Volume 15, Issue 2
Fall 2026

# Buzzard Business

## Welcome Class of 2029




MISSOURI STATE SCHOOL OF ANESTHESIA
ILLEGITIMI NON CARBORUNDUM



# Greetings!

Summer days have ended, which always makes me a little sad – I love the flowers, the warmth, the long days. But, then comes a cooling breath of crisp air and the changing colors of the landscape – with an invitation to cold and snow, a circle. Same as what is happening currently in our program. We graduated an amazing group of now CRNAs, six of which took the NCE Saturday after Friday graduation. I am writing with so much pride in the students and faculty that put in the work and time – simply, amazing!!!

We accepted our second cohort of 30 eager ICU nurses, and they are almost halfway through their second semester. Our juniors are soaking in the reality of clinical time and studying, while our seniors are hitting the books with weekly quizzes and password protected tests. The countdown has begun to graduation!

A great group of students attended Annual Congress in Boston, and we are looking forward to next year in New Orleans!

The 3 Minute Thesis presentations took placke this month. Check out the Power Point slides in this edition of Buzzard Business.

***To all of our clinical sites, and preceptors we send a big thank you! Without you we could not be bringing up the next generation of CRNAs – we appreciate you and the time you put into our students and the future.***

As many of you already know, we are back doing clinical at Mercy Springfield. The story of our program is making a full circle – back to home.

We are now also sending students to Cox South. Cox recently donated two anesthesia machines to our program, for which we are very grateful!

Please take a look at our new section editorial that Dr. Glenn, our Evaluations Coordinator, will be writing in the future, "The Cream, the Crumbs and the Kitchen Sink" (or the good, the bad and the ugly) to keep you up to date on evaluation comments, program changes and outcomes for our program.

Congratulations to our December completion student graduates! Very proud of you for completing your terminal degree.

Take a moment to enjoy the last of Indian Summers, embrace the cool fall and vivid colors, take a moment of pause. We are truly blessed.

Celebrate your art,
Respectfully,
*Monika*



Program Director, Dr. Monika Feeney

# 2026 Awards Banquet






















# Student Scholarships




## WADE SHIPMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**Brad Neiman (L) and Parker Rose (not pictured)** received the 2026 Wade Shipman Memorial Scholarships. Each of them received $1,000. Neiman and Rose 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 Shipman 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

**Kassidy Murphy-Baum (L)** received the 2026 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.



## JOHN SILVA SCHOLARSHIP

**Liz Massey** received the 2026 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 20,000 cases in anesthesia.



## RAYMOND MICHAEL WATTS PERSEVERENCE SCHOLARSHIP

**Marriah Zeugin (L) and Brooke Graves (R)** received the 2026 Raymond Michael Watts Perseverance Scholarship. The scholarship was presented by **Dylan Watts (pictured center)**, son of Michael Dylan Watts. This scholarship is awarded to students that are always doing the right thing and continuing to do their best even in the most extreme circumstances. It is given to students that even on those long days are still doing everything they can for their patients and those around them. Each scholarship given is $500.

# Student Scholarships




## MARK CLARK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**Jason Tolbert (pictured second from left) and Jessica Carpinelli (pictured far right)** received the 2026 Mark Clark Memorial Scholarship. **Greg Clark (pictured far left and Ryan Clark (pictured second from right)**, both sons of Mark Clark, presented the scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded annually to two SRNAs in their second year who demonstrate strong academic performance, perseverance in the face of adversity, leadership potential, a commitment to ethical and collaborative practice, and a dedication to continued professional growth and education.Each scholarship given is $1,000. This scholarhsip was established in 2025 in loving memory of Mark Clark—a devoted husband, father, papa, father-in-law, co-worker, and friend.

---




## BART KUHNS SCHOLARSHIP

**Alyssa Jercick** received the 2026 Bart Kuhns Scholarship. The Bart Kuhns Scholarship is awarded to a non-traditional student enrolled in MSU School of Anesthesia. A non-traditional student being defined as a student who is working, married, parent or 22+ years of age. This is a $1,000 scholarship. The Bart Kuhns Scholarship was established in 2018 by Bart Kuhns CRNA, DNAP, and a MSU School of Anesthesia alumnus.

