



# THE AIRWAY

Fall Edition, 2021



## President’s Letter Curtis Robison, DNAP, CRNA 2018—2021

Hello Missouri CRNAs and SRNAs,

I hope everyone is staying healthy and employed throughout this long drawn-out battle against COVID-19.

I assume everyone in our healthcare community has had the opportunity to receive the vaccine, as it has been available for some time now. I understand everyone’s frustration with this past year and a half. It has not been easy to give up

human interaction and having to experience meeting only in a virtual format. This has been an unprecedented time for everyone.

I am very happy to say we are finally offering an in-person meeting this fall! Specifically, the Fall Meeting will take place on October 22-24, 2021 at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel in St. Louis. I encourage all to attend who are comfortable with doing so.

However, if you don’t feel you are quite ready for in-person meetings, please know that we will also be offering the meeting in a virtual format. CRNAs and students can participate live or online. Both options will allow you to earn CE and show support.

Although COVID-19 slowed down surgeries over the past year, I assure you that it has not slowed down your board’s efforts to advance and defend our practice in the state of Missouri. I can’t express to everyone enough that the Board’s efforts can only be successful with the support of all Nurse Anesthetists in Missouri.

I am happy to go out as the longest reigning president in our state with a live meeting! I am happily handing off the President’s Hat (yes, there is a real hat!) to a veteran on our board that has done this job before—Cassandra Decker, CRNA. I am very happy to say that MoANA will be in good hands with Cassandra.

I will continue to support the board and all of you in my new role as Past President. I will remain active and help after this fall meeting. Stay healthy and be safe as I come to you for the last time as your president. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve this great profession.

If you’re going to live,  
leave a legacy. Make a  
mark on the world that  
can’t be erased.

Maya Angelou

### What you may not know about the President’s Hat:

MoANA member Marc Perez started the tradition of auctioning off the President’s Hat. Perez did some auctioneering in his spare time and volunteered to be MoANA’s PAC auctioneer. In 2005 when bids were waning, he spontaneously took off his signature cowboy hat and began auctioning it off. Bids grew as attendees laughed and cheered. At some point the president was asked to sign the hat... and a tradition was born!

Since then, the hat has been auctioned off to benefit the PAC every time a new president takes office. The incoming president bids on the hat (often with the help of attendee donations); and then saves it for the next president to win at auction. The hat has been signed by each President since ‘05 as well as some very distinguished meeting guests.

Sadly, Perez passed away in 2013 after battling cancer. However, the hat he auctioned off so casually nearly 17 years ago has raised thousands of dollars for the PAC, and it has become known as the “President’s Hat”. Thank you Marc, for the President’s Hat!



Above: Marc Perez, CRNA  
This hat may, or may not, be  
THE President’s Hat...but it is  
certainly very similar to the  
cowboy hat that has earned  
thousands for the PAC and  
has become THE hat!

# '20 -'21 MoANA Board of Directors



**President**  
Curtis Robison  
St. Louis  
[president@moana.org](mailto:president@moana.org)



**President Elect**  
Cassandra Decker  
Kansas City  
[presidentelect@moana.org](mailto:presidentelect@moana.org)



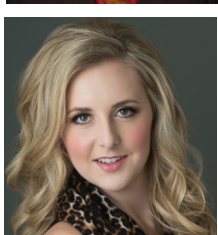
**Vice President**  
Denise Stuit  
Kansas City  
[vicepresident@moana.org](mailto:vicepresident@moana.org)



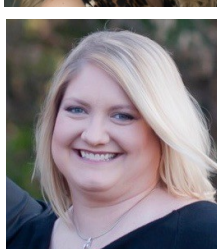
**Secretary**  
Kristen Richter  
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**Treasurer**  
Scott Broughton  
Columbia  
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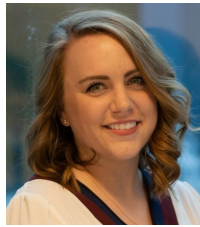
**Region I Director**  
Amy Brown  
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**Region II Director**  
Kelly Reichers  
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**Region III Director (interim)**  
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**Region IV Director**  
Laura Kohler  
St. Louis  
[region4director@moana.org](mailto:region4director@moana.org)



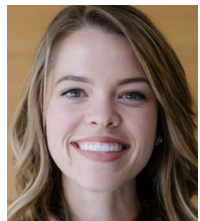
**Region V Director**  
Austyn Belle Isle  
Columbia  
[region5director@moana.org](mailto:region5director@moana.org)



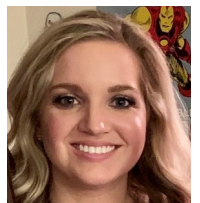
**Student Board Intern—Barnes**  
Claira Sousa  
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**Student Board Intern—Truman**  
Savannah Hughes  
[studentrep@moana.org](mailto:studentrep@moana.org)



**Student Board Intern—Webster**  
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**Student Board Intern—MSU**  
Sydney Steil  
[studentrep@moana.org](mailto:studentrep@moana.org)



**AANA Region 4 Director**  
Jennifer Schmidt, MS, CRNA,  
APRN  
[aanaregion4director@moana.org](mailto:aanaregion4director@moana.org)

YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

# Meet the 2021 Candidates



**President**  
**Cassandra Decker, CRNA, MA**

Cassandra obtained her BSN from Saint Luke's College of Nursing in Kansas City in 2002. She received her MA in Nurse Anesthesia from Truman Medical Center School of Nurse Anesthesia in 2008. Cassandra previously served in numerous board positions including Director, PR Chair, and MoANA President. She now serves as MoANA's Federal Political Director, and President Elect. Cassandra is currently working in Kansas City, Missouri.



**President Elect**  
**Denise Stuit, DNP, CRNA**

Denise Stuit attended St. Luke's College in Sioux City, IA, and received her ASN in 2007. She received her BSN in 2008 from Dordt College in Sioux City; and she received her DNP in Nurse Anesthesia from the University of Iowa in 2014. She is currently works at Truman Medical Center as a CRNA as well as a Clinical Professor. She has been a member of AANA since 2011 and has served as the Secretary of MoANA. She is currently completing her term as MoANA Vice President.

