

AIRWAYS



MIDDLE TENNESSEE SCHOOL OF ANESTHESIA

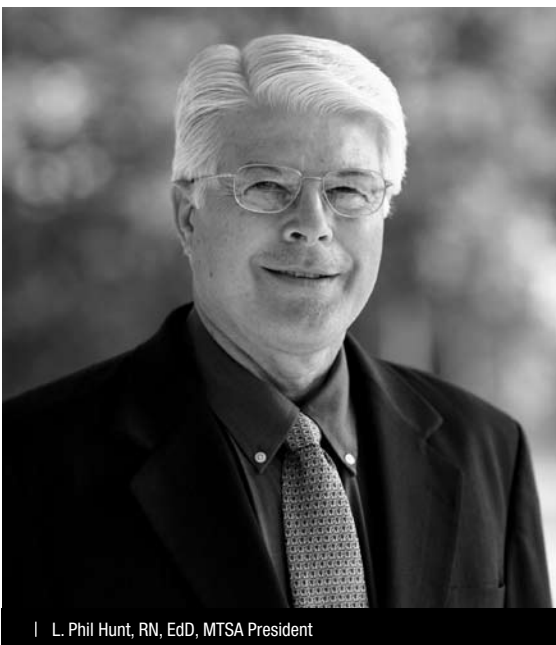
REFLECTING CHRIST IN ANESTHESIA EDUCATION

Hunt Retires After 35 Years of Leadership, Service

MTSA President L. Phil Hunt, RN, EdD will retire on May 13 following 35 years of nursing service and leadership in both healthcare and education. Hunt joined MTSA as President in May of 2005 after serving as Dean of the School of Nursing at Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tennessee where he also served as professor of nursing. The MTSA Board is currently involved in a search for a new president.

Under Dr. Hunt's leadership many important developments in the advancement of MTSA have occurred. He initiated and implemented a master expansion/development plan including the purchase of buildings A & B from Tennessee Christian Medical Center and the three acres on which they are located; and he led renovation and construction projects including the addition of the classroom/lecture hall, simulation skills center, and renovation of the two buildings. He too was very instrumental in the \$3.0 million goal "Building the Future" fundraising campaign to finance these additions and renovations. The campaign is currently at 68 percent and has raised more than \$2.0 million.

Hunt's influence has been felt in implementing formal policies and procedures including an updated Administrative Manual and a Board of Trustee's Handbook. His presence was also seen in the classroom where he enjoyed teaching his class – ANED 520 Education.



| L. Phil Hunt, RN, EdD, MTSA President

As a Christian gentleman, he constantly reminded those with whom he worked that "God is in control" and that "we may not know the final answer, but God does." He said that he is particularly honored to have seen the physical plant and facilities improved to better reflect the excellent educational program. "Now the buildings mirror what has been taking place academically, and I am very pleased about that." He too is pleased with the development of faculty and staff, with additions and educational achievements to reflect the progression of the school.

When asked what he is most disappointed about as he leaves MTSA, he reflected that he had hoped to see a successful completion of the "Building the Future Campaign", adding that "we can't control the economy."

Dr. Hunt said he had hopes of teaching the last few years of his career, "but God had other plans." He said his tenure at MTSA has been "growth producing," and that, "when you see the Lord leading – it's best to follow – and that's why I came to MTSA."

"Over Dr. Hunt's five-year tenure at MTSA, the school has experienced unprecedented success,"

Continued on Page 6



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

FAREWELL

This will serve as my farewell message to MTSA's alumni. It has been a privilege and honor to serve at MTSA over the past five years. God has richly blessed this institution over its 60-year history, and I believe He will allow MTSA to continue its rich tradition of excellence in Seventh-day Adventist Christian anesthesia education to its students and also its service to

“May God richly bless each of you in your individual work and service in the communities...”

communities of interest. I solicit your constant prayers and support for

MTSA's board, administration, faculty and staff as they continue in their individual and collective efforts on behalf of MTSA. It has been rewarding to meet many of you during the past five years, and trust that you will remain in contact with MTSA and support its future endeavors as distance education and the doctoral program are soon to be implemented.

May God richly bless each of you in your individual work and service in the communities where you work and reside.

Yours in His service,

L. Phil Hunt, EdD
President

Alumni President's Message

At a time in our country and in our world when everything seems to be in turmoil and uncertain, I wanted to just write a few lines of encouragement for all of our Alumni and anyone else that by chance might read this issue of *Airways*.

