

THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT

Case Western Reserve University Master of Science in Anesthesia (MSA) Program
A newsletter for students, faculty, instructors and alumni

STUDENT NEWS

Lance Carter, collaborating with **Donald Voltz, MD**, and **Ronald Cechner, PhD**, presented an innovative poster on the “Use of Multimedia Resources in the Clinical Education of Anesthesiologist Assistant Students” at Research ShowCASE on April 11-12, 2007. The poster highlights their project that investigates the use of medical simulators, digital media, and the latest in web-based technologies to provide students with information about the array of procedures and equipment that is used within the area of anesthesiology. The group has developed an interactive medical equipment handbook that continues to evolve into a useful “living” book to supplement clinical education.



Lance Carter with poster

Jack Lund was nominated for the Ruth Barber Moon Award from the School of Graduate Studies. The purpose of this award is to recognize graduate students who demonstrate exceptional academic promise and leadership ability.

Congratulations MSA graduates. The Class of 2007 received Anesthesiologist Assistant positions at the following hospitals:

Ohio

University Hospitals
Lake West Hospital
Christ Hospital

Maggie Green, Aaron Sikowitz
Anthony Koury
Jared Kutzer, Maria Minadeo, Robert Shonk

Other States

Saint Joseph's (GA)
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite (GA)
Liberty Hospital (MO)
Gundersen Lutheran (WI)
Washington Hospital Center (Washington DC)

Jill Remaly
Brad Falls, Paul Snizek
Lance Carter
Jack Lund
Sabena Kachwalla, Daphne Tolentino, Amy Wang

Welcome new MSA students. Fourteen students make up our Class of 2009. Their combined MCAT scores average 25, with two students receiving scores of 32. Our students come from these states:

Ohio

Jessica Balog, Jaime Cook, Jonathan Eberlein, John Ferrara, Matthew Kaufmann, Amanda Kroll, John Lipian, Michael McDermott, Jenna Saraniti, Andrew Sumner, Mark Tomsic

Michigan

Christen Donohoe

Texas

Lan Nguyen

Northern Virginia

Camille Jansen

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New MSA students

- Bottom Row: John Ferrara, Michael McDermott, Mark Tomsic, Jonathan Eberlein
- Middle Row: Jessica Balog, Andrew Sumner, Christen Donohoe, John Lipian, Camille Jansen
- Top Row: Matthew Kaufmann, Lan Nguyen, Jaime Cook, Jenna Saraniti, Amanda Kroll

NOTES FROM THE STUDENT CHIEFS

MARY HLADKY AND MATTHEW CIOTTI



Hello AAs and MSA students (and anyone else who may be reading this first ever MSA newsletter). I am glad to report that the second years have completed two rotations thus far and are well into their third at this time. Reports have been coming back as to the living arrangements and attractions at out-of-town locations. Good news: Cincinnati puts you up in an apartment with a pool and Springfield offers you home cooked meals by the parents of "yours truly." The summer semester has been flying by and the first Journal Club and Morgan & Mikhail review sessions are quickly approaching. On August 8th, the Journal Club will be meeting at Maggiano's at Beachwood Place at 5:30 p.m. to discuss dolasetron vs. ondansetron. The first MM review is scheduled on August 1st at 4:00 p.m. in the Lakeside conference room. Chapters 22-24 will be reviewed. Make sure you are reading MMM4 chapters 7-15 (regarding pharmacology business) in preparation for our second MM review which is scheduled for the middle of August.

First years, I have not forgotten about you! The first years have now performed their first intubations and IVs. Their class is bonding over swapping rookie stories and the oddities of SIM MAN. All in all, things are progressing nicely. Keep up the good work, and remember to have some fun! I hope everyone enjoys the rest of their summer! - Mary Hladky

FACULTY NEWS

Departures

Donald M. Voltz, MD, Medical Director, has received a new position at MetroHealth Medical Center. His last day was June 30, 2007.

Douglas Graham, MD, Associate Medical Director, will be moving to Austin, Texas. His last day with the MSA Program was March 30, 2007.



Don Voltz, MD

BEST WISHES!



Doug Graham, MD

NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

JOSEPH M. RIFICI, AA-C, MEd



First I would like to thank Jen and Laura for all of their efforts to conceive of the idea and to follow through with the publication of this, our inaugural MSA Program Newsletter, *The Anesthesiologist Assistant*. The concept is great and we are very interested in keeping our students, faculty and alumni informed of recent program proceedings. So welcome to our Newsletter and I hope you find its contents useful.

I would also like to thank Don Voltz, MD, and Doug Graham, MD, our former Medical Director and Associate Medical Director respectively, for all of their dedication and efforts for the good of the program and profession. I immensely enjoyed working with each of these fine gentlemen and I wish them well in all future endeavors. Their presence will be missed.