*Candidates cont'd on the next page.*

Are YOU interested in running for an open office  
or serving on a committee? Volunteer!  
**COMPLETE YOUR CONSENT TO SERVE TODAY!**

**JOIN THE TEAM NEXT YEAR!**  
**CONSENT TO SERVE**  
**MOANA'S 2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

I would be willing to have my name submitted as a candidate for the office of:

- President-Elect \* (1 year term) \_\_\_\_\_
- Vice President\* (1 year term) \_\_\_\_\_
- Secretary (2 year term) \_\_\_\_\_
- Treasurer (2 year term) \_\_\_\_\_
- Director Region II (2 year term) \_\_\_\_\_
- Director Region IV (2 year term) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Candidate must have previously served on the Board of Directors for 2 years

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this completed form along with a 1-2 paragraph bio (include education, employer, previous offices and committee positions held), and a recent photo or e-mail a digital photo to:

[ckemna@bardgett.net](mailto:ckemna@bardgett.net)

**VOLUNTEER TO SERVE ON MOANA'S COMMITTEES**

Now is the time to get involved in **your** professional organization! Volunteer to serve on one or more committees Your participation **can** make a difference in the future of your profession.

I would be willing to serve on the following committee(s):

- \_\_\_\_\_ Continuing Education
- \_\_\_\_\_ PAC
- \_\_\_\_\_ Finance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nominating
- \_\_\_\_\_ Government Relations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Website/Internet
- \_\_\_\_\_ Public Relations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pain Specialist
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wellness/Peer Advisor
- \_\_\_\_\_ State Reimbursement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Peer Audit

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send the completed form to:

[ckemna@bardgett.net](mailto:ckemna@bardgett.net)

# Meet the 2021 Candidates



**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**Desiree Calbert, CRNA**

Desiree Mauppins Calbert graduated in 2001 from the University of Central Arkansas with her Bachelors degree in nursing. She went on to receive her Masters Degree in Nurse Anesthesia in 2016. Desiree currently practices at Mercy Hospital in Lebanon, MO, where she serves as Chief CRNA. She previously served as the Director of Region II, and has been the AANA Liaison to the Foundation. She is currently running for Vice President.



**DIRECTOR REGION I**  
**Sara Myers, DNP, CRNA**

Sara received her nursing degree from Creighton University, and completed her DNP at Truman Medical Center School of Nurse Anesthesia. She currently works at Truman Medical Center as a Professor, clinical instructor and call staff CRNA. *I have served on the Board of Directors for the NBCRNA as the Emerging Leader Fellow, and I have long wished to serve at the state level. I am grateful to have this opportunity.*



**DIRECTOR REGION III**  
**Jake Wren**

Jake graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with his Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2014. In addition, he attended Webster University's Nurse Anesthesia program where he graduated with his Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice in 2020. He currently works at Southeast Health in Cape Girardeau, Missouri where he currently serves as Chief CRNA.



**DIRECTOR REGION V**  
**Joshua DeLozier**

Joshua David DeLozier, DNAP, CRNA, NSPM-C has worked in multiple anesthesia roles during his brief tenure as a CRNA. After completing his graduate program (Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice) at Missouri State University he immediately continued to advance his training in Pain Management. After two years of academic and clinical training under a traditional Pain Management Fellowship, he applied to the NBCRNA for approval to take the NSPM-C Board Exam. Joshua successfully passed the Certifying Exam and is now Board Certified by the NBCRNA to practice Non-Surgical Pain Management.

As a MoANA member, Josh has been active in rallying PAC donors and assisting MoANA board members with creating a COVID-Response to Governor Parsons, related to the COVID-19 impact in Missouri. Josh has maintained active dialogue with several former and current MoANA board members, while taking that time to learn about the many topics and issues being debated amongst CRNAs and other respected healthcare providers in Missouri. Josh is now actively seeking a more advanced role with MoANA members and board members. If offered such privileges, he feels that he could make a bigger impact on sustainability and solidarity amongst CRNAs in Missouri.

# PAC NEWS



Hello, New Friends.

My name is Chuck Mix. I am a recent graduate of Truman Medical Center School of Nurse Anesthesia, where I received my DNP. I started my Anesthesia career at Saint Luke's Hospital on the Plaza in Kansas City, MO, primarily performing Cardiovascular Anesthesia. An opportunity arose to work closer to home, and I now work for AAKC and Centerpoint Medical Center.

So, why am I here talking to you? I have had the opportunity to partner with the MOANA Board and I now serve as your new Political Action Committee (PAC) Chair. The PAC believes that the foundation for MOANA's success in the Capitol for Missouri CRNAs starts with an investment!

We all have worked very hard for years gaining experience and education to finally become CRNAs. Missouri is a great state to provide anesthesia services. We not only want to protect that right to be anesthesia providers, but also strive to further the profession—this starts with the PAC.

The last two years have been very challenging personally and professionally for every CRNA in the state of Missouri. This next legislative session will likely prove to be more challenging and difficult than the last. The Missouri Society of Anesthesiologists will not stop trying to limit your practice. They will belittle your knowledge and degrade your expertise publicly and legislation. We as Missouri CRNAs can rise to the occasion and invest in our profession by investing in our PAC. We hope to change the paradigm in Missouri, that CRNAs are a force that is felt, a megaphone that is heard on the footsteps of the Capitol loud and clear. That CRNAs are the answer! That all starts with the PAC.

Like years past, MOANA is hosting its annual Fall Conference albeit a bit different. It is exciting that MOANA is hosting its first HYBRID conference at the Chase Park Plaza hotel in Saint Louis Missouri October 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. I thank you for registering and attending! It will be an amazing conference where we can see the faces and voices of our colleagues and friends—both virtual and live.

With a live conference, comes the bi-annual PAC event. This event, I hope, will be a time for you to reconnect with students, colleagues, and friends in a laid-back environment sharing drinks and conversation while raising support for MOANA PAC through an AUCTION. I want to personally thank every investor in MOANA up to this date. You know who you are. You have been the backbone of MOANA success throughout the decades.