The new healthcare reform law with the slash in Medicare reimbursement, the dwindling 401 K's, the uncertainty of the economy, and rising taxes just to name a few, can leave you discouraged if you let it. That's right, if you let it. One's attitude determines one's altitude. Your attitude will give you the lift to fly above all the ruffraff or your attitude will cause you to go into a stall and plummet or spiral down and crash. If you want to soar with the eagles, you've got to quit pecking around with the chickens.

Someone once said, "If we change the way we look at things, the things we look at will change." Do you believe that? I do. There are two ways in which many people become discouraged: 1. They look back over their life with regret for everything from who they married or didn't marry, to why they are having to work longer before they can retire, and 2; we look forward with fear to what seems to await us in the future. Either one of these prism looks will bring discouragement. I heard someone say the other day, "Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday." Isn't that great? You can't change yesterday, so be careful how you live today. You've got to get up on the inside. What do I mean with that statement? What you have in the bank, how successful your children are, how big your 401 K is, or whether you have a high paying job should not affect you on the inside. Abraham Lincoln said, "You are as happy as you make up your mind to be." I like that. So getting up on the inside means no matter what circumstances are surrounding you on the outside, you have already chosen a mindset of positive thinking and happiness.

Getting up on the outside means if everything is going well with you, you're happy, but if not, you're down. Do you work with someone like that? No, you don't need medication for that, you need to change your mindset and discipline your mind to be positive.

Today is the present or a present. That's where I choose to live. It's a gift. If you wake up and have a pulse, you have a purpose. So, pursue it. Oh, don't misunderstand me. I like to look back at the good times I have had. I like to dream of better times, but my focus is on today, not yesterday, and I have not been given tomorrow.

I can't change yesterday, but I can change tomorrow by the decisions I make today. Henry Ford once said "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right."

Hampton Bisalski ('85/'95) CRNA, MS, APN
President MTSA Alumni Association



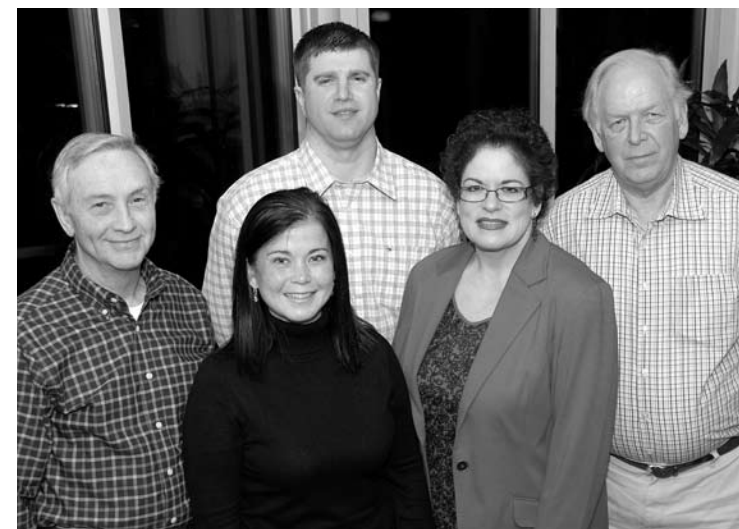
REGIONAL ALUMNI DINNERS EXPERIENCE GROWTH

Several regional alumni dinners have been held throughout the area this year, says Jim Closser, MTSA Vice President for Advancement & Alumni. Since the first of the year, dinners have been held in Chattanooga, Lebanon, Franklin, Hendersonville, and Jackson, Tennessee. Other dinners have been held in Bowling Green, Kentucky and Tupelo, Mississippi. A total of more than 100 MTSA alumni have participated in the regional dinners, says Closser.

(Please see other Regional Alumni Dinner pictures in this *Airways* issue).



Chattanooga, Tennessee MTSA regional alumni dinner held February, 18, 2010 was attended by: (front row l to r) MTSA Vice President/Dean/Program Administrator Ikey DeVasher ('69/'94) CRNA, PhD, APN; Alescia L DeVasher Bethea ('95) CRNA, MS, PhD(c), APN; Cheryl Bailey ('03) CRNA, MS, APN; Hampton Bisalski ('85/'95) CRNA, MS, APN; Steve Morris ('74) CRNA; Polly Justice ('56) CRNA; Jim Shilling ('68) CRNA; Jim Foote ('75) CRNA; and Paul Yi ('08) CRNA, MS, APN. (back row l to r) Martin Young ('82) CRNA; John Spruill ('71) CRNA; Winford Tate ('66) CRNA; Ben Couillard ('56) CRNA; and Liz Brown ('07) CRNA, MS, APN.



