



# AIRWAYS

MIDDLE TENNESSEE SCHOOL OF ANESTHESIA

REFLECTING CHRIST IN ANESTHESIA EDUCATION

ISSUE #2 2025



## Celebrating 75 Years of Excellence in Education, Memories and Friendships!

### The MTSA Nashville Rhythm & Snooze 75 Year Celebration

On August 10, 2025, during the AANA Annual Congress, MTSA hosted a special evening that perfectly captured the spirit of Nashville and the heart of the MTSA community. The Nashville Rhythm & Snooze 75th Anniversary Celebration featured live music by Kelley's Heroes from Nashville's own Robert's Western World, great food, and meaningful moments of recognition and awards. It was an opportunity for alumni, faculty, and friends to reconnect and honor both the legacy and future of MTSA together.

Guests enjoyed an unforgettable night filled with energy and camaraderie. The event drew all three former MTSA presidents, faculty members, and alumni from across the country. Attendees embraced

*Continued of Page 4*

*“The 75th Anniversary celebration was so joyful, it makes me look forward to a special MTSA meeting around the Tree of Life someday in heaven.”*

- MARY ELIZABETH “IKEY” DEVASHER, PHD, CRNA  
DEAN EMERITA/ADJUNCT FACULTY



**White Coat Ceremony**  
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**MTSA at AANA Nashville**  
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**Scan the QR  
Code for Our  
Online CE Credit Opportunities**



Chris Hulin  
DNP, MBA, CRNA  
President

# A Moment of Gratitude

Seventy-five years ago, a young nurse anesthetist named Bernard Bowen acted on a conviction that faith and professional excellence could coexist in harmony. With little more than determination and a vision, he founded what would become the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia. From a small hospital basement classroom to one of the nation's most respected anesthesia programs, MTSA's story is one of courage, calling, and commitment.

Through every decade, MTSA has remained steadfast to its mission—to educate nurse anesthetists who exemplify clinical excellence, compassionate service, and faith-based integrity. Generations of graduates have carried these values into operating rooms, rural clinics, mission fields, and leadership roles across the country and the world. Their work continues to uphold the trust placed in those who "keep watch" while others rest, reflecting the vigilance that defines our profession.

This 75th anniversary is more than a celebration of history; it is a moment of gratitude—for the faculty and staff who dedicate their talents, the students who answer the call to serve, and the alumni whose impact reaches far beyond our campus. It is also a moment to look forward, building on the foundation of faith and excellence that has guided us since 1950.

As we honor our past, we do so with renewed purpose for the future—continuing to educate, innovate, and serve in ways that bring honor to our calling and hope to those we care for.

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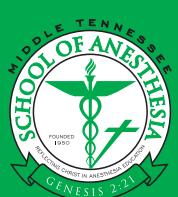
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## MISSION

Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia exists to provide a Christian, Seventh-day Adventist learning environment that fosters the pursuit of truth, excellence in and access to graduate nurse anesthesia education, and a life of service.

# MISSION

## STUDENT UPDATE

### Surgical Mission Trip to Honduras!



I just got back from my week spent in El Progreso, Honduras for a surgical mission trip with MMO and it was incredible! Honduras is a beautiful country with beautiful people. All pictures of patients were taken with permission. We did have some unanticipated difficulties throughout the week, but it

was so neat to see how the entire surgical team worked together and adapted and were flexible as we figured out how to best care for our patients with different equipment than we were used to. One of the surgeons who was supposed to be on the trip tragically passed away unexpectedly about a month and a half prior to the trip, but the Lord provided another surgeon to come in his place and so we were still able to serve over 30 patients throughout the week.

We ran 2 ORs each day and provided surgery for a total of 27 patients as well as doing 4 additional small procedures throughout the course of the week. Our patients were all referred to us by the local hospital, which serves over 500,000 people and thus has long wait lists for even relatively simple surgeries. We had 2 Honduran paramedic/EMTs who were there with an ambulance in case of any complication requiring admission to the hospital postop, but thankfully all our cases went smoothly and the outpatient surgeries all stayed outpatient :)

I worked with a CRNA and an anesthesiologist to do the anesthetics for several pediatric cases, as well as adult general surgeries and ortho cases. I was excited to be able to use what I had learned from many hours spent in our cadaver lab and do several peripheral nerve blocks for postop pain management using a small handheld butterfly ultrasound machine! It was a good reminder to me of yet another



reason to continue working hard to improve my skills in regional anesthesia.