Fortunately for us, Dr. Voltz has accepted a position at MetroHealth Medical Center, one of our primary teaching affiliates, and as such, he will continue to teach our students physiology and problem based learning. Unfortunately, Dr. Graham has moved to Austin, Texas, and he will no longer be associated with our program. Maybe he will be interested in starting an educational program in Texas in the future.

We are currently investigating the availabilities of candidates for the vacated Medical Director position and I expect that an anesthesiologist will be named by the end of August.

Welcome to the Class of 2009. I have had much interaction with you in the classroom and in the operating room and, frankly, I am impressed! I have experienced the motivation, dedication and enthusiasm that compelled us to choose you for admission to our highly respected program. Just remember that even though at times some things, maybe most things, do not make any sense at all, it is still very early in the process. It will all come together soon; just hang in there and do not hesitate to ask questions. Keep in mind that the doors to the office are always open.

We recently received Dr. Nearman's approval to renovate what used to be called "The Leather Lounge," a large room near the entrance to Lakeside 20 (2nd floor of the Lakeside Building). There is construction going on at the present time, but as soon as easy access to this room is available, we plan to turn it into an MSA student lounge and get our student computers out of the hallway. Although the timeframe is not definite yet, I anticipate that this room will be available for student use within 12 months.

To all of our clinical instructors, I plan to have another dinner for you this fall, probably in November. As in the past, the purpose of this dinner meeting is to promote teaching enrichment and to open up a dialogue on the clinical progress of our students. Details from the MSA office are forthcoming.

Dr. Doug Graham's
farewell party,
March 2007



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NOTABLE EVENTS

MSA Program Re-Accredited. The Master of Science in Anesthesia Program was site visited by the Accreditation Review Committee on Education for the Anesthesiologist Assistant (ARC-AA) on March 12-13, 2007. The site visit went well and subsequently, on May 18, 2007, our program was re-accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). Thank you to everyone who met with the site visit team and who was involved in the rigorous re-accreditation process. The next comprehensive evaluation of the program is scheduled for 2012.

Honors Dinner Awardees. Six individuals received awards at our Honors Dinner in May, which was held at Maggiano's Little Italy:

Judith Wolkoff, AA-C	Outstanding Clinical Instructor (<i>awarded by 2nd year MSA students</i>)
Shawn Duvall, AA-C	Outstanding Clinical Instructor (<i>awarded by 1st year MSA students</i>)
Adam Haas, MD	Outstanding Attending
Hui Kang, MD	Outstanding Resident
Maria Minadeo	Achievement and Service as MSA Student Chief
Brad Falls	Achievement and Service as MSA Student Chief

Interest in our program is growing! From December 2006 to date the MSA Program office has answered more than 150 calls and e-mails requesting information about the program and the profession. Since March 2007 the MSA Program has provided more than 35 prospective applicants with shadowing experiences. Visitors came from as far as California and Utah. Seven of these visitors have decided to apply to our program. Sincere thanks to the AAs and MSA students who graciously allowed our guests to shadow them in the OR and to observe a day in the life of an AA.

New Staff

Laura Bishop joined the MSA Program in February 2007 to serve as Education Coordinator. She previously held an administrative position at the University Center on Aging and Health and provided support to the Dean's office at the School of Nursing. In her role at the Center on Aging, Laura worked on the *100 Years of Alzheimer's* conference that drew 500 health professionals and lay people to Cleveland in November 2006.



Laura successfully planned and managed Nursing's *Alumni Celebration Day* for two years in a row, welcoming more than 275 people each year. Prior to her role at Nursing Laura was an Event Coordinator at Weatherhead Executive Education. Laura's background in theatre prepared her well for event work.

Laura's daughter, Indigo, is a rising Case Western Reserve senior studying sociology and anthropology. A long-time Shaker Square resident, Laura enjoys living just two miles from campus in a beautiful walking neighborhood. Laura has been a university employee since 2001; she is pleased to have found a home at the MSA Program.



Jennifer Puin joined the MSA Program last December as the new Education Manager. Prior to this position she served for two years as Assistant Director and subsequently as Interim Director in the School of Nursing's Center for Research and Scholarship. During her time at Nursing she wrote award nominations and brought in more than a dozen prestigious awards for nursing

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faculty and advocates, including a *Lifetime Achievement Award* from the Midwest Nursing Research Society; an *Outstanding Educational Achievements* award from the American Pain Society; and honorary membership for Louis Stokes in Sigma Theta Tau International, the Honor Society of Nursing.

Jen also worked for seven years in central development at the university, shepherding proposals and grants through the system and researching prospective funders. She received her doctorate in English in 1996 from The Ohio State University and taught courses in Shakespeare, English literature, and composition at OSU and John Carroll University. Although the clinical environment is new to her, Jen is grateful for this opportunity to be engaged in the satisfying work of the MSA Program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To submit news or request information contact Laura Bishop at laura.bishop@UHhospitals.org or 216-844-8077. MSA graduates who would like to continue receiving *The Anesthesiologist Assistant* should provide their new e-mail address to Laura Bishop.

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