

Volume 14, Issue 1
Spring 2025

Buzzard Business



Class of 2025

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Greetings!

Happy almost Summer!

It's nice to just take a moment to take a breath! Spring was a whirlwind – and now summer classes are in motion. We have had daily rain in our area – so most of us feel like either strawberries or mushrooms!

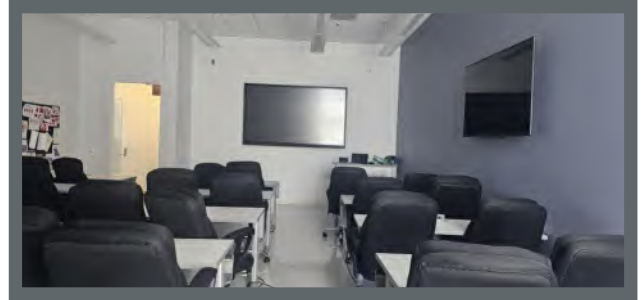


Our School won the 3MT again this year, and Danny Vlasin (above) traveled to Indianapolis as his group Scholarly Work representative. He did a wonderful job! <https://blogs.missouristate.edu/mchhs/category/anesthesia/>

We celebrated graduation in May with 24 entry level students who to date **23** have passed the NCE! Twenty Completion students finished in May (MS-DNAP) and 17 more are on track to graduate in August! Congratulations to each and every graduate! We are so proud of you!



Application was made and approved by the COA to increase our class size to 30 and thus we have 30 new students that started on June 2 (above photo).



Our classroom is re-arranged and we have new wireless monitors all around the room (above photo) Dr. Paul Durham is teaching Cell Biology and Anatomy begins in July with Dr. Lyon Hough.

We are looking forward to hosting Maverick Regional Class in August for our Juniors – and then Fall classes begin on August 18th. <https://maverickmeded.com/>.

We are proud to announce we have a couple of new clinical sites, Cox South in Springfield has opened their doors to us, and we have a few new sites in Pensacola, Florida. Thank you to all of our amazing sites and site coordinators – our students are getting the best clinical experiences including team practice and independent practice with a senior rural rotation.

We welcome a new faculty member Savannah Clark, CRNA, who will be joining us in the fall to assist Dr. Morgan with clinical placements and Dr. Keaton in the Sim/Skills lab. We are sad to say Good bye to Dr. Brooks.

Remember to take time for your wellness, enjoy some sunshine and Celebrate your Art! Respectfully,



Monika

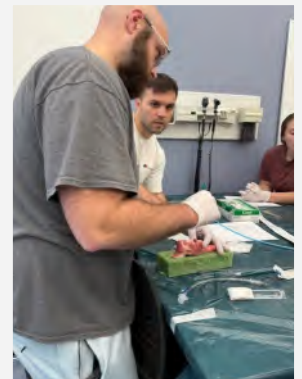
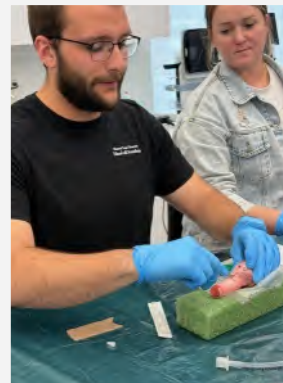
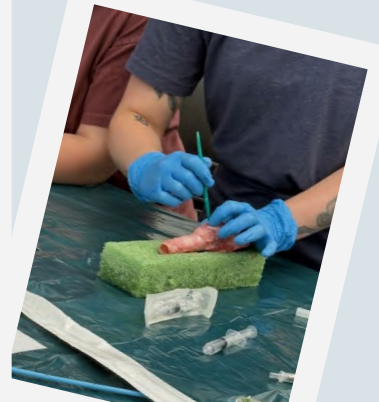
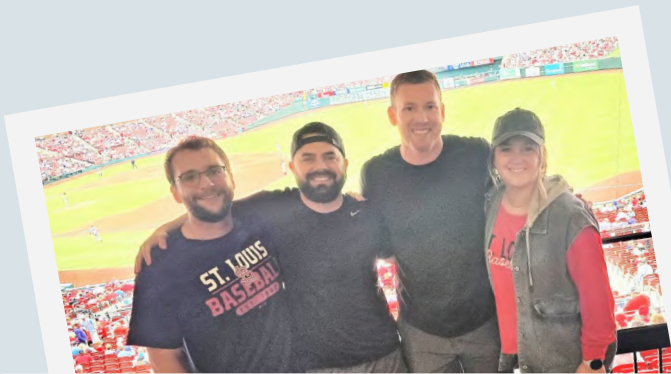
Program Director, Dr. Monika Feeney