Regional anesthesia is an incredibly valuable skill

to have for offering pain management in a place where many pain medications may be difficult to get or cost prohibitive for the patients to purchase. Another thing I learned this past week was how to fine tune my wakeups without pressure support. The anesthesia machines at the surgical center were likely older than I am and so they had volume control ventilation and spontaneous/bag mode, but no PCVG or SIMV modes. It was a learning curve initially, but it was also neat to see that doing an anesthetic is possible even without some of the bells and whistles that our current machines have.

Working in conjunction with the local church was another highlight of the trip. Several members of the church worked as translators, and some other Honduran church members would talk to our patients and their families in preop and share with them in their language how much Jesus loves them and pray with them prior to surgery. The patients will be following up via phone or in person with a full time nurse at the surgical center in a couple of weeks, and then in the next couple of months the local church will reach out to see how they're doing and continue to follow up and ensure their needs are being met.

This was my 4th time to this specific location in Honduras, and it was so fun to reunite with many people who I have met on prior trips and see how well this church continues to care for its community. I was challenged this week to have eyes more open to the needs of the people around me at home and in my own community. The hearts of the people of Honduras are so full of joy and they are so willing to serve and care for those around them in whatever ways they can. It was a privilege to be able to take part in caring for the patients we served last week. Thank you for helping make it possible for me to go!

-Ann Stayer, MTSU Student





*Continued from Cover*

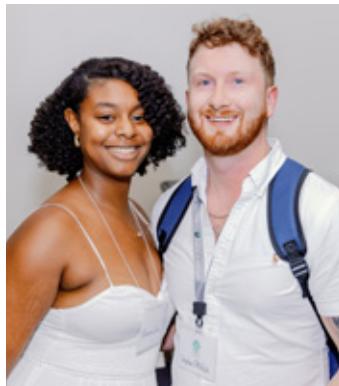
the Music City theme, donning cowboy hats, boots, and country-inspired attire for candid shots in a photobooth complete with musical instruments. The Southern-style menu included fried green tomatoes, pimento cheese bites, roasted chicken, pot roast, fried okra, mac-n-cheese, turnip greens, biscuits, cornbread, and "Nashville-Hot" vegetarian chicken, served alongside a spectacular view of downtown Nashville.

A custom Hatch Show print was created exclusively for the occasion to commemorate MTSU's 75th anniversary. Limited editions were auctioned to benefit the School's mission initiatives, adding a meaningful purpose to an already memorable night.

Thanks to all who attended and celebrated MTSU's Nashville Rhythm & Snooze 75th Anniversary Celebration – it's a night we'll never forget!

## 2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

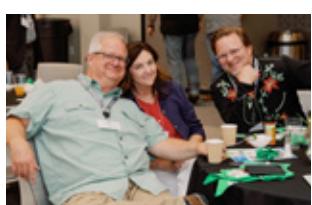
Nevin H. Downs Leadership Award: **Aaron Jones**



William O.T. Smith Clinical Excellence Award:  
**Keven & Katie Keller**



Christopher P. Hulin Mission & Heritage Award: **Victor Martin**





# 2025 Award Recipients



## Nevin H. Downs Leadership Award: **Aaron Jones**

Aaron Jones, DNAP, CRNA, is a certified registered nurse anesthetist first and an entrepreneur second with over 25 years of experience in anesthesia care and clinical leadership. He earned both his Master of Science (2000) and Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) (2014) degrees from Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia (MTSA), where he developed both his clinical expertise and his commitment to advancing organizational patient-centered care.

Aaron is the founder and CEO of Sweet Dreams Anesthesia, a company he helped build with a current reach of over 60 facilities in 10 states. Under his leadership, Sweet Dreams Anesthesia has become known for its high standards, reliable service, and strong partnerships. It is a trusted group for CRNAs, physicians, facilities and the patients it serves.

