

# MTSA Mission & Awards Gala Recognizes Achievements, Raises Funds for Haiti Mission

On Thursday, May 5, MTSA hosted its third annual Mission & Awards Gala with 250 guests who gathered at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville. The event raised needed funds for the School's Mission Initiative in Haiti, and other local communities.

Local TV personality Meryll Rose, co-host of NewsChannel 5's *Talk of the Town* program, served as master of

ceremonies. After guests took a tour of the Museum, dinner was served and the program began.

President Chris Hulin, DNP, MBA, CRNA, started by celebrating the achievements of the anesthesia community and presenting awards to alumni, community partners and others for their dedication to MTSA.

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#### Continued from front cover

"I am grateful for the support of each financial contributor who has helped make this evening possible as proceeds fund MTSA's new Mission Initiative," Hulin said. "Your help will fund an ultrasound machine for primary use of regional anesthesia, trauma care, and obstetrical screening in Haiti."

Hulin also thanked the committee that worked to make the evening a success. They included:

Michelle Arant, MS, CRNA (Chairman) Buffy Lupear, DNP, CRNA (Vice Chairman) Les Andrus, MS, CRNA Diana Bird Lois J. Bernard, MS, CRNA Kay Chamberlain, MS, CRNA Sherry Clem Catherine Cunningham Arlene Cooper, CRNA Matt Demaree, MS, CRNA Rhonda Hendon, MS, CRNA Roxanne Lenz, CRNA Julie Murphy, MS, CRNA Cristy Pennington, MS, CRNA Nancy Palmore, MS, CRNA Kim Sharkey, DNAP, CRNA Dina Velocci, DNP, CRNA

Rachelle Wetmore

During the award presentations, the School recognized the following individuals:

Brad Koss, MS, CRNA

Ikey DeVasher Distinguished Alumni Service Award

John Shields, DNP, CRNA

Clinical Excellence Award

Patrick Moss, DNAP, CRNA

Nevin Downs, MD Leadership Award

Lois J. Bernard, MS, CRNA

Philanthropy Award

Linda C. Bauman, CRNA (posthumously)

Mission & Heritage Award



The Gala also featured guitarist-vocalist Tim Rushlow who offered his "One Man, One Guitar, One Night" show, an intimate musical journey through his hits as well as songs by other artists that have deep meaning to him.

Rushlow is no stranger to the stage, having grown up in a musical family, then the lead vocalist for the country supergroup Little Texas, followed by a successful solo career. He has taken the approach with his solo show that every audience member is in his living room for the night.

#### Event sponsors included:

- Dinner Northstar Anesthesia
- Reception Phy-Med Healthcare Group
- Nevin Downs, MD Leadership Award Myrtianne Downs
- Philanthropy Award Mollenkopf Design Group
- Mission & Heritage Award KY-TN Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
- DeVasher Distinguished Alumni Service Award Valley Anesthesia
- Clinical Excellence Award Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists

Many thanks to those who attended the Gala or supported the Mission Initiative through special donations.



MTSA Program Administrator and award presenter Rachel Brown, DNP, CRNA; Clinical Excellence Award winner John Shields; and MTSA President Chris Hulin, DNP, MBA, CRNA.





#### MTSA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What an exciting time to be at MTSA! With one year under my belt as President, I find myself humbled every day by the dedication of the faculty, staff, students and alumni of this extraordinary institution. We have much to be proud of – and much to look forward to in the coming months.

Take a moment with me as we reflect on where we've been and where we're going.

#### **Leadership in Acute Surgical Pain Management**

The headlines continue to shine a spotlight on the opioid epidemic in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 165,000 people have died in the U.S. between 1999 and 2014 from overdoses related to prescription opioids. And in 2014 alone, more than 14,000 people died from overdoses. That's nearly 40 people per day who fall victim to these powerful drugs.

There's plenty of blame to go around in terms of who's responsible, but the focus should be on solutions. Our efforts toward educating nurse anesthetists in Acute Surgical Pain Management (ASPM) and ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia (USGRA) have been on the leading edge of the field. We started two years ago by introducing the Center of Excellence with Halyard Health (formerly Kimberly-Clark Health Care) and are continuing to build upon this success and partnering with other familiar names in the anesthesia industry.