**This year's PAC entry ticket will be a bit different. I am asking that you consider becoming a regular monthly investor to the PAC.**

I am asking ALL CRNAs in the state of Missouri to consider just a Dollar a Day, 30 dollars a month investment in the future for all CRNAs in the state of Missouri. I am asking ALL SRNAs in the state of Missouri to consider just 0.33 cents a day, 10 dollars a month investment in the future of your CRNA career.

You do not have to wait until October. You can start today! Simply click the link below, and consider giving/investing monthly - just 30 dollars a day—to MOANA PAC. These PAC dollars help CRNA-friendly candidates win their elections, and allow MoANA's voice to be heard in the Capitol.

Thank you for taking the time to read THE AIRWAY. Thank you for investing in your profession, and the profession of those that follow. I know the return will be well worth it. The MOANA board and lobbyists are working HARD for YOU. I cannot wait for the opportunity to talk with each of you in the coming months. See you very soon!

[INVEST in YOUR PROFESSION](https://moana.org/donations/)  
<https://moana.org/donations/>

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*"The most important investment you can make is in yourself." —Warren Buffett*

# I am a professional CRNA...

*by credit card:*

- I am proud to be a nurse anesthetist. I understand the need for advocacy. I can afford \$2 a day for such a worthwhile cause. Deduct \$60.00 per month from my credit card.
- I want to be a protector of my profession. Sign me up for \$1 a day. Deduct \$30.00 per month from my credit card.

*by check (make checks to MoANA PAC):*

- I love my profession! I am giving \$2 a day! I am enclosing a check for \$720.00.
- My profession has been very good to me. The least I can do is give \$1 a day. I am enclosing a check for \$360.00.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

For credit card use:

- Visa/Mastercard
- Discover
- AmEx

Name as it appears on card (if different from above):

\_\_\_\_\_

Credit card No: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit code \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ I authorize MoANA PAC to debit my credit card for the amount and frequency shown. I understand I may cancel at any time.

Mail form to: MoANA PAC, 205 E. Capitol Ave., Ste. 100, Jefferson City, MO 65101  
Phone: 573-634-8760 Private Fax: 573-636-6899 or Scan/email to cgibson@bardgett.net

*Note that PAC donations are used for political purposes and are not tax deductible.*

For they are jolly  
good...



Fellows of the AANA are proven leaders in the nurse anesthesia profession, dedicated to the advancement of clinical practice, education, research, and professional advocacy consistent with the high standards of the AANA.

Meet the Inaugural Class of 2021-2022

CONGRATULATIONS SALLIE AND BERNADETTE!

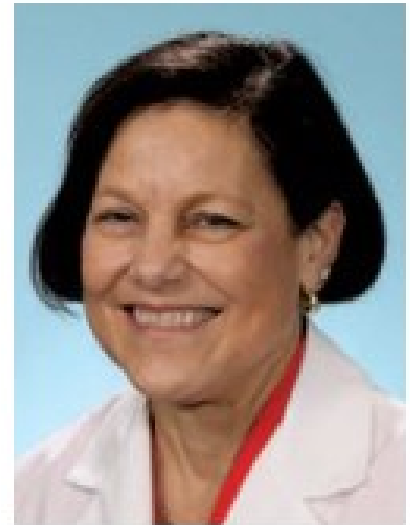
MOANA MEMBERS INDUCTED AS AANA FELLOWS IN 2021



Maria Sallie Poepfel

PHD, CRNA, APRN

As a Fellow of the AANA, you are recognized as one of the most accomplished leaders in the profession of nurse anesthesia. Earning the FAANA designation is a major career achievement that opens doors for CRNAs as practitioners, educators, researchers, and advocates for the profession. **The FAANA designation communicates a commitment to excellence in the profession of nurse anesthesia.**



Bernadette Henrichs

PhD, CRNA, CCRN, CHSE

**Become a Fellow of the AANA (FAANA)** - Acceptance criteria include contributions that have made a sustainable impact in the areas of clinical practice, education, research, and professional advocacy and are consistent with the high standards of the AANA. The FY2022 online application for Fellows of the AANA will open on November 1, 2021.

# Congratulations to Michael McLean—Winner of the '21 MoANA Student Scholarship.



August 16, 2021

Missouri Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
205 East Capitol Ave. Ste. 100  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear MoANA Board of Directors,

Thank you very much for choosing me as this year's recipient of the MoANA Student scholarship! I am so excited, this is absolutely huge for me and my family right now as we try to get through this program. I am now entering my final semester of CRNA school at the Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College in St. Louis, MO. As a father of 3 small boys, with a wife who is also an advanced practice nurse, it's difficult to describe just how much this means and how helpful it is to us at this time. It has been very difficult trying to make ends meet, and receiving this generous scholarship from MoANA will absolutely help ensure I am able to achieve my goals.

After I graduate, in addition to promptly getting to work as a nurse anesthetist, I also plan to continue the work that I have set out to do through a 501c3 non-profit organization called, L.I.F.E. I created it years ago in honor of my brother who fought a battle against acute myelogenous for many years. L.I.F.E., which stands for the Leukemia Ironman Fundraiser for Eric, can be found at [www.givetolife.org](http://www.givetolife.org). It has been my way of saying thanks to the many people that helped my brother while he was still alive, by helping other cancer patients like him, and giving them some hope and happiness in return. Through these efforts, I will be able to continue paying forward that kindness, similar to the kindness you have just given me.

Thank you again very much for your kindness and generosity!

Sincerely,



Michael McLean, RN, BSN, CCRN, SRNA





## Vice President's Report Denise Stuit, CRNA

This past year and a half we have experienced many trials and tribulations both inside and outside of the OR. My heart goes out to those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic. I also wish to express my gratitude for everyone who continued to provide care to those in need--whether that be through anesthesia or from within your own homes.

I am so proud of this profession and the name we continue to make for ourselves. This past year I've heard from Missouri CRNAs who have worked on COVID teams, provided ER support, managed ICU ventilated patients, educated healthcare staff in medical management of critical patients, and even established their own pain clinic. We have come a long way, and yet there is much to be done.

After spending nearly two years apart, I now would like to see us come together. MoANA represents such a diverse group of CRNAs, and yet we are all here for the same reason. By joining arms we can reach all corners of our state, letting everyone know who we are and what we do. Our strength of an organization is not just made up of 10 board members. We are stronger together. I am looking forward to starting this movement and seeing all of you at our fall meeting in St. Louis.