Throughout his career, Aaron has blended the desire for clinical excellence with his entrepreneurial drive, always seeking a reputation for integrity, honesty, and excellence in the anesthesia field. His work reflects a deep dedication not only to patient care but also to mentoring CRNAs and cultivating collaborative clinical environments.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Aaron is a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He and his wife have been married for 34 years and have raised five children. Their growing family now includes three daughters-in-law (soon to be four) and six grandchildren, welcoming the newest addition just recently. Family remains the center of Aaron's life, and he treasures time spent together.

In his free time, Aaron enjoys playing the piano, golf, pickleball, triathlons, traveling, and pursuing new experiences with his family. Whether he's exploring a new destination, spending a weekend on the green, or swimming with the grandkids, Aaron approaches life with gratitude, energy, and a sense of purpose. In the end, Aaron strives for faith, sincerity, and a heart for service, hoping to uplift others on his journey.



## William O.T. Smith Clinical Excellence Award: **Keven & Katie Keller**

Keven and Katie met as ICU nurses at Atlanta Medical Center. After applying to multiple CRNA programs across the country, they were both accepted into Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia. They graduated in 2013, moved back to Georgia, and took jobs at Southern Regional Medical Center on the south side of Atlanta. The hospital went through an ownership change, which prompted the Kellers to start their own group, which went live August 2016—the same month they found out Katie was pregnant with their now oldest daughter.

The Kellers have been blessed to grow their CRNA-only group to 33 CRNAs and provide anesthesia services to nine facilities around metro-Atlanta. In 2018, their urology contract wanted to partner in creating a robotics program suited for an ambulatory surgery center (ASC). This afforded Keven and Katie the opportunity to create an opioid-free protocol designed around patient safety, while being cost effective. On April 15, 2020, they welcomed their first robotic prostatectomy patient and became the first group to perform this surgery in an ASC using an opioid-free protocol. They have now successfully performed nearly 200 robotic surgeries using the protocol.

Keven and Katie currently live in Atlanta with their two beautiful daughters, Brinley (8) and Adeline (7); their Springer Spaniel, Mac; their cat, Klaus; and eight chickens. They enjoy gardening, traveling with their girls, exercising, cooking, spending time with family, hiking, camping, and anything dealing with a body of water!

"God has blessed our family more than we ever imagined and through Him, anything is possible," they said. "We are also very grateful to MTSA, their staff, and their rigorous program. We started our careers prepared to be independent, and we strive to make our alma mater, our professors, and our classmates proud of the work we have put into our community."



**Mary Elizabeth DeVasher**  
**Distinguished Alumni Service Award:**  
**Richie Flowers**

Dr. Richard Flowers, a 1997 graduate of Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia (MTSA), is a nationally recognized leader in nurse anesthesia education, clinical practice, and simulation.

With more than 25 years of experience, he has shaped the profession through academic leadership, mentorship, and a steadfast commitment to excellence in patient care.

Dr. Flowers currently serves as Program Administrator for MTSU's Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) program. Prior to returning to his alma mater, he led the nurse anesthesia program at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, where he directed curricular reform, enhanced clinical training, and advanced student success.

He earned his Doctor of Nursing Practice from Baylor College of Medicine and holds certification as a Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator (CHSE). In 2023, he was inducted as a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (FAANA), recognizing his sustained contributions to nurse anesthesia education, leadership, and service.

A proud Middle Tennessee native, Dr. Flowers attributes his professional foundation and values to the formative education he received at MTSU. His return to the institution reflects a deep sense of gratitude and a commitment to give back to the community that shaped his career. He continues to be a passionate advocate for innovation in education, faculty development, and preparing future CRNAs for autonomous, high-quality care.

He and his wife, Lisa—a seasoned oncology nurse and pharmaceutical sales representative—cherish time spent with their three daughters, close friends, and extended family. They enjoy traveling together and are joyfully anticipating the arrival of their first grandchildren. Dr. Flowers finds his greatest fulfillment in witnessing the growth, success, and transformation of his students as they develop into confident and compassionate nurse anesthetists.

