

## Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists CRNAs

- Represent nearly 150 years of quality anesthesia
- Safely administer approximately 45 million anesthetics in the US every year
- Represented by 53,000 CRNAs nationwide and over 1,300 here in Georgia
- Are the sole anesthesia providers in nearly 100% of rural hospitals throughout the country
- Practice in every type of clinical setting
- Provide high quality, safe, efficient and cost effective anesthesia care

### Mission Statement

The Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists advances patient safety and CRNA practice through advocacy, education, and member engagement.

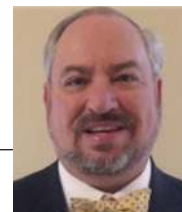
### Vision Statement

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists in Georgia will be autonomous providers recognized for their full scope of practice and quality patient care and are compensated fairly for their services.

## Report from the President

### Fall in the South

by Wallace S. Phillips, CRNA, MSNA



What does the word "Fall" mean in the south? When this question is asked in the south, you will often get a response like:

**It's cotton harvesting time,  
It's apple picking time,  
It's fall foliage time, or  
It's football and tailgating time. (Go Dawgs!)**

But when you ask CRNAs and SRNAs the response will probably include it's time for GAS (Georgia Anesthesia Symposium) and GANA annual meeting. GAS 2018, which was held in Savannah, Georgia this year, was very successful. The weather was great and everyone seemed to enjoy the speakers and lectures that were provided. ***I would like to thank the entire program committee and Laura Moritz with Association Meeting Planners for their hard work and doing an exceptional job again this year. I would also like to thank all the CRNAs and SRNAs that were at the meeting.***

Similar to last year, we had an excellent group of lectures and speakers. CRNAs and SRNAs were able to network and socialize together while earning CEUs and enjoying the beautiful fall weather in Savannah.

At the GANA annual meeting, the gavel was passed from President Barry Cranfill to Wallace Phillips and the new 2018-19 Board of Directors was presented to the membership.

So as president, I have my first opportunity to reach out to all the CRNAs in Georgia. I would like to state that I am humbled,

honored and excited to represent the CRNAs of the great state Georgia as your president for 2018-19. Your board of directors and I are working hard to continuously improve and expand upon all of our resources, which will contribute to a vibrant and productive association. GANA is committed to improving our membership experience and involvement in our association. Membership engagement is the new buzz word for all nonprofit and practice associations including the GANA and AANA. As we move forward into this new year, I ask that all CRNAs in Georgia consider engaging and becoming active in this wonderful association.

As a long-time member of the AANA and GANA, I would like to share with you what membership has meant to me. When I first started out as a CRNA, I had been very active in school with the New England Assembly of Nurse Anesthetist as the student president and representative to the New England Assembly of Nurse Anesthesia Faculty. This allowed me to interact with the AANA and all the state associations and school faculty in the New England area. This is where I first saw the benefits of belonging to the state and national professional organization such as the GANA and the AANA. I learned all the resources that were available to CRNAs through these associations. However, I truly did not appreciate the benefits available to me until the day I decided to go into independent practice and work for myself. I quickly learned that legal fees and fees paid to professional associations that are in the business of selling information, charged large amounts of money

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Proud supporter of  
Anesthesia Patient  
Safety Foundation

## Report from the President-Elect

### Following Your Curiosity

by Eddie Thomas, MSNA, CRNA



No two roads are the same ...

Random thoughts from my call room as I sit here wishing and hoping for the phone to stay silent. I'm trying to decide which would be the best topic for my first newsletter. In all of these thoughts, I keep coming back to a conversation I had with a couple of SRNAs.

In my practice, I have the privilege of working regularly with students. In a discussion on the importance of professional engagement, one of the students asked exactly how I had gotten involved with GANA. I told them my story ... the time when I worked with Sarah Phillips (Public Relations chair) on regional meetings around the state. I had been out of school a couple of years and was interested in getting involved. I volunteered to give a 1 CE lecture in hopes of improving attendance. I lost the student right there. Talking to an SRNA about more lectures .... what was I thinking?!

I think back on that conversation and reflect on how poorly I had answered the question. It felt like I had given bad driving directions, "Go a couple miles this way, turn right, keep going and it will be up on the left." Their eyes had glazed over ... I blew it.

Nelson Mandela once said, "I never lose. I either win or learn." I choose to take this misstep and use it as an opportunity to learn and grow. I should have spoken about following one's curiosity. I view curiosity as the spark that drives us all to explore and grow. Sometimes that curiosity gets overshadowed by other demands in our life. There will be a right time for you to engage in our association. Maybe that time is now; perhaps your time is in the future. There are many ways each of you can engage, learn, and grow in our association and I hope you will explore all of them. I hope you will follow that desire to give back to this profession that has given us all so much. There are more than 1,300 of us in the state of Georgia. We come from diverse backgrounds, varied practice settings, and different life experiences. This gives each and every one of us a unique opportunity to play an important role in the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

So, everyone please follow your curiosity. And I hope to see you soon.