---



## SCHOOL OF ANESTHESIA CLINICAL EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP

**Duke Carson (L) and Chrissy Distler (Center)** received the 2026 Clinical Excellence Scholarships. The School of Anesthesia Clinical Scholarship is awarded to 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.

---




## SENIOR ANESTHESIA EXCELLENCE AWARD

This student was chosen by School of Anesthesia faculty. The award goes to a student that achieved top grades and accolades from all of their clinical sites. A student that truly is an example of what a CRNA is. This first time award goes to **Ian Campbell.**

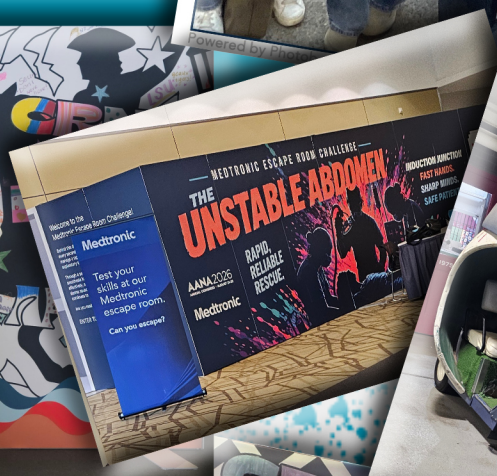
# ANNUAL CONGRESS BOSTON













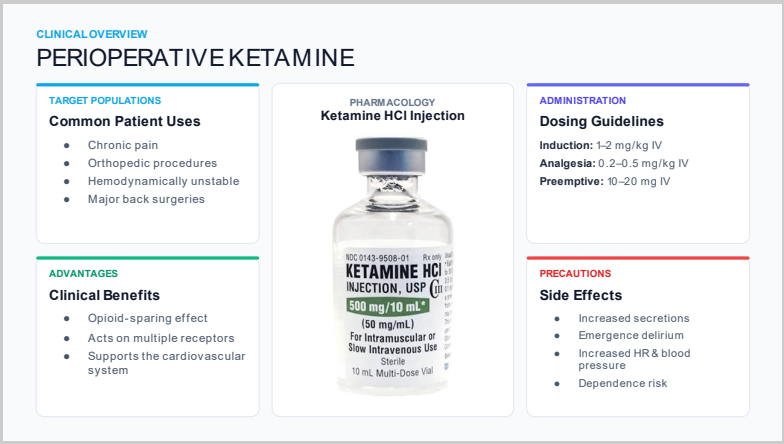





# Senior 3 Minute Thesis Presentations

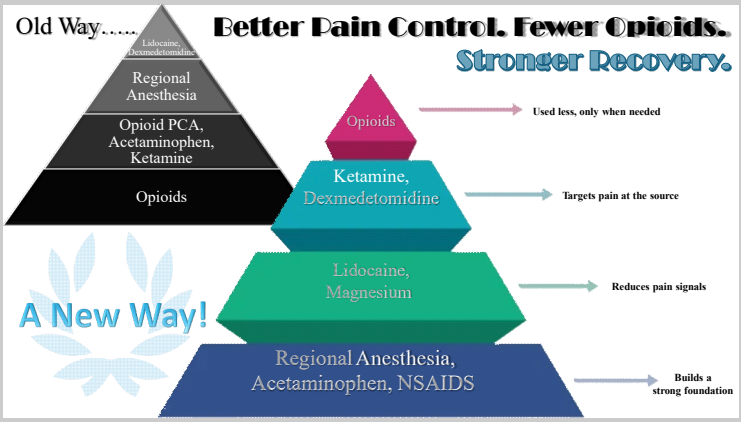
Perioperative Use of Ketamine

**By: Jessica Carpinelli, Taylor Moore, and Marriah Zeugin**



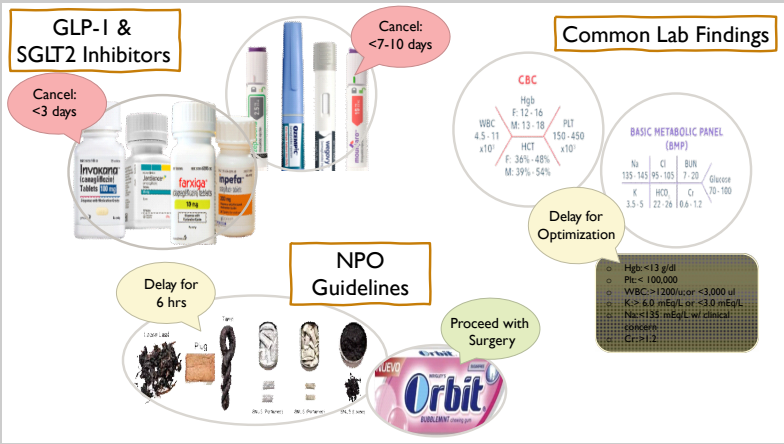

The Impact of Multimodal Adjunct Medications with Regional Anesthesia on Postoperative Pain and Opiod Use

**By: Brendan Beckley, Emily McCarthy, and presenter Parker Rose**



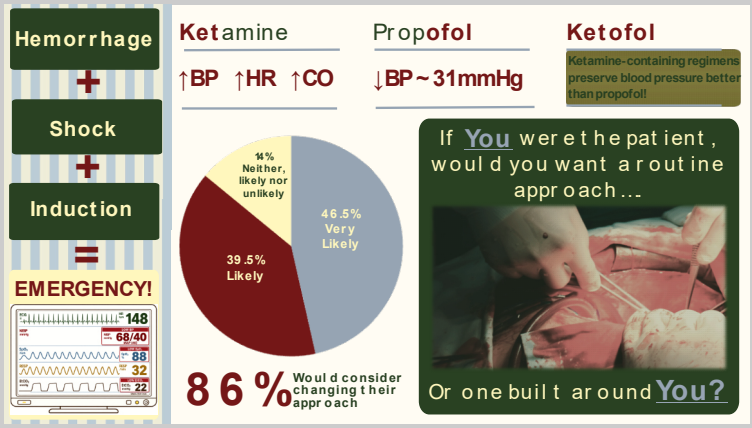

Preoperative Factors Contributing to Elective Case Cancellation: An Evidence-Based Review