Earlier this year, we issued a news release that outlined our approach to the problem. We promoted USGRA as an intervention that makes acute surgical pain management safer, more effective and a viable option for a broader range of regional anesthetic procedures than ever before. The challenge is that not enough CRNAs have had this advanced training and are able to offer ASPM as part of their anesthetic plan. MTSA is trying to change this by providing the education needed to make it more readily available in all types of clinical settings.

The media has responded favorably to our efforts, and we continue to promote the fact that regional anesthesia is a game-changing option in the patient's surgical experience, and that CRNAs are part of the solution in the fight against opioid abuse. Stay tuned for a major announcement later this year related to acute surgical pain management in which MTSA will take the lead on a new national initiative in this arena.

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#### **Tuition Rate Freeze**

It's no secret that college tuition rates across the country continue to rise at breakneck speeds. But this year MTSA is bucking that trend and keeping our tuition fees flat.

The Board of Trustees and I have taken a close look at the School's financial status and determined not to increase tuition for the next academic year. Our approach represents a commitment to fiscal responsibility and to being good stewards, which means appropriate cost controls and better use of resources.

These actions have allowed MTSA students to benefit from cost-effective management and our commitment to keeping tuition affordable. We believe this is part of the reason our students have maintained a 0% default rate on their loans and continue to receive a robust education at a good value.

#### The Haiti Mission that Keeps on Giving

One of MTSA's hallmarks is our dedication to reflecting Christ in the education we provide. Our esteemed founder, Bernard Bowen, CRNA, DSc, exemplified a life of service to those in need throughout the world, and we're renewing our efforts to follow that vision.

By now you've heard of our mission efforts in Haiti, a country that is in desperate need of many of the basic resources we take for granted. Last September, MTSA's Program Administrator Rachel Brown, DNP, CRNA, led our first officially sanctioned mission trip to Haiti and provided much needed medical services. Additionally, I joined a scouting team with Belmont University to visit potential mission partners.

This year we have raised the bar on our efforts by allocating more time and effort into our Haiti mission trip. We are planning to take a team there in October. We recognize that mission trips are temporary in nature; typically we fly in, perform our work, and fly home. But our approach with the upcoming mission trip is different. Our goal is to *teach* rather than to simply *do*. This will have a completely different effect than typical *relief* missions. With God's blessing, we hope it will bring their medical services closer to international standards and equip them to care for the people in their communities with less reliance on outside assistance.

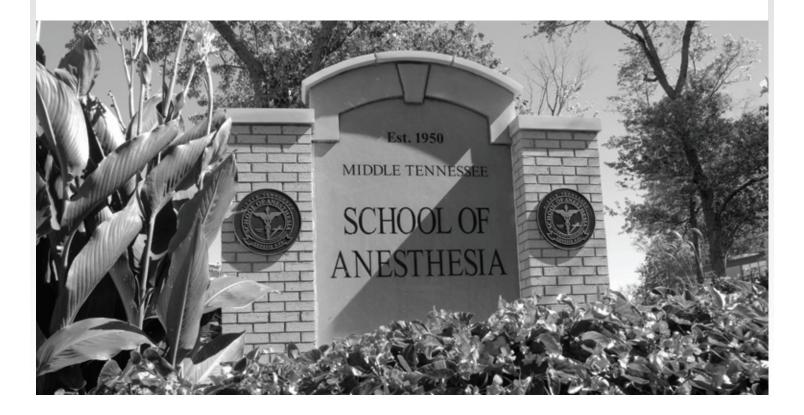
#### **Welcoming the 2016 Cohort**

As a final thought, I'm always excited to see the buzz on campus as new students arrive in July for the beginning of their classes. I see in their faces the thrill of a new challenge, along with a little bit of fear of the unknown. Let me reassure those students that the hard work they will be putting in over the next 28 months will be well worth it. They will develop a base of knowledge in the field of nurse anesthesia and be a shining example to those around them of how to embody the MTSA mission in their education and work in anesthesia.