Bethomas.bet@gmail.com  
(616) 446-3711 ▲

## **Improving the Strength of Our Association**

*by Steve Smith, CRNA, MA*



The AANA recently announced its new CRNAdvocacy Facebook group! To engage the membership more directly on issues of federal and state advocacy, they started a new Facebook group as a place for members to discuss advocacy issues and as an information and update center on those efforts. Because the group is only open to AANA members, everyone who joins needs to be verified. This will provide a safe and secure forum for members where they can discuss advocacy and CRNA-PAC while complying with all laws.

The group will contain updates on advocacy efforts, informational videos, election updates, and discussions with advocacy staff to better help our members be advocates for CRNAs and to ensure that staff hears what matters to you in the advocacy world. To join go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CRNAdvocacy/>.

On October 24, 2018, President Trump signed sweeping opioids legislation into law. The legislation was approved by a vote of 98-1 in the Senate earlier in October and approved by the House with a vote of 393-8.

The bill represents a major bipartisan victory and the strongest response yet to the opioid crisis. One of the major provisions of the bill is a section that would allow CRNAs and other advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to obtain a waiver from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to prescribe medication-assisted treatments (MATs),

**"One of the major provisions of the bill is a section that would allow CRNAs and other advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to obtain a waiver from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to prescribe medication-assisted treatments (MATs) such as buprenorphine."**

such as buprenorphine. The bill allows for a five-year pilot program for most APRNs, including CRNAs. Unfortunately, here in Georgia, CRNAs practice under the medical practice act protocol OCGA 43-34-23 which does not allow for prescriptive authority.

CRNA-PAC is one of the most valuable resources we have to improve the strength of our association and our profession. But, only 7% percent of AANA members contributed to CRNA-PAC in the last fiscal year and only 1% in Georgia. The PAC is a tool to help AANA achieve its federal policy goals and financially support elected officials and candidates for federal office who support the interests of our membership. Every contribution, regardless of amount, makes a difference. As your Federal Political Director, I would like to challenge you all to consider giving \$10/month as a recurring charge to beat the ASA and win the battles of reimbursement and full scope of practice. Go to <https://crna-pac.com/> today and give.

Remember to save the date for the 2019 Mid-Year Assembly: April 6-10 in Washington DC at the Grand Hyatt Washington. The Augusta University class of 2020 will be in full attendance. We are hoping you will join us. This is without a doubt the most significant AANA meeting where you can personally make an impact on the profession and members back home. ▲

## Report from Our Association Manager

### GANA News

by Sheryl Reyes, MPH, MSMIS



#### GANA Elections:

GANA is pleased to announce the following individuals have been elected to the GANA 2018-2019 Board of Directors: Eddie Thomas – President-elect; Reed Halterman – Treasurer; Allison Herren – Secretary; Vito Crespo – Board Member; and Wesley Karcher – Board Member. The returning Board members include: Wallace Phillips – President; Barry Cranfill – Immediate Past President; Michael Conti – Board member; and April Culler – Board member. Congratulations to all and thank you for your service, passion and dedication to advance our organization and profession. We look forward to a great year under your leadership!

#### AANA Association Management Services Pilot Program:

It was a pleasure to meet many of you during this past Georgia Anesthesia Symposium (GAS) in Savannah, GA! My name is Sheryl Reyes and I am your new Association Manager. In addition to my GANA role, I am AANA's State Associations Governance Manager, managing leadership development programs and opportunities to state association leaders across the nation.

Following a recommendation from the State Organizational Development Committee (SODC), the AANA Board of Directors approved the implementation of a 2-year pilot program to offer association management services for up to five state associations. The Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists (GANA) is one of the five states participating in the program.

This pilot program will serve as the study group for the AANA's research and development efforts in continuing to improve the performance of the states. About 5 years ago, AANA conducted a nation-wide project and contracted with Association Management Consultants to conduct organizational assessments and strategic planning facilitation for our state associations. It will be my responsibility to work with the GANA Board of Directors to identify barriers that may have prevented the implementation and assist with the prioritization of the organizational assessment recommendations and strategic plan. I believe executing these opportunities will contribute in better serving you and governing the association. I look forward to the upcoming year and working with GANA! ▲



*Second-year Emory University Nurse Anesthesia Student Brandon Smercansky learning the finer points of fiberoptic intubation*



*Dr. Erica Moore, faculty member and Lindsay Dixon, second year student, in the simulation lab at Emory University.*

  
2019 MID-YEAR ASSEMBLY



April 6-10, 2019 | Washington, DC  
Grand Hyatt Washington

REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 2018



## Healthcare To Be a Top Issue in 2019

*by Monty Veazey*



Since I last communicated with you, a lot has occurred in the political arena with it being an election year.

Needless to say, the race getting all the attention is the Governor's race. Do not overlook the other races such as Lt. Governor, state Senators and House members. These offices are just as important or perhaps more important than the statewide races. As the saying goes, all politics start local.

There have been more Study Committees working this summer, both House and Senate, than I recall in an election year, some of which are so important to the healthcare industry.