Student Spot

MOANA Advocacy Day 2025 Students and Faculty Met with Missouri Legislators in Jefferson City



MOANA Spring Meeting *Saint Louis*



Freshmen practicing intubations on
pig tracheas with juniors instructing

Student Scholarships

WADE SHIPMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Logan Fifer (L) and Ian Campbell (R) received the 2025 Wade Shipman Memorial Scholarships. Each of them received \$1,000. Fifer and Campbell received these awards as junior students. They were chosen by their clinical site coordinators because they demonstrate similar traits held by the late Dr. Wade Shipman, both in personality and patient care.

The Dr. Wade Shipman Scholarship fund was established in 2015 and is distributed by a scholarship board/advisory council including the Ship-man Family, MSU Anesthesia representatives, and Mercy Anesthesia representatives in conjunction with Mercy Foundation.

This scholarship is a tribute to a man taken too soon, who touched many lives, and will never be forgotten. His legacy continues with this scholarship. We honor him by giving deserving anesthesia students a scholarship in his name.



CRABTREE FAMILY NURSE ANESTHETIST SCHOLARSHIP

Meagan Powers (R) received the 2025 Crabtree Scholarship. This scholarship was \$1,000. As a recipient of this award, a student must be enrolled full-time and must have an overall GPA greater than or equal to 3.4. This fund was established by Chris Anne Crabtree, an MSU School of Anesthesia alumnus. She established this fund to honor her too-soon-taken husband, Jeremy Crabtree.



BART KUHNS SCHOLARSHIP

Brandon Mills (R) received the 2025 Bart Kuhns scholarship. The Bart Kuhns scholarship is awarded to a freshman, non-traditional student enrolled in MSU School of Anesthesia. A non-traditional student being defined as a working, married, parent or 22+ years of age.

The Kuhns Scholarship was established in 2018 by Bart Kuhns CRNA, DNAP, and a MSU School of Anesthesia alumnus. This annual \$1,000 scholarship is presented to one MSU School of Anesthesia student in the second semester of the program.



Student Scholarships

JOHN SILVA SCHOLARSHIP

Abbey Elmore received the 2025 Silva Scholarship. As a recipient of this award, a student must be a second year student and show exemplary clinical skills. This fund was established in 2019 by John Silva, an MSU School of Anesthesia alumnus. This annual \$500 scholarship is presented to one MSU School of Anesthesia student.

John Silva graduated from Southwest Missouri School of Nurse Anesthesia at St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Missouri, in 1972. He spent 20 outstanding and successful years completing over 20 thousand cases in anesthesia.



SCHOOL OF ANESTHESIA CLINICAL EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED TO SENIOR STUDENTS

Jenna Scheer (center) and Kayley Langford (R) received the 2025 Senior Clinical Excellence Scholarships. The School of Anesthesia Clinical Scholarship is awarded to senior students who have been nominated by their clinical sites, performing as excellent clinical anesthesia students. The students are selected by the School of Anesthesia faculty after reviewing their clinical reports and simulation testing. Each scholarship given is \$500.



RAYMOND MICHAEL WATTS PERSISTENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Ingrid Shores (second from left) and Skylar Schwertner (center) received the 2025 Raymond Michael Watts Persistence Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a student that is always doing the right thing and continuing to do his/her best even in the most extreme or unforeseen circumstances. It is given to someone that even on those long days is still doing everything he/she can for his/her patient and those around them. Each scholarship given is \$500.



2025 Awards Banquet



2025 Awards Banquet



Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2025!



Welcome to our New Admissions Coordinator and Admissions Advisor



Tashiana Conklin is a Missouri State University graduate. She received her Bachelors of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology and her Masters of Science in Counseling with an emphasis in School Counseling.

She worked in the BearCLAW tutoring center as a science tutor from 2017 to 2021, and a graduate assistant from 2021 to 2022. She started her professional career at Ozarks Technical Community College in 2022 as an Admissions Counselor.

