

# AIRWAYS



MIDDLE TENNESSEE SCHOOL OF ANESTHESIA

REFLECTING CHRIST IN ANESTHESIA EDUCATION



MTSA Alumni Barbara Eller ('58) CRNA and Polly Justice ('56) CRNA enjoy dinner together at Abuelo's Mexican Restaurant when they attended the Chattanooga regional area alumni dinner.

## Alumni Weekend 2009

May 3-4, Honor Classes, CECs, Bowen Society Reception, Dinner, Golf

"Mark your calendars for Sunday and Monday, May 3 - 4, 2009 for MTSA's Sixth Annual Alumni Weekend," announced Alumni Association President Mike Morel ('80) CRNA, MS, APN.

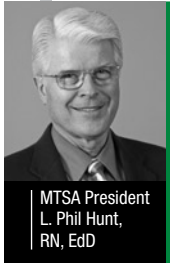
"We again are holding the festivities in a consolidated two days rather than three," Morel continued. "There are four main events planned including **Continuing Education Credits, Bernard V. Bowen Society Reception, Alumni Dinner, and the MTSA Golf Classic** sponsored by PBG Builders, Inc.

In addition we plan to highlight our honor classes going back by decades including years 1999, 1989, 1979, 1969 and 1959."

### OPEN HOUSE • SUNDAY, MAY 3

An Open House of the new facilities will be held Sunday afternoon. The doors will open at 1 p.m. Come see the Simulation Skills Center, Lecture Hall, Seminar Rooms, Learning Resource Center, and more.

[Continued on Page 3](#)



# FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

## CONFIDENCE

*"I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how he could look up into the heavens and say there is no God."*

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), the 16th President of our United States, never enjoyed the opportunity of observing our planet from space or even from an airplane to observe the beauty on our earth. Yet he could make the statement above, with confidence, that there is a God who governs the affairs of the universe. Much has happened in this world since Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865 and I contemplate what Lincoln might say with confidence if he were alive today.

Can you and I make the following statements with confidence today?

- *My life exemplifies a commitment to selfless and honorable service to mankind?*
- *My community benefits positively from my presence and contribution?*
- *My church involvement manifests a commitment to God and mankind?*
- *My school is more dynamic and successful because of my involvement?*

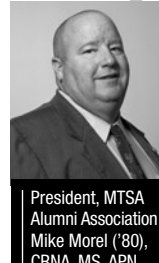
Let's allow our confidence in God and ourselves to translate into actions that promote constructive personal, church, community, and School outcomes.

Yours in His Service,

L. Phil Hunt, EdD  
President

## Alumni President's Message

Spring is coming around soon. How do I know this while sitting here and the thermometer reads 24 degrees? Well it was 72 degrees yesterday, my crocus flowers are blooming and my buttercups and tulips have broken ground. Also, as the Federal Political Director for the TANA (Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists), I have been busy setting up our April visits for our TANA members in Washington, D.C. I recently received a notice from the TANA for our Day-on-the-Hill in Nashville. Baseball talk is in the news too. I have also been able to ride my Harley for a few days, though not today. These activities always assure me that spring is just around the corner.



President, MTSA Alumni Association  
Mike Morel ('80),  
CRNA, MS, APN

Spring brings MTSA alumni activities to be held May 3-4, 2009. This year we will have CECs, the second annual *Bernard V. Bowen Society* reception, the annual alumni dinner, and finally the MTSA Golf Classic sponsored by PBG Builders, Inc. I encourage you to take a few days off, reacquaint yourself with an old classmate, or meet another CRNA and MTSA graduate. Come make some new friends!

The Alumni Association has started a mentoring program for present and future students. I am now personally mentoring students. Two that are in classes now, and three that will be starting in July, 2009. I don't help with class work. That is a little beyond my scope. I do help with life aspects as a CRNA after school. I have helped with resumes and career interviews. I also send these students things that I find that can affect their practice. I want to instill in them that they must take an active role in protecting their careers. If you would like to become a mentor, please let the school know. It does not take much time. Many of you have experience that can be of value to these students.

MTSA is to be congratulated for incorporating into its curriculum the political aspects of an anesthesia career through its involvement and participation in TANA. I would like to mention that my participation as a CRNA with the MTSA Board of Trustees has been most rewarding also.

Well, I really don't like to mention money, but I did write about the buck-a-day program I instituted for myself to systematically contribute to the school. Well, my gift will be going out soon, after squirreling it away all winter. I hope each of you will do the same (you can use the envelope attached in this issue of *Airways*).