As a distinguished alumnus, Dr. Flowers embodies the mission and values of MTSU: faith-driven excellence, servant leadership, and a lifelong dedication to advancing the art and science of nurse anesthesia.



**Christopher P. Hulin**  
**Mission & Heritage Award:**  
**Victor Martin**

Victor Martin, MBA, CRNA, APN, is the owner of Stage Two Anesthesia, a Franklin, TN-based anesthesia provider / management company.

Having lived and practiced in the area for almost 40 years, his career started with a diploma from MTSU in 1986. His academic career continued with a bachelor's in healthcare psychology followed by an MBA from Southern New Hampshire University.

Joining the MTSU Board of Trustees in 2008, Vic served as Chairman from 2017 until July 2025. During his tenure, the MTSU Board worked closely with the administration and staff, led by Dr. Chris Hulin, to achieve several milestones. The program's enrollment has increased, additional academic programs are now offered, and the campus footprint expanded along with additional state-of-the-art facilities to support the effort. Always trying to recruit the next SRNA, he also served as the president of the Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TANA) during the 2020–21 term, representing over 2,200 CRNA members and helping to advance the profession, both locally and nationally.

Working with MTSU and TANA supported Vic's leadership for his own clinical group efforts. He credits working with some of the best CRNAs in Middle Tennessee to keep things lively in their clinical work. Many clinical sites where Stage Two provides coverage have allowed the CRNA staff to provide shadow opportunities for RN applicants. The number of CRNAs now practicing or training having come through this "look-see" type of arrangement through the years is a reflection of his entire staff.

As a biker for years, Vic is grateful he's only been hit once...so far! He continues to enjoy spending time with his wife, who was an OR Director until her retirement. Much of their focus is now on their two dogs, Lucy and Tater Tot, as well as each other. He is thankful for the support of his family through the years.



# MTSA's Golf Tournament at Topgolf

Under the lights and into the night—MTSA's Golf Tournament at Topgolf on September 25, 2025, was a big success!

Presented by US Anesthesia Partners, proceeds from the event are supporting the introduction of medical simulation programs and the first-ever simulation workshop tailored for nurse anesthetists in Guyana.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO EVENT SPONSORS:

**Presenting Sponsor:** US Anesthesia Partners

**Tournament Play Sponsor:** Envision Healthcare

**Food Sponsor:** HCA Healthcare

**In addition, the following organizations were represented:**

360 Anesthesia, Advocate Health/Atrium Health, Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists, Community Health Systems, Corewell Health, Norton Healthcare, Novant Health, OU Health, TeamHealth, True North Anesthesia, and University Anesthesiologists at UT Medical Center.

# 2025 2026 CALENDAR

**DECEMBER 7, 2025**

Cadaveric Workshop

**DECEMBER 12, 2025**

Class of 2025  
Graduation

**JANUARY 12, 2026**

Deadline for  
DNAP-PD Applications

**JANUARY 12, 2026**

Start of HBI Foundations of  
Anesthesia Business Course

**APRIL 1, 2026**

Deadline for  
ASPMF Applications

For additional details, visit  
[mtsa.edu/events](http://mtsa.edu/events).

## WHAT'S GOING ON



### Weekly Bible Study and Prayer Group

Students from the 2026 cohort have been meeting for weekly Bible study and prayer. As the 2026 cohort prepares to take Final Exams and concludes their regular on-campus didactic classes, to then embark upon full-time clinical rotations for their last 4 semesters, we will miss seeing them on campus as often and pray for safety and success for each one.



### Run for Joy

MTSA students, faculty, family, and dogs participated in the Run for Joy 5k from Nashville virtually and in Winston Salem, NC, where the run has been held annually for the past 5 years to celebrate the life of Katelyn Beardsley. Run proceeds support mental health services and awareness for health care learners.

### Nurse Educator Conference

We had a great time at the Nurse Anesthesia Conference for Educators in August, with a professional acting coach working with us one-on-one on our presentation skills!