**By: Riley Abernathy, Stacey Browne, and Chrissy Distler**



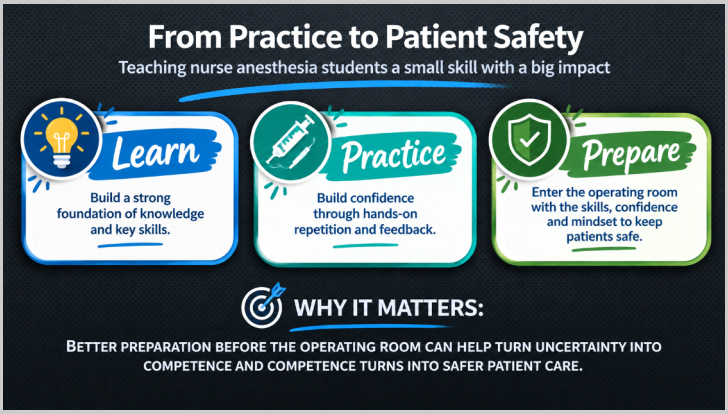

Anesthetic Induction for Hemorrhagic Shock

**By: Brooke Graves, Elizabeth Massey, Amanda Sathre, Laura Young**



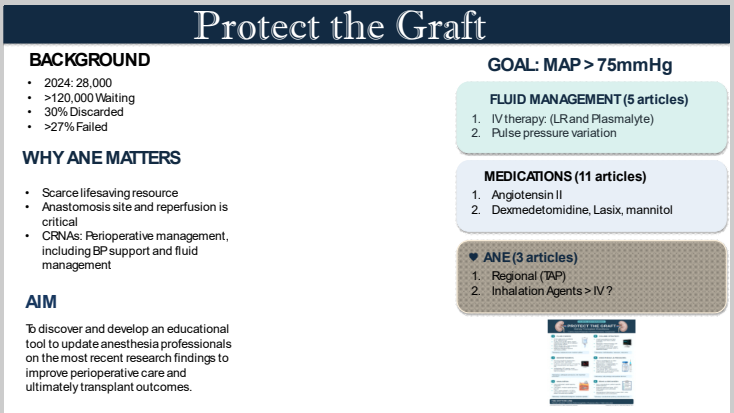

Suturing Safely: An Approach to Teaching Graduate Students Basic Suturing Skills

**By: Bradford Nieman, David Hiller, Brandon Mills**




Perioperative Anesthesia Protocol to Improve Kidney Transplant Outcomes

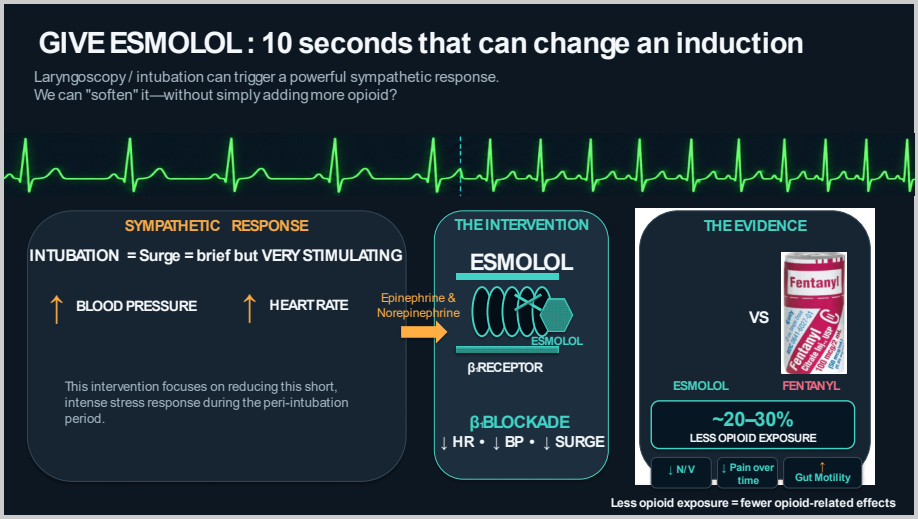
**By: Alyssa Jercick, Ben Stauffer, Ruvin Kushnir**



# Senior 3 Minute Thesis Presentations

Give Esmolol: 10 Seconds That Can Change an Induction

**By: Duke Carson, Nick Seedall, and Jason Tolbert**



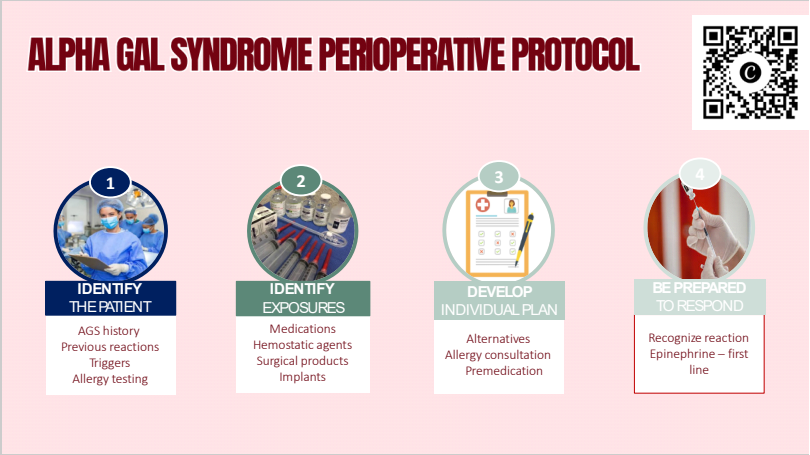

Congratulations to Duke Carson, Nick Seedall and Jason Tolbert for winning FIRST PLACE!