Continued on Page 5



Visit us online at [www.mtsa.edu](http://www.mtsa.edu).



*Bernard V. Bowen Society* members will again attend a reception honoring their participation and membership in this special group of MTSA supporters. (l to r) Fairra Roddy ('75/'96) is pictured with MTSA Founder Bernard V. Bowen, CRNA, PhD(c) following the *Bowen Society* reception. Individuals and corporations that are *Bowen Society* members will be invited to attend the annual recognition reception as part of MTSA's alumni weekend activities. This year's *Bowen Society* reception will be held May 3, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

## Alumni Weekend • Continued from Page 1

### CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS SUNDAY, MAY 3

FREE Continuing Education Credits will be available on Sunday, May 3, 2009. CEC's will be offered from 1 – 5:30 p.m. in the MTSA Lecture Hall. More information on topics will be coming soon.

### BERNARD V. BOWEN SOCIETY RECEPTION • SUNDAY, MAY 3

A special invitation-only reception for *Bernard V. Bowen Society* members will be held beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 3. This special recognition reception will honor the *Bernard V. Bowen Society* members and their participation.

### ALUMNI DINNER SUNDAY, MAY 3

The Annual Alumni Dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Madison Campus Seventh-day Adventist Church (adjacent to MTSA). New MTSA Alumni Officers will be elected and recognition of honor classes will take place – not to mention a wonderful dinner and entertainment.

### SIXTH ANNUAL MTSA GOLF CLASSIC PRESENTED BY PBG BUILDERS, INC. MONDAY, MAY 4

The Sixth Annual Golf Classic presented by PBG Builders, Inc. will be held Monday, May 4, 2009.

Registration will be open beginning at 11 a.m., lunch will be served beginning at Noon, and the tournament begins with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Hermitage Golf Course President's Reserve. Several sponsorships ranging from \$1,500 –\$3,000 are available. We are now actively seeking hole sponsors and foursomes for the event. We are confident that we will completely sell-out the event this year (36 teams). So, get your application in early to be sure your team slot is reserved. See information in this issue of *Airways*.

## HONOR CLASSES

We too will be recognizing our decade honor classes including the graduating classes of '99, '89, '79, '69, and '59.

Watch your mailbox. If you are a member of one of these classes, a special invitation is coming to you.

## VOTE! NEW MTSA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

A slate of the proposed 2009–2010 MTSA Alumni Association Officers will be officially voted at the

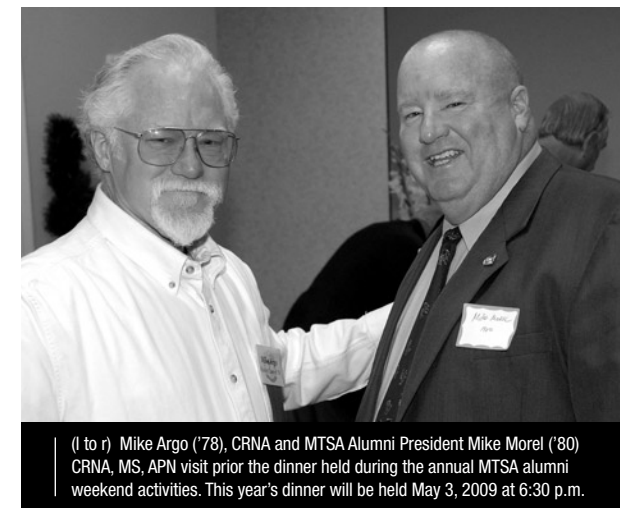
“Annual Dinner” to be held Sunday, May 3 at 6:30 p.m. Nominees presented at the dinner will be based on ballots received by the May 1, 2009 deadline. You will receive your ballot in the mail.

## PLAN TO JOIN US

Thank you for your support and commitment of MTSA. Please RSVP for the Dinner,

*Bernard V. Bowen Society* Reception, and CECs by email at [alumni@mtsa.edu](mailto:alumni@mtsa.edu), or by calling Rita at (615) 732-7671. You and a guest are invited to the dinner. I look forward to seeing you at the festivities.

Great things are happening at your school and we look forward to seeing you back on campus May 3–4 for all the events.



