



Class of 2016

*U.S. News & World Report ranked the Mayo School of Health Sciences, Nurse Anesthesia Program as one of the top Nurse Anesthesia training programs.*

*"We are competing with some of the largest, well-known universities in the nation," says Annenberg Professor of Anesthesiology Mark Warner M.D. and Juanita Waugh Executive Dean for Education, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine. "These high ratings reflect the commitment of school leaders, faculty, staff and mentors to deliver the highest quality education to the extraordinary students who come to our schools."*

## Mayo Clinic Nurse Anesthesia Program: 125 Years of Educating for the Future



Siebens Subway Level - Nurse Anesthesia Display

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## ALUMNI HOSPITALITY

### ALUMNI HOSPITALITY EVENT HELD AT SALT PALACE CONVENTION CENTER

The reception was held Saturday evening during the 2015 Nurse Anesthesia Annual Congress in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Mayo CRNA Alumni reception was an evening filled with familiar faces, great food and wonderful conversation. We were fortunate to have alumni from many different states and many different classes. It was a great opportunity to catch up with our fellow classmates! We enjoyed seeing everyone who attended and hope that you will stop in at our next reception in Washington, D.C. this September. Formal invitations to follow.



Chris Dietz, Alana Tutt, Kelsey Dietz, Emily Ho, Lisa Thiemann



Chelsie Larsen, Lindsey Siebenaler, Meredith O' Brien, Ashley Taccolini



Ted Morris, Jorge Valdez, Matt Adams, Kirk Nichols



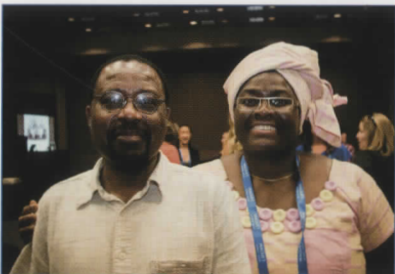
Bridget Ransom & guest



Marcia Kluck, Mark Odden, Amy Wells



Amy Wells, Robyn Finney, Emily Ho, Alana Tutt, Chelsie Larsen, Daniel King



Julius & Marian Kwansa



Diana Olive, Jennie Gappa, Valerie Sifuentes



Class of 2016



Tori Koedam, Matt Koedam, Jill Hardy



Jenna Steege, Michael Kraft, Jesse Christensen

## REUNION: CLASS OF 2011

### ANESTHESIA FUN IN THE DESERT SUN -- 5 YEAR REUNION FOR CLASS OF 2011

14 members of the Class of 2011 attended the Med City Anesthesia Seminars conference held in Palm Springs, California from February 8-11, 2016. This gathering coincided with their 5 year class reunion from the Mayo School of Health Sciences, Nurse Anesthesia Program. The reunion was organized by their class representative, Matt Dyer, who worked with the program director of Med City Anesthesia Seminars, Karissa Goodrich, to coordinate a location and time of year for the conference. Karissa Goodrich is a 2010 graduate of the Mayo Nurse Anesthesia Program. Those in attendance were Matt Dyer, Cari Reinsvold, Melissa Klein, Brian Klocke, Jenna Palzkill, Amy Neveau, Bryan Jones, Amy Gnagey, Charlie Beinborn, Devin Spence, Emily Goerke, Julie Castagnò, Melinda Howe and Kari Peterson. During this week, they were able to obtain CEUs while also reconnecting with their classmates. They laughed and reminisced on their time spent together during school, while also forming many new memories. We asked several of those in attendance to share with us information about their current practice as well as reflect back on their time as a student at Mayo Clinic.

*Name:* Jenna Palzkill

*Where do you live?* Oregon, Wisconsin

*Tell us about your family?* My husband, Jason, stays home taking care of our two kids, Cullen (4) and Jayne (2).

*Where are you currently employed and describe your practice?* I work at St. Mary's Hospital and Outpatient Center in Madison, Wisconsin. It's an Anesthesia Care Team practice where I do a great variety of cases. I love how every day is different.

*What is the best thing about your current job?* My colleagues often times make my day. Our CRNA group is very tight knit and has become some of my closest friends.

*Was there one particular CRNA who made the biggest impact during your clinical education at Mayo and why?* Ann Kiel was my initial preceptor and I feel incredibly fortunate to have had her pass so much wisdom on to me.

*Favorite memory during anesthesia school?* When I was in my multi rotation and there was a spina bifida term, newborn baby coming and it was assigned to my room, I assumed that they would have someone with more experience do the airway. But the anesthesiologist looked at me and said the intubation is yours, and you'll do it with the patient lying on his left side. It felt great that someone had so much confidence in my abilities. As scared as I was at that moment, I did it and it felt amazing.

*Given life experiences, what advice would you give a current SRNA?* A work-life balance is possible and you really are joining the best profession on earth!



Reunion Members of the Class of 2011

**Name: Amy Gnagey**

*Where do you live?* Dodge Center, Minnesota

*Tell us about your family?* I am married (17 years) to my husband Jeremy and have 2 sons, Hunter (12) and Tyler (9).

*Where are you currently employed and describe your practice?* I am currently employed by Mayo Clinic, Rochester, and practice mostly at the St. Mary's campus as well as core faculty with the nurse anesthesia program.

*What is the best thing about your current job?* I enjoy the great variety of patients and procedures.

*Was there one particular CRNA who made the biggest impact during your clinical education at Mayo and why?* While many CRNAs provided a great example and helped to shape my practice, Julie Johnson sticks out as the one that made the biggest impact. Julie was (and still is) a great example of hard work and professionalism. She has many admirable qualities, but one of the greatest is her ability to communicate effectively and provide direct feedback.

*Favorite memory during anesthesia school?* AANA national meeting in Seattle

*Given life experiences what advice would you give a current SRNA?* Don't take anything personally. Use feedback that is shared with you as an educational opportunity to grow.

**Name: Charles Beinborn**

*Where do you live?* Dubuque, Iowa

*Tell us about your family?* Bachelor

*Where are you currently employed and describe your practice?* Employed at critical access hospital 1/2 the year in Richland Center, Wisconsin, and work locum jobs the rest of the year.

*What is the best thing about your current job?* Enjoy making people comfortable.

*Was there one particular CRNA who made the biggest impact during your clinical education at Mayo and why?* Becky Boenish and Dan Laurila were my first clinical instructors and they did a wonderful job teaching me.

*Favorite memory during anesthesia school?* Favorite memory in anesthesia school was the time spent with my classmates both inside and outside of school.

*Given life experiences, what advice would you give a current SRNA?* Keep showing up for class and clinical. Looking back, anesthesia school was one of the most fun experiences of my life. You will reflect and reference your clinical cases from anesthesia school the rest of your career.