The 2019 legislature will look much different than it has in the past 12 or so years. There will be a new Governor and Lt. Governor, the House will have many new members with 11 new committee chairmen, and the Senate likewise. With the Senate, it will be interesting to see what power the leadership will allow for the new Senate President.

With healthcare, the Legislature must decide what to do about Medicaid and whether to expand or not; or they may seek waivers in order to draw down federal dollars. Rural healthcare will continue to garner much attention. Not a lot has been done to prevent hospital closings and insuring the poor. So access to care is becoming a major concern. The only way to prevent more closures and provide access to care is through Medicaid expansion or introducing waivers for the state. Reimbursement has become dire for physicians and hospitals. Today, they are paid 83% on the dollar for the cost of service.

Along the same line, the state must address the issues of healthcare workforce shortages. This continues to be a growing problem and it is an issue state-wide. The rural areas of the state are facing a greater need of a good workforce. Today, we have nine counties without a doctor, 70 counties without an OB/GYN, and 63 counties without pediatrics. With about half the babies born in rural Georgia, this is a problem.

In today's environment, everyone in the healthcare field must engage in the political arena and that means involvement at the local level. Get to know your legislator, or better, go visit them at home. If you care about the future of your profession, and I know you do, you must act. Come to the Capitol and spend time with your legislator. Let them know how legislation affects your profession and the way you practice. Start today and make it a part of your goal to call or go visit them. You cannot just rely on the association leaders to do it. Start by supporting GANA. I have enjoyed the opportunity to speak to your group once a year for the past 34 years. But I continue to see the same ones there. As you enjoy your profession, start now by getting involved in GANA. Take a weekend out of the year to attend your Annual Meeting, and make a contribution to the PAC fund.

Know this: Because they are part-time, legislators do not have the time nor the staff to do the necessary research to understand your profession. They must count on you! So start today! ▲

Healthcare will continue to be one of the top issues in the 2019 session. In fact, I would say for the next 5 years or so the major issues will be:

- Healthcare
- Budget
- Transportation
- Education

### **GANA Board Meeting**

The next GANA Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 5, 2018.

This will be a phone in conference call. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to [gana@aana.com](mailto:gana@aana.com) or 847-939-3521.

These meetings are open to all members and we encourage your participation.

# Augusta University Class of 2018 Student Report

by Jessica Galloway, SRNA



It is hard to believe that we are in the final countdown as the Augusta University Nursing Anesthesia Class of 2018! We are enthusiastically working toward our ultimate goal of earning those four much coveted letters: CRNA. I am sure that I speak for the entire class when I say that we feel tired yet excited as the semester, and our time at Augusta University, comes to a close. Discipline is key at this point in our education to ensure that we are ready for the board exam for certification soon after graduation.

Our class participated in the Nursing Anesthesia Program Poster Day this semester. The latest and greatest capstone projects were displayed and presented on campus to our peers. Many interesting topics were covered, from recommended guidelines for perioperative insulin pump management to the impact of music therapy on anxiety levels of intraoperative patients. Although public speaking is not a CRNA job requirement, we hopefully gained valuable presentation skills that we can put to use at conferences in the future!

We also attended GANA's Georgia Anesthesia Symposium (GAS) in Savannah this fall. Savannah is a great city to visit, and it hosted a great conference. We met other professionals and learned more about the nursing anesthesia profession. The session topics ranged from exam assistance to learning about current standards of practice. We hope future classes will also attend and participate in this great learning opportunity.

As we come to the end of our journey as SRNAs, we are humbled and indebted by the immense knowledge, support, and expertise our CRNA faculty and preceptors have imparted to us. Our class realizes that the transition from student to colleague is near, and we are eager to begin practicing alongside those who have helped us along the way. We will continue to take any advice and support you can offer us, even if it is just directions to the cafeteria at our new jobs! Please be on the lookout for newly minted Georgia CRNAs near you in 2019! ▲

## GANA Calendar 2018-2019

### December 5, 2018

GANA Board Meeting – virtual

### January 22-24, 2019

National CRNA Week  
(GANA plans to hold events at the State Capitol on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, January 22-24)

### January 5, 2019

Region 2 Meeting – Charlotte, NC

### February 2019

GANA Strategic Planning – TBD

### February 13-16, 2019

AANA Assembly of Didactic and Clinical Educators – Houston, TX

### March 30, 2019

GANA Board Meeting – Emory University

### April 6-10, 2019

AANA Mid-Year Assembly – Washington DC

### June 2019

Region 2 Meeting – TBD

### August 9-13, 2019

AANA Annual Congress – Chicago, IL

### August 24, 2019

GANA Board Meeting – Augusta University

### October 2019

GANA Annual Meeting – Atlanta, GA



Go to [www.gana.org](http://www.gana.org),  
scroll down and click on  
the "Social Media" button  
and then "Like Us" on  
Facebook!

