

# THE ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANT

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September 2008, Issue 5

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

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## 2008 AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS ANNUAL MEETING

The exhibit hall at the ASA Annual Meeting is an exciting place to be. It is extraordinary in its size and in the wealth of new products and equipment on display that are of relevance to the practice of anesthesiology. The use of live models to demonstrate equipment may be both startling and intriguing for those who have not seen this before. Many exhibitors have strikingly elaborate displays, and freebies abound throughout the hall: pens, bags, USB drives, smoothies, chocolates, even Anesthesiologist Barbies complete with professional blue hospital scrubs and their very own "Anesthesia Department" fanny pack.



Case Western Reserve University will partner with the four other anesthesiologist assistant educational programs—Emory University, South University, Nova Southeastern University, University of Missouri-Kansas City—to sponsor a modest exhibit booth at ASA's five-day Annual Meeting in Orlando on October 18-22, 2008. We look forward to sharing information on our programs and educating those in the medical field who may know little about the AA profession.

ASA is a national, nonprofit association of more than 43,000 physicians and other individuals engaged or interested in the medical specialty of anesthesiology. More than 90 percent of all practicing anesthesiologists in the United States belong to ASA, which celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an association in 2005. ASA functions as a research, scientific, and educational resource for anesthesiologists, patients, the public, and policymakers. It has continuously provided highly respected guidance and expertise, particularly in patient safety matters.



### Master of Science in Anesthesia Program

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## WE'VE GOT MAIL

**.. e-mail, voice mail, and applications!** With our October 1 application deadline fast approaching, we are pleased by the strength of the applications we are receiving. From July 2008 to date the MSA Program office has answered more than 140 calls and e-mails requesting information about our program and the AA profession. We have provided 27 shadowing experiences to applicants and prospective applicants, ten of whom aspire to be members of the incoming class of June 2009. Several others plan to submit their applications upon completion of their current course of study. The willingness of our clinical instructors and students to host shadowers enables the program to grow.

If you know someone who wants a clinical career and think they would be a good candidate for the MSA Program, suggest that they call our office at 216-844-8077. Program staff will help them make an appointment to shadow an anesthesiologist assistant in the operating room. There they will learn first hand what it takes to be a MSA student and have the opportunity to talk to our program director, instructors, and students.

## NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR: JOSEPH M. RIFICI, AA-C, M.ED.



I hope to see many of our alumni at the ASA Annual Meeting in Orlando. If you will be attending, make sure to stop by the Anesthesiologist Assistant Programs booth (Booth 2504), which will be in the front of the exhibit hall close to the main entrance. We will have a sign-in book at our booth and would appreciate your current contact information, especially your e-mail address, so that we can keep in touch.

To our prospective students, keep in mind that our application deadline is October 1, 2008, for the class that will start in the first week of June 2009. For those who have submitted their application materials, we greatly appreciate your interest in our highly respected program, and we will be contacting you soon with

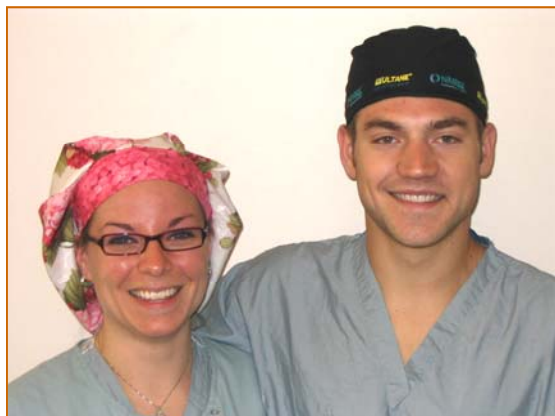
an update on the status of your application. If you have any questions about your application or our program, do not hesitate to contact the MSA Program office.



Here are some dates to mark on your calendars. For MSA students, fall mid-semester conferences will be held on October 7-8 and 14-15. For our clinical instructors, the fall Clinical Instructor Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12. 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. The MSA Holiday Party will be on Saturday, November 29.

We look forward to a new MSA student lounge being available for student use by the end of the year. The MSA Program is currently renovating what used to be called "The Leather Lounge," a good-sized room in Lakeside very near to the Prentiss and Humphrey ORs. Once renovation is complete, our student computers will be moved into that room and some new furniture purchased so that the room can serve as a study lounge, lunch spot, and comfortable gathering place for the sharing of ideas.

## NOTES FROM THE STUDENT CHIEFS: AMANDA KROLL AND MICHAEL McDERMOTT



*Written by Michael McDermott*

Hello to everyone reading this issue of *The Anesthesiologist Assistant*. The year is moving by quickly. The Tuesday Afternoon Conferences and Basic Science lectures are now in full swing, and both Amanda and I have been hearing positive feedback and good stories from our classmates regarding their rotations around Ohio and beyond. I am finishing a rotation at St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis, Missouri, which has been a terrific experience.