An Evidenced Based Review of Alpha-Gal Syndrome And Its Anesthetic Considerations

**By: Kelli Arens, Bethany McLaughlin & Kassidy Murphy-Baum**

Congratulations to Kelli Arens, Bethany McLaughlin and Kassidy Murphy-Baum for winning SECOND PLACE! They will present in the University Competition on Nov. 6




# University Updates

**New Account Lifecycle Policy**

Missouri State's President's Cabinet has approved a new Account Lifecycle policy. The biggest change is that former student and alumni accounts began being phased out on July 1, 2026. Going forward, student accounts will be removed one academic year after they stop taking classes. Alumni accounts for people who have already been gone longer than that will also be phased out, with at least six months notice sent by email.

Former employees who are not emeritus also will no longer lose access after 90 days. Instead, accounts will remain active for 18 months after separation, but access during that time will be limited to self service resources like tax forms and the health center patient portal.

Here's the full policy if you want to read through it:
https://www.missouristate.edu/Policy/Chapter12/Op12-07-19-acount-lifecyle.htm
And the blog post with additional information
University accounts: what's changing, and what's not - Information Services Blog

# Department Updates



## Dr. Kati Morgan, Clinical Site Coordinator

I am excited to share that the clinical portion of the MSU Nurse Anesthesia Program continues to grow and progress. This year marks an important milestone for our program as our first class of 30 junior SRNAs has entered clinical rotations. With our senior class also completing clinical experiences, we now have a total of 55 SRNAs active in clinical education. We are pleased to report that the transition to this larger clinical cohort has gone very well, and our students continue to demonstrate professionalism, strong clinical skills, and a commitment to learning. Next year, we anticipate having approximately 60 SRNAs participating in clinical rotations.

The success of our students would not be possible without the continued support of our clinical sites, coordinators, and preceptors. Their willingness to teach, provide feedback, and challenge our students is an invaluable part of their development as future anesthesia providers.

**We are incredibly grateful for the time and expertise our clinical partners invest in our students each day.**

Our evaluation processes also continue to evolve. CarePath, our online clinical evaluation platform, continues to develop with new features designed to improve communication, streamline evaluations, and enhance the clinical learning experience. Several students are currently piloting the new CarePath app and have provided encouraging feedback regarding its functionality and ease of use. We anticipate expanding use of the app and transitioning to a new version of the platform in the coming year.

This year also marks the first full year that Savannah Clark has served as my clinical counterpart. Savannah has been a wonderful addition to our department and has quickly become an integral part of the clinical education team. Together, we are actively visiting clinical sites, connecting with preceptors, and evaluating students throughout their rotations, so our clinical partners may see either Savannah or I during site visits. Having two faculty members actively engaged in the clinical education process has been a tremendous asset, allowing us to strengthen our relationships with our clinical partners while providing consistent support, communication, and evaluation for our students.

As our program continues to grow, we remain committed to maintaining strong partnerships with our clinical sites and providing meaningful, high-quality clinical experiences for every SRNA. We sincerely appreciate the continued dedication of our preceptors and clinical coordinators. Your mentorship, feedback, and willingness to invest in our students play an essential role in preparing them for their future practice, and we are truly grateful for all that you do for the MSU Nurse Anesthesia Program.

# Department Updates



## Dr. James Keaton, Skills and Simulation Director

**Simulation:**

As CRNAs we are often looking to our next case when we are in the middle of delivering an anesthetic. We are constantly adjusting according to what is going on in front of us while planning for the next patient. I think that skill can serve us well in a teaching career. My colleague, Professor Savannah Clark, had to adjust quickly in the Spring of 2026, becoming the primary faculty member for the ANE 747 Simulation for Clinical Anesthesia. She and the students did a fantastic job. Her experience and insights have helped us plan for what I hope is an improved ANE 747 course.

**Skills:**

The School of Anesthesia labs really are a fantastic educational opportunity to expand the skill set of graduate nurses. Of course, our SRNAs always enjoy being in lab learning new skills but we are always happy when we can share our space with other healthcare providers. This summer we were able to host the MSU Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program. The students spent several days learning how to place arterial lines and central lines, different airway techniques, and lumbar puncture. We hope this training will help ACNP students feel better prepared to start their clinical rotations.