**Name: Amy Neveau**

*Where do you live?* Rochester, Minnesota

*Tell us about your family?* Married to Dan, daughter Alyssa (13), son Isaac (10)

*Where are you currently employed and describe your practice?* Mayo Rochester, in cardiovascular surgery

*What is the best thing about your current job?* Taking care of my patients!

*Was there one particular CRNA who made the biggest impact during your clinical education at Mayo and why?* Sharon Brandt, she supported me through some tough stuff during school.

*Favorite memory during anesthesia school?* Making the lasting friendships!

*Given life experiences, what advice would you give a current SRNA?*

Take one day at a time...it WILL be worth it!



continued on next page

**Name: Matt Dyer**

*Where do you live?* Chatfield, Minnesota

*Tell us about your family?* Wife Kristin, started CRNA program here in July 2015, 2 kids; daughter Karsyn is 3, son Griffin is 2.

*Where are you currently employed and describe your practice?* Mayo Clinic Health System – Community CRNA

*What is the best thing about your current job?* I love the variety of working in all areas and in different community settings

*Was there one particular CRNA who made the biggest impact during your clinical education at Mayo and why?* Floating around, working in so many areas, I have a great respect for a lot of different colleagues. I have been able to pick up things from each CRNA, in each area, which have helped me grow as a CRNA.

*Favorite memory during anesthesia school?* Trips and spending time with classmates.

*Given life experiences, what advice would you give a current SRNA?* You may not agree with every assignment, with various class or clinical experiences. Just keep the end goal in mind. Jump through whatever hoops you are asked to jump through, learn as much as you can, and in the end, it will all be worth it.

**Name: Julie Castagno**

*Where do you live?* Denver, Colorado

*Tell us about your family?* I currently live with my boyfriend Alonso and my two dogs Ruby and Pearl.

*Where are you currently employed and describe your practice?* I worked for Mayo Clinic for 5 years and moved to Denver this March. I started work at the University of Colorado Hospital.

*What is the best thing about your current job?* I'm just getting to know this practice, but love the university setting. There is a large variety of challenging and interesting cases.

*Was there one particular CRNA who made the biggest impact during your clinical education at Mayo and why?* Matt Hathaway was my primary preceptor when I started in the clinical setting during nurse anesthesia school. His vast knowledge and clinical skills impressed me. He motivated me to become the best anesthetist I could be. Several years after graduation I was able to practice alongside him in the Gonda outpatient center where I was lucky to have him as my mentor.

*Favorite memory during anesthesia school?* My favorite part of anesthesia school was meeting my two best friends, Kelly Decker and Emily Goerke. I wouldn't have made it through school without their constant love and support.

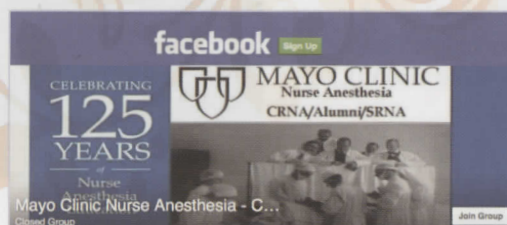
*Given life experiences, what advice would you give a current SRNA?* I would have to say my best advice to an incoming SRNA would be that every day you will learn something new, so keep your mind open and take something from these experiences.

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## FACEBOOK

Mayo Clinic Nurse Anesthesia is on Facebook!

The Facebook page was created to provide information and interaction between Mayo Clinic's current CRNAs, Alumni, and SRNAs. It is a closed group that requires permission to join, and currently has over 220 members. Please join and feel free to post to the webpage. The page can be found by searching Mayo Clinic Nurse Anesthesia-CRNA/Alumni/SRNA



## ALUMNI ROOM AT THE CRNA SEMINAR

What is the Alumni Room at the CRNA Seminar?

What does it mean to be among the “honored years” at the CRNA seminar?

The Alumni Room at the Annual Mayo Clinic Fall Seminar is located just outside the lecture hall. It is set up and staffed on the second full day of the meeting. The room contains photos and anesthesia equipment for all attendees to enjoy. However, the best part of the alumni room is the retirees and other alumni that occupy the area throughout the day. They are there to visit with you and reminisce about days gone by. They love to hear about your current practice and personal life.

In 2013, we added prize drawings to our alumni room. Please stop by the alumni table so you can submit your name to the drawing for a chance to win a gift from the alumni association. The fall conference will be held from October 30th through November 2nd. This is a great time to drop off a current biographical sketch or make a donation to our CRNA alumni association. We look forward to seeing you this fall!

The “honored years” at the seminar is a designation that you graduated either in the current year or at a five year interval prior to the current year. For example, the honored years at the 2016 seminar will be 2016, 2011, 2006, 2001... with all honored years ending in 6 or 1.

An important part of being an honored year alumni is to gather with other classmates for a group photo. The time and location of this will be announced by a seminar moderator at the start of the second day.



Marcia Kluck, Joan Hunziker-Dean, Steve Klinkhammer,  
Rita Marquardt, Kathy Anderson



Steve Klinkhammer, Nicole Anderson, Joan Hunzker-Dean,  
Kathy Anderson, Rita Marquardt



Marge Eggenberger, Alison Glapa, Karen Nase, Lucy Aho

## PROGRAM UPDATE

Submitted by: Mary Shirk Marienau, APRN, CRNA, PhD

What an inspiring year this has been. Our celebration of 125 years of Nurse Anesthesia education at the Mayo Clinic has continued on through the 41st Annual Mayo Clinic Nurse Anesthesia Seminar and even into the Class of 2016's graduation. We thought we were finished with celebrations for a little while, but shortly after graduation we received word that the US News and World Report ranking of nurse anesthesia programs across the country placed us in a multiple tie for 10th place. It is an honor to have the program, students, graduates and faculty recognized in this ranking.

The 25 members of the Class of 2016 graduated on March 12 in Phillips Hall with over 400 guests and faculty in attendance. They were reminded that being a professional requires embracing change. Change is a constant in our profession and it is important in many aspects to accept it in order to continue to grow. Katie Jacobsen, CRNA, MNA, invited graduation speaker, also encouraged the graduates to remember that "what you do every day as a CRNA matters. Each day's choices shape what you will become and replenish the reserves you will have to draw on when you need them."

Several of the 2016 graduates continued the tradition of getting their master's research published in peer reviewed journals. All students presented their research results via poster presentations at one or more of the following venues: The 2015 Annual AANA Congress in Salt Lake City, the Fall MANA State Meeting, and the 41st Annual Mayo Clinic Seminar for Nurse Anesthetists. Graduates also provided oral presentations at the 2015 MANA and Mayo meetings.