Dr. Jim Gibbons and Western Anesthesiology Associates, Inc. (WAAI) have been busy further expanding this area as a rotation site for AA students. A newly acquired and fully furnished four-bedroom apartment, courtesy of WAAI, will be the central

hub from which students can rotate to various hospitals within St. Louis. I am here with Brooks Hawley and Nikki Ackerman from Emory and South Universities respectively. It is great to experience a rotation that enables close interaction with students from different programs.

Dave Zagorski's annual cookout was a huge success, which allowed our two classes to again spend some quality time together. Things seem to be moving forward for both the CWRU program and the profession as a whole. I wish everyone well with their studies, classes and rotations.

## MSA PROGRAM CONNECTS WITH ADVISORS IN THE WINDY CITY

Written by Jennifer Puin, Education Manager

This was my first time attending the biennial national NAAHP conference, which was held this year on June 25-29 in Chicago. Laura, our education coordinator, and I were prepared to connect with health profession advisors from across the country, armed with AAAA's career fliers, MSA Program brochures, and colorful giveaways. Our booth, decorated with a 4<sup>th</sup> of July theme (Laura's fabulous idea), attracted the attention of advisors browsing the exhibit hall and brought approving smiles from our fellow exhibitors across the aisle at the Air Force table.



Case Western Reserve's MSA Program was one of 71 professional programs, associations, and companies participating as exhibitors. There was even one celebrity among the group, to the delight of more than a few female conference goers—The Bachelor's Lieutenant Andy Baldwin, who served as a representative for the U.S. Navy table. Andy, a Navy doc, approached the MSA Program table and expressed a keen interest in speaking to the pre-medical society at Case Western Reserve.

What made this conference most memorable for me was the strong sense of community among the advisors, the evident collegial support, and the friendliness of each and everyone that we met. The conference started on a powerful note, with the keynote address given by Holly J. Humphrey, MD, Dean for Medical Education at The University of Chicago. Dr. Humphrey's address was sprinkled with professional and personal anecdotes of the important partnerships she has created and sustained. Through these partnerships, Dr. Humphrey highlighted the benefit – both to advisors and their advisees – of a collaborative and multi-disciplinary approach to teaching and advising. Her ultimate focus was on serving society by serving our patients. The conference program elements were also relevant and memorable, with topics focusing on student professionalism, background checks, and MCAT updates.

Without a doubt, this community of advisors knows how to have fun. The opening reception featured the lively Chicago "Confetti" oldies band. Scheduled the following morning was a 6:30 a.m. "Windy City Walk" for those early risers who were interested in a brisk walk to the Navy Pier before breakfast. Then there was the wine and dessert reception at the world famous Chicago Field Museum of Natural History. While enjoying wine and sweets, advisors could mingle with colleagues and roam the museum to visit "Sue" (Tyrannosaurus Rex), Egyptian mummies, gems, jades, and a Maori meeting house.

Laura and I made many new contacts and connections with advisors that we hope will last for years to come. In establishing a stronger communication with health profession advisors, we are confident that we did our little part at the 18<sup>th</sup> national NAAHP conference to help our program and the profession grow.

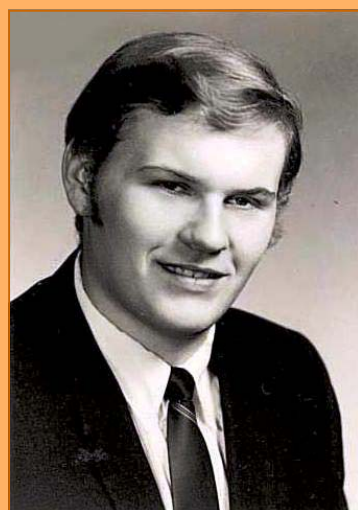
### NOTES FROM THE CHIEF AAAA STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: CHRISTEN DONOHOE



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our program's four AAAA student representatives. The AAAA, or American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants, is the association which represents our profession in several different ways. The AAAA helps to establish new relationships between AAs and other health care providers, as well as representing the interests of the profession. As AAAA student representatives, Jenna Saraniti, Erin Bodnar, Nick Beastro and I (Christen Donohoe) stay connected with student representatives from other AA programs by participating in monthly teleconferences. In recent meetings we have been discussing the design for a student section on the AAAA website. Ideas have included adding an area where students can communicate about different issues, adding AA job listings, and providing links to different journals. We all look forward to these ideas taking shape soon on the website, [www.anesthetist.org](http://www.anesthetist.org).

As second year representatives, Jenna and I will be joining Joseph Rifici, Dr. Norcia, Pete Kaluszyk, Deborah Lawson, and Jennifer Puin in Orlando, Florida, for the annual American Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting on October 18-22. Our mission will be to educate Anesthesia Care Team members about our role in the team. We will share a booth with the other AA educational programs in order to accomplish this goal. Our program attends this meeting every year as a way to heighten awareness of our profession, and hopefully springboard us into new opportunities in new areas of the country. An update on the meeting will be in our next newsletter. Any questions you might have about the AAAA can be directed to any of the four student representatives. We all feel fortunate and excited to be representing the program and look forward to great advancements for the profession.