## FROM THE COVER Fall in the South

for information on starting a practice, incorporating, and selling information on meeting the federal and state regulations for billing and reimbursement. This quickly reached a sum of \$25,000. At the same time I reached out to the AANA, and the amount of information that I received for the dues that I paid for membership, which at that time was around \$420, was overwhelming. The AANA gave me contacts who would be able to assist me that were members in Georgia working in independent practice. They provided me with the contact for the GANA, (remember no internet or web page at that time) who, when I contacted them, they quickly updated me on Georgia laws and regulation. The AANA also put me in contact with other CRNAs in other states who were willing to assist me in heading in the right direction. These colleagues have become close friends and mentors to me over the past 25 years. Around 2013, I started becoming more involved with the GANA and I started attending the board of director meetings. When I was able to attend, I attended the state meetings, AANA's Annual Congress, the Mid-Year Assembly and the Fall Assembly. I was encouraged to seek a board position so I ran for BOD and after 2 years, ran for President-elect, which has gotten me to the ultimate involvement in the GANA – serving as your president. I have had the pleasure to work and socialize with the past boards and past presidents of the GANA and have found them to be the most talented and hardworking people. The professional and social comradery that I have experienced as a member of the GANA/AANA has totally been a satisfying and well worth journey.

With all this being said, if you are considering becoming active in GANA, and allowing membership to mean something to you, please contact me, a current board member or our primary contact person at GANA, Sheryl Reyes. We have many committees and opportunities for you to participate in the GANA work and Mission. Your input is important to us!

I know there are many talented CRNAs who can help make the GANA a great professional association. ▲



## Augusta University Nursing Anesthesia Program Report

*by Dr. Shannon Broxton, CRNA, DNP*

Greetings from Augusta! The fall brings a busy season for our Nursing Anesthesia Program. This December, our final MSN cohort will matriculate and Augusta University will close this chapter of Master's Degree anesthesia graduates. Many of you reading this now are our program's partners in education. Because of your commitment to the training of our students in clinical and didactic experiences, I know you share in our excitement as we place the capstone on our initial degree offering.

Moving forward, let me take this opportunity to update you all on the progress of our inaugural DNP cohort. Our year began in January with the admittance of our first DNP candidates. The Class of 2020 – our first DNP graduates – are currently in their third of four didactic semesters. Their last didactic semester will conclude in May 2019 and will be followed immediately by the start of their clinical training. What does that mean for all of you? Glad you asked! Our program won't have any students in clinical from December 2018 – May 2019. However, once clinical resumes in late May 2019, there won't be any further interruptions.

Lastly, I want to extend my sincerest gratitude for the reception of the students at the Georgia Anesthesia Symposium - aka GAS 2018. The faculty at Augusta University have committed to the mission of membership engagement at the state level and we understand fully that the seed is planted once you become a student of this great profession. Be prepared for a large student and faculty presence from our university at all future GANA events. The faculty and I are thrilled about our renewed partnership with GANA and our program's commitment to excellence. All the best...

### PAC 2019

New PAC Chair ... who's this? I am always up for a good challenge, and following Reed Halterman's footsteps as the most recent chair of the PAC meets this criterion. Though I cannot commit or comment just yet on the PAC event for GAS 2019, trust that it will be fun and engaging and hopefully every bit as memorable as our experience in Savannah. Be ready because I'm going to be calling on the membership to identify interests of the group as we prepare for the season ahead. Thank you to the members for your continued support of the PAC, and there will be more to come! All the best ... ▲

# LOOKING BACK ...

WCNA Opening Ceremonies • Budapest



*Dr. Jackie Rowles of Emory University at the WCNA Opening Ceremonies – June 2018*

AANA Leadership Workshop • November 3-4 • Atlanta



*Kay Argroves, Alison Herren, Wally Phillips and Eddie Thomas*



*Sarah Phillips, Ramon Medina and Allison Herren*

## Need Malpractice Insurance?

Contact AANA Insurance Services at 1-800-343-1368  
or obtain insurance information from the  
AANA website.



### AANA Update

by Angela Mund, DNP, CRNA



Hi AANA CRNAs,

I hope everyone is enjoying fall! The AANA Board is working hard on your behalf on a variety of projects and initiatives many of them member driven. Here are just a few:

- Cultural Assessment Taskforce reported out on the Assessment. The AANA Board will be meeting our consultants, SortSol, during the Practice Leadership Assembly on November 9th. I will keep everyone in the loop as we move forward.
- The staff in our DC office continues to work diligently on reimbursement issues. A recent win was Medicare broadening representation on Contractor Advisory Committee beyond physicians. This will enable CRNAs to finally get a seat at this important table.
- The Reimbursement and Innovation Taskforce is working with the AANA Healthcare Research and Policy staff to develop resources for members related to MACRA, MIPS, and APM. Please visit the AANA website for more information. These groups have done an amazing amount of work to assist members in obtaining the highest levels of reimbursement. <https://www.aana.com/advocacy/quality-reimbursement/quality-payment-program/2017-mips/macra-quality-payment-program>
- Our Federal Government Affairs staff continue to meet with the VHA leadership and with our legislative champions to push for Full Practice Authority for all VA CRNAs. We are all watching the selection of a new VA Secretary very closely.
- Due to member requests to be able to engage in discussions supporting the CRNA-PAC, the DC staff developed a new Facebook Page for AANA members only to discuss important federal advocacy efforts. You can join the group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CRNAdvocacy/>

