

# AIRWAYS



MIDDLE TENNESSEE SCHOOL OF ANESTHESIA

REFLECTING CHRIST IN ANESTHESIA EDUCATION

## MTSA Delegation to U.S. Capitol for Mid-year Assembly

By MTSA SRNAs Michael Heck ('11) and Samantha Porter ('11)



MTSA was well represented at the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Mid-year Assembly held in Washington, D.C. in April, 2010. Pictured with Tennessee Congressmen are (l to r) Walt Lee, SRNA ('10); Jana Jones, SRNA ('10), Chris Hulin ('06) CRNA, MBA, DNP, APN; Samantha Porter SRNA ('11), U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander, Mary Elizabeth "Ikey" DeVasher ('69/'94) CRNA, PhD, APN; U.S. Senator Bob Corker; Michael Heck ('11) SRNA; Jeff Epley ('10) SRNA; and Corbin Hulin.

health reform is being carefully watched by the AANA. Though there are things that benefit our profession in the legislation, there are things the AANA is working on continuously to ensure that we are able to maintain our patients' access to high quality and cost effective health care.

This year at the AANA Mid-Year Assembly in Washington, D.C., there were several issues that needed to be addressed with members of the House and Senate, for example: 1) Restoring Medicare funding for CRNAs who are on-call in rural hospitals

to ensure appropriate access to care; 2) Reauthorization of funding for Title 8 nursing workforce development programs for Graduate Nursing Education; 3) Implementation of equitable payment for both CRNAs and anesthesiologists when teaching SRNAs