(l to r) Mike Argo ('78), CRNA and MTSA Alumni President Mike Morel ('80) CRNA, MS, APN visit prior the dinner held during the annual MTSA alumni weekend activities. This year's dinner will be held May 3, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

# News Notes...

## • CECs Offered as Service by MTSA

CEC educational offerings regularly provided by MTSA give free CECs for alumni (\$10 per credit hour to non-alumni) beginning January – May each year, reports MTSA Academic Schedule Coordinator Carol Stinson.

During the last five years, MTSA awarded 1,756 CEC credit hours to 312 CRNA participants – most of which are MTSA alumni. CECs were offered featuring a broad range of topics and presenters. “We are pleased to offer the CECs at no cost as a service to our alumni,” said Stinson.

A quick review of CEC programs offered throughout the United States revealed that the typical average cost for CEC tuition is approximately \$44 per hour. At that rate, MTSA provided approximately \$77,264 of CECs to primarily the school’s alumni, in addition to other area CRNAs.

## • MTSA Students to Participate in TANA Day-on-the-Hill

MTSA students will again be represented at the Tennessee State Legislature as participants in the annual Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TANA) Day-on-the-Hill activities to be held March 18, 2009. TANA coordinates these annual activities to create awareness and lobby issues as it relates to nurse anesthesia within the state of Tennessee. MTSA alumnus Patty Cornwell ('76) CRNA, MS, APN is the official lobbyist for TANA.



An MTSA regional alumni dinner was held in Chattanooga at Abuelo's Mexican Restaurant on February 19. Following dinner MTSA Vice President for Advancement & Alumni Jim Closser shared an update regarding the school and answered questions from the group. MTSA alumni attending include the following CRNAs: Back row (l to r): Vernon Sinclair ('73), Brad Keller ('98), John Spruill ('71), and Russ Cwodzinski ('07). Front row (l to r): Oscar Lewis ('04), Barbara Eller ('58), Polly Justice ('56), Jim Shilling ('68), Steve Morris ('74), Elizabeth Brown ('07), and Paul Yi ('08).

## • Building the Future Campaign Update

The *Building the Future Campaign* continues to move forward with \$1,980,126.22 as the total raised (cash and pledges), reports Jim Closser, MTSA Vice President for Advancement & Alumni. “You will be interested to know that the MTSA family of Board, Advancement Committee, Staff and Faculty have contributed \$53,585; Anesthesia Physician/CRNA groups – \$561,080; Foundations/Corporations – \$809,230; and Community Individuals – \$74,889.

“The MTSA Alumni as a group pledged \$200,000. Of this total pledged amount, \$186,575 has been paid in cash, which only leaves \$13,424 remaining to totally satisfy this commitment,” said Closser. “You can join the group of contributing friends by returning your pledge or cash gift in the attached envelope found in this issue of *Airways*.”

## • COC-SACS On-site Visit Confirmed

“The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (COC-SACS) accrediting association will be at MTSA March 10 – 12, 2009 to perform the ‘on-site’ visit,” reports MTSA President Phil Hunt, EdD. He noted this will be the second time MTSA is to be reviewed and accredited by SACS-COC.

Hunt says many long hours of work and preparation went into the documents which were submitted to SACS prior to the scheduled on-site visit. There will be a total of 11 reviewers on the MTSA campus to perform the review and reaffirmation of accreditation visit.

MTSA is currently accredited by three organizations including: Tennessee Board of Nursing, Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, and Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

## • MTSA Co-sponsors Alumni Dinner at Aspen Anesthesia Seminar

An informal MTSA alumni dinner held during the *Aspen Anesthesia Seminar '09* at Snowmass Village, Colorado was attended by 11 MTSA graduates, in addition to others affiliated with the school including current and former faculty, clinical instructors, and site coordinators on Wednesday, February 4, 2009. The dinner was co-sponsored by MTSA and *Aspen Anesthesia Seminar*. More than 45 attended the evening festivities including 15 children of the attendees. The menu for the evening included pizza, a gourmet salad, pies, cookies, and sodas.



Following MTSA's participation in the Tennessee Tech University Health Career Fair on February 26, an MTSA regional alumni dinner was held at the Cookeville Olive Garden Restaurant. Following dinner MTSA Vice President for Advancement & Alumni Jim Closser shared an update regarding the school and answered questions from the group. MTSA alumni attending include the following CRNAs: Back row (l to r) Brandon Hardison ('06), Don Taylor ('94), Mike Stovall ('03), Jason Levey ('99), Hampton Bisalski ('85/'95), Wayne Winfree ('87/'94), Kevin Crawford ('83/'95); Front row (l to r) Tammy Kellogg ('03), David Frost ('00), Arnold Agbunag ('97), Jed Delk ('08), and Chris Will ('03).