Over the years, the Nurse Anesthesia Alumni Association has gifted the program with exceptional teaching tools and equipment. Those gifts have been very much appreciated and valued by the program and students. To continue to enhance the educational experience for our students, the program has asked the Association to consider a future gift of an Interscalene/Supraclavicular Block Trainer: \$3644 and/or a Femoral Nerve Block Trainer: \$3398, when funds allow. Although these are significant purchases, we are confident they would be wonderful additions to the program's teaching tools. Through the generosity of Mayo Nurse Anesthesia Alumni, we were once again able to present Alumni Awards at graduation and during the Annual Mayo Seminar for Nurse Anesthetists, which help to encourage students to reach for higher professional and research aspirations. Your contributions make those awards possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind Mayo Alumni who do not work at Mayo Rochester and plan to attend the Annual Mayo Seminar (October 30-November 2, 2016), that you may be invited to be a poster judge for the Tuesday, November 1, 2016 Poster Session. If asked please say, "Yes!" It is a great, inexpensive way to give back to our program and profession. Please note that the Seminar starts on Sunday afternoon and will continue through Wednesday. We know it is being held over Halloween, but we are looking at the agenda to provide an earlier end time on October 31st.

**Student Happenings:** The students all enjoyed moving to the next level of their education this spring with a new tradition of "Dot Day." This is a rite of passage for students, as they receive a different colored 'dot' sticker on their nametags, to signify a progression in their educational journey. We continue to hold All-Student Meetings twice a year. The fall meeting includes an Anesthesia Bowl and this year in the final round, the SRNAs took the golden laryngoscope trophy away from the faculty ~ students be warned, we'll be taking it back next year!



We recognize that our current seniors (Class of 2017) will be celebrated in history as the last cohort of students to earn their Master of Nurse Anesthesia degree from our program. In mid-July we will admit our third DNAP class. It is amazing to realize that we are at this point in time of historical transitions in the program.

Mayo's Off-Campus Rotation (OCR) sites continue to provide students with an understanding of anesthesia practice outside a large academic center. These sites are also where students obtain needed regional anesthesia experience. Along with the two recently added sites in Red Wing, MN and Albert Lea, MN, all our OCR sites are providing SRNAs with a wonderful variety of experiences. With that said, the program continues to work to meet and exceed accreditation requirements and look for ways to enhance our students' clinical experiences. If you work in a practice that could provide our students with great experience in general and regional anesthesia, please contact Mary Shirk Marienau [marienau.mary@mayo.edu](mailto:marienau.mary@mayo.edu) (1-507-284-8331) to discuss in more detail. Each senior student's OCR lasts 8 weeks. We work very closely with each site to ensure strong support for both the students and faculty.

I hope all alumni who are reading this continue to feel proud to be called a "Mayo Alumnus." Please plan to come back to visit the program and get together with your classmates at the Annual Mayo Seminar for Nurse Anesthetists (October 30-Nov 2, 2016) or ...anytime!

Mary Shirk Marienau, APRN, CRNA, PhD  
Program Director



Members of the Class of 2016  
(Research Groups)





Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, School of Health Sciences,  
Master of Nurse Anesthesia Program 2016 Graduates

**Row 1:** Meredith O'Brien, Chelsie Larsen, Megan Barrone, Valerie Sifuentes, Tia Prebeck, Diana Olive, Jennie Gappa  
**Row 2:** Amy Wells, Crystal Crowley, Daniel King, Gregory Eddy, Nikki Riley, Heather Larsen, Wendy Johnson  
**Row 3:** Lindsay Siebenaler, Kelsey Dietz, Ashley Taccolini, Heidi Anderson, Alana Tutt, Emily Ho  
**Row 4:** Michael Kraft, Samuel Ahle, Jesse Christensen, Shaun Dowd, Nate Rawlins

**MAYO SCHOOL OF HEALTH  
SCIENCE'S MASTER OF NURSE  
ANESTHESIA PROGRAM  
CLASS OF 2016  
GRADUATES – EMPLOYERS:**

*Samuel Ahle, BSN*

Future Employer: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

*Heidi Anderson, BSN*

Future Employer: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

*Megan Barrone, BSN*

Future Employer: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

*Jesse Christensen, BSN*

Future Employer: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

*Crystal Crowley, BSN*

Future Employer: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

*Kelsey Dietz, BSN*

Future Employer: Anesthesia Associates of  
Boise, Boise, ID

*Shaun Dowd, BSN*

Future Employer: Nurse Anesthesia Services,  
P.A., Minneapolis, MN

*Gregory Eddy, BSN*

Future Employer: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

*Jennie Gappa, BSN*

Future Employer: Independent Contractor, South  
Central MN

*Emily Ho, BSN*

Future Employer: Physicians Anesthesia Service,  
Swedish Hospital, Seattle, WA

*Wendy Johnson, BSN*

Future Employer: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

*Daniel King, BSN*

Future Employer: Guardian Anesthesia, Boston, MA

*Michael Kraft, BSN*

Future Employer: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

*Chelsie Larsen, BSN*

Future Employer: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

*Heather Larsen, BSN*

Future Employer: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

*Meredith O'Brien, BSN*

Future Employer: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

*Diana Olive, BSN*

Future Employer: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

*Tia Prebeck, BSN*

Future Employer: North Iowa Anesthesia  
Associates P.C., Mason City, IA

*Nate Rawlins, BSN*

Future Employer: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

*Nikki Riley, BSN*

Future Employer: North Iowa Anesthesia  
Associates P.C., Mason City, IA

*Valerie Sifuentes, BSN*

Future Employer: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

*Lindsay Siebenaler, BSN*

Future Employer: Eau Claire Anesthesiology, Eau  
Claire, WI

*Ashley Taccolini,*

Future Employer: Nurse Anesthesia Services, P.A.,  
Minneapolis, MN

*Alana Tutt, BSN*

Future Employer: Northern Colorado Anesthesia  
Professionals, Fort Collins, CO

*Amy Wells, BSN*

Future Employer: Eau Claire Anesthesiology, Eau  
Claire, WI

## WITH DISTINCTIONS

### CLASS OF 2016

#### FACULTY AWARDS

SMH CRNA Instructor of the Year:  
*Terry Gran, APRN, CRNA, MNA*

RMH CRNA Instructor of the Year:  
*Ann Kiel, APRN, CRNA, MNA*

Physician Educator of the Year:  
*Robert Chantigian, MD*

Special Recognition:  
*Sharon Brandt, APRN, CRNA, DNP*

Invited Graduation Speaker:  
*Katherine Jacobsen, APRN, CRNA, MNA*

#### STUDENT AWARDS – CLASS OF 2016

Robert R. Johnson Achievement Award:  
Michael Kraft

Gilles, Nelson, Torrance Alumni Award:  
Wendy Johnson

Rebecca S. Finley Alumni Award:  
Gregory Eddy

Virginia B. Hartridge Achievement Award:  
Daniel King

Robert A. E. Devloo Book Award:  
Michael Kraft

#### STUDENT POSTER AWARDS – MAYO CRNA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

##### 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE AWARD - \$300.00

Core Temperature Measurement Using a  
Non-Invasive Zero-Heat-Flux Thermometer\*\*  
Jesse Christensen, BSN, SRNA  
Gregory Eddy, BSN, SRNA  
Nate Rawlins, BSN, SRNA