The past year has been full of joy and accomplishments, and I couldn't do it without your dedication and support. Thank you!

Chris Hulin ('06) DNP, MBA, CRNA MTSA President

We have much to be proud of – and much to look forward to in the coming months.



CAPSTONE REVIEW

# The Good, The Bad & The Ugly:

# 'Professional Behavior' in Nurse Anesthesia



#### A Review of DNAP Graduate Rusty Gentry's Capstone Project

Nurse anesthetists, we have a problem. Rusty Gentry, a 2015 graduate of MTSA's DNAP program, has set out to find a solution.

Gentry's Capstone project — titled *The Professional Mini Evaluation (P-MEX): A Survey to Evaluate Clinical Educators Beliefs of Tool Effectiveness as a Clinical Professional Behavior Assessment of Student Nurse Anesthetists* — addressed an issue many years in the making: the nurse anesthesia field doesn't have effective guidelines for unprofessional behavior, and that could have dire effects on the industry.

"The literature shows that we have a problem with professional behavior," Gentry said. He added, it started gradually but reached a fever pitch in recent years. "There's a social contract with society when you participate in healthcare that says, 'I'm putting the patient's welfare ahead of my own.' But healthcare as a business has eroded that contract. Before, people went into nursing or a health-related field because they wanted to help others. Now people often go into certain fields because they want to gain financially, which has had a deteriorating effect on professional behavior."

Gentry decided to focus his Capstone project on defining "professional behavior," assessing it among student nurse anesthetists, and providing a framework for making improvements through evaluation.

Sources in his research showed that social media has become a major stumbling block to students and clinicians. Gentry points out that an uncouth post on

Facebook — even if it doesn't reveal protected health information — can have negative consequences. "If you display unprofessional behavior during your residency or nursing program, there is a high likelihood of recurrent unprofessional behavior requiring disciplinary action during your career."

## Who's to blame for unprofessional behavior – you or your mentors?

Digging into the root causes of unprofessional behavior proved to be enlightening, Gentry said. "In the literature, there's the concept of a 'hidden curriculum,' where students learn from their predecessors, upper classmates, teachers, and mentors. They're surrounded by role models who either help or hurt the approach to professional behavior."

In what has become a self-perpetuating environment, the decline in professional behavior tends to feed on itself and worsen the problem. Gentry contends that in anesthesia, "we're not living up to our code of ethics. If we continue the cycle—the continuing decline of professional behavior—where are we going to be as a profession?"

With that concern as a backdrop, Gentry was encouraged by his professors to find an appropriate tool to assess professional behavior and asked his colleagues to provide feedback. What he found may be surprising, but it confirmed his thoughts that the problem was ubiquitous.

"We found that 87% of those who participated in my survey had experienced unprofessional behavior in the workplace. And yet there is no formal training in the instruction of professional behavior assessment. We're not taught how to assess it, but most of us experience it," Gentry said.

#### The challenge of defining 'professional behavior'

One of the most challenging aspects of the Capstone project was defining "professional behavior." This stems from the fact that every group or specialty in healthcare has its own understanding of the term. Finding a consensus definition was difficult, according to Gentry.

"I came up with a definition for my project: The skills of interpersonal communication, initiative, organization and clinical reasoning that students must master to be successful on clinical rotations," he said. "Other terms that define professionalism included altruism, accountability, excellence, duty, honor, integrity, and having respect for others."

As difficult as it is to define "professional behavior," it's easy to see why this issue is on the minds of many healthcare providers, and that's because reimbursement is at stake.

Gentry pointed out that the HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Health-care Providers and Systems) survey — the first national, standardized, publicly reported survey of patients' perspectives of hospital care — has brought to light many of these issues. "Now we have financial incentives for how well the patient feels they've been served. So it's drawing us back to our original social contract as healthcare providers, which forces us to provide a higher level of professionalism in order to receive payment for our services."

With the Capstone project completed, Gentry hopes to eventually continue his research to find the "perfect" tool for measuring professional behavior and, in time, shift the trend towards better outcomes in nurse anesthesia.

"We should all demand a certain level of professionalism in our field," Gentry said. "The patient's best interest should be at the forefront of what we do."