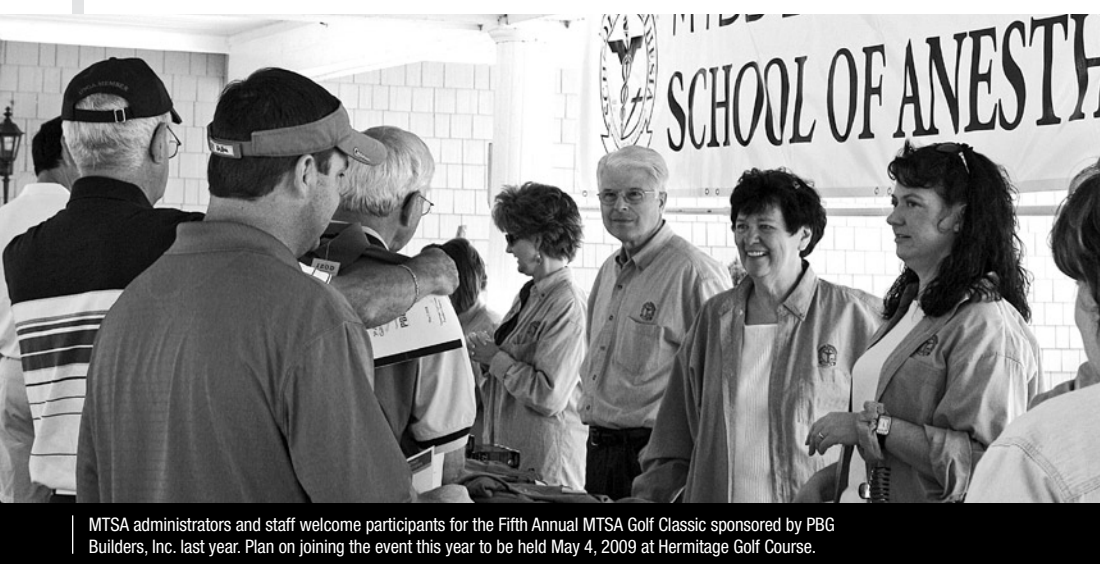
Former MTSA President William O.T. Smith, MD and his wife Bonnie have conducted the *Aspen Anesthesia Seminar* for 29 years. More than 250 attended the meetings with approximately 20 percent of the registrants CRNAs. Dr. and Mrs. Smith also have a long running seminar in Cancun. This year's Cancun seminar is scheduled for March 28 through April 4, but is sold out! New for 2009 is *Scottsdale Anesthesia*, which will be held November 1 - 5, 2009 at the historic Camelback Inn & Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona – a perfect time of year for golf in Arizona! MTSA Alumni are welcome. For more information visit [www.holidayseminars.com](http://www.holidayseminars.com).

## Alumni President's Message

Continued from Page 2

This will be my last message as President of the Alumni Association. I want to thank all of you, in addition to the Alumni Committee, Jim Closser, and all MTSA staff for their help and participation. It has been a very rewarding and humbling experience to serve in another capacity for my school, that not only accepted me, but gave me the tools to become the professional I am today. I thank our Lord every day. God Bless.

Mike Morel ('80), CRNA, MS, APN  
President, MTSA Alumni Association  
[mmorel1047@charter.net](mailto:mmorel1047@charter.net) • cell phone: (731) 431-2411



MTSA administrators and staff welcome participants for the Fifth Annual MTSA Golf Classic sponsored by PBG Builders, Inc. last year. Plan on joining the event this year to be held May 4, 2009 at Hermitage Golf Course.

MTSA will have a booth and the school display setup in the halls of the legislature. Several MTSA alumni have joined in the lobbying efforts the past few years. If you are a CRNA and would like to be part of the activities, call Jim Closser, MTSA Vice President for Advancement & Alumni at (615) 732-7674, or email [jclosser@mtsa.edu](mailto:jclosser@mtsa.edu).



MTSA co-sponsored an MTSA alumni dinner at the *Aspen Anesthesia '09 Seminar* February 4, 2009. MTSA CRNAs attending include: back row (l to r), Rich Maynard ('98), David & Julie Murphy (both '00), Charles Hanson ('99), Jeffrey Ford ('05), Dina Velocci ('04), John Shields ('85/'05), and Todd Rushing ('00). Front row (l to r), Former MTSA President William O. T. Smith, M.D., Brittany Byrd ('07), and Amanda Stahly ('07). Melanie Francis ('04) attended the seminar but is not pictured. Others attending, but not pictured include Michael Pilla, M.D., part-time MTSA faculty, and Andrew Boskind, MD, former MTSA Board member, as well as other attending physicians from Vanderbilt.