## Ryan Gordon, PhD, Clinical Physiology Professor

Dr. Gordon, is an Assistant Professor at Missouri State University, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the School of Health Sciences and the School of Anesthesia. His research interests include skeletal muscle physiology, metabolism, and health, with an emphasis on understanding how exercise and nutritional interventions influence muscle function, body composition, metabolic health, and physical performance.




# WHAT IS THIS PAGE???

A place to find out what our alumni, employers, and students say about us and to be the first to know what is happening or changing with our courses, program, faculty and students.

## The cream the crumbs

**Employer Evaluation comments:**

- Danny has been an incredible asset to this department. I have found him to be quickly adaptable to complex procedures and patients
- No concerns. Linden is a rockstar.
- Alex is wonderful in every aspect. Thank you so much!
- Ashlynn is great!
- Great provider, but could use a little more regional experience. This is not a complaint, just a suggestion. Thanks!
- Zach came with excellent clinical thinking skills and skill sets. Wonderful addition to our fast paced, autonomous anesthesia team
- Your graduate has been an amazing addition to our team. She is autonomous, safe, professional, and represents the profession well.

**Program Evaluations:**

- Danny has been an incredible asset to this department. I have found him to be quickly adaptable to complex procedures and patients
- No concerns. Linden is a rockstar.
- Alex is wonderful in every aspect. Thank you so much!
- Ashlynn is great!
- Great provider, but could use a little more regional experience. This is not a complaint, just a suggestion. Thanks!
- Zach came with excellent clinical thinking skills and skill sets. Wonderful addition to our fast paced, autonomous anesthesia team
- Your graduate has been an amazing addition to our team. She is autonomous, safe, professional, and represents the profession well.

**Alumni Evaluations:**

- I think my weakest areas are pre-op clinic and managing PACU issues. I wish I had a rotation that focuses on this more. I did request this experience at clinical site but it wasn't given much weight-maybe because it isn't required? Perhaps replace rural site requirement with this?
- Having been out a year and precepting students that are in the program associated with my hospital..I realize how incredibly blessed I was to attend MSU and be able to do my clinicals where I did. I came in and hit the ground running...the students I precept are not at that level that I felt I was during my time in school and it was all because of the MSU program and opportunities that were given!
- MSU prepared me well. I was able to start an independent practice taking complex cases and minimal resources. I felt very fortunate to go to MSU, seeing CRNAs from other programs as well as students. I recommend MSU to any nurse I meet with any interest in anesthesia.
- More emphasis on simulations and clinical time would be preferred as this is more on the job training. I wish I had more time to really feel comfortable taking peds cases too
- I have been really happy with how my first year has gone, and I have received great feedback from my supervisors and physicians/surgeons I work with. I do feel I could have been better trained in preoperative decisions (is this pt ok for this case, typical policies around pacemakers/blood thinners etc) and PACU management (how do different patients with different anesthetic management wake up, what orders to place, managing/supporting nursing staff.
- Great program. Incorporating more of a ultrasound scanning section in the lab for regional blocks could be useful.
- Better and more equitable clinical sites, avoid sites that promote disharmony and casual racism. Please look to add large institutions and not limit them to those who many work there one day.

## the kitchen sink

- We have a new Physiology teacher this fall, Dr. Ryan Gordon PhD. Check out his spotlight!
- We are looking a buying new video laryngscopes since VL is becoming the standard of care vs DL
- Check out the MSU School of Anesthesia story on the AANA website: https://www.aana.com/news/a-labor-of-love/
- Our Pharmacology classes are going through a name change, no content changes.
- We are thinking about changing Clinical Physiology to Advance Physiology and Pathophysiology.
- If you have program questions you would answered, please reach out to us at: Monikafeeney@missouristate.edu.