Lebanon, Tennessee MTSA regional alumni dinner held March 10, 2010 was attended by: (l to r) Sam Oldham ('72) CRNA; Nina Porter ('98) CRNA, MS, APN; Aaron Elmore ('08) CRNA, MS, APN; Nikki Wallace ('98) CRNA, MS, APN; and Joe Williamson ('80) CRNA.



Bowling Green, Kentucky MTSA regional alumni dinner held March 4, 2010 was attended by: (l to r) Charles Bean ('73) CRNA; Scott Weickel ('04) CRNA, MS, APN; Stacie Weickel ('09) CRNA, MS, APN; and Christian Kranz ('08) CRNA, MS, APN.

News Notes...

• Approval of Professional Nursing Programs

The Tennessee Board of Nursing met on February 18, 2010 and reviewed the approval status of all professional nursing programs within the state. In a letter dated March 31, 2010, Elizabeth Lund, RN, Executive Director of the Tennessee Board of Nursing states that "this is to confirm that the Masters Program at Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia is fully approved by the Tennessee Board of Nursing." The letter further stated that "full approval is granted a school that has met the requirements that are set forth by the Board and has demonstrated its ability to provide an educational program which meets the Board's standards." [Rules and Regulations 1000-1-05(4)(b)]. Renewal of approval is granted annually based on survey visits, correspondence, conferences and the annual report.

• Ikey Featured in the Nashville Business Journal

MTSA Vice President/Dean/Program Administrator Mary E. "Ikey" DeVasher, ('69/'94) CRNA, PhD, APN was featured in the *Nashville Business Journal*, a weekly subscriber tabloid specifically targeted at the Middle Tennessee business sector. The February 26, 2010 edition featured "A Conversation with Mary DeVasher, Dean of the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia." The preface paragraph introducing the "conversation" says: "Mary 'Ikey' DeVasher is dean and vice president of the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, a post she has held since



MTSA Vice President/Dean/Program Administrator Mary "Ikey" DeVasher featured in the *Nashville Business Journal*. Photo Credit: James Yates, *Nashville Business Journal*

1993. She has been with the school, however, for more than four decades, helping to lead the institution from a one-room teaching facility in 1969 to one of the largest accredited schools of nurse anesthesia education in the country."

• MTSA Hosting Continuing Education Services

MTSA was host to a continuing education session on Sunday, May 7 featuring ultrasound to locate and identify needle placement for various nerve blocks. The meeting featured the Sonosite brand. Several CRNAs participated in the afternoon workshop held in the MTSA lecture hall.

• MTSA Employee Featured Twice in Newsprint

Featured twice in newsprint within the last few weeks was MTSA Alumni Committee President and MTSA Trustee

Hampton Bisalski ('85/'95), CRNA, MS, APN. One story ran on the front page of the *Herald-Citizen* (Cookeville, TN) on March 21, 2010. The story was titled: "Sparta Nurse Anesthetist Helps Quake Victims." A similar story ran in the Saturday, March 13, 2010 edition of the *Chattanooga Times-Free Press* and was titled: "Rains Portend More Misery in Haiti, [One] Local RN Worries." Both articles were based on the cover story published in the MTSA *Airways* which Bisalski had written for the School's newsletter.



Hendersonville, Tennessee MTSA regional alumni dinner held April 27, 2010 was attended by: (l to r) Randy Grooms ('76) CRNA; Rhonda Pursley ('07) CRNA, MS, APN; Deborah Weatherspoon ('82) CRNA, MSN, MS, APN; Arlene Cooper ('78) CRNA; Sandra Conner ('83) CRNA; and Les Andrus ('03) CRNA, MS, APN.

• Alumni Committee Updates

The MTSA alumni committee voted at its last meeting to confirm Ken Hutchinson ('79) CRNA as its President-elect. Ken and his wife Sheree live in Jackson, Tennessee where he has worked for many years. In other alumni committee news, the committee voted to change the working year from a fiscal year (June 1 - May 31) to a calendar year (Jan 1 - December 31). This change provides for an even match for the year on which the MTSA board functions. This will better facilitate the concurrent appointment of alumni committee terms on the board of trustees.