I'm looking forward to seeing our members at the Practice Leadership Assembly in Chicago! As always, feel free to reach out to me with any concerns or comments.

amund@aanabod.com ▲



### Emory University Student Report

by Shawn Biddle, SRNA

The Emory University inaugural doctoral class of 2020 will have reached its half-way point at the end of this Fall semester! We are also proud to announce that the second cohort of students started class this past August and will soon be completing their first semester. The class of 2020 started their clinical training this past summer at various sites throughout the state. Some students have already started specialty training, including administering peripheral nerve blocks, at various clinical sites including CRNA-only locations. Along the way, the students have worked with very encouraging and inspiring CRNAs. The students would like to thank each and every one of them for their patience and willingness to teach.

Wellness and time management are crucial at this point in the program. We are currently taking rigorous anesthesia and doctoral courses, rotating through clinical sites, and starting our doctoral research projects. Our anesthesia training has been in parallel with our leadership training. We have worked with various clinical partners within the metro Atlanta area to continue to learn and provide the best care we can for the patients we meet. Time is flying by and we look forward to what the future holds. ▲

## Resilience

by Martha Kral, CRNA



A definition of resilience is “the power or ability to return to the original form, position, etc., after being bent, compressed, or stretched; elasticity, ability to recover readily from illness, depression, adversity, or the like; buoyancy.” Some synonyms are buoyant, strong, supple, hardy, tough, rolling-with-punches. Some words that are opposite of the term “resilience” are fragility, inflexibility, frailness, weakness, stubbornness, and pessimism.

Many nurse anesthetists probably see themselves as resilient. After all, we are stretched by having great demands put upon us. There are demands to administer safe, successful anesthesia, all while doing so in an efficient and productive way. We sometimes feel squeezed or are under pressure at work. There may be pressures from the surgeon, the anesthesiologist, and managers- and all different types of pressure. But we are resilient as we go home after work, decompress and come back to work the next day, ready to perform to our utmost.

We are expected to maintain affability and flexibility throughout adversity with little concern for ourselves. Many times we are caring for everyone but ourselves. Does that sound selfish? To ensure a resilient mindset, we must take care of ourselves. This is necessary to avoid self-doubt, impulsiveness, and both mental and physical exhaustion. We cannot expect to take care of everything else if we are exhausted, so take time to do something to take care of self. Take a walk, spend time alone, exercise. Do something that pleases you.

Being resilient is a personal process that we have to experience and actively work at to become more balanced and able to weather the situations thrown at us by life.

Sometimes things come our way that are not desirable nor expected. But do not give up. Instead find a way to learn from challenging situations, and make things better. Sometimes it means digging in and promoting change, or adapting to the current situation. Instead of being miserable, try to think positively. Sometimes when I am displeased at work, I think to myself “Only a few years until I retire.” Along those lines remember “Nothing is permanent.”

It doesn't hurt to have a plan B, or think about what you might do in a certain situation. For instance, at the recent GANA annual meeting, Lynn Reede, AANA Chief Clinical Officer, talked about adverse events during anesthesia.

At so many institutions, if the patient incurs an adverse event in your care, you are expected to simply move on to the next case. We do this with ease because we are resilient, right? But is this best practice? Initially the patient has been traumatized, but the provider has been traumatized too. Should we be required to return to the OR, or should we have some downtime, or perhaps even “off time”? Can you give the next patient 100% if you are in a fragile state yourself? What would you do? Hopefully your work institution has processes in place to adequately address such a situation.

Another situation that calls for resilience is when you lose your job

***continued on page 11 >***



*Left to right: Hollie White, Hector Negron and Martha Kral*



## Augusta University DNP Nursing Anesthesia Class Student Report

by William Howell, SRNA

Hello everyone! I would like to extend the warmest greetings from the first DNP Nursing Anesthesia class at Augusta University. My name is William Howell and I am honored to serve the Class of 2020 as the representative to the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists. We have been busy since we started this past January. We are currently in our third semester and time is flying by. It seems like just yesterday that we started the program. The spring semester will be our last didactic semester before we head out to the clinical setting and begin putting into practice what we all have been studying so hard to learn. This fall we have been increasing our lab time, developing case plans for surgeries, practicing inductions, intubations, and started discussing our DNP Projects.

The Class of 2020 also attended our first conference this semester which was the Georgia Anesthesia Symposium (GAS) in Savannah. We had 28 of the 30 first year students attend the GAS conference and it was an experience we will remember for the rest of our careers. One of our favorite parts was interacting with all of the practicing CRNAs! Thank you to everyone for making us feel welcome and providing advice, guidance, and support for our young careers. Also, a

big thanks to Barry Cranfill and Steve Smith for hosting a Q&A exclusive for students on the last day of the conference. We had a great time learning from the speakers, the vendors, and exploring Savannah. We are also grateful to all the attendees who sponsored students through donations to participate in the escape room at Escape Savannah as part of the PAC event. The Class of 2020 also had four of our colleagues deliver the Dan Ebal Memorial Lectures. We are looking forward to Capitol Day and Mid-Year Assembly coming up next semester.