# SPONSORSHIPS FOR MTSA GOLF CLASSIC

PRESENTED BY



## MAY 4, 2009

PLEASE CHECK THE CATEGORY YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Carts - \$1,500        | <input type="checkbox"/> Hole-in-One Contest - \$1,500        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drinks and Snacks - \$2,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Closest to the Pin Contest - \$1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box Lunches - \$2,000       | <input type="checkbox"/> Longest Drive Contest - \$1,500      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driving Range - \$2,000     | <input type="checkbox"/> Evening Meal - \$3,000               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skill Prizes - \$1,500      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tournament Prizes - \$2,500          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Putting Contest - \$1,500   | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Sponsors - \$2,500              |

**BENEFITS FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE SPECIAL SPONSORSHIPS INCLUDE A FOURSOME, YOUR COMPANY NAME ON A HIGHLY VISIBLE SIGN, AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY YOUR WARES AT A BOOTH OR TABLE NEAR THE CLUB HOUSE.**

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any further questions, please contact:  
Jim Closser at (615) 732-7674 or email at [jclosser@mtsa.edu](mailto:jclosser@mtsa.edu)

Please send payment no later than April 16th to:  
MTSA, P.O. Box 417, Madison, TN 37116, Attn: MTSA Golf Classic

# MTSA'S 6TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

-Presented by PBG Builders, Inc.

You are cordially invited to participate in the **Sixth Annual Golf Classic presented by PBG Builders, Inc.** The event will benefit the renovation and master plan of the school, and other additions to our state-of-the-art facility. This event will also provide the opportunity for alumni to see former faculty and classmates during MTSA's annual alumni weekend activities. The 2009 tournament will be held at the Hermitage Golf Course President's Reserve. Lunch and dinner will be provided.

### SCHEDULE:

- Registration Opens ..... 10:30 a.m.
- Lunch ..... Noon
- Shotgun Start ..... 1:00 p.m.
- Awards & Dinner ..... To follow event

### PLACE:

Hermitage Golf Course, President's Reserve

### WHEN:

Monday, May 4, 2009, 1:00 p.m. shotgun start

### FORMAT:

4-person scramble

### COST:

- \$150.00 per player
- \$600.00 per foursome
- \$750.00 per hole sponsor and foursome

(Entry fee includes green fees, cart, lunch, awards, door prizes and dinner)

### PRIZES:

1st, 2nd and 3rd to be awarded in three flights (\$150, \$100 & \$50 respectively)

Two mulligans and one shot in the putting contest will be available for purchase at the registration table for \$20.00. (MasterCard & Visa will be accepted)

Additional Sponsorships available include:

- Registration
- Refreshment Carts
- Golf Carts
- Lunch
- Dinner
- Driving Range
- Putting Contest
- Longest Drive Contest
- Tournament Prizes
- Closest-to-the-Pin Contest

**Registration and payment are due By April 16, 2009. Make checks payable to MTSA.**

To reserve your team or sponsorship, please contact Jim Closser at (615) 732-7674 or email [alumni@mtsa.edu](mailto:alumni@mtsa.edu)

# STUDENT MENTORING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

-An Appeal from Jack Edmondson ('79/'96), CRNA, MS, APN

As your immediate alumni past president I want to tell each of you about an alumni service that started last year. It is the Alumni Student Mentoring program. This program is a success with several students taking advantage of this free service provided by your MTSA Alumni Association.

The alums that go back as far as I do can remember the red tag/orange tag student identification system. In the old days when a new student (red tag) arrived at the school they would be assigned an upper classman (orange tag) who would mentor them into their new student life. How comforting it was for me to know I had someone I could rely on and go to for advice. We were told it was a system where students had color identifying uniform tags that allowed the surgical staff to easily recognize the class level of each student and what skills could be expected from each in the work place. But, we red tags knew it was an ingenious system developed by Dr. Bowen that kept us newbie's from crashing and burning. It was comforting to know that if this red tag had a problem and needed some advice he could call on his orange tag mentor to keep him flying straight and above the tree line.