## ALUMNUS PROFILE



Pete Kaluszyk as a student

Pete Kaluszyk, AA-C, MEd (Class of '75), is the MSA Program's clinical site coordinator at MetroHealth Medical Center. In that role he assigns OR cases to our students based on their level within the program. As some may know, Pete speaks Ukrainian, knows his literature, and proposes that it is professionally hip to be a member of AAAA. Pete has been intimately involved in our professional organization over the years, so much so that he could be dubbed AAAA historian. He currently holds several positions within the American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants, including Liaison to the American Society of Anesthesiologists. He has been elected AAAA's incoming president and will assume that role in January 2009. He is also vice president of national affairs in the Ohio Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants, the first state AA academy.

Pete obtained a BA in Biology from Case Western Reserve University in 1973. In 1975, he received his BS in Health Sciences specializing in anesthesiology from CWRU and began working at MetroHealth Medical Center, where he continues to work today. In 1995, he received a Masters of Education from Cleveland State University. Pete is Chief Anesthetist at MetroHealth and Clinical Assistant Professor of the CWRU School of Medicine.

MSA students have awarded him several *Outstanding Instructor* and *Excellence in Teaching* awards. And forgettable he is not. Our alumni always seem to have a "Pete story" to tell, and they can remember in vivid detail the interview they had with him when applying to the program. Some describe him as demanding and challenging, but one of our recent graduates said it best: "Pete's awesome!"

## METROHEALTH MEDICAL CENTER

MetroHealth Medical Center is one of the MSA Program's major clinical teaching facilities. All first-year students are scheduled for clinical time at MetroHealth as well as at University Hospitals Case Medical Center, our primary teaching affiliate. In their second year each student completes a month-long trauma rotation at MetroHealth.

**Trauma Care**

MetroHealth is the most active trauma center in our part of the country. It is a certified Level I Trauma Center with extensive emergency and trauma critical care, high-risk obstetrical care, a burn center, and ground emergency transport. Metro Life Flight, the second busiest hospital based air-medical transport system in the nation, is based at MetroHealth.

To promote efficient and rapid patient care, the operating rooms at MetroHealth are located adjacent to the emergency room and the surgical intensive care unit. The anesthesiology department of Case Western Reserve University's MetroHealth campus provides 24-hour coverage for surgical procedures, obstetrical anesthesia, emergency resuscitations, and pain management. Approximately 14,000 anesthetic procedures are performed each year in the main and ambulatory operating rooms with an additional 3,000 anesthetic procedures performed in the obstetrical unit.

The Anesthesia Care Team members at MetroHealth are comprised of faculty anesthesiologists (29), who hold joint faculty appointments at CWRU; residents (20); certified registered nurse anesthetists (11); and anesthesiologist assistants (16). Donald Voltz, MD, a MetroHealth anesthesiologist and the MSA Program's former medical director, teaches our students physiology and problem based learning at the MetroHealth campus and instructs them in the OR. Ruth Kroll, CRNA, has worked for many years at MetroHealth and is the mother of Amanda Kroll, one of our second-year students.

**High-Risk Obstetrical Care**

In addition to trauma care, MetroHealth aims to be a nationally recognized leader in high-risk perinatal care. MetroHealth's medical team has specialized training in managing complicated pregnancies and births and offers complete prenatal care and delivery, state of the art ultrasound, genetic counseling and obstetric counseling.



Continued from Page 4

## Burn Care

MetroHealth's Comprehensive Burn Care Center is widely recognized as the finest regional burn care center and has treated both pediatric and adult patients since its inception in 1970. The services offered within the Center include a burn trauma resuscitation room, wheelchair-accessible shower, activity room, expanded procedure room to facilitate wound care, gym for physical and occupational therapy, and round-the-clock dressing clinic. These services reduce the risk for infection and are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The burn team is dedicated to restoring and rehabilitating not only the body of the patient, but also the mind and spirit.

Established in 1837, MetroHealth is located just 15 minutes west of Case Western Reserve University. After our students graduate and leave the program, they will especially remember many of the trauma-related problems they encountered at MetroHealth as opportunities through which they acquired knowledge, learned to prioritize, and developed the skills to remain calm under pressure.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

### Come work and play in the nation's capital!

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- ◆ PTO and Malpractice



For more information contact Abby Lipsitz, human resources recruiter, at [Abby.Lipsitz@Medstar.net](mailto:Abby.Lipsitz@Medstar.net) or Eileen Begin, M.D. at [Eileen.V.Begin@Medstar.net](mailto:Eileen.V.Begin@Medstar.net)



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

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