Gentry's Capstone project helps practitioners gain new insights into the process of improving professional behavior, and nurse anesthesia will be better for it.

Following are excerpts from a broader discussion with Gentry related to his Capstone project.

**Airways:** Why did you tackle this particular issue?

**Rusty Gentry:** I had some other ideas that I thought were a little more concrete, but after consulting with my advisors, they pointed out that this could be my lifelong work. They told me, "You can build upon this research and be an expert in it and continue with it into the future." The other ideas I had looked at doing weren't as long-term. Looking at this decline in professionalism, or evaluation of professionalism, is something I could do the rest of my career. There were some difficult times during the research, trying to grasp a lot of the literature, because it's something that has never been tackled before. This project would not have been possible without the guidance of my committee from MTSA guiding me through abstract concepts of this project. They were accommodating to my schedule for online meetings, phone conversations while in the car, meetings on holidays, weekends and at night. The professional growth personally was worth every minute of effort put forth by all. The professional mentors at MTSA are the epitome of exemplary role models.

**Airways:** Have you had any personal experiences that prompted an interest in this topic?

**R.G.:** It's definitely something that I have witnessed. In my experience, students do not put as much emphasis on professionalism as I would wish they would. I've seen the decline over the years. It hasn't been a priority to be professional, whether it's to fellow classmates, to instructors, or to the patient.

**Airways:** What do you think the future holds for this type of research?

**R.G.:** This topic was ripe for future development of an assessment tool. That's ultimately what I'd like to be doing: developing a rubric for professional behavior evaluation.

Airways: What was the most rewarding part of the project?

**R.G.:** It was working with Drs. Richard and Sylvia Cruess, a husband-and-wife team from Magill University; getting the input from the experts in the field; talking with them on the phone or emailing and having them say, "Absolutely, we'll send you our professional behavior evaluation tool, please use it, and let us know what you find." Sometimes you think these experts wouldn't want to speak with just anybody. And yet they were very encouraging. It's extremely enjoyable to see that degree of "professionalism" they have for others researching and addressing professional behavior.

Airways: What are some outcomes you hope will result from the project?

**R.G.:** The need for further research. Nurse anesthesia is behind in this area. Specifically for us, there's no research related to professional behavior evaluation. A lot of the fields — occupational therapy, physical therapy, pharmacy, medicine — have developed their own tools to evaluate professional behavior, and we have not.

**Airways:** What other significant findings struck you during the research?

**R.G.:** The significant part of the paper that I find intriguing is that the development of professional behavior has been examined since the 1960s. But what we still don't have is a consensus definition of professionalism. And what we don't have in nurse anesthesia specifically is a perfect tool to measure professional behavior. We need to change that.

#### **About Rusty Gentry**

Rusty Gentry graduated from Jefferson State Community College with an AD in Nursing in 1991 and worked in the cardiac intensive care unit while finishing his BSN from the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 1994. He then entered the University's MSN/Nurse Practitioner program, graduating in 1997. Gentry worked for a large cardiology practice for several years before serving at a nephrology practice in Birmingham. Following that, he returned to school and earned an MS in Nurse Anesthesia from the Gooding Institute of Nurse Anesthesia. Following graduation he returned to practicing cardiac anesthesia. Gentry became a guest lecturer and briefly was the interim Associate Program Director in 2006 until the opportunity arose to educate nurse anesthesia students full time in 2013. He returned to school and earned a DNAP from Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia. He is currently the Associate Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program at Florida State University.





You are cordially invited to participate in the 13th Annual MTSA Golf Classic. The tournament will be held Thursday, September 15, 2016 at the Hermitage Golf Course – General's Retreat.

Lunch and dinner will be provided.