She resides in Republic with her husband (Spencer) and son (Arlo). In her free time, she enjoys traveling, reading, baking, and spending time with family. Tashiana is looking forward to connecting with our future CRNAs and applicants!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Ernest P. Ayo, DP, CRNA, graduated from Missouri State School of Anesthesia in 1980. He just returned from Chalco, Mexico, on his eighth medical mission. He is retired at 81 and no longer licensed. So, he teaches, does physicals and sick call with other medical professionals. On this trip, Ayo visited Villa de Las Niñas. This is a private tuition free all girls school. They only take children from the streets (some abused) and families living in poverty. The "throw away" children found in every country, even ours. There, they receive three meals a day, discipline, religious and secular education. They graduate 900 productive citizens a year. The hope is to start a nursing school there next year. There is also an all boys school in Guadalajara. Started in 1959, there are nine similar schools around the world started by Fr. Al Schwartz. Ayo said, "I have enjoyed a wonderful career and life, all thanks to anesthesia. There are many ways to pay back for all we have been given as long as we leave the world a little better than we found it." Check out Ayo's ANESTHESIA JEWELS on Facebook for more information on how you can become involved in medical missions.



Pictured Left: Ernest Ayo (L) and his translator and assistant Carlos.

Pictured Above: Villa de Las Niñas girls school in Chalco, Mexico.

DNAP Scholarly Project Goal to Advance Global Healthcare

BY EMMA BANYA, 2025 DNAP Completion Graduate

I believe providers, like myself, with a solid academic foundation and clinical expertise, can and should share knowledge with providers in underserved countries to promote optimal anesthesia and surgical outcomes to the world. Since 2016, I have been privileged to be part of an incredible organization called Saving Lives Initiatives, which undertakes bi-annual medical missions to Sierra Leone, West Africa, providing free life-saving surgeries to those in dire need. Knowledge transfer is the cornerstone of the organization, utilizing our surgical missions as avenues for knowledge transfer.

One of the most common surgeries we perform is hemi-thyroidectomies, primarily on female patients, due to the pervasive lack of iodine in their diet. These goiters often result in difficult airways. Fortunately, our organization is always well-equipped with state-of-the-art video laryngoscopes (VLs) and tools to expertly manage these challenging airways during our mission trips. However, at the conclusion of each mission, we

are compelled to pack up our VLs and return to the United States, as these devices are typically loaned to us by hospitals or the manufacturers. It is truly heartbreaking to learn that, following our departure, the nurse anesthetists often struggle to manage difficult airways, resulting in poor outcomes and, tragically, multiple deaths. The quality of anesthesia services is highly correlated with peri-operative mortality and

morbidity. As anesthesia professionals, we recognize the importance of implementing safe and patient-specific anesthetic practices. Fortunately, numerous advanced tools are available to facilitate effective airway management, and these are routinely employed in developed countries.



“Service to others is the rent we pay for our room here on earth.” This profound quote by Muhammed Ali has been a guiding light for me, inspiring me to pursue nurse anesthesia and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. For me, this is where the advancement of global healthcare came into play.
-Emma Banya

However, in underdeveloped nations, the availability of these life-saving devices is severely limited, with cost being the most significant barrier. Sierra Leone, ranked 177th out of 186 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index, with a staggering average life expectancy of merely 48 years, is one such country, where anesthesia providers face immense challenges in accessing the necessary resources to manage difficult airway situations, despite their level of education, years of experience, background, and clinical training. The country has two practicing physician anesthesiologists and 140 nurse anesthetists for its 8 million population. Despite these staffing challenges, the dedicated nurse anesthetists continue to persevere, driven by their unwavering commitment to providing critical care to their patients. They are the primary anesthesia providers in the country and lack training and



access to VLs for managing difficult airways. The prohibitive cost and steep learning curve of VLs were significant barriers to their availability. Given their geographical distribution and service delivery to underserved areas, often in resource-starved communities, empowering them with economical tools is crucial to providing safe anesthesia in difficult airway scenarios.