## Treasurer's Report Scott Broughton, CRNA

It is truly an honor to serve the awesome CRNAs of Missouri in this role, as I begin the final year of my term, I have a few people I feel like I have to publicly thank.

First, Carol Kemna. You do so much to make my job as treasurer easy. And I know every single board member can say something similar. MoANA would be something far lesser without you!

Second, Rob Walsh. You laid the foundation and built the framework that keeps the Treasurer position running in a manageable and efficient way. Without what you did before I took on this role, I don't know that a simpleton like myself could have made it as treasurer.

Third, between my two stents being treasurer, the reigns were in the hands of the brilliant and exceedingly capable Corry Coopmans. Thank you for providing for me to step back into the position in an even better place than I left it.

Fourth, my fellow board members. Thank you for putting up with me. I appreciate you all. I hope this coming year is our strongest ever.

Lastly, the fantastic, inspirational, nurse anesthetists of Missouri. Thank you for allowing me this honor of helping MoANA be good stewards of our resources. I feel that we have.

MoANA, as an organization, is in a good place financially. If you haven't, please consider renewing your AANA membership. It is how MoANA is funded. I don't know of a better vantage point than Treasurer to see just how important these funds are to keeping our practice protected.

I don't know that I can say the same for the MoANA PAC. We have some CRNAs that are very generous. But sadly, the vast majority leave this very consequential element of our continued success to the few.

If you are, in any way, frustrated with any element of practice in Missouri, if you have any fears regarding what the future of CRNA practice might hold in light of the constant attacks from multiple physician and special interest groups, I encourage you to go to MoANA.org and sign up to give something monthly. The difference this could make is truly huge. MoANA, as a tax exempt 501(c) trade association cannot give to the MoANA PAC. The sacrifice is small. The impact is large.

"All section 501(c) organizations are **prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in**, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate running for public office."

In other words, your membership in the AANA, your membership in MoANA, does not contribute anything to our efforts in Jeff City or Washington DC to keep legislators and decision makers informed of what we are and what we do. We rely on our PACs for this crucial work. The Physician PACs are eager to tell the legislators all about us. If we aren't fighting the constant disinformation, well....



## **Government Relations Report Kristen Richter**

Hello, MoANA members! We expect to have a very busy upcoming legislative season, and we will need the support from each and every one of you!

If you are interested in serving as a Key Contact for your district (please let us know immediately! This past spring and summer, we found volunteers to serve as Key Contacts for each Senate District. We are now working to identify Key Contacts for every House District.

Last year we were able to keep several restrictive bills from passing. We completely expect several of those bills to be back this season and we want to make sure they don't leave their committees. To do this, we need everyone to donate to the PAC and create relationships with your legislators to help us keep the bills against us at bay. If you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me! I am more than happy to discuss ways in which you can help MoANA and Missouri CRNAs, as well as update you on the current legislative season. Thank you!

kristenleannjohnson@gmail.com

## **IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **MOANA Fall Meeting**

October 22-24, 2021

The Chase Park Plaza Hotel  
St. Louis, MO

### **MoANA Advocacy Day**

January 25-26, 2022

Best Western Plus/Missouri State Capitol  
This will be a HYBRID event.

Students and CRNAs may participate LIVE in Jefferson City,  
**OR** participate in the training Zoom and contact legislators via phone or e-mail.

### **AANA Assembly of Didactic and Clinical Educators**

February 16-19, 2022

The Broadmoor Resort  
Colorado Springs, CO

### **AANA Mid-Year Assembly**

April 2-6, 2022

JW Marriott Washington, DC  
Washington, DC

### **AANA Annual Congress**

August 12-16, 2022

Hyatt Regency Chicago

**PLEASE WATCH YOUR E-MAIL AND MoANA.ORG for the dates/locations of the  
'22 MoANA SPRING and FALL MEETINGS**  
*They will be announced soon.*

## AANA Foundation News and Programs

**Forty years of FABULOUS  
work—and you can be  
a part of it!**



[Donate to the Steve Mund Memorial Fund](#)

[AANA Foundation FY21 Annual Report](#): A recap of annual accomplishments, program recipients, volunteers, and supporters including Friends for Life, Gertrude Fife Society, and donors

[Student Emergency Educational Scholarship Information & Application](#)

[FY22 Program Application Deadlines](#)

[MYA 2022 Poster Application](#) now open. Deadline: November 15

[General Grant Application](#) now open. Deadline: November 1

[Open Submission Research Grant Application](#)

- *Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis. Grant funding for Open submission grants includes Office Based and Veterans Affairs grants, as well as the Art Zwerling Grant (research and education in wellness, pain management, and peer assistance/substance use disorder).*

[2021 Annual Congress Onsite General Posters](#)

[Program Administrator's Outstanding Student Research Awards](#)

- *Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis.*

[Doctoral Mentorship Program](#): *If you are interested in networking with fellow CRNA researchers, complete and email this application.*

[Foundation Research Update](#)

[Review your AANA Foundation Gift History](#)



## **TRAVEL & FLEXIBILITY**

Ethos Anesthesia Services offers you the chance to take your CRNA skills anywhere in country on a schedule that works best for you.

## **ETHOS EXPERIENCE**

Owned and operated by Army Veteran, Kelly Gordon. Kelly brings over 20 years of experience. She will work with you to ensure you find the best possible option for your schedule.



## **BENEFITS**

From direct hire contracts to locum tenens opportunities, we offer competitive pay, excellent benefits and the opportunity to experience new places and faces. It all starts here.

[Kelly@ethosmedicalstaffing.com](mailto:Kelly@ethosmedicalstaffing.com)



913-522-0889



Quincy Anesthesia Associates, based out of Quincy, IL is expanding our group due to added surgical volumes. We are **seeking 4 CRNAs** to join us. **QAA and Blessing Hospital have enjoyed a 5-decade relationship.**

- Blessing Hospital has opened 4 rooms in the last 5 years.
- Blessing Hospital is building a new 4 room \$20m surgical center.
- Our surgical program has added additional Neurosurgeons, EP Docs, and a new Bariatric program.
- Our compensation ranks in the 75<sup>th</sup> to 90<sup>th</sup> percentile per the AANA surveys.
- Our \$50k benefit plan includes Family Health and Employer funded retirement.
- We offer a collegial and diverse work environment.

