## The Students' Page

# We are an Integral Part of the Anesthesia Care Team

Mary Spencer, AA-S, Case Western Reserve University

Just recently, I had the great pleasure of being one of the student representatives from Case to attend the ASA meeting in San Francisco. I wasn't quite sure what to expect (except for some free pens) but I was definitely excited to spread the word about AA's. To my great surprise, there were so many people at the meeting that already knew about AA's and countless remarks were made on how they wanted us in their state. It was an inspiring moment for me as a student in this profession to see such a positive response to who we are. I can't encourage students enough to try and attend this event next year. There are great opportunities to gain contacts, to become updated on new equipment and drugs, and of course to stock up on all the pens that you could ever need. It was a great opportunity to be a part of this and I can sincerely say that all of the students who attended did a fabulous job of representing the AA programs.

With all of this talk on working in new states and with the ever looming day of taking the board exam approaching, I would like to take this time to encourage all of the students that will be graduating to ponder the idea of going to new states that you normally wouldn't have thought about working in. This is our time to help further our profession and make leaps and bounds in advancing AA's along. I hope all of the students are having wonderful experiences and I can't wait to see everyone at the AAAA meeting in April!



Jen Puin (education manager), along with two second year students, Mary Spencer and Laura Burch, are proud to represent CASE at the 2007 ASA meeting in San Francisco.

## Nova Southeastern University's First Year AA Students Visit San Francisco for the Annual ASA Conference

Katherine Hunt and Phuong Luong

A few short weeks ago, more than 25 of our first year students and 10 of our second year students had the opportunity to attend the annual ASA conference in San Francisco, CA. Although only a few months into our education, our first year class was able to learn a great deal from the lectures, exhibit hall, and AAAA sponsored spokesperson training. The lectures were well prepared and presented by anesthesiologists from all over the country, with even a few from other countries around the world. Who knew a lecture on endocrine disorders could be so captivating? The exhibit hall was also an amazing learning experience, and it allowed us the opportunity to evaluate the latest and greatest equipment, drugs, and anesthesia groups. The free stuff didn't hurt either. The AAAA's spokesperson training taught us how to explain our profession to the public, the media, and potential employers. We were then able to practice what we learned by educating people about our profession at many of the exhibit hall booths. When we were not attending lectures (or diligently studying for another of Professor Nichols's pharmacology quizzes), we were able to see a few of the highlights of San Francisco, visiting places like the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, and Fisherman's Wharf. If you missed out on this experience, then you need to mark your calendars now for the October 2008 ASA conference in Orlando, Florida. Nova Southeastern University's AA program wouldn't miss it for the world!

## Opportunities

### JobLine Listing

#### Georgia:

**St. Joseph's/Candler Health System** (permanent or locums work), Savannah  
 contact: Sandra Hineline or Glenn Womack 912-355-7214 or [shineline@savannahanesthesia.com](mailto:shineline@savannahanesthesia.com)

#### 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](http://www.anesthetist.org). Anyone wishing to post a job opportunity should contact Kris Tindol at [kwTindol@comcast.net](mailto:kwTindol@comcast.net) or Kari Glisson at [kari@anesthetist.org](mailto:kari@anesthetist.org).

### UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MADISON

The Anesthesiology Department has openings for AAs (certified or eligible) at the UW Hospital.

Preoperative evaluations and all types of anesthesia care and monitoring performed by AA staff as part of our Anesthesia Team concept. No OB. Competitive salary and excellent benefits.

Send CV to: Human Resources Director  
 for Anesthesiology  
 600 Highland Ave, Madison, WI 53792-3272.

Unless confidentiality is requested in writing, information regarding applicants must be released upon request.

Finalists cannot be guaranteed confidentiality.  
 The UW-Madison is an EEO & AAE.



### Flexibility, Stability, Opportunity YOUR CAREER PATH BEGINS WITH GHA

**Greater Houston Anesthesiology, P.A., (GHA)** is one of the largest anesthesia groups in the country. As a private practice, GHA provides leading perioperative and anesthesiology services for the foremost medical facilities in, and surrounding, Houston, Texas.

*We are actively seeking anesthesiologist assistants to join our team!*

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 Katherine M. Chalkley, MS  
 (713) 458-4162  
[kchalkley@choosegha.com](mailto:kchalkley@choosegha.com)



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 Choose Greater Houston Anesthesiology  
[www.chooseGHA.com](http://www.chooseGHA.com)

### Cleveland Area

Northcoast Anesthesia Providers Inc. seeks to add an AA to join established group of 3 full time AA's, 1 part time AA, 2 part time CRNA's, and 5 MD's in a full service community hospital setting.

- Very competitive salary - 8 weeks paid vacation
- Highest quality available medical and dental coverage
- Fully paid malpractice coverage
- Competitive retirement package with group matching
- Send resume to Ted Brewer AAC

Northcoast Anesthesia Providers Inc.

72 Village Way suite 2B

Hudson, Ohio 44236

[tedbrewer@hotmail.com](mailto:tedbrewer@hotmail.com) Fax 440-827-5458

## 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.

**Need CMEs fast? Find free CMEs online at [www.cliniciansCME.com](http://www.cliniciansCME.com) or at [www.CMEZone.com](http://www.CMEZone.com).**

## 2007

### Nov. 28 – Dec. 2 — Naples, FL

Survey of Current Issues in Surgical Anesthesia. (Offering a maximum of 32.25 hours of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits). Sponsored by Cleveland Clinic Division of Anesthesiology, Critical Care Medicine, and Comprehensive Pain Management.