# Clinical Highlights



## Clinical Site Coordinator Spotlight

## *Christy Brewer*

### Mercy Joplin

**Site where you are a preceptor and how long have you been in that role?**

*I have been a clinical preceptor at Mercy Hospital in Joplin, MO, for 2 years.*

**How long have you been a CRNA?**

*I have been a CRNA for 15 years. DNAP will be my 6th degree!*

**What is something you learned while completing your DNAP through MSU?**

*While completing the DNAP program at MSU, I learned that even an "old dog can learn new tricks" with the right kind of encouragement and support.*

**What do you like best about teaching students?**

*I love to teach! I take pride and satisfaction in supporting, mentoring, and encouraging my students. What I love best about teaching students is seeing their professional and personal growth. I have the privilege of being present on their first clinical day and observing their advancement.*

**What is a strong attribute you bring to the table in teaching students?**

*I am genuine, firm, encouraging, and calm. I have only three rules for the students in my room, (and they know what they are). These three rules foster a positive environment for professional growth. Having only three simplifies the day!*

**What are some of your favorite things to teach students?**

*Out of all the knowledge and skills required in the anesthesia profession, the most important thing that I really want students to remember is that the person on the table is someone's loved one. That's someone's daughter, son, spouse, mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, etc. That person is immensely precious to someone. In His sovereign will, God has placed them in this profession, with this person, at this very moment.*

*Mark 10:45 states, "For even the Son of Man (Jesus) did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." This verse highlights the essence of a servant's heart and that of someone who aspires to be a good anesthesia provider.*

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Liz Massey, Class of May 2027



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

I graduated from Mercy/Southwest Baptist University School of Nursing in Springfield, MO. I worked as a staff nurse in Springfield at Mercy and Cox, as a travel nurse in San Diego, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Saint Louis, and most recently before beginning school I was in Colorado Springs! I worked in all types of ICUs but specialized in CVICU. I also worked in the Cardiac Cath lab.

### Why did you decide to become a CRNA?

I would say that my nursing career led to my desire to become a CRNA by instilling in me a love for procedural nursing as well as bedside ICU nursing. I wanted to further my career, but I didn't want to give up caring for patients and being hands on in a clinical setting. Anesthesia was a perfect fit!

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

The nurses who mentored me in the ICUs at Mercy who became CRNAs have played a pivotal role in my decision (and confidence) to pursue anesthesia school. When I returned to shadow them or asked for advice, I was inspired by how much they had grown professionally and clinically due to their dedication to becoming CRNAs. Seeing them succeed from a place where I stood made the goal feel attainable. I trusted their guidance, knowing they genuinely wanted the best for me. Their encouragement, support, and belief in my potential pushed me to take the leap, and they continue to cheer me on as I work toward making this career my future. Learning from old colleagues in the OR and at school (shoutout to Shawnee!) has been a surreal and humbling experience for me, and I am excited to follow in their footsteps and help guide nurses towards this amazing career in the future. I know many of them are alumni from Missouri State, so I want to extend a huge thank you to each one of you!



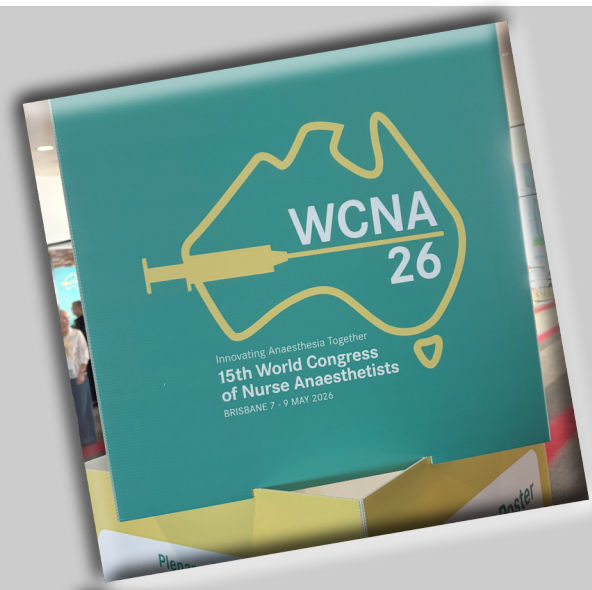
### What do you like to do in your spare time?