*Advisors: Sharon Brandt, APRN, CRNA, DNP  
Darrell Schroeder, MS  
Mary Shirk Marienau, APRN, CRNA PhD*

##### 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE AWARD - \$250.00

Perioperative Management and Oncologic  
Outcomes Following Radical Cystectomy for  
Bladder Cancer: A Matched Cohort Study

Samuel Ahle, BSN, SRNA  
Kelsey Dietz, BSN, SRNA  
Shaun Dowd, BSN, SRNA  
Ashley Taccolini, BSN, SRNA

*Advisors: Toby Weingarten, MD  
Juraj Sprung, MD  
Mary Shirk Marienau, APRN, CRNA, PhD  
Darrell Schroeder, MS*

##### 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE AWARD - \$200.00

2016 Update on Noncardiac Surgery in  
Eisenmenger Syndrome: an update on the  
1999 study evaluating morbidity and mortality  
associated with noncardiac surgery in patients  
with Eisenmenger Syndrome

Emily Ho, BSN, SRNA  
Daniel King, BSN, SRNA  
Alana Tutt, BSN, SRNA

*Advisors: Maria Fritock, MD  
Leslie Donato, PhD*

#### BOOK AWARDS

The Use of Dexmedetomidine in Pediatric  
Patients Requiring Extracorporeal Membrane  
Oxygenator Support: A single center's  
experience of 12 years\*\*

Crystal Crowley, BSN, SRNA  
Michael Kraft, BSN, SRNA  
Meredith O'Brien, BSN, SRNA  
Tia Prebeck, BSN, BSN, SRNA

*Advisors: Sheri Crow, MD, MS;  
Joseph Dearani, MD; Gregory Schears, MD;  
William Oliver, MD; Gregory Nuttall, MD;  
Rahul Kashyup, MD; Darrell Schroeder, PhD;  
De Anna Haugen*

Assessment of Nurse Anesthetist Knowledge of  
Pharmacogenomics\*\*

Heidi Anderson, BSN, SRNA  
Nikki Riley, BSN, SRNA

*Advisors: W.T. Nicholson, MD, PharmD  
Christine Formea, PharmD, RPh  
Mary Shirk Marienau, APRN, CRNA, PhD*

Association of Mild Cognitive Impairment with Exposure to General Anesthesia for Surgical and Nonsurgical Procedures:

A Population-Based Study

Jennie Gappa, BSN, SRNA

Diana Olive, BSN, SRNA

Valerie Sifuentes, BSN, SRNA

*Advisors:* Toby N Weingarten, MD

Juraj Sprung, MD, PhD

Mary Shirk Marienau, APRN, CRNA, PhD

David Warner, MD

Darrell Schroeder, MS

Point-of-Care Glucose Meter Accuracy in the Operating Room

Chelsie Larsen, BSN, SRNA

Lindsay Siebenaler, BSN, SRNA

Amy Wells, BSN, SRNA

*Advisors:* Timothy Curry, MD, PhD

Leslie Donato, PhD

Brad Karon, MD

Mary Shirk Marienau, APRN, CRNA, PhD

Tobacco Intervention Knowledge Practices and Attitudes Among Registered Nurses in the Outpatient Surgery Practice\*\*

Megan Barrone, BSN, SRNA

Wendy Johnson, BSN, SRNA

Heather Larsen, BSN, SRNA

*Advisors:* Marlea Judd, CRNA, DNP

David Martin, MD, PhD

David O. Warner, MD

Mary Shirk Marienau, APRN, CRNA, PhD

*\*\*Denotes students who gave presentations at the seminar*

## MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

40 years - David Myhre

35 years - Mark Boenish, Thomas Maiers, Ann Kiel, Debra King

30 years- Dean Richter, Marcia Belau, Kaia Long, Jeff Long, Joan Hunziker-Dean

25 years- Bettina Thompson, Kathy Vagle

20 years- Lori Bauer, Livingstone Brown, Karla Mueller, Denise Mueller, Barbara Nord, Ben Riley, James Muggli, Dixie Bakken, Monique Bowersox, Donna Sheets, Mark Ahle, Tim McGuire, Jenivee Muggli

15 years- Kevin vanKoeverden, Farley Abcejo, Tammy Buchanan, Jodi Holschlag, Kellie Raabe, Troy Churchill, Sarah Kane, Ryan Peterson, Charles Brommer, Roger Pula

10 years- Ann Brink, Karissa Goodrich, Rebekah Olson, Angela Sandersen, Samantha Schultz, Cara Mann, Jennifer Burckhardt, Ericka Slivinski

5 years- Jonathan Alleckson, Julie Castagno, Melissa Klein, Kitty Mosher

## HIGHLIGHTED ALUMNI

1977

*Vandela Hicks-Scherer* lives in Rochester, Minnesota. She retired from Mayo Clinic in November 2015 after 38 years as an anesthetist. She is married to David Scherer who is also a Mayo CRNA retiree. What Vandela will remember most are the wonderful people with whom she worked. Her advice to future graduates is "the only thing you can control is your attitude and the care you give to your patients." Vandela loved her job and stated that "becoming an anesthetist was one of the best choices she ever made." In retirement, Vandela looks forward to spending more time with her family. She can be reached at [dgscherer1@gmail.com](mailto:dgscherer1@gmail.com)

1979

*David Scherer* lives in Rochester, Minnesota, with his wife Vandela. David retired from Mayo in 2007 due to health issues. What he remembers most about Mayo Clinic is that he had a job he really enjoyed with different challenges each day as well as the wonderful

friendships he developed over the years. David advises future graduates to "have fun wherever you choose to work and enjoy each day because it goes by way too fast!" He loved giving anesthesia and teaching students about various cases. David mentioned that he also enjoyed liver call even though there were some brutal weeks. He is happy to have Vandela join him in retirement. He plans on doing what he enjoys which includes watching sports, reading, and flower gardening. You can reach him at [dgscherer1@gmail.com](mailto:dgscherer1@gmail.com)