**Get to Know Quincy IL – Watch our short video!**

<https://quincyanesthesia.com/>

- \* Quincy, IL is a family-oriented community that offers recreational activities for all, including sports, dance, fine arts, museums, and all types of outdoor fun!
- \* Education in Quincy is highly valued and we have 2 collegiate opportunities in town including a nursing school.
- \* Quincy is a safe community with an eclectic array of restaurants and we have a thriving arts community.
- \* We are only 2 hours north of St. Louis or Columbia – MO, and Amtrak services Chicago twice daily.

***For additional information on this outstanding career opportunity, please contact our practice consultant, Mr. Gene Corbett at 636-288-4003 or by email at [Gene.Corbett@iCloud.com](mailto:Gene.Corbett@iCloud.com).***

## IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

Please know that \$75 of your MoANA state membership dues is used for lobbying/political purposes and is not tax deductible.



# Conference Agenda



## Friday, October 22, 2021

**1800-2000**      **MoANA Board of Directors' Meeting**  
Lenox Room; Members Welcome to Attend

## Saturday, October 23, 2021

### Khorassan Ballroom

**0725-0730**      **Welcome/Opening Remarks**  
Curtis Robison, MoANA President

**0730-0830**      **Patient Safety: Eliminating Serious Errors**  
Lt. Col. (ret) Thomas Davis, DNAP, MAE, CRNA

**0830-0930**      **Hold the Show: Eliminate Drama in the  
Workplace and Your Life**  
Lt. Col. (ret) Thomas Davis, DNAP, MAE, CRNA

**0930-1000**      **Morning Break & Exhibits**

**1000-1100**      **Do Not Let Another Light Go Out:  
Suicide Recognition and Prevention**  
Crystal Odle, DNAP, CRNA

**1100-1200**      **Anesthesia Potpourri: Elevator Talks  
on Interesting Topics**  
Lt. Col. (ret) Thomas Davis, DNAP, MAE, CRNA

**1200-1330**      **Lunch & MoANA Business Meeting**

**1330-1430**      **Winning the Future: How "Nurse  
Anesthesiology" Unites the Profession and  
Positions CRNAs to Thrive in the Future**  
Joseph Rodriguez, MSN, CRNA

**1430-1530**      **Use of Dexmedetomidine and Emergence  
Delirium**  
James Keaton, DNAP, CRNA

**1530-1600**      **Afternoon Break & Exhibits**

**1600-1700**      **Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS): Going  
Beyond Regional Anesthesia**  
Eric Kramer DNAP, CRNA, FNP-C



This program has been prior approved by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists for 10.00 Class A CE credits; Code Number 1041294; Expiration Date 10/24/2021; AANA designates this program as meeting the criteria for up to 1.00 CE Credits in pharmacology/therapeutics.

# Conference Agenda

**Sunday, October 24, 2021**

**Khorassan Ballroom**

- 0800-0900**      **Pacemaker Electromagnetic Interference  
in the Operating Room**  
Joseph Keck, DNAPc, MSN CRNA
- 0900-1000**      **NBCRNA CPC Update**  
Sara Myers, DNP, CRNA
- 1000-1100**      **The Use of Screen-Based Simulation (SBS)  
as an Educational Tool for Recertification  
or Reentry to Practice for Nurse  
Anesthetists**  
Kristen Southwick, BSN, RN, SRNA and Allison  
Foust, BSN, RN, SRNA
- .....



All attendees are encouraged to attend the:

**MoANA PAC Mixer &  
Live Auction**

Saturday, October 23rd  
1700-2000  
Lenox Room

*Network with CRNAs/SRNAs and walk away with  
some unique items and experiences*



# Registration

## Accommodations:

The Chase Park Plaza has set aside a block of rooms for conference participants at a rate of \$174/night. Please call 855-463-3092 by 9/22. Self-parking is complimentary; valet is \$42/day.

### Three Easy Ways to Register:

1. Register online at [www.moana.org](http://www.moana.org)
2. Email completed registration to [ckemna@hardbrett.net](mailto:ckemna@hardbrett.net)
3. Mail completed registration with a credit card or check to:  
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### CRNA IN-PERSON (AANA Member): **After 10/3:**

Saturday & Sunday  \$350

Saturday only  \$245

### CRNA IN-PERSON (Non-AANA Member):

Saturday & Sunday  \$450

Saturday only  \$315

**CRNA VIRTUAL**  \$200

**SRNA Attendance**  \$50

SRNA fee is \$25 non-refundable if registration is not received before 10/11/21.

*\*Zoom links will be emailed to virtual attendees on Friday, 10/22/21*

*\*Student registration fees are returned on-site*

### Donations:

\$50 Sponsor a SRNA

Allot \$100 of Registration Fees to MoANA PAC\*\*



*\*Refunds/Cancellation: Full refunds will be provided for cancellations before 10/20/21*

*\*\*Donations to the PAC are used for political purposes and are not tax deductible. Employers may or may not reimburse for PAC donations.*

TOTAL : \_\_\_\_\_ CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_



### Featured Speaker:

#### Lt. Col. (ret) Thomas Davis, DNAP, MAE, CRNA

Tom Davis, CRNA is well known throughout the Nurse Anesthesia industry as a clinical anesthetist, writer, speaker and leadership developer. With experience both as a Chief Nurse Anesthetist and Nurse Anesthesia Educator, Tom has touched the lives of hundreds of CRNAs who are now practicing throughout the Nation.



The Missouri Association of Nurse Anesthetists Political Action Committee (MoANA-PAC) is the political lobbying group for nurse anesthetists in the state of Missouri. Its purpose is to raise funds to support those state candidates who share the goals of nurse anesthetists and to increase recognition of the profession of CRNA's in the political process. The MoANA-PAC wishes to thank everyone for their continued support. Listed below are members that have provided support to the MoANA-PAC by joining or maintaining membership in the following contribution levels. Some contributors have asked to be anonymous. We sincerely thank all who support the MoANA PAC.