#### **Schedule:**

Registration Opens	10:30 a.m.
Lunch	Noon
Shotgun Start	1:00 p.m.
Awards & Dinner	to follow event

#### Place:

Hermitage Golf Course - General's Retreat

#### When:

Thursday, September 15, 1:00 p.m. shotgun start

#### Format:

4-person scramble

#### Cost:

\$175 per player \$700 per foursome \$850 per hole sponsor and foursome

#### Prizes:

1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes to be awarded in three flights

#### Register Now!

Entry fee includes greens fee, cart, lunch, Nike bucks, awards, door prizes, and dinner

Two mulligans and one shot in the putting contest will be available for purchase at the registration table for \$20. (MasterCard & Visa will be accepted)

#### **Additional Sponsorships Available Include:**

- Registration
- Golf Carts
- Dinner
- Putting Contest
- Tournament Prizes
- · Refreshment Carts
- Lunch
- Driving Range
- Longest Drive Contest
- · Closest-to-the-Pin Contest

To reserve your team or sponsorship, please call (615) 732-7674 or email jclosser@mtsa.edu.

#### **UPDATE:**

## Master of Science Application Cycle

The Master of Science application cycle opened May 1. Candidates will submit their application and all supporting documents through NursingCAS by visiting www.mtsa.edu/online\_application.

The deadline to have an MS application completed and all paperwork submitted is Oct. 31. NursingCAS will be closed Aug. 15-25 for maintenance. It is recommended that applicants have all transcripts submitted by Oct. 15 to allow NursingCAS sufficient time to compute their GPA prior to the Oct. 31 deadline.

Applicants with questions may contact Pam Nimmo, Admissions & Recruitment Coordinator, at (615) 732-7662 or pam@mtsa.edu.

#### **CONTINUING EDUCATION:**

### MTSA Offers Advanced Physiologic Foundations Class

The class entitled "Advanced Physiologic Foundations for Nursing Practice" will be offered this fall beginning August 29, announced MTSA Dean Maria Overstreet, PhD, RN.

The class will be offered for twelve consecutive weeks (August 29 – November 21, 2016) and will meet at MTSA on Mondays from 8 – 11 am, as well as three afternoons for testing/reviewA. Students that successfully complete the course will be awarded three semester hours of credit. The cost of the class is \$2,500. Course prerequisites are undergraduate Human Anatomy and Physiology.

Dr. Overstreet explained that the course will discuss advanced human physiologic concepts at the system, organ, cellular, and subcellular levels, with the overall goal to enhance the learner's foundation for nursing practice.

For more information and application information, contact Pam Nimmo, MTSA Admissions Coordinator, at pam@mtsa.edu, or by calling (615) 732-7662.







## **Consider Supporting Haiti Mission**

It's common to hear requests for support of worthy causes throughout the world. What differentiates MTSA's Haiti Mission from the rest? The answer is *sustainability* through education.

Haiti is in need of many basic services, and there are myriad organizations that offer solutions. However, MTSA's efforts are focused on providing education and training to local medical providers that will last a lifetime and have a compounding effect for years to come. Instead of rushing in only to provide healthcare services directly to patients, we will be educating nurses and doctors so *they* can improve clinical outcomes for an entire generation of patients. It's a mission that keeps on giving.

#### A different approach

The School has planned a mission trip to Haiti that has two distinct components: a) providing Acute Surgical Pain Management (ASPM) care for a surgical hand team at Hopital Adventiste d'Haiti, and b) holding continuing education sessions and placing ultrasound machines into service at both the Visitation Clinic in the Nippes region and at Hopital Adventiste d'Haiti.

MTSA is pleased to be partnering with two companies that are adding vital support to the mission effort. Tenvision has donated an ultrasound machine that will be used by midwives and physicians of Visitation Clinic. The company has also added to their commitment by offering a lifetime service contract on any unit purchased by the School with donor support and put into overseas mission service. In addition, Halyard Health has generously donated block procedure trays for the hand surgeries.

Faculty and administrators are developing a team to educate providers on trauma stabilization, airway management, line

placement, ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia (USGRA), and much more. Alexandros Coutsoumpos, MD, general surgeon at Hopital Adventiste, specifically requested that the team focus on educating nurses and local providers to help them reach their goal of providing care at an international standard.

#### Patient care in the operating room

The mission team will consist of several students who will get an opportunity to provide direct patient care in the operating room and the clinic, as well as serve as educators. The patients will be selected based on their advanced surgical needs, many of which will be invasive cases with extreme reconstruction and radical repairs. This patient population is the ideal group for ASPM, allowing the team to diminish the need for excessive pain medication and provide greater patient satisfaction.