**1986**

*Robert Wells* lives in Omaha, Nebraska, with his spouse Dr. Coleen Stice. Robert is retired from On Site Anesthesia. His spouse works at Metro Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and also worked as a Mayo plastic surgeon in 1985. What Robert remembers most about Mayo Clinic is walking to work in negative 30 degree temperatures and the overwhelming volume of work in the operating rooms. He learned "minimalist" monitoring with Dr. Schnelle. Robert made lifelong friends with Craig and Marcia Kluck (both former Mayo CRNAs). He felt prepared for anything when he finished his education at Mayo. His advice to future graduates is to "take advantage of every day and never stop learning, be a professional even when it is difficult and remember you are your patient's guardian." Robert loved every moment of being a CRNA but not as much as he enjoyed watching his three daughters grow up and being supportive to his wife who is a plastic surgeon. Robert has moved on to becoming a Certified State Naturalist and a board member of the State Audubon Society. He volunteers at state parks and still uses his anesthesia skills when the raptor recovery program calls. Robert can be contacted at [rcwells@cox.net](mailto:rcwells@cox.net)

**2003**

*Brian Peterson* lives in Slayton, Minnesota, with his spouse Angi. He is working at the Avera Worthington Surgical Center in a solo CRNA position. Brian remembers his very fun classmates during the CRNA program here at Mayo. His advice to future graduates is to "stay passionate about nursing and anesthesia!" His prior work experience included 10 years in a solo position at a county hospital in Slayton, Minnesota followed by 2 years as an independent contractor at a dozen small hospitals. Brian can be contacted at [bapeter11@gmail.com](mailto:bapeter11@gmail.com)

**2004**

*John Westberg* lives in Wausau, Wisconsin, with his spouse Cathy. He is working in Weston, Wisconsin with the Ministry Medical Group. What John remembers most about Mayo Clinic is the huge amount of people who are available to learn from. His advice for future graduates is to "never hesitate to ask questions." John is very happy with the education he received at Mayo as it prepared him well for the variety of patients he cares for. He is comfortable working as a staff CRNA in a smaller hospital. In his free time he tries to keep up with his wife and daughters. John can be reached at [nralien@charter.net](mailto:nralien@charter.net)

**2011**

*Charles Beinborn* lives in Dubuque, Iowa, and is employed with Richland Hospital Inc. What Charles remembers most about Mayo Clinic is the world class facility and the friendly people. His advice for future graduates is to "enjoy your time in school while receiving an invaluable education and making friends for a lifetime." Charles says he is "living the dream!"

**2014**

*Cara Mann* is living in Rochester, Minnesota, with her spouse Tyler. She is working at Mayo as a CRNA. Her spouse is an Autopsy Technologist at Mayo. What Cara remembers most about Mayo is the lifelong friends she made and that she had the best classmates. She can be reached at her work email [mann.cara@mayo.edu](mailto:mann.cara@mayo.edu)

**2015**

*Tiffany Thornton* is living in Rochester, Minnesota, with her spouse Trent. She is employed as a CRNA at Mayo and her husband is working as a Home Claims Adjuster at Farmers Insurance. You can reach her at [mccormick.tiffany@gmail.com](mailto:mccormick.tiffany@gmail.com)

## CRNA JOURNAL CLUB

The *CRNA Journal Club* was created in 2013 as an initiative put forth by the Core Clinical Educator Group within our Rochester practice. This committee, in conjunction with Mary Marienau and financially supported by the Mayo Nurse Anesthesia Program and the Mayo Department of Anesthesiology, is known for sharing knowledge of timely and relevant anesthesia related topics. The primary goal of the CRNA Journal Club is to provide monthly meetings for CRNAs from across our large practice to come together to socialize, to share best practices, and to present new evidence-based literature. The group offers 1 free CEU per month to all CRNA attendees.



Matt Dyer, Mayor Ardell Brede, Katie Jacobson, Marlea Judd

It has since evolved to offer 9 on-campus and 3 off-campus meetings. Monthly email invitations are sent to all interested Mayo CRNA Alumni, and all CRNAs within the Mayo Clinic Health System.

Meetings are facilitated by CRNA staff from a chosen surgical specialty/health system site, and highlight an anesthesia related topic relevant to that group. The CRNA Journal Club is now in its 3rd year. It has been well received and has grown consistently since its first meeting in September of 2013. In its second year, the CRNA Journal Club was attended by 137 different CRNAs from 11 campuses and has issued over 700 CEUs since its inception.

Multiple off-campus locations and variations in format have also been used to attract new attendees as well as encourage repeat attendance. In another effort to continue to gain new attendees and incorporate new ideas, they partnered with the Ronald McDonald House in December of 2015. Attendees were asked to bring items to fulfill the homes "Holiday Wish List." With the help of the SRNA DNAP Class of 2018, over 500 dollars in cash and gift cards, and 150 items - including toys as well as needed household items, were collected.

When another noteworthy opportunity came along in January 2016, the Journal Club was called on once again. An opportunity to raise awareness of CRNAs came when Rochester Mayor Ardell Brede was on hand to read and present the group with a proclamation recognizing National CRNA Week. Katie Jacobsen, media coordinator for MANA and staff CRNA, helped facilitate and accept this wonderful honor.

If you would like to be added to the Alumni Email list to receive monthly invites, or to just get the topics and articles being discussed, please send your email address to [dyer.matthew@mayo.edu](mailto:dyer.matthew@mayo.edu). To see a schedule of future journal club meetings, or to find information on past topics and presenters, check out the website:

Mayo Intranet - <http://intranet.mayo.edu/charlie/anesthesiology-rst/crna/crna-journal-club/>

-Matt Dyer, Tammy Buchanan

## JOURNAL CLUB



Cori Arce, Mark Swenson, Robyn Finney



Karissa Goodrich, Stacey Licht



Darlene Bannon, Chris Hall



Craig Woxland, Joan Hunziker-Dean



Julie Johnson, Marcia Belan, Kevin Lindeen



Kelly Jacob, Tammy Buchanan



Debra King, Rita Marquardt, Christy Eischens, Tammy Neis



Karre Betzig, Julie Stevenson, Kat Ojalvo-Stevenson



Kitty Mosher, Jenna Muggli



Laurie Trudell, Tricia Renk



Stacey Licht, Susan Wigersma



Doreen Gudlin, Lisa Dearborn, Becky Boenish



Mavis Ward, Tia Stringer, Sarah Billings



Tia Stringer, Linda Anderson, Sarah Billings, Becca King, Minerva Johnson



Craig Woxland, Danelle Schreider



Cara Mann, Lydia Mitchell, Cari Reinsvold

## BRIAN WILSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This past November, Brian Wilson, CRNA, passed away after a lengthy battle with malignant melanoma. Brian had a long and distinguished career as a Mayo Clinic nurse anesthetist. During his tenure, he served as a staff supervisor, contributed to the education of nurse anesthesia students, and was active in professional nurse anesthesia organizations.