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## MOANA PAC EVENT

**Support your MoANA PAC — so your PAC can support you.**

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

**SUPPORT THE PAC: Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> — 6:00 p.m. (or following the General Session)**

**Lennox Room in the Chase Park Plaza Hotel**

**Awesome auction items ♦ Complimentary wine and beer**

**It is sure to be a great time!**

**Platinum level donors enter for free!**

**In order to encourage ONGOING support that allows for better planning, we ask attendees to make an ongoing pledge (can be monthly, quarterly, or annually) of any amount when they come to the reception!**

---

**CAN'T ATTEND ON OCT. 23rd? You can still sign up for easy on-going donations!**

*Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the Event, but would like to help! I will donate/pledge:*

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Check  Visa  Discover Signature \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit code \_\_\_\_\_

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Hand deliver: to the Registration Desk ♦ Donate online: [www.moana.org](http://www.moana.org)  
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# Missouri CRNA Brings Leadership Beyond the OR

By Patti Flesher  
AANA Public Relations and Communications

A recent appointee to the Christian County Health Department Board of Trustees in Christian County, Missouri, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) Jeanie Skibiski, DNAP, MHA, CRNA, believes it is important for all CRNAs to leave the operating room and bring healthcare into their communities. “We are smart people and have skills we can bring to help our communities. There are a lot of great CRNAs but if you don’t leave the OR people don’t know you exist, don’t see the person behind the mask giving them drugs.”

By being active and involved, even on just a local level, CRNAs can positively impact change. “CRNAs should advocate for themselves. Talk to legislators, get out of the OR, and see what you can do to help your community.”

As a Board of Trustees member, Skibiski hopes to continue health department activities such as food pantries and other healthcare programs. “Our county includes a very rural population with many underserved members. It is important that programs such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), nutrition, mental health, and basic wellness programs and vaccination opportunities stay available for our community.”

Being a CRNA, like most healthcare professions, can be stressful. Every day is different and every day the well-being of another human may be dependent upon your actions. Skibiski, recognizes this, but also knows the patients she sees as staff CRNA at Mercy Healthcare System in Springfield, Missouri, may be under distress.

“Going through surgery is stressful and CRNAs have the opportunity to put patients at ease,” Skibiski said. “I always try to relate to the patient on an individual basis. I want them to know that they are important and my sole focus for as long as they need anesthesia care.”

Skibiski understands that taking care of her patients means keeping them safe. In addition to the many protocols in her nursing and anesthesia training, she has taken the extra step to become a Certified Professional in Patient Safety™ (CPPS) through the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. To receive this credential, Skibiski was required to demonstrate a high level of proficiency in the core standards of patient safety. She passed a thorough examination covering five patient safety domains: Culture, Leadership, Patient Safety Risks and Solutions, Measuring and Improving Performance, and Systems Thinking and Design/Human Factors.

“One of my passions is patient safety. As an assistant professor at the Missouri State University School of Anesthesia I teach anesthesia delivery to entry-level CRNAs as well as those studying for a doctorate. It is important that CRNAs and all healthcare professionals evaluate the systems in place and recognize areas of potential safety issues,” Skibiski said.

A challenge to safety, according to Skibiski, is the human factor. “We all have biases that can impact our perception of what is going on in any setting. When we impose human flaws on a poorly designed system, patients can get hurt. For example, an unfamiliar IV pump could result in wrong dosage being administered. As CRNAs we are in a position to see the bigger picture, understand and correct any potential issues and when necessary, change the system.”

Skibiski is proud that she can mentor future CRNAs. “My students get excited about the things they can do to make their healthcare system safe,” she said. “By encouraging CRNAs to teach others and lead others we become safety advocates for our healthcare system, beyond being in one room taking care of one patient.”

Safety, Skibiski points out, reaches beyond the patient. “One of the things I teach my students is about the second victim. If an error happens, as the healthcare professional involved, you feel guilty and wonder if there was something different you could have done. It is important that we provide peer support and connect our distressed colleagues to resources for help.”



*Jeanie Skibiski, DNAP, MHA, CRNA*

“There are a lot of great CRNAs but if you don’t leave the OR people don’t know you exist, don’t see the person behind the mask giving them drugs.”

**Let the world know why you're here,  
and do it with passion.**

*- Wayne Dyer*

# Nurse anesthetist writes poem about experience with unvaccinated patients

He says the title, "See You Soon Unvaccinated Ones," is poignant and powerful

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE VIDEO FROM KSDK St. Louis](#)

**Author: Robert Townsend**

**Published: 10:37 PM CDT August 19, 2021**

**Updated: 10:37 PM CDT August 19, 2021**

Michael Burns has been on two front lines since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Assistant Professor of Anesthesia at Webster University is still spreading important messages to his students.

"It's basically, you know, social distance. Wear your mask. Get vaccinated," Burns said.

Burns is also the Director of Anesthesia and a nurse anesthetist at Phelps Health in Rolla.

He said for the past few months he has documented a disturbing trend: an increasing number of younger, unvaccinated patients.

"Roughly, 88% of the patients that are hospitalized with covid at our facility are unvaccinated," said Burns.

He adds those unvaccinated people are either being admitted to the hospital's intensive care unit with COVID-19 or sadly, dying from the virus.

"A majority are in their 50s and 60s, but we're seeing more and more of the younger age groups coming including people who are as young as 30 years old. We see them tell their family members goodbye. It's pretty sad. We're definitely watching more heartbreaking instances that would be preventable with a vaccine," said Burns.

Burns knows the sudden loss first hand.

In March, his 57-year-old brother also died from COVID.

"He was unvaccinated and certainly all of this together has kind of hit home pretty hard," he said.

Burns' COVID-related experiences have had a huge impact on him, so much so that he penned a pandemic-related poem.

"It's great to increase awareness to our patients that are unvaccinated. I want them to know that it doesn't just affect them. It affects other people," said the concerned professor.

He admits the title, "See You Soon Unvaccinated Ones," is poignant and powerful.

However, the professor doesn't want to scare people.

Instead, he wants them to hear his plea before it's too late.

"My message is simple. I'd like you to get your vaccine and help protect our communities and yourselves," said Professor Burns.