*“This course provided me with a great amount of knowledge surrounding the business of anesthesia and I am so grateful to have participated.”*



**MTSA** HORNSBY  
BUSINESS INSTITUTE

In August, MTSA's Hornsby Business Institute launched **Foundations of Anesthesia Business**, an 8-week, CE-approved online course designed to introduce CRNAs, SRNAs, and anesthesia professionals to the core principles shaping the business side of their practice. From reimbursement and productivity to contracting, consulting, and advocacy, the course equips participants with the foundational knowledge to navigate the complex economic, legal, and operational aspects of anesthesia.

**COURSE INFORMATION:**

- 22 AANA Class A CE Credits
- Next Start Date: January 12, 2026
- Limited to 50 participants



Developed by Larry Hornsby—one of the nation's leading experts in CRNA business—the Hornsby Business Institute (HBI) equips CRNAs with the business skills and confidence needed to lead successfully in the anesthesia arena.

This Program has been prior approved by the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology for 22 Class A CE credits; Code Number 101821 Expiration Date 07/31/2028. AANA Is an approved provider by the California Board of Registered Nursing, CEP #10862.



# WHITE COAT CEREMONY

MTSA held its annual White Coat Ceremony on September 4, 2025, recognizing first-year students' successful completion of the second semester of the DNAP program including skills testing and machine check-off, in preparation to begin clinical rotations September 8.





# ADVANCE YOUR CAREER IN ANESTHESIA WITH MTSA's Academic Offerings

## DNAP Entry to Practice Program for RNs



The Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) degree is the highest practice degree in nurse anesthesia.

MTSA offers the DNP Practice Doctorate to registered nurses who have met each of the application requirements for admission. The DNP Practice Doctorate is a full-time course of study for 36 consecutive months, on the campus of MTSA. In the third semester of the DNP program, students will begin a rigorous clinical rotation process that offers students a vast array of clinical experiences in the peri-anesthesia setting. These clinical rotations will allow students to learn and sharpen their anesthetic skills throughout the remainder of the program.

**Application period now open. Visit [mtsa.edu/dnap](http://mtsa.edu/dnap) for more information.**

## DNAP Completion Program for CRNAs

MTSA offers the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) degree through a completion program specifically designed with the working CRNA in mind and in an online format. All students accepted into the program must be currently licensed CRNAs. The program can be completed over two years. MTSA's DNP program is differentiated from other DNP programs because it is designed specifically for CRNAs. Each course is created with specific nurse anesthesia content.

**Application period now open. Visit [mtsa.edu/doctorate](http://mtsa.edu/doctorate) for more information.**



## From CRNA to CEO

The Hornsby Business Institute provides students and anesthesia professionals with a powerful tool to enrich their CRNA curriculum and prepare students for success in the business of anesthesia. Course content includes leadership, legal and regulatory requirements, public policy, business practices, and much more. In addition, the new "Foundations of Anesthesia Business" is an 8-week, CE-accredited online course designed to introduce CRNAs, SRNAs, and anesthesia professionals to the core principles shaping the business side of their practice.

**To learn more, visit [mtsa.edu/hbi](http://mtsa.edu/hbi).**



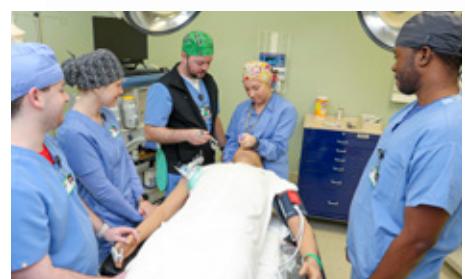
**MTSA**  
EDUCATION  
INNOVATION CENTER



## Nurse Anesthesia Educator Program

Distinguish yourself as a CRNA educator in MTSA's Nurse Anesthesia Educator Program. In this 12-month course of study, you will master evidence-based teaching methodologies, innovative assessment strategies, curriculum design, development, and program evaluation, preparing you for your role as a leader in nurse anesthesia education.

**Application period now open.**  
**Visit [mtsa.edu/nurseeducator](http://mtsa.edu/nurseeducator).**





## Acute Surgical Pain Management Fellowship

As the only Fellowship of its kind for CRNAs in the United States accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA), the Acute Surgical Pain Management Fellowship (ASPMF) is a 12-month hybrid program designed to expand a CRNA's regional anesthesia skills and provide the tools necessary for incorporating an acute pain service into their practice. The curriculum incorporates online education, live synchronous events with expert faculty, on-campus hands-on cadaveric intensives, and clinical rotations to provide a well-rounded educational experience.