Because of Brian's lifelong passion for and dedication to nurse anesthesia education, his wife, Kathy, wishes to support future students by providing a scholarship in his honor. The newly established Brian Wilson Nurse Anesthesia Scholarship Fund will provide financial assistance to a student enrolled in the Mayo School of Health Sciences (MSHS) Nurse Anesthesia Program. The first scholarship will be awarded this summer.

Colleagues and friends may contribute to the Brian Wilson Nurse Anesthesia Scholarship Fund in a number of ways. **By mail:** Mayo Clinic, Department of Development, 200 First Street SW, Rochester, MN 55905 (checks payable to Mayo Clinic with the name of the scholarship fund written in the memo section). **By phone:** Toll-free (855) 852-8129. **Online:** <https://philanthropy.mayoclinic.org/employee> (for Mayo Clinic employees) or <http://www.mayoclinic.org/give> (for non-Mayo Clinic employees).

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## PROGRAM EQUIPMENT WISH LIST

As graduates of Mayo Clinic's Nurse Anesthesia Program, we wanted to inform you of two educational products we hope to purchase that will further strengthen the training of current and future nurse anesthetists. In an effort to keep our graduates competitive with ultrasound and regional anesthesia, we hope to add the following simulation trainers for our students to utilize during their training. The following information was taken from the Simulab Corporation website.

*The Interscalene / Supraclavicular Block with SmarTissue™ is the only nerve block training solution that provides instructors and users a feedback mechanism to gain procedural accuracy and enhance the training experience. It is both ultrasound compatible and offers visual and audio feedback when the needle position is proximal to the brachial plexus. If the needle tip either contacts the nerve sheath or penetrates the brachial plexus this is indicated by the SmarTissue Software.*

*The Femoral Block Trainer with SmarTissue™ provides the most clinically relevant anatomy during ultrasound guidance and needle penetration to support needle manipulation, placement and proximity. The trainer consists of a body form and replaceable tissue, each embedded with patent-pending SmarTissue technology, allowing the system to communicate with any PC to offer needle-to-nerve visual and audio verification.*

We appreciate the time and effort you have already given to Mayo. We hope that you might consider donating to Mayo Clinic's Nurse Anesthesia Alumni Fund to support the program's ongoing educational needs.



## FAMILY AFFAIR

### Marcia and Craig Kluck

As a part of the Alumni Committee, we take turns writing different exposes for the newsletter. The biographical topics for this publication were Marcia and Craig Kluck. I jumped at the opportunity to write about them because I felt I knew them the best, considering they are my parents. Knowing my parents, the best way to capture their true essence is with their own words.

Their legacy began 35 years ago as two single nurses from North Dakota shared coffee. Both were employed at Mayo Clinic. Craig Kluck graduated nursing school from Minot State College in 1979 before moving to Rochester and taking a job on a surgical/respiratory ICU. Marcia Kluck (Brumleve) graduated nursing school from University of North Dakota, Grand Forks in 1980. Her first nursing job at Mayo was on a cardiac stepdown unit. A little more than one year after that coffee break, Marcia and Craig were married. Neither knew the mark they would eventually leave in Nurse Anesthesia at Mayo Clinic.

*What path brought you to nurse anesthesia? How did you know it was the career for you?*

**Craig:** I discovered it when I was in nursing school. I saw the CRNA at the head of the bed during one of my OR rotations. I asked about the training. That night I went home and looked it up in the card catalogues for school. It was my vision quest.

**Marcia:** I was burnt out from bedside nursing, but successfully selling Mary Kay at the time. It was getting to be too time consuming to do both so I was thinking about quitting nursing to sell Mary Kay full time. Craig asked, "Are you sure? Why don't you look at nurse anesthesia?" "Ok. If I get in, I'll go, and if I don't, then I'll sell Mary Kay. I was accepted and found my love for nursing again in anesthesia.

*Where did you grow up and why aren't you there now?*

**Craig:** McClusky, North Dakota, on a farm. I just wanted to do other things. Reach out and see what else life has to offer. I still look back on the farm and think about how much that might have been. Nostalgia. It never leaves you.

**Marcia:** Grand Forks, North Dakota. It didn't offer me enough life experiences. I felt like I grew up in a vacuum without a way to see the world.

*What are you known for professionally? What do you have a knack for?*

**Craig:** Gardening.

**Chelsey:** *\*laughing\** No Dad. What are you known for professionally?

**Marcia:** He can keep the surgical list flowing. He can make any situation work and get the case done.

**Chelsey:** Okay Dad, what would you say Mom is known for professionally?

**Craig:** I don't want to answer because if she doesn't like it then she's going to be mad at me. I think Marcia is a better nurse than I am and maybe even a better nurse anesthetist. She's very independent on her own. A self-starter. She'll find a way to do whatever needs to be done.

*What are you most passionate about professionally?*

**Craig:** Maintaining the career for the next generation of providers. Guiding the new anesthetists into the profession and being an educator for new students.

**Marcia:** Getting CRNAs old and new involved professionally; teaching them that it's not political, but a professional obligation.

*Where can we find you when you're not working?*

**Craig:** In the breakroom getting coffee.

**Chelsey:** *\*laughing\** No Dad. I mean, when you're outside of work.

**Craig:** On my bicycle, commuting. Or at the lake, working in my shed.

**Marcia:** At the lake or scuba diving.

*What would be impossible for you to give up?*

**Craig:** Vodka

**Chelsey:** *\*laughing\** I can't put that in there. Seriously.

**Craig:** My time off. That would kill me.

**Marcia:** My independence.

*What are your plans for the next 5 years?*

**Craig:** Be semi-retired.

**Chelsey:** When are you going to be fully retired?

**Craig:** 3 years

**Marcia:** He'll retire in 3-5 years.

**Craig:** I guess 3-5 years.

**Chelsey:** Mom, do you have plans to become more active with the AANA or MANA?

**Marcia:** No. I still want to continue to be part of the Programs Committee with MANA, but I'm giving up the idea of state president due to the time commitment required. I want to be able to travel and scuba dive 3 months a year and I can't do that as president.

*How do you want to be remembered?*

**Craig:** As a good friend to all of my co-workers. I miss them all.

**Marcia:** As a mentor. Paying it forward to all the students.

*Any words of wisdom?*

**Craig:** I'll have to get back to you. I love giving out words of wisdom. I don't want to let anyone down. I have to rise to the occasion.

**Marcia:** You have to keep working because you're only as good as your last anesthetic. Also, someone came before you in this profession and took care of you; pay it forward.