Above: Michael Burns, CRNA

Burns also recited a couple of lines from his poem during an interview with *5 On Your Side's* Robert Townsend:

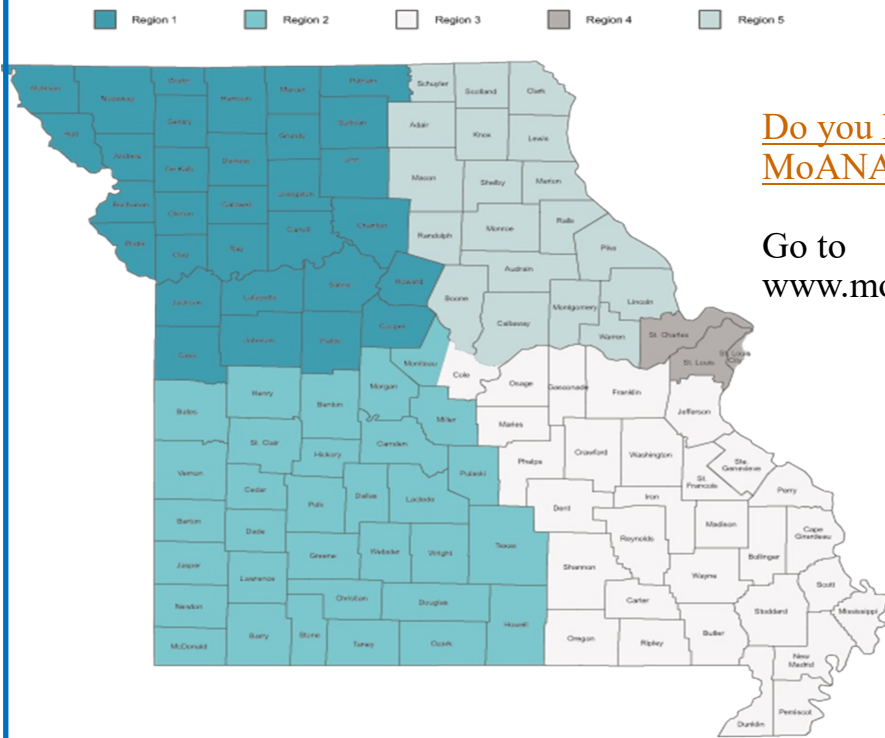
*"I may be the last person to see you alive.*

*I will be there to listen to you tell your parents and your children goodbye.*

*As I drift you off to sleep for preparation for a breathing machine,*

*I will pray for you and I."*

# Which MoANA Region Is YOUR Region?



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***CRNAs are everywhere!***

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- *Ads at your gas pump for MoANA/CRNAs?*
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- *We want you to!*

*Just e-mail [ckemna@bardgett.net](mailto:ckemna@bardgett.net)  
We want to share CRNA news and accomplishments!*

***STEP UP AND BE NOTICED.***



## CRNAs: Filling the Need

**Tom McHugh, MN CRNA**, retired in Nov 2020 after 38 years of practice, with employment including positions at multiple University settings, 14 years with the USAR with 2 deployments, and multiple academic appointments with schools of nurse anesthesia.

He retired from the Veterans Administration after five years in St. Louis where he was involved in the Enhanced Recovery After Surgery Program, presenting twice at VA Innovations Day to senior VA leadership in Washington.

Following the approval of the COVID-19 vaccine, and recognizing the need to get shots in arms, he contacted the St. Charles County Health Department in January after receiving his 1st dose of Pfizer. He has since volunteered in excess of 120 hours as a vaccinators at the St. Charles Family Arena, frequently multiple days a week. This demonstrates the ability and commitment of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists to provide for the health need of the community.



## REPORT FROM THE FEDERAL POLITICAL DIRECTOR Cassandra Decker, CRNA

National CRNA Week is the AANA's annual celebration of anesthesia patient safety and the nation's 49,000+ Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and student registered nurse anesthetists who safely and cost-effectively provide approximately 40 million anesthetics each year. Known as National Nurse Anesthetists Week as recently as 2014, the new name for this popular event helps patients, hospital administrators, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and others become more familiar with the CRNA credential and the exceptional advanced practice registered nurses who have earned it.

SAVE THE DATE  
**National  
CRNA Week**  
January 23-29, 2022

## Sign up for CRNA Advocacy Mobile Alerts

Taking action is now easier than ever. **Text AANA to 52886** to opt in for CRNA Advocacy Alert notifications on your mobile device.

*Message and data rates may apply. 4 msgs/month. Reply HELP for help or STOP to cancel at any time.*



# COMMUNICATIONS FROM SCHOOLS OF NURSE ANESTHESIA



## BARNES-JEWISH COLLEGE

Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College,  
St. Louis, MO

**Bernadette Henrichs, PhD, CRNA, CCRN**  
**Director, Nurse Anesthesia Program**



This has been a challenging year for nurse anesthesia students everywhere with the pandemic continuing and the positive cases increasing! Our students are in the clinical areas, and hospitals are continuing with scheduled surgical cases. However, the concern is that no one knows what the future will bring, and this lingers on all of our minds. Classes are resuming face-to-face this fall term, but no one is certain if things will change. The classroom looks different with everyone wearing a mask and practicing social distancing! Despite the coronavirus continuing to lurk in our presence, the fall season always brings excitement as I feel it is the best time of year! The weather is cooler and the fall colors are beautiful.

The students were unable to travel to Austin for the Nurse Anesthesia Annual Congress which was an unfortunate time for them. However, one of our seniors presented her poster virtually during the AANA Foundation's State of the Science poster presentations.

Our program is buzzing with activity. The Class of 2023 started their clinical rotations at the Center for Preoperative Assessment and Planning in September. They will shadow their classmates before them in the OR in December and will start routinely in the OR in the spring.

The class of 2023 includes:  
**Taylor Crittenden,**  
**Neil Frydrych,**  
**Amanuel Gebeyehu,**  
**Sean Pottenger,**  
**Meghan Marshall,**  
**Lauren Schoolfield,**  
**Jenny Stephan,**  
**Madeline Wilson,**  
**Paul Winson and**  
**Meghan Woodham.**



The Class of 2022 is working diligently on their DNP projects. They are working on IRB approval or exemption at this time and will start collecting data soon.