Lastly, we want to give a shout out to our professors. They have worked so hard during the transition to the DNP program. Our professors have instituted a flipped classroom model, which provides an enhanced interactive learning experience. They have also prepared hi-fidelity simulation experiences and cadaver lab opportunities to ensure that we are prepared when we enter the operating room in May. Thank you for all of your hard work to provide an unparalleled education for us.

The Class of 2020 would also like to extend a congratulations to our Class of 2018 colleagues on graduation in December. Best of luck with your careers! ▲

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### FROM PAGE 10

through termination, downsizing or a corporate takeover. It has been said that you should "not take it personally", but that is almost impossible when you are in the throes of sudden loss of income and self esteem. You can survive and many times move to a more favorable situation. In the meantime, perhaps you should use any remaining sick time to improve your mental health. You may need to see a

therapist, or be on anti-anxiety medications temporarily. Use the time off to learn to meditate, exercise, spend time with friends, take a trip and look for a new job. Do what you need to do to take care of yourself. As Alexander Graham Bell said, "When one door closes, another door opens." And remember, you are still a success!

#### **AANA has a myriad of resources online.**

**Adverse events:** <https://www.aana.com/practice/health-and-wellness-peer-assistance/about-health-wellness/emotional-and-mental-well-being/adverse-medical-events-critical-incidents---how-to-cope>

**Stress:** <https://www.aana.com/practice/health-and-wellness-peer-assistance/about-health-wellness/emotional-and-mental-well-being/stress-and-nurse-anesthesia-professionals>

**Wellness in the Workplace:** <https://www.aana.com/practice/health-and-wellness-peer-assistance/about-health-wellness/wellness-in-the-workplace>

*If you or someone you know struggles with drugs or alcohol, help is available.  
AANA Peer Assistance Helpline – 800-654-5167*

# Emory University Nell Hodgins Woodruff School of Nursing Nurse Anesthesia Program Report

By Kelly Wiltse Nicely, PhD, CRNA



The summer and fall were very productive for the faculty and students at the Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing's DNP Nurse Anesthesia Program! Some of our highlights include:

1. The Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing presented the Nurse Anesthesia faculty and staff the Team Excellence Award at the annual Faculty Awards Luncheon in May 2018.
2. Students began their entry into clinical practice in May 2018 at clinical sites in metro Atlanta, Macon and Moultrie, Georgia. We even had one student successfully place and manage a subarachnoid block on his first clinical day!
3. In August, Dr. Erica Moore, DNP, CRNA, joined the Nurse Anesthesia Program as a part-time faculty member. She continues to practice as a staff nurse anesthetist at Grady Memorial Hospital.
4. Also in August, we officially doubled in size as we admitted our second cohort of ten nurse anesthesia students from across the country.
5. Dr. Michael Conti, PhD, CRNA presented a poster entitled "A Descriptive Study Exploring the Perceptions about Collaboration with Physician Anesthesiologists" at the 2018 International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists (IFNA) Meeting in Budapest, Hungary.

6. Dr. Kelly Wiltse Nicely, PhD, CRNA and Dr. Michael Conti, PhD, CRNA attended the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Annual Congress in Boston, Massachusetts.
7. In October, Dr. Kelly Wiltse Nicely coordinated the David C. Jowers Lecture Event entitled: Eyes on the Opioid Crisis. The keynote speaker was Dr. Jackie Rowles, DNP, MBA, CRNA, ANP-BC, DPNAP, DAIOM, FAAN, current International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists President and a past president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Dr. Rowles discussed the nurse anesthetist's role in multi-modal pain management.

Any inquiries regarding the program can be directed to [crnaquestions@emory.edu](mailto:crnaquestions@emory.edu).

To stay up to date on the daily activities of Emory's Nurse Anesthesia DNP Program, follow the program on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EmoryCRNA/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EmoryCRNA>

Instagram: [Instagram.com/emorycrna](https://www.instagram.com/emorycrna) ▲



*Team Excellence Award*

From left to right: Dr. Sandra Dunbar, Sr. Associate Dean for Academic Advancement; Dr. Michael E. Conti, Assistant Program Director; Dr. Kelly Wiltse Nicely, Program Director; Emalee Aparo, Program Coordinator; and Dr. Linda McCauley, Dean



*The David C. Jowers Annual Lecture: Eyes on the Opioid Crisis*

From left: Dr. Linda McCauley, Dean; Dr. Jackie Rowles, Keynote Speaker; and Dr. Kelly Wiltse Nicely, Program Director and organizer of this year's lecture series.





## **The Changed Political Landscape**

*by Kay Argoves*

The Government Relations Committee is making cursory preparations for the upcoming 2018-19 Legislative session at the Capitol. The mid-term election results were quite a surprise to many voters, legislators and lobbyists. The dramatic outcome has changed the political landscape at the Capitol. It is presently in flux under the gold dome. Until we learn who has prevailed this November 6th on election day\*, committee members, chairs and even parties in the majority/minority may be changing in the near future, and no one is quite clear what will happen as a result.