**Craig:** I'm ready. You can do anything you set your heart on. Just break it down in baby steps and keep showing up each day.

*How do you feel about your children following in your footsteps and becoming nurse anesthetists?*

**Craig:** I'm proud of them. It's a career that's worked well for us. It's hard, but if it was easy, everyone would be doing it. I was happy to share my vision with them.

**Marcia:** I'm really happy for them. I hope that it is as rewarding for them as it has been for me. And I hope they find as much pleasure in it as I have.

Craig graduated from Mayo's nurse anesthesia program in 1984. He worked as a nurse anesthetist at Mayo Rochester for 28 years before retiring from Mayo in 2012. Marcia worked at Mayo Rochester for 13 years before graduating from Mayo's nurse anesthesia program in 1995. She worked at Mayo for 5 years as a CRNA before leaving in 2000 to work as an independent contractor in nurse anesthesia.

Craig and Marcia currently contract for Certified Anesthesia Care (CAC), where they provide anesthesia almost exclusively for the Saint Cloud Surgery Center. When they aren't working, they are either scuba diving somewhere warm or at their cabin in Detroit Lakes. They have three children,

all of whom Craig is proud to say, are off the payroll. All three of their children and their spouses are employed in the medical field. Their oldest, Chelsey, graduated from Mayo's Nurse Anesthesia program in 2014 and is currently working at Mayo Rochester. Nick is their second child and is an aerospace medical technician in the United States Air Force. Their youngest son, Tony, was just accepted into Mayo's Nurse Anesthesia Doctorate Program and will start in summer 2016. Craig's brother, Claude, also trained to be a CRNA at Mayo Clinic, Rochester. He's been a nurse anesthetist for 27 years and is currently working at Mayo in Jacksonville. As Craig likes to say, "It's more Kluck for the buck."

- Chelsey Aubart



## OBITUARIES

### *Kimberly Ann Martin, age 54*



Kimberly A. Martin

Kimberly Ann Martin (Case), 54, was born Jan. 20, 1961, in San Francisco, to Ruth and Don Martin. She was the only child of Ruth Martin. Her parents divorced when Kim was young, and she was raised by her mother. She graduated from Lowell High School in 1978. She married Dennis Schultz, and moved to Minnesota in 1991. After divorcing Dennis, she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing in 1993. She married Mike Case in June 1995. Though they had no children together, she was a stepmother to Susan and Laura Case.

Kim passed on Nov. 24, 2015, at 3:15 a.m. after a lengthy and courageous struggle with a brain tumor. Her mantra during this struggle was, "No one fights alone." She was surrounded by family and friends during this time.

Kim loved being outdoors and loved outdoor activities such as hiking, running, fishing, boating and camping. She had a love for animals and would always take in a stray dog or cat. She had several of her own and loved them all. She and Mike moved onto acreage in Pine Island, where she could enjoy her animals all the more. These included dogs, cats and horses.

Kim loved travel and photography, passions held and passed to her from her father and her mother. She traveled to places such as Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, Louisiana, the Caribbean, Belize, Mexico, and other places throughout the United States. She rode on cruise lines throughout the Caribbean, Alaska and the Eastern U.S. She traveled to half of these United States.

Kim loved helping others. She showed this throughout her nursing career as well as by being a friend of Bill W., which allowed her to help those with addictions. She trained, raised money and performed the "Susan G. Komen — 3 day walk for the cure," a walk to help find a cure for breast cancer. She inspired others to do the same.

She started her nursing career at Hiawatha Homes, then went on to Mayo Clinic, where she eventually went on to get an advanced degree in Nurse Anesthesia and became a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (2007). Kim was loved by all who met her, and the last days of her life were spent visiting those she cared about and the places she loved.

She is survived by her mother Ruth Martin (Rochester), her life partner Mike Case (Pine Island), her stepdaughters Laura (Gabe) Cook, Susan (Kim) Case McHugh, her brother Dan (Sonja) Martin, a nephew Donovan and niece Grayson, her sister Tory (Roy) Klementsén, and her sister Tammy (Michael) Koenig. Her father Don preceded her in death.

The family would humbly like to honor those who attended to Kim in the past few weeks, especially those at Mayo Clinic's Hospice Care and the workers at Golden LivingCenter — Rochester West. The care given by those involved was exceptional.

We would also like to add that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Kim's honor to Mayo Hospice, Golden Living or the American Cancer Society.



Kenneth R. Torrance

***Kenneth R. Torrance, age 83***

Kenneth R. Torrance passed away with loving family at his side Sunday evening, Nov. 15, 2015, at the age of 83 from Lewy Body Dementia/Parkinson's disease.

Ken was born May 10, 1932, in Rochester, to George and Elsie (Manning) Torrance. He grew up in Rochester and graduated in 1950 from Rochester High School. He then entered the Kahler School of Nursing, graduating with an RN in 1953. He continued his education at Mayo Clinic in the Nurse Anesthesia program, graduating in 1955 with a CRNA Certificate, and worked at Mayo as a nurse anesthetist. Four years later, in 1959, warmer weather enticed the family to move to Florida. One-and-a-half years later, missing Minnesota and Mayo Clinic, they returned to Rochester, and Ken resumed his anesthesia career at Mayo.

In 1966, during the Vietnam War, at 34 years of age, Ken was drafted into the Army and allocated to the Navy. The family moved to Portsmouth, Va., where Ken served two years at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital, finishing his service with the rank of Lieutenant. The family returned to Rochester, and Ken once again resumed his anesthesia career at Mayo.

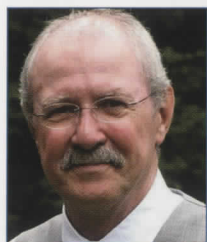
He returned to Saint Marys Hospital for a number of years, then transferred to Methodist Hospital as Coordinator of Nurse Anesthetists. During this time, Ken, Bernie Gillis, and Don Nelson were honored by having the inception of the annual Gillis, Nelson, Torrance Alumni Award, which is presented to students who consistently demonstrate clinical expertise, collegiality, and commitment to duty during enrollment in the Nurse Anesthesia program. This award is in recognition of the daily clinical contributions and dedication to Mayo Clinic demonstrated by Ken and his two colleagues.

Ken enjoyed his career with Mayo and, after 43 years, retired in 1997. Ken's caring nature touched many lives personally and professionally during his career as a nurse anesthetist at Mayo Clinic.

Ken enjoyed getting together with family and friends, reading, biking, walking and being "Mr. Fix-it" around the house and garage. He liked perusing all the new electronic gadgets to find the perfect one to add to his small, but growing collection.