My DNAP scholarly project, "Development of a hybrid video-based and simulation-based Train the Trainer education for Sierra Leone Nurse Anesthetists on using the Air Angel 3D-printed video Laryngoscopes (VLs) for anticipated difficult airway scenarios," aimed to equip these nurse anesthetists with the skills and confidence to excel in difficult airway management, ultimately enhancing patient outcomes. My goal was to collaborate and empower the nurse anesthetists by partnering with them to provide education, mentoring, and material support for the project. My project introduced the Air Angel VL system, a revolutionary, low-cost, 3D-printed blade paired with a video borescope, which provides a video source and light compatible with smartphones. The visionary creators of this system are three United States CRNAs, including Dr. Eric Kramer, CRNA; AANP, FNP, DNAP, who served as my secondary project advisor and is a Missouri State University graduate. The Air Angel VL aims to bridge the gap in airway safety between developing nations and the rest of the world, ensuring equal access to reliable VLs. By leveraging 3D-printed laryngoscopes, they have successfully provided a cost-effective alternative to expensive VLs.

To ensure sustainability and mentoring, I collaborated with the National Nurse Anesthetists Association to establish a "Train the Trainer" video and simulation-based training program. This initi-

ative empowered a select group of nurse anesthetists to be trained by me and subsequently become local champions responsible for disseminating training nationwide. At the end of the training, all 8 participants shared in the post-survey that they felt proficient and comfortable using the 3D-printed Air Angel VL in a controlled setting, a difficult airway situation, or an airway emergency. They believed the course positively impacted their practice by building confidence and improving skills and safety. They would prefer to use a video laryngoscope for an anticipated difficult airway. My DNAP scholarly project has successfully enhanced anesthesia capacity in Sierra Leone by improving training and increasing access to affordable, cutting-edge resources. I firmly believe that this training has equipped Sierra Leonean nurse anesthetists with the expertise, tools, and confidence to navigate challenging airway scenarios, leading to improved patient outcomes. Dr. Kramer was an invaluable resource, generously donating 16 units of 3D-printed VLs to the Sierra Leone Nurse Anesthesia Association. I continue to provide mentorship and have received reports of the training's ongoing success, with the 3D-printed VL being used at local hospitals and now a staple resource to their practice. I am proud of the progress made and am confident that these nurse anesthetists will continue to spread



knowledge and improve patient care throughout the country. I am truly thankful to the MSU Nurse Anesthesia program for empowering me to embark on a global project. I sincerely thank Dr. Monika Feeney, DNAP, CRNA, BS, MS, DNAP, for being my primary project advisor.

Photos provided by Emma Banyo

Student Feature

Jeffrey Wischmeyer, Class of May 2026



Jeffrey Wischmeyer with fellow class mates, Abbey Elmore (L) and Skylar Schwertner (R)

Where did you graduate from Nursing School and in what area have you worked since?

My ASN journey began at Southwest Baptist University, where I completed the Paramedic to RN bridge. I obtained my BSN from Cox College. After completing my ASN, I started my nursing career in the Emergency Department at a Level 1 Trauma Center. I gained additional experience in the Medical ICU during the COVID-19 Pandemic. I also transported critically ill patients both by air and ground ambulance. When CRNA school became the forefront of my goals, I transitioned to the Cardiovascular ICU. I also dabbled in nursing leadership as a house supervisor.

Why did you decide to become a CRNA?

I hold a profound admiration for the skills and dedication that CRNAs embody. My aim is to achieve autonomy in my practice, enabling me to focus entirely on the well-being of each patient I serve.

Was there anyone instrumental in your decision to become a CRNA?

Being a CRNA was not in my line of sight until just a few years ago. I worked with wonderful flight nurses who encouraged me to go from Paramedic to Nurse. After I became a Nurse, they continued to push me to further my education. Deciding between NP and CRNA was challenging for me. I could see myself in both roles. I chose to shadow both NPs and CRNAs. After shadowing some great CRNAs, my decision was made.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I have gotten into plant collecting (one would say, “to cope with the stress”). It all started with a bird of paradise. We now have over 85 indoor plants. I also enjoy planting outdoors during the warm months.

What would you tell future students entering your program?

You won’t be perfect at everything, and that’s okay. Let go of some of those type A traits while in school.

Life doesn’t stop when you are in an anesthesia school. This will wear you down and make you second-guess your life choices. Take a breath and remember to take one day at a time.

Anything else about your story you’d like to share?