**To learn more, visit [mtsa.edu/fellowship](http://mtsa.edu/fellowship).**



**Grow your clinical expertise with immersive hands-on training at MTSA's Ultrasound Workshops and Webinars**

### Regional Anesthesia Cadaveric Workshops

Ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia cadaveric workshops at MTSA incorporate anatomic dissection, live model scanning, and procedural cadavers to provide a comprehensive overview of the regional anesthesia procedures commonly used in the management of perioperative pain. The workshops are clinically focused, and techniques learned are easily translated into a provider's daily practice.

### Point-of-Care Ultrasound (PoCUS) Workshops

The Essentials Point-of-Care Ultrasound (PoCUS) Workshop is designed to introduce the participants to PoCUS studies that can be used as part of patient assessment in everyday clinical practice. During the workshop, participants will learn to perform the studies on live models, high-fidelity simulation, and cadaveric specimens.

### TEE/TTE Workshops

The TEE/TTE Workshop is designed to introduce the participants to PoCUS studies that can be used as part of patient assessment in everyday clinical practice. During the workshop, participants will learn to perform the studies on live models and high-fidelity simulators.

**To learn more, visit [mtsa.edu/ce](http://mtsa.edu/ce).**

## Foundations of Regional Anesthesia Class

The Foundations of Regional Anesthesia Class is a comprehensive 15-week post-graduate course designed for CRNAs seeking to broaden their scope of practice by incorporating regional anesthesia. This course covers a wide variety of regional anesthesia related topics, including ultrasound principles, neuromuscular functional assessment, local anesthetic dosing, peripheral nerve blocks commonly used in the perioperative management of patients, and postoperative considerations.

**Course dates: January 5 – April 16, 2026**

**To learn more, visit [mtsa.edu/academics](http://mtsa.edu/academics).**

**For more information on all of MTSA's nurse anesthesia academic offerings, visit [mtsa.edu](http://mtsa.edu).**

# MTSA SHINES AT AANA ANNUAL CONGRESS IN NASHVILLE



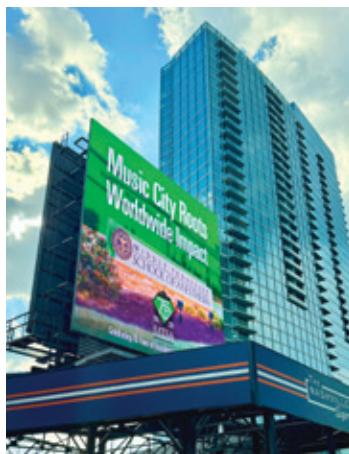
MTSA was thrilled to be a key part of nurse anesthesia's largest educational event: AANA Annual Congress, which was hosted in Nashville in August. Many of the School's students, faculty, and administration were front and center, leading a variety workshops, labs, and presentations that showcased MTSA's leadership in education, innovation, and clinical practice.

The MTSA booth in the exhibit hall was a major highlight for attendees. The Nashville Hot Chicken seasoning and custom MTSA bandanas quickly became favorites, while visitors learned about new initiatives such as the Hornsby Business Institute, Ultrasound & Pain Management, and the Education Innovation Center. Each represents MTSA's continued investment in advancing CRNA education and supporting professional growth.

MTSA's visibility extended beyond the exhibit hall with outdoor billboards across Nashville welcoming attendees and spotlighting the School's involvement in the conference. Inside the event, Larry Hornsby drew a steady stream of admirers, while two students perfectly captured the spirit of the gathering when they said, "I want to be Ikey DeVasher when I grow up."

"From many educational sessions to the lively interactions at the booth, MTSA made a memorable impression at this year's AANA Annual Congress, reflecting the School's dedication to excellence, community, and the future of nurse anesthesia," said MTSA President Chris Hulin. "It was very special to have this major event right in our backyard! Many thanks to all who played a role in helping MTSA to shine among our peers."