• MTSA finance committee recommendations

The MTSA board of trustees voted at the last board meeting to approve two recommendations of the School's finance committee. The fiscal year will be changed from August 1 - July 31 to July 1 - June 30 to reflect the generally accepted fiscal year ending the second quarter of the year. The board



MTSA hosted a Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetist Continuing Education Session on March 7, 2010 featuring ultrasound to locate and identify needle placement for various nerve blocks. Pictured above is a Sonosite representative giving direction to MTSA alumnus Adrienne Kelley ('05) CRNA, MS, APN.

also approved the 2010-2011 budget as presented. There will be a 4.9 percent overall total increase in tuition and fees over the previous year, according to Sam Minten, Director of Operations. Last fiscal year saw a 6.25 percent increase.

• New eNewsletter being sent out by MTSA

A new eNewsletter has been initiated by MTSA and is planned to be distributed periodically to those individuals on the School's database. The first issue was sent in late March. If you did not receive it and would like to be added to the email list, simply email alumni@mtsa.edu with your email address indicating your interest in being added to the eNewsletter mailing.

• Comprehensive Certifying Examination Review and Update Course

Valley Anesthesia Educational Programs provided "A Comprehensive Certifying Examination Review and Update Course" for MTSA SRNAs from April 11 - April 14 in the MTSA lecture hall. This comprehensive review course covers many areas of anesthesia including, but not limited to: regional anesthesia, monitors/airway, OB anesthesia, sensory pathways, pediatrics, chemistry & physics, cardiovascular, IHHS/valves, hemostasis, test-taking,



Franklin, Tennessee MTSA regional alumni dinner held April 19, 2010 was attended by: (l to r) Jeff Harmon ('94) CRNA, MS, APN; Elizabeth Foster ('80) CRNA; and Todd Holt ('94) CRNA, MS, APN.

respiratory, inhalationals, gas machines, renal A&P, pharmacokinetics, acids/bases - pKa, local anesthetics, geriatric anesthesia, and electrolytes. MTSA provides this training annually for its students. Alumni are welcomed to participate, but must make and confirm registration. According to Valley Anesthesia "the review program is intended to call to the attention of the SRNA/GRNA concepts and facts that may help her or him prepare for the National Certification Examination." Instructors Timothy R. Sauvage, CRNA, MS and Scott S. Schaus, BS are the instructors.

• MTSA Faculty Member Featured in Vanderbilt Nurse

MTSA faculty member Michael Vollman, PhD, RN was featured in *Vanderbilt Nurse*, Vanderbilt University's School of Nursing bi-annual magazine, for his "research [at Vanderbilt] in examining the impact of depression in patients with heart disease, and especially those diagnosed with heart failure." Vollman says, "Our research participants are absolutely amazing. More often than not, they tell me they want to help so the next generation of patients with heart failure will have better treatments and a better life." Dr. Vollman teaches *Foundations of Evidence-Based Nurse Anesthesia Practice I & II* at MTSA where he has taught since 2005.

• Nena F. Sanders DNP Scholarship Awarded

The "Nena F. Sanders DNP Scholarship" award was presented to MTSA Assistant Program Administrator Chris Hulin ('06) CRNA, MSN, MBA, MS, APN at a ceremony at

Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. This is the first year the award has been given. Hulin is a DNP candidate and will conclude his doctorate in May, 2010. The Scholarship award recognizes "Leadership, Scholarship, and Christian Service." It was presented by Sharron Schlosser, PhD, RN.

said Steven L. Dickerson, MD, Chairman of the MTSA Board of Trustees. "While there are many metrics to judge success, none is more important than the exemplary quality of the educational experience MTSA has provided during Dr. Hunt's time here. The board appreciates Phil's efforts on behalf of the school, and wishes him the best of luck as he starts a new and exciting chapter in his life."

Dr. Hunt is a graduate of Pacific Union College with an Associate Degree in Nursing, and Southern Adventist University with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. He graduated from Teachers College at Columbia University, New York City in 1976 with a Masters of Education with an emphasis in Adult Health, and in 1988 he earned his Doctorate in Education with an emphasis in Curriculum & Instruction in Higher Education Cognate - Nursing from Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Additional work experience includes positions at Southwestern Adventist University, Keene, Texas where he was an Associate Professor of Nursing; he worked as a staff ER and ICU nurse at Huguley Memorial Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas; and he worked as Vice President of Nursing at Washington Adventist Hospital, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Hunt's love for mission service is well documented and evidenced by his many stations of duty. Some of his work background includes: Director of School of Health Occupations in Taipei, Taiwan; Consultant for Mission College, Muak Lek, Thailand; consulting work at Penang Adventist Hospital, College of Nursing, Penang, Malaysia; and Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital in Hangzhou, China.