MTSA will also interface with the local anesthesiologists who are looking forward to the team's visit and learning about USGRA. The School's students will be excellent role models, and the group as a whole will undoubtedly leave lasting impressions as a result of its work.

Unlike many mission trips that, quite appropriately, take care of immediate needs, MTSA's Haiti mission has a different focus on having a lasting effect after it leaves. It follows the adage of "teach a man to fish," which garners long-term outcomes.

The mission will take place Oct. 23-30, 2016. The team urges alumni, students and friends to consider adding their support by donating to this important effort that will provide help both now and in the future through education.

Visit www.mtsa.edu/donate.



# Students Attend AANA Mid-Year Assembly in Washington, D.C.

Four MTSA students attended the AANA Mid-Year Assembly held in Washington, D.C., April 1-6. Program Director Rachel Brown ('97), DNP, CRNA and President Chris Hulin, ('06) DNP, MBA, CRNA led the group, which included Brittney Jones, Lauren Elgar, Roderick Turner, and Matt Smith.

Dr. Brown expressed her appreciation for the students' involvement in the assembly, saying, "Each of them took every opportunity to engage in discussion about policy and school issues, and to make great connections with other professionals. I also want to thank the Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TANA) and Tennessee Association of Student Nurse Anesthetists (TASNA) who helped sponsor the travel expenses for the SRNAs."

The AANA Mid-Year Assembly is designed to prepare nurse anesthetists and student Registered Nurse anesthetists to effectively advocate on Capitol Hill for protecting and advancing CRNA practice and reimbursement. The seminars included in the 2016 event focused on the development of professional advocacy skills, understanding healthcare policy, and promoting leadership at the national level and in professional practice.

"It was a great trip, and we learned so much," Elgar said. "I am so glad the four of us were able to attend."

The students were able to meet several legislators and discuss the needs of CRNAs and SRNAs on both the national and state level. They engaged with members of Congress and their staffs, building professional relationships that make a positive difference for the profession. Additionally, those in attendance had the opportunity to build professional networks with other SRNAs and CRNAs to share ideas, solutions to practice issues, and perhaps discover employment opportunities.

# CAMPUS COMMUNITY DAY

#### **SCHEDULED FOR JULY 18**

The first day of school is always an exciting time for MTSA faculty, staff and students. But this year will be an ever bigger event on Monday, July 18!

After their morning orientation, students and their families will join other members of the MTSA family, along with groups from the local community, to dedicate the newly remodeled P.T. Magan Building. Following a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11:30 a.m., everyone is invited to enjoy family-friendly games, T-shirt screen-printing and giveaways throughout the afternoon.

Lunch will be provided for all students, families, faculty, staff, board of trustees, and guests.

## **New School Branding**

In addition, MTSA will be unveiling a new logo and branding for the School! The faculty and staff look forward to sharing this exciting day full of fun and surprises.

# Join us in the **Social World**



@MTSA 1950

www.mtsa.edu





## MTSA Students Lend a Hand at First Aid

MTSA students provided much needed first aid service at the annual Cedar Hill Bike Criterium, held on April 10 in Madison, Tennessee. The race featured more than 400 bicyclists from around the country. This is the second year MTSA students have participated as part of their community service project. (I to r) Ben Christian, Amelia Hughes, Hailey Rutledge, Jessica Slinger, Jordan Timothy, and Eric Estes.



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Airways is published quarterly by the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia for alumni, students, faculty, staff, trustees and friends. Your comments are welcomed by emailing us at alumni@mtsa.edu or by calling (615) 732-7674.

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

# A PIECE OF HISTORY



MTSA Graduates from the class of 1974 include: Wanda Bates, Mary McClain, Brenda Swindle, and Faryl Fuller. MTSA Founder Bernard Bowen and William O.T. Smith, MD, former MTSA President stand behind.



MTSA Students enjoy a light moment in the School of Anesthesia classroom. If you can help us identify those pictured, please email or call. It appears the date on the chalkboard is February 25, 1954.