For further information, go online to [www.clevelandclinimededu.com/surgames07](http://www.clevelandclinimededu.com/surgames07) or call 1-800-238-6750.

### Nov. 30 – Dec. 2 — Chicago, IL

21st Annual Conference: Challenges for Clinicians (Offering a maximum of 20.25 hours of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits). Sponsored by The University of Chicago Department of Anesthesia & Critical Care.

Register online at <http://cme.uchicago.edu>.

### Dec. 7 – 11 — New York, NY

Post-Graduate Assembly in Anesthesiology (Offering up to 40 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits). Sponsored by the New York Stat Society of Anesthesiologists.

Online Registration available at [www.nyssa-pga.org](http://www.nyssa-pga.org).

### Dec. 15 – 16 — New York, NY

NYSORA 6th Annual Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain Management (Offering a maximum of 12.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits). Sponsored by Beth Israel Medical Center & St. Luke's and Roosevelt Hospitals.

For further information go online to [www.nysora.com](http://www.nysora.com).

## 2008

### Jan. 14 – 19 — Cozumel, Mexico

40th Caribbean Seminar in Anesthesiology (Offering up to 18 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits). Sponsored by Frank Moya Continuing Education Programs, LLC.

For more information go to [www.currentreviews.com](http://www.currentreviews.com)

### Jan. 14 – 19 — St. John, U.S.V.I.

10th Annual Conference: Challenges for Clinicians. Sponsored by the University of Chicago Department of Anesthesia & Critical Care. Offering a maximum of 27 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits. Register online at <http://cme.uchicago.edu/courses/>.

### Jan. 20 – 25 — Acapulco, Mexico

26th Annual Symposium: Clinical Update in Anesthesiology, Surgery and Perioperative Medicine. Sponsored by the Department of Anesthesiology of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and The Mexican College of Anesthesiology. Offering a maximum of 21.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits. For course registration contact H. Phillips, Dept. of Anesthesiology, Box 1010, Mount Sinai Medical Center, One Gustave L. Levy Place, New York, NY, 10029-6574.

### Jan. 21 – 25 — Maui, HI

California Society of Anesthesiologists Winter Hawaiian Seminar (Offering a maximum of 20 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits). Register online at [www.csahq.org](http://www.csahq.org).

### Feb. 3 – 8 — Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

The 11th Annual Practical Updates in Anesthesiology. Sponsored by the University of Michigan Medical School Department of Anesthesiology and approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credits.

Visit <http://cme.med.umich.edu> or call the Office of Continuing Medical Education at 800/800-0666 for more details.

### Feb. 10 – 15 — Steamboat Springs, CO

New Horizons in Anesthesiology. Sponsored by Emory University School of Medicine's Anesthesiology Department and approved for a maximum of 25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits. Visit the CME website at [www.emory.edu/CME](http://www.emory.edu/CME).

### Feb. 16 – 20 — San Diego, CA

The 10th Annual Pain Management Symposium (Approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit). Sponsored by the Cleveland Clinic Department of Pain Management. Sign up for email updates at [www.clevelandclinimed.com/pain08](http://www.clevelandclinimed.com/pain08).

### Feb. 24 – 29 — Vail, CO

Colorado Review of Anesthesia and Ski Holiday (CRASH) 2008. Sponsored by the University of Colorado School of Medicine/Office of Continuing Medical Education and offering a maximum of 27.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits. Register online at <http://www.cucrash.com>. In addition, CRASH is offering ACLS/BLS and ACLS recertification at the conference this year. Find detailed information at [www.cucrash.com/acls-bls.htm](http://www.cucrash.com/acls-bls.htm).

### March 9 – 14 — Breckenridge, CO

Second Annual Winter Anesthesia & Critical Care Review. Presented by the Duke University School of Medicine's Department of Anesthesiology and offering a maximum of 20 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits. Registration is available online at <http://anesthesia.duhs.duke.edu/>

### April 6 – 11 — Cozumel, Mexico

New Horizons in Anesthesiology. Sponsored by the Emory University School of Medicine's Department of Anesthesiology. Visit the CME website at [www.emory.edu/CME](http://www.emory.edu/CME).

### April 12 — Lexington, KY

Kentucky Society of Anesthesiologists 2008 Spring Meeting. For more information, go online to [www.ksaweb.org](http://www.ksaweb.org).

### April 26 – 30 — Hilton Head Island, SC

32nd Annual AAAA Conference. For information on the meeting site and on Hilton Head Island, go to [www.hiltonoceanfrontresort.com](http://www.hiltonoceanfrontresort.com). Information on hotel reservations and meeting registration will on the AAAA website at [www.anesthetist.org](http://www.anesthetist.org).

### Aug. 31 – Sept. 6 — Vail, CO

New Horizons in Anesthesiology. Sponsored by the Emory University School of Medicine's Department of Anesthesiology. Visit the CME website at [www.emory.edu/CME](http://www.emory.edu/CME).