Following his retirement, Dr. Hunt and his wife Connie will be moving to Thailand for one or two years where two of their daughters and families currently serve as missionaries. He has plans to be a consultant for Penang Adventist Hospital College of Nursing where they plan to develop a School of Allied Health, and he too will consult with Asia Pacific International University (formerly Mission College). "So many countries have done with much less than we have here in the states," said Hunt. "As a consultant, it is so gratifying to see the results of the input given and what a suggestion here or there can make for the direction of the institution."

MTSA Vice President/Dean/Program Administrator Ikey DeVasher ('69/'94) CRNA, PhD, APN said, "I've been fully aware of God's leading in sending Dr. Hunt to be President of MTSA. He has brought beauty to our campus,

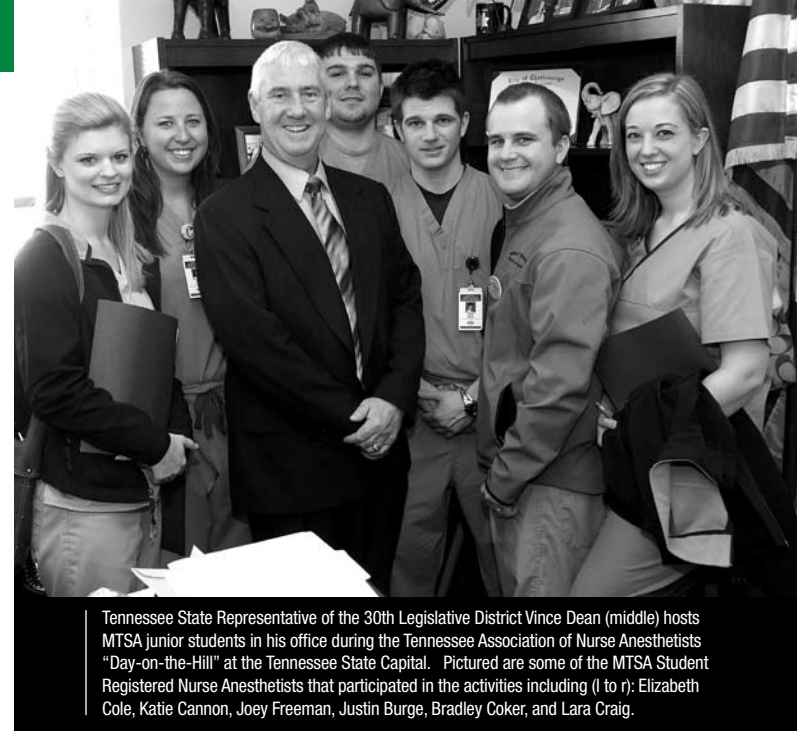
peace to our work-place, leadership for the accreditation process, and a vision for the future, all while staying true to our mission." She continued saying, "I thank Dr. Hunt for listening to the voice of God directing him to MTSA, will miss his Godly advice and influence, and pray that God not only lead him in the next phase of his life - but will also provide MTSA someone who is equally as dedicated to the full mission of this School as he has been."

No article on Dr. Hunt would be complete without mentioning his love of outdoors and his hobby of wood-working and craftsmanship. He has handmade 39 guitars, two mandolins, two banjos, one lute, one dulcimer, and many other beautiful wooden items. He hand-crafted a wooden, stylized keepsake for each MTSA employee as a Christmas gift just a few months ago.

"It has been a privilege and honor to work at a school that has such a high standard of Seventh-day Adventist Christian education," said Hunt. "I challenge those who continue to lead MTSA to maintain this standard and focus as they prepare students to graduate and become excellent anesthesia providers."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 2 Comprehensive Exam
- May 3 Alumni Committee
- May 10 Alumni Regional Dinner
Cookeville, Tennessee
- May 10-11 Student Research Presentations
- May 16-18 Laerdal Simulation Workshop,
Nashville, Tennessee
- May 17 Orientation Day
for Class of 2010-2012
- May 18 CNM Conference, Belmont University
- May 20 Advancement Committee
- June 7 Alumni Committee
- June 8 Faculty Committee (Academic & Clinical)
- June 15 Progressions Committee
- June 17 Advancement Committee
- July 12 Board of Trustees Meeting
- July 20 New Class Begins
for Class of 2010-2010
- July 25-28 SACS COC Summer Institute,
Tampa, Florida
- August 4-7 ASI Convention, Orlando, Florida



Tennessee State Representative of the 30th Legislative District Vince Dean (middle) hosts MTSA junior students in his office during the Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists "Day-on-the-Hill" at the Tennessee State Capital. Pictured are some of the MTSA Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists that participated in the activities including (l to r): Elizabeth Cole, Katie Cannon, Joey Freeman, Justin Burge, Bradley Coker, and Lara Craig.