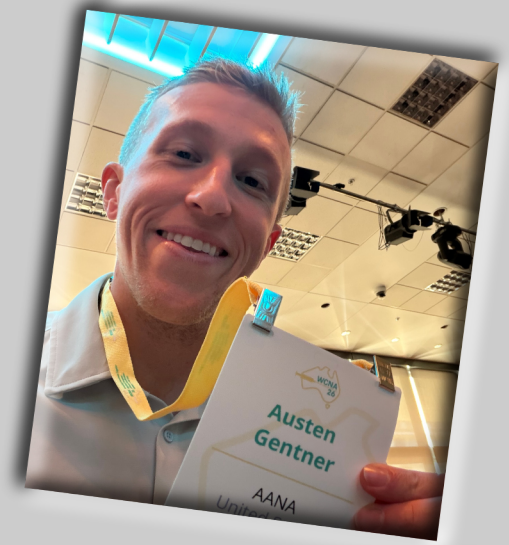
I love to spend time outdoors! I enjoy going on hikes or walks with my 6-year-old lab mix Kimi, spending time with my friends and family, and putting my feet up after clinical. I try to squeeze traveling in as much as I can, reading books for fun (even though I tell myself Nagelhout is fun sometimes to get me through), and trying new foods!



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Austen Gentner, Class of 2024






***What were some of your highlights from the World Congress of Nurse Anesthetists Conference?***

*The conference in Australia was one I had been eyeing for a few years. I am so happy that I got to go! My biggest take away, was just how different other countries treat "nurse anesthetists or anesthesia related nurses," how they are educated, what they are allowed to do, and how their country governs them. It was such a great experience!*

***Where are you working currently and how long have you been there?***

*I currently work at Banner Boswell in a suburb just outside of Phoenix, Arizon. I have been here just a over a year now.*

***Do you have any memorable events/cases associated with anesthesia from school or during your career?***

*A memorable case for me was putting in my first central line outside of school while I was on call in the middle of the night. We are an independent practice, so it was up to me to get it done.*

***What would you say to current students when looking for a job?***

*Don't settle and don't be afraid! There are so many places to work that offer all sorts of variety and autonomy. Be picky and do what is best for you and your family!*

# New Anesthesia Babies

Our anesthesia family grows and changes with each issue!

Congratulations to each family and welcome babies!

***Avery Cole Hendricks*** was born on April 22. He is son of second year student, Jordan Hendricks.




***Jack Benjamin Layton*** was born on March 15. He is son of second year student, Joshua Layton.




***Luka Maximilian Kushnir*** was born on September 3. He is son of third year student, Ruvim Kushnir.



***Bear Daniel Browne*** was born on July 27. He is son of second year student, Stacey Browne.



# Student Feature

**Second year student, Krysnel Beharrie, received recognition for outstanding service and contribution to the Graduate Student Senate**

The Graduate Student Senate represents and advocates for the interests of the graduate students of MSU to the Dean of the Graduate College, the Graduate Council and any others within or outside the University making decisions or taking positions that affect graduate students.






## STUDENTS AND FACULTY ATTEND FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT CRNAs IN MISSOURI

**Second and third year students along with Anesthesia faculty member, Dr. Shawnee Glenn, attended a fundraiser to support Speaker of the House, Alex Riley (pictured Center). Riley provides vital legislative advocacy and statutory support for CRNAs in Missouri.**



# Important Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| Nov.21-29 | Thanksgiving Holiday |
| Dec. 11 | Fall Commencement |
| Dec. 21-Jan. 1 | Winter Break (No Classes/Offices Closed) |
| Jan. 17-23 | National CRNA Week |
| Jan. 26 | MoANA Advocacy Day at the Capitol |
| March 13-21 | Spring Break |
| May 6 | Award's Banquet |
| May 14 | Spring Commencement |

# Dates to Remember

Missouri State

SCHOOL of ANESTHESIA

www.missouristate.edu/anesthesia

## Stay Social

www.facebook.com/Schoolof Anesthesia/

Please send any stories, pictures, alumni updates, and special event information to Mary Kate Cherry, Assistant to the Director