The MTSA Alumni Association has now opened a new mentoring relationship up to all new students; from the first day of class to graduation. Our goal is for all students to have opportunity to call an alumni mentor to seek advice and help to get through the rigors of a very intense learning experience. If our new students are anything like I was in the old days it could result in a relationships that will grow stronger each year after graduation. I will always be indebted to K.W. for his friendship and advice during the many months of anesthesia school. We both went back to take the Masters Completion Program together and our bond became even stronger.

Now, you as an alumnus whether recent or vintage, have the opportunity to mentor a current student. It can be as little as an occasional phone call or dinner together once a month. It is entirely up to you and your student. Won't you take time today to make a deposit into the bank account of life that we so freely withdrew from during our student years?

Make a call now to the MTSA Alumni Association Office (615) 732-7674 or call me personally (615) 351-9490 to find out how you can be an inspiration to a student. Learn how you can help a student survive those days when the sky is falling...it only takes a kind word and the recall of what you did as a student when the sky was falling in your life. You do not have to be a rocket scientist ... you just have to be a CRNA that enjoys taking care of people by allaying some of the fear and pain from the unknown. Volunteer today to be an alumnus student mentor. Give me a call!

Jack Edmondson, Mentoring Coordinator  
(615) 351-9490 • [edson13@aol.com](mailto:edson13@aol.com)

MTSA Alumni Office  
(615) 732-7674 • [alumni@mtsa.edu](mailto:alumni@mtsa.edu)



# MTSA ALUMNI MENTORING

### PURPOSE:

The MTSA Alumni Mentoring Policy is designed to help, support, encourage, and mentor current MTSA students. The mentoring will be done by MTSA Alumni in a confidential manner and will be done on a voluntary basis. Mentors should not become involved in any disciplinary issues that may arise with the student – although the mentor should be an encourager and support through the various rigors and difficulties of school-life. This relationship should remain professional, confidential and safe by sharing non-binding advice.

### POLICY:

MTSA students will have opportunity to "sign-up" for an assigned mentor at least annually.

Mentors and students will be matched by the Mentoring Coordinator (with support of Alumni Association).

Mentors are asked to make contact via phone, email or personal visit at least monthly with their assigned student. Activities that can be initiated by the mentor include:

- A friendly chat to share experiences and exchange ideas
- Dinner
- A special event
- Business ideas, etc.
- And more

Evaluations will occur quarterly; one evaluation for the alumni mentor for the mentored student; and an additional mentoring program evaluation given by MTSA to evaluate the program as a whole.

### NOTE:

MTSA does not have a budget to fund outings, dinners and other special events for students. Mentors are asked to provide this as part of the mentoring program and as a gesture of goodwill for the student.



# AIRWAYS

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 3 ..... MTSA Faculty Committee
- March 9–12 ..... MTSA SACS-COC On-Site Visit
- March 17 ..... MTSA Progressions Committee
- March 19 ..... MTSA Evaluation Committee
- March 23–27 ..... DNP Conference (Hilton Head, SC)
- March 29–April 1 ..... 1st Valley Review, Nashville
- April 2–4 ..... Southern Union ASI (Dalton, GA)
- April 3–5 ..... 2nd Valley Review, Nashville
- April 5–8 ..... Valley Review in Columbus, OH
- April 6 ..... MTSA Board of Trustees Meeting
- April 15–19 ..... MTSA Recruiting – NSNA (Gaylord, Nashville)
- April 19–22 ..... AANA Mid-Year Assembly (Washington, DC)
- May 3 ..... MTSA Alumni Weekend events including (CECs, Bowen Society Reception, and Alumni Dinner)
- May 4 ..... MTSA Golf Classic sponsored by PBG Builders, Inc.

## A PIECE OF HISTORY

According to an issue of the Madison Hospital *Pulse* Magazine, the individuals pictured are “new graduates from the class of 1974” seen here with MTSA’s school director, founder, and instructors.

Pictured (l to r) are MTSA Founder and Educational Director Bernard Bowen, DSc, CRNA; Instructor Nelda Fay Ackerman ('65), CRNA (deceased); Jack Johnson ('74) CRNA (Texas); Karen Rutledge Shrader ('74) CRNA (Ohio); Clyde Hall ('74), CRNA (Tennessee); James Foote ('74) CRNA (Tennessee); Terry Phillips ('74) CRNA (Washington); then School Director and former MTSA President William O. T. Smith, M.D. (retired—Tennessee); and then Instructor and present MTSA Vice President/Dean Mary Elizabeth “Ikey” DeVasher ('69/'94) PhD, CRNA, APN.