TANA Day-on-the-Hill

MTSA students were very active at the recent Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TANA) "Day-on-the-Hill." More than 25 junior students took part in visiting Tennessee legislators, representing CRNA as a profession, handing-out brochures and give-aways at the MTSA booth, and more.

The annual event is held at the Legislative Plaza adjacent to the State capital. This year's legislative session held a high degree of interest to CRNAs due to fact that HB 3580 and SB 3332 were introduced that would likely have effect on APNs and CRNAs.

"We were notified [recently] that HB 3580 has been taken off notice by the sponsor in the House and as you know SB3332 was put into the general subcommittee by the sponsor in the Senate. This means that this issue is over for this session," according to Lisa Bowler, TANA Executive Director. "As to where we go from here remains to be seen. The TANA Board will need to continue to talk about this issue." She continued saying that, "We talked about regulations of these clinics, and there was support by legislators for this. TANA will need to work with other groups if this approach is taken and be at the table when decisions are being made. Our members did a great job of communicating our position on these bills."



Visit us online at www.mtsa.edu.

Versafund \$25,000 Grant Supports Campaign

A \$25,000 grant from Versafund, a Corona, California based foundation, brings the total support of the *Building the Future Campaign* to \$2,053,730 which is 68.45 percent of the \$3.0 million goal, said MTSA Vice President for Advancement & Alumni Jim Closser, CFRE. A total of \$837,350 has been contributed by foundations and corporations.

According to its website, Versafund historically gives preference to applications from independent tax-exempt ministries who are actively involved in supporting the principles and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Versafund was established in 1989 when its predecessor parent company Versacare sold two of its flagship hospitals, Hialeah Hospital (Florida), and Corona Regional Medical Center (California).

It further states that "it is the purpose of Versacare to serve humanity by engaging in activities that will further the kingdom of God and restore the 'Image of God' in man. Based on Biblical principles, we understand the 'Image of God' to include human health, fulfillment, and the search for knowledge."

Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia Is offering 23 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS FREE!!! To all MTSA Alumni, Academic Instructors, and Clinical Instructors

(A nominal \$10 fee per credit hour will be charged to CRNA's who do not meet the above categories.)

Session V (4 Credits)

May 23, 2010 • 1:00 p.m.–5:10p.m.

Pharmacokinetics
Weak Acids/Bases & pKa
Local Anesthetics
Geriatric Anesthesia
Electrolytes

**If you would like to attend all or part of the workshop, please call and sign up.
Email: linda@mtsa.edu or call (615) 732-7668**

This program has been approved by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Code Number 32349; Expiration Date 5/23/2010.



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Let's Go Cruising!

Plan now to join fellow MTSA Alumni and CRNAs from across the country in the inaugural MTSA sponsored CEC Cruise planned for the summer of 2011. The Royal Caribbean "Allure of the Sea" ship will leave June 12, 2011 from Ft. Lauderdale for 7-days with stops in Nassau, Bahamas; St. Thomas, and St. Maarten. The "Allure of the Sea" is the brand new "Oasis" class ship that will be put into service in 2011.

Plans are underway now to have 20 approved continuing education credits available for offering in the Conference Center onboard ship. All sessions will occur while at sea. No education sessions will occur while in port, which means you will have all the time available for on-shore tours, excursions, shopping, swimming, diving, and more!

We are currently working on presenters and topics. Pricing will be very competitive with special early-bird and alumni discounts. Mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss this exciting educational opportunity. Watch your mailbox, email, and *Airways* for all of the details.

A PIECE OF HISTORY

These three men proudly display diplomas following the 1977 graduation ceremony. Pictured (l to r) are: Reuben Fernandez, CRNA; Charles Dinwiddie, CRNA; and Frankie Eubanks, CRNA. On another note, the CRNA in the photo published in the last issue of *Airways* "A Piece of History" has yet to be identified. Therefore, there is no winner of the MTSA blanket at this time. Submissions are still welcomed.