Ken is survived by loving wife, Joan (just three weeks from their 62nd wedding anniversary); daughters, Linda (John) Limpert of Rochester and Carol (Ed) Nemitz of Minnetonka; brothers, George (Ginny) of Spring Hill, Fla., and Frank of Rochester; grandchildren, Jennifer Limpert (Jason Dressel) of Rosemount, Kyle Limpert of St. Paul, Alan (Sarah) Nemitz of Plymouth, and Lisa Nemitz of Minnetonka; great-grandchildren, Raiden and Ainsley Nemitz of Plymouth; and other loving family members.

Ken donated his body to Mayo Clinic Lewy Body Research. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Lewy Body Research, Mayo Clinic Department of Development, 200 First St. SW, Rochester, MN 55905 (800-297-1185).



Brian R. Wilson

**Brian Richard Wilson, age 68**

Brian Richard Wilson, age 68, from Rochester, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 18, from malignant melanoma. He died peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Brian was born Sept. 30, 1947, in Rochester, to Curtis A. Wilson and Irene M. Wilson. Brian grew up in Rochester and graduated from Lourdes High School in 1965. He joined the Army in 1966, served as a medic, and was honorably discharged in 1972.

Brian graduated in 1970 from the first associate degree nursing class at Rochester State Junior College. He then worked as an RN in the cardiac ICU at Saint Marys Hospital. In 1973, Brian graduated from the nurse anesthesia program at Mayo Clinic. He later received his bachelor's degree in Health Sciences from St. Francis University in Joliet, Ill. Brian worked as a nurse anesthetist at Mayo Clinic for a short time before moving to Hawaii in 1974 to work at Hilo General Hospital. He returned to Mayo in 1976, and began his 36-year career in the Department of Anesthesia as a nurse anesthetist. He truly loved the opportunity to work with so many wonderful friends, colleagues and patients. Brian retired in June 2010.

Brian was married to Janice Graen in 1972, and they had two children, Matthew and Meghan. In 1997, Brian married Kathy Kisro Henry in Lutsen, Minn. They established their home in Rochester with Kathy's three daughters, Emily, Jena and Lindsey, and with lots of visits from Matthew and Meghan.

Brian spent his free time reading more books than humanly possible and begrudgingly loving the Minnesota Twins. Since retirement, his kids had gotten him involved in hunting, sharing many early morning laughs, sandwiches and coffee with his son and son-in-law in the duck boat. While he couldn't have cared less if he ever got a duck, he could nap in his boat chair like a pro.

**RETIREMENTS - 2015**



Joan Njus  
11/3/13



Vandela Hicks  
Scherer  
11/19/15



Becky Boenish  
12/1/15



Tom Dobbe  
12/18/15

*Thank you for your dedication through many years of service. Enjoy your retirement!*

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Lucyna (Lucy)  
Aho



Linda Anderson



Chelsey Aubart



Lori Brundige



Tammy Buchanan



Terry Egbers



Karissa Goodrich



Joan Hunziker-  
Dean



Kelly Jacob



Marlea Judd



Debra King



Rebecca King



Kathleen Latcham



Deborah Maiers



Mary Shirk  
Marienau



Matt Mogensen



Tanya Pool

Alumni Mission Statement: Mayo Clinic Nurse Anesthesia Alumni Association will promote professional and personal relationships on local, national, and international levels. The Mayo Clinic Nurse Anesthesia Alumni Association will support nurse anesthesia students, educators, and alumni in their pursuit of excellence in education, research, and patient care.

## A LOOK BACK...

### FLORENCE HENDERSON NURSE ANESTHETIST, OPEN DROP ETHER SPECIALIST AND EDUCATOR

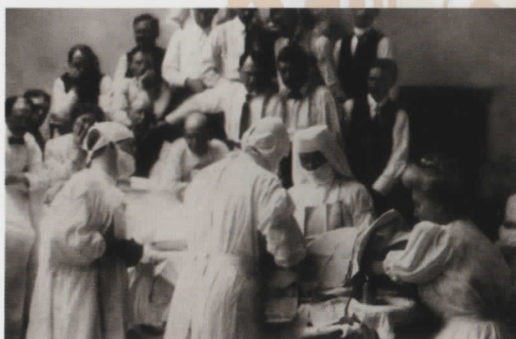


Florence Henderson, (1874-1956), served as nurse anesthetist for Dr. Charles H. Mayo, a surgeon at St. Marys Hospital, Rochester, MN who with his brother, William, founded the Mayo Clinic.

Born in Illinois and raised in Seward, NE, Henderson graduated from Bishop Clarkson Hospital Training School for Nurses in Omaha in 1900. As superintendent of nurses she taught in the school and learned to administer ether and chloroform anesthetics. Hired by the Drs. Mayo in 1904, Henderson moved to Rochester joining in practice with Alice Magaw, (1860-1928), who up until then the only nurse anesthetist at Saint Marys Hospital. Under Magaw's expert mentorship Henderson became an ether specialist.

At a nurse alumnae convention in 1909, Henderson emphasized the importance of nurse specialists in delivering anesthetics and debated the use of ether vs nitrous oxide anesthesia with Agatha Hodgins, CRNA (future founder of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists), and a nitrous oxide specialist.

In 1913, Henderson, influenced by Alice Magaw's earlier papers and teaching, wrote and presented her paper 'Ether Anesthesia' before the Southern Minnesota Medical Association. She was one of 16 speakers and the only nurse. Henderson described her refined technique of open drop ether and defended its use and qualities. Her paper was later published in the St. Paul Medical Journal.



Henderson considered the use of ether alone or combined with local anesthesia to be the safest method within her practice and yielded the most satisfactory results for the surgeon. Her teamwork with Dr. Charles H. Mayo over 10 years required a very dependable anesthetic for his predominant specialty of thyroid and goiter operations. Henderson stressed the importance of vigilance, frequency of practice and the use of suggestion to gain the confidence of the patient and smooth the excitement phase of the ether induction. A dependable anesthetic by a skilled anesthetist unquestionably contributed to the advancement of modern surgical techniques.

During Henderson's career at the Mayo Clinic she gave over thirteen thousand anesthetics and as chief nurse anesthetist taught many nurses her open drop ether technique. Henderson moved to California in 1917 and worked for a group of surgeons in Los Angeles, retiring from anesthesia practice in the 1920s. She was a key witness in the 1930s trial of Dagmar Nelson vs. Chalmers-Francis, which established the delivery of anesthetics as a nursing specialty. Henderson died in 1956 and is buried in the family plot in Greenwood Cemetery, Seward, NE.

Florence Henderson's paper 'Ether Anesthesia' and Alice Magaw's papers can be read online:  
<http://www.aana.com/resources2/archives-library/Pages/CRNA-Profiles.aspx>