Graduation for the Class of 2021 will be held on Saturday, December 18, 2021. The morning ceremony will be held at 9:30 am and hopefully at the Powell Symphony Hall in St. Louis. At 2:00 pm, the Nurse Anesthesia Program will hold its ceremony at the College. Those graduating include **Fillmore Almiron, June Clark-Bumgarner, Ellen Dekleva, Ashley Harrell, Mike McLean, Jordan McNab, Melissa Milnor, Claira Sousa and Aldin Turan.**

## ***Congratulations to the soon-to-be CRNAs!***





**MISSOURI STATE SCHOOL OF ANESTHESIA**  
**Missouri State School of Anesthesia, Springfield, MO**  
**Program Director: Monika Feeney, DNAP, MS, CRNA**



MSU is full speed ahead with all classes back in session.

This summer we welcomed 24 new students who are currently in the thick of Pharmacology, Equipment and Physical Assessment, after passing Cell Biology and Neurophysiology with flying colors. Our Juniors are knee deep in clinical and learning all about advanced surgical procedures. Seniors are studying for the SEE, 4 days a week of clinical and getting ready for their Business of Anesthesia class after finishing Economics.

Our CRNA completion students are 6 weeks into the fall semester, we welcome our Fall start students! If you are interested in completing your DNAP in a distance program, 9 classes that are all anesthesia related – give us a call!

We welcome Dr. James Keaton to our faculty family. He comes to us from Mercy Springfield and will be the Director of the Simulation/Skills lab and teach Pharmacology.

Our seniors are preparing for the Three Minute Thesis Competition which will be held in November – last Spring we were honored when our anesthesia program won the University 1<sup>st</sup> place award over all other University entries and disciplines! (and a cash prize!) Congratulations to Brittany Woodall, Christin Baird and Kati Morgan!

We held our yearly awards banquet in April at the White River Conference Center celebrating 24 seniors that have since graduated, passed boards and are all working as CRNA's – so proud of them!

Below: MSU CRNA Graduates—Spring 2021:  
All dressed up and PLENTY of places to go!



A big thanks to all our clinical preceptors! We appreciate you and need you. Thank you for all the time and effort you give to our students.

*Celebrate your art!*



**WEBSTER UNIVERSITY**  
**Webster University Nurse Anesthesia Program, St. Louis, MO**  
**Program Director: Jill Stulce, PhD, CRNA**

I hope you all had a great summer. If you are like me, you are looking for the Fall break in the weather!!



The summer brought with it 24 new eager nurse anesthesia students! The summer term also marks the transition of first to second and second to third year level in their academic journey. We are excited for them all!

We were hopeful to attend the AANA Annual Congress in person this year in Austin, Texas. Not only for the content value of the meetings but also for the in-person fellowship. It was not to be, but the virtual offering was packed with great presentations and information! Our third-year residents really enjoyed the meetings.

It has, and remains, to be a very challenging time for the program due to the enduring presence of COVID and the impact it has had on us all in many ways. I know I am preaching to the choir here!! I just want to take this time to thank you for continuing to mentor future anesthetists during all this craziness.

We remain VERY thankful for your time and talent year after year in supporting them in their journey as well as giving back to the profession.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fall MoANA meeting in St. Louis in October!



*Above: It will take more than a world-wide pandemic to steal the smiles from these recent Webster CRNA graduates!*



## **TRUMAN MEDICAL CENTER—HOSPITAL HILL SCHOOL OF NURSE ANESTHESIA**

**Kansas City, MO**

**Program Director: Kelli Pryor, CRNA, DNP**

On May 15, we completed a great academic year by holding one of the most unusual Commencement ceremonies in school history. The Class of 2021 celebrated the milestone of graduating in-person this year at Kauffman Stadium, home of the KC Royals. Graduates crossed the stage at home plate.

We now look ahead to what I expect will be a much more normal fall semester. In August, Truman Medical Centers (TMC) became the first hospital in the region to require all staff, including SRNAs, to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

We are excited to announce that TMC is rebranding and adopting a new name: University Health. The school's new name is *University Health Truman Medical Center School of Nurse Anesthesia*. The name change will become effective on October 1, 2021.

The school has grown tremendously since we transitioned it to a doctoral curriculum in 2013. We recently developed three new part-time administrative roles to support the size and scope of the program. The new positions will allow leaders to draw on their expertise to advance program goals. Please help us congratulate the following new school administrators:

Curriculum Coordinator: Tamara Hill, DNAP, CRNA

Research Coordinator: Denise Stuit, DNP, CRNA

Simulation Education Coordinator: Kaleena Swingle-Bauck, DNAP, CRNA

In August 2021, we began a new clinical affiliation with University Hospital in Columbia, MO. We are excited to partner with Mizzou's CRNA leaders: Amy Shatto, DNP, CRNA; Josh Britton, CRNA; Erica Milbach, DNAP, CRNA; and David Bates, DNP, CRNA. Dr. Shatto is a TMC alumna and will serve as the Clinical Site Coordinator.

We have several exciting events upcoming this fall, including our 24th Annual Fall Anesthesia Conference on Saturday, September 18. This year's conference is a virtual format and is pre-approved for 8 Class A CEs. For more information or to register to attend, see <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/164646204229>. On October 10, we are hosting a Fall School Picnic to highlight the importance of community. The picnic will feature a CRNA versus SRNA kickball game.

Thank you for your continued engagement in our profession. I enjoy hearing from alumni and friends of TMC-HH SONA. You can reach me at [kelli.pryor@tmcmcd.org](mailto:kelli.pryor@tmcmcd.org).

...we completed a great academic year by holding one of the most unusual Commencement ceremonies in school history.

Graduates crossed the stage at home plate.





*Above: MSU's CRNA program welcomed 24 new students this past summer. Good luck to all of you! Just remember—**It will be worth it!***

**WILL IT BE easy?  
NOPE.  
WILL IT BE WORTH IT?**

-

*Absolutely*



*Above: CRNA graduates from the TMC-HH School of Nurse Anesthesia smile after crossing home plate to accept their diplomas in Kauffman Stadium—home of the Kansas City Royals. This was the first time the ceremony had been held in the stadium.*

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AROUND THE STATE!**