Next May (2026) will be my first time walking across the graduation stage. I did not have the opportunity in high school, when I decided to drop out and pursue my GED. Graduations for my ASN and BSN fell during the COVID-19 Pandemic, resulting in cancelled in-person graduations.

Thank you to all of our Clinical Preceptors!



To all of our preceptors we appreciate you and all the effort, time, knowledge and care you give to our students! You make our profession better!

FACULTY UPDATES

Dr. Brooks



Good bye to one of our Favorite Faculty!

Dr. Brooks has moved on. We are so grateful to have had him for a few years to share his teaching and surgery expertise with our students. His shoes will be hard to fill!!



In Loving Memory



Mark Wayne Clark, 66, of Poplar Bluff, MO, passed away Friday, April 25, 2025, in Greers Ferry, Arkansas.

Mark was born on March 09, 1959, to Enos and Mineko (Asakura) Clark in Corpus Christi, Texas. He married Terri (Pierson) Clark on July 31, 1981, in Flora, Illinois.

Mark (known to those who loved him as Clark) was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He was a man of deep faith, generous spirit, and many passions, whose life touched countless others through his kindness, compassion, and dedication.

Mark graduated from the St. Johns/Missouri State School of Nurse Anesthesia in 1984. He was double board certified in Anesthesiology. His calling led him to further train as a Certified Non-Surgical Pain Management Specialist. With determination and vision, he went on to found Rural Health Pain Management, where he served as the Executive Director of Clinical Operations.

Mark poured his heart into his work-his patients, coworkers and business partners. He often gave out his personal cell phone number to patients and found it a privilege to pray with them, always offering comfort and care beyond the clinical.

A man of many interests, Clark loved, art, music, landscaping, entertaining, and -above all- God and his family. He treasured family gatherings, Christmas, and time spent with his nine beloved grandchildren. He had a passion for travel and a deep appreciation for the simple pleasures, especially a good cup of coffee. His yard was one of his favorite places, where he found joy and peace in nature and hard work. His life-long passion was fishing, alone or with family and his many fishing buddies.

Mark was a faithful member of Green Forest Church of Christ, where he worshiped with a sincere and humble heart. His life was a reflection of his unwavering belief in God and desire to serve others.

Those who knew Mark will remember his generosity and his laugh. Mark proclaimed often how blessed he was. All those who have shared a life and memory were blessed to know him.

Mark is survived by his wife of 44 years, Terri Clark; three children, Kristen (Cole) Duke, Ryan (Savannah) Clark, and Greg (Ashley) Clark; brother, Jack Clark; nine grandchildren, Eli and Elise Duke, Ella, Landry, Addy, Gracie, Kensington, Pierson, Livingston Clark; sister-in-law, Tracy (Neil) Gould; along with many nieces, nephews, extended family and wonderful friends.

Mark was preceded in death his parents, Enos and Mineko; brother, Tom Clark; father & mother-in-law, Darrell and Janet Pierson; sister-in-law, Tammy Pierson.

Gathering of Family and Friends was held on Saturday, May 17, 2025, from 10:00am-12:00pm at Cotrell Willow Ridge Funeral & Cremation Services in Poplar Bluff. Memorial service held immediately following beginning at Noon with Dennis Haynes officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial donations be made to Robert's Adventure Playground at McLane Park. Donations can be made at www.robertsplayground.org "in honor of Mark Clark".

Cotrell Willow Ridge Funeral & Cremation Services is honored to serve the family of Mr. Mark Clark. Online condolences can be made at www.cwrfdc.com.

Important Dates



June 2- Welcome new students Orientation and Lunch
Aug. 9-13 - AANA Annual Congress, Nashville
Aug. 16-17 - Maverick Anesthesia
Aug. 18 - Fall Semester begins
Sept. 13 - ACLS/BLS/PALS offered at the School of Anesthesia
Sept. 27-28 - MOANA Fall Meeting, Springfield, MO
Nov. 22-Nov. 30 - Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 12 - Fall Commencement
Dec. 22-Jan.2 - Winter Break
Jan. 20 - MOANA Advocacy Day, Jefferson City

Dates to Remember

Missouri State[®]

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ANESTHESIA**

www.missouristate.edu/anesthesia

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Please send any stories,
pictures, alumni updates, and
special event information to

[Mary Kate Cherry](#),

Assistant to the Director