Chairmanships and members of legislative committees are designated by the dominant political party leaders in power and this is not usually decided until several weeks after the session begins. The legislative session for 2019 begins the second Monday in January by Georgia Constitution, Section 4. Georgia currently operates under a state government trifecta which means one party, the Republicans, currently have a member serving as the Governor, Lt. Governor of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

So we, as well as most that travel to the Capitol regularly, are sitting tight until things become a little clearer as to who is in charge and what the agenda might become as the year unfolds. It should be very interesting, and will clearly be a year of readjustments as this will be a new Governor for our state for the first time in eight years with a new administration regardless of which candidate or political party prevails.

We do know that our nationally celebrated National CRNA Week is January 20th-26th, 2019. The Georgia

Association of Nurse Anesthetists (GANA) will be celebrating at the Capitol January 22-24th. Please send me an email, at [klamarg@yahoo.com](mailto:klamarg@yahoo.com), if you would like to attend any of our events at the Capitol that week. We would love your company and participation. We usually have a picture opportunity with the Governor as well as a proclamation signing for nurse anesthetist week with the Governor.

I would like to thank the members who served on the Government Relations Committee for this past

2018 legislative session. Those serving were: Brady Banares, Michael E. Conti, Victor (Vito) Crespo, Holly Dilworth, Cameron Durden, Ryan Ford, Wesley Karcher, Kathy Mann, Erica Moore, Rose Synsmir, Eddie Thomas, Ann Thompson and Taushera Westbrook. Special thanks to members' exemplar Steve Smith and Co-Chair Wally Phillips. This GRC team's service to our state and the nurse anesthetist profession are greatly appreciated! ▲

\* At the time of submission, the results of the election were not known.

**"The Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists (GANA) will be celebrating National CRNA Week at the Capitol – January 22-24."**

## Report from the Public Relations Chair

### Looking Forward to 2019

by Allison Herren, CRNA



After a successful Georgia Anesthesia Symposium 2018, I would like to welcome our newly elected board members and our returning board members. We will continue to work hard to make our members happy and represent our state and profession. 2018 has been a great year for our organization and we expect the same as we look forward to 2019. We are in the early stages of developing our next year's calendar of events.

Plans for the Georgia Anesthesia Symposium (GAS) 2019 in Atlanta, GA are already underway. The PR Committee will continue to plan combined regional area/board meetings designed to involve more of our members in various areas of the state. These regional meetings will allow for educational opportunities as well as networking and camaraderie. Ideally, we would like to host regional meetings on the east and the west sides of the state this upcoming year in order to make ourselves accessible to more members. Due to the popularity of the recent Dahlonega regional meeting, a similar venue is being considered as well as one in the Lake Oconee area. We are also considering a CRNA family outing, perhaps to a sporting event, in the spring. All dates and locations are yet to be determined at this point. Please feel free to contact Sarah Phillips or me with any suggestions or if you'd like to volunteer with any of these ideas/events.

CRNA week in January will be here before we know it. CRNA week is January 20-26, 2019. The GANA board members and associate members will be under the "Gold Dome" on January 22nd, 23rd and 24th. All GANA members are welcome to join us as we represent our profession. Promotional items for CRNA week will soon be available at the AANA website. Please order items for display at your workplace and show support for our profession.

GANA will have a board meeting with our associate members at Emory University on March 30, 2019 and another at Augusta University on August 24, 2019. SRNAs are our future!

Please feel free to contact Sarah Phillips or me with questions or suggestions.  
Sarah8888@hotmail.com  
afherren@aol.com ▲

## AANA Leadership Workshop November 3-4 • Atlanta



Reed Halterman, Sarah Phillips and  
Vito Crespo



Allison Herren, April Culler, Sarah Phillips  
and Kay Argroves

**www.aana.com/  
peerassist.aspx**

**Helpline  
Peer Assistance  
800.654.5167**

**Anesthetists in  
Recovery (AIR)  
215.635.0183**

# AANA Annual Congress

September 21-25, 2018 • Boston, Massachusetts



*Charles and Janice Izlar  
and Lisa Smith*



*GANA President Wally Phillips,  
AANA CEO Randy Moore and Steve Smith*



*Steve Smith and Michael Conti*



*Top row – Noleen Robinson, Janice Izlar and  
Wally Phillips; Bottom row – Rich Karol, Leslie Jeter,  
Steve Smith, Barry Cranfill, Michael Conti and Lisa Phillips*

## Celebrate National CRNA Week – January 20-26, 2019



### **SAVE THESE DATES!**

**The GANA will be celebrating  
National CRNA Week  
at the Capitol  
on Tuesday, Wednesday  
and Thursday,  
January 22-24, 2019.**



# GANA Regional Meeting

July 14, 2018 • Wolf Mountain Vineyards • Dahlonega, Georgia

Eddie Thomas, CRNA, MSN spoke on "Opioid Free Anesthesia" during a luncheon and wine tasting.