*"I want to be  
Ikey DeVasher  
when I grow up."*





## FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

Several members of MTSA's faculty took center stage at the AANA Annual Congress, sharing their knowledge, experience, and passion for advancing nurse anesthesia. Through engaging presentations, hands-on workshops, and thought-provoking discussions, they offered valuable insights on clinical innovation, education, and leadership. Their presence and participation not only reflected MTSA's longstanding commitment to excellence but also underscored the vital role its faculty play in shaping the future of the profession.

### PRESENTATIONS INCLUDED:

#### **Essential Perioperative Point-of-Care Ultrasound Workshops**

Christian Falyar & Nicolette Hooge

#### **Understanding Cultural Differences in Pain**

#### **Presentation to Enhance Nurse Anesthesia Care**

Hallie Evans & Nicolette Hooge

#### **EDGE: Enhancing the Clinical Learning Experience: Evidence-Based Strategies for Clinical Preceptors**

Hallie Evans & Nicolette Hooge

#### **Ultrasound Open Labs**

Christian Falyar & Nicolette Hooge

#### **AANA's Framework for Leveraging CRNA Value Using Efficiency-driven Anesthesia Modeling**

Larry Hornsby & Chris Hulin

#### **EDGE: Faculty Forum**

Richie Flowers

#### **Blame It on Anesthesia? Not Anymore! The Power of Neuromuscular Testing in Regional Anesthesia**

Christian Falyar & Nicolette Hooge

## STUDENT PRESENTATION

MTSA SRNAs represented at AANA Annual Congress in Nashville! Mike McCance and Lucas Moss presented their group's evidence-based project: "ERAS Protocols in Elective Craniotomies and PONV: An EBP Project." Group members represented included: Mike McCance, Kristin McDonald, Jayden Britton, Shai-Lo Charlton, and Lucas Moss. Advisors: Brett Clay, DNAP, CRNA, and Michele Gravois, DNAP, CRNA, APRN.



#### **Hallie Evans and Nicolette Hooge Inducted as AANA Fellows**

Congratulations to MTSA faculty Nicolette Hooge (left) and Hallie Evans (right) for being inducted as Fellows of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology!

Fellows of the AANA are recognized in their field for being outstanding practitioners, educators, researchers, and advocates. Way to go Hallie and Nicolette on this huge honor!

#### **Madison Aguilera Elected as AANA Resident Representative**

Big MTSA shoutout to Madison Aguilera (Class of '26)! This rockstar was elected as the AANA Resident Representative to the Education Committee during the AANA College Bowl at Annual Congress in August!



In this position, she will be representing all SRNAs in the country for the coming year and will have an integral role in helping execute the AANA's EDGE 2026 conference and resident-specific components of AANA Congress 2026 such as College Bowl.

She delivered her campaign speech at the Resident Breakfast in front of a massive crowd of SRNAs, including a huge number of MTSA students! Way to go, Madison — you're making MTSA proud and inspiring SRNAs nationwide!



# AIRWAYS

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C. David O'Con  
DNP, MHS, CRNA

## MTSA Graduate Named National Clinical Instructor of the Year

MTSA proudly celebrates C. David O'Con, DNP, MHS, CRNA, a graduate of the Acute Surgical Pain Management Fellowship (ASPMF), who has been recognized as the National Clinical Instructor of the Year by the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA). The honor was presented during the AANA Annual Congress held in Nashville this August.

With more than 25 years of anesthesia experience, Dr. O'Con is widely respected for his advanced clinical expertise and his passion for educating future generations of nurse anesthetists. He currently serves as President of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Anesthesiology and practices at Natchitoches Regional Medical Center, where he also mentors student registered nurse anesthetists.

As the only CRNA in Louisiana to complete an acute surgical pain fellowship, Dr. O'Con integrates the specialized knowledge and skills gained through MTSAs ASPMF program into both his clinical practice and his teaching. His commitment to education and patient-centered care continues to elevate the standards of anesthesia practice across the state and beyond.

MTSA is proud to recognize Dr. O'Con's outstanding achievements and the positive impact he's making in advancing anesthesia education and excellence in clinical care.

# THIS OR THAT



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