Kathy Mann, Dusty Johnson and Pat Holder



Kyle Calhoun, Sarah Phillips and David Hall

# GANS Meeting

October 12, 2018 • The Classic Center • Athens, Georgia



SRNAs Kevin Kempter, Allie Nelson, Will Howell and Elizabeth Gay



Allie Nelson, Elizabeth Gay, Will Howell, Keven Kempter, Steve Smith and Wally Phillips



EDUCATE + ENGAGE + EMPOWER

# GAS2019

GEORGIA ANESTHESIA SYMPOSIUM

COMING TO ATLANTA

**GANA**

Supporting Members • Protecting Patients

Georgia Association  
of Nurse Anesthetists

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[www.GANA.org](http://www.GANA.org)

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Available at [AANA.com](http://AANA.com)*

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*If you or someone you know struggles  
with drugs or alcohol, help is available.*

[www.AANAPeerAssistance.com](http://www.AANAPeerAssistance.com)



If You See Something,  
**DO SOMETHING!**

**Warning signs of substance use disorder include:**

- Significant change in behavior
- Patterns of inappropriate drug choices and dosages

**Complete list and intervention essentials**  
[www.AANA.com/GettingHelp](http://www.AANA.com/GettingHelp)

**SHOW YOU CARE. For help, call (800) 654-5167.**

## Jessica Galloway Named 2018 GANA Outstanding Student Nurse Anesthetist



Jessica has been the Augusta University student representative (class of 2018) for the last 2 years. Normally the student only volunteers for one year. Jessica has attended almost all GANA events and worked with the GANA on important events such as GANA Capitol Day and the 2018 AANA Mid-Year Assembly. The following are Ms. Galloway's accomplishments during her time as an SRNA at Augusta University:

- Student GANA representative for the Augusta University Nursing Anesthesia Program (NAP) Class of 2017-2018
- Worked in liaison with Kay Argroves and Steve Smith to coordinate Augusta University's NAP Class of 2018 students for GANA Capitol Day in 2017 and 2018
- Volunteered at the GANA 2017 Blood Drive
- Volunteered as a GANA representative at the GANA exhibit and breakout session at the Georgia Association of Nursing Students (GANS) Convention in 2017
- Worked in liaison with Steve Smith to coordinate Augusta University's NAP Class of 2018 students for the 2018 AANA Mid-Year Assembly
- Authored Student Perspective articles for Augusta University's NAP Class of 2018 in the GANA's To and Fro publications for the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 editions
- 4.0 GPA

### Clinical – Quotes from two preceptors:

*"She was always very pleasant to work with, and she was always prepared. She was eager to learn, and she showed true enthusiasm about becoming a CRNA."*

*"I've worked with Jessie and I think she is a great candidate for the Outstanding Student award. We worked together on a very busy day in OB ... she is very strong clinically and very good at interacting with patients."*

Jessica graduates in December 2018 from Augusta University and plans on working at Gwinnett Medical Center. GANA congratulates her for excellence in academics and exemplary clinical practice, leadership and contributions to GANA as a student nurse anesthetist.

## Dr. Jim Masiongale Receives the 2018 Rosalie McDonald Award

Dr. Jim Masiongale is the 2018 Rosalie McDonald Award winner honoring him as the 2018 outstanding practitioner in Georgia. Jim has been an active GANA member for many years and made significant contributions of excellence to the practice of nurse anesthesia and demonstrated his sustained support for CRNAs and SRNAs in Georgia. He also served in the military where he received his education and training in nurse anesthesia.

Dr. Masiongale was the 2012 GANA President, also serving on the GANA board as a Director, President Elect and Immediate Past President. He also served as Government Relations Chair and on many other committees during that time. Perhaps his most significant contribution was as the Program Director for the School of Nurse Anesthesia in Augusta where he took it from a Masters level program to a DNP program in 2017. Dr. Masiongale was also instrumental and a leader in spearheading the movement to prevent state funding being taken away from the school of nurse anesthesia.



Steve Smith, Barry Cranfill, and Jim Masiongale



# Georgia Anesthesia Symposium (GAS) 2018

October 5-7, 2018 • Savannah, Georgia



*Sarah Phillips, Barry Cranfill,  
Traci Bryan and Charlie Wright*



*Sheryl Reyes –  
GANA Association Manager*



*Immediate Past President Barry Cranfill and  
GANA 2018-2019 President Wally Phillips*



*GANA Escape PAC Event*



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## Shadow a CRNA

Contact the GANA  
office by email at  
[gana@aana.com](mailto:gana@aana.com)

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# To&Fro

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## Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists PAC

*I am contributing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to further  
the legislative efforts of the GANA.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Do you work in ☐ an office based setting? ☐ a rural hospital? ☐ a surgery center? ☐ an urban hospital?

Nurse Practitioner \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mandatory for all donations greater than \$100)

Are you interested in lobbying with the GANA during the legislative session? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you acquainted with any of Georgia's legislators? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, who? \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and send to: **Krystal Toledo, GANA-PAC Treasurer, P.O. Box 887, Tifton, GA 31793**

Forms available at [www.gana.org](http://www.gana.org)

*Thank you for  
your contribution  
to this worthy  
cause for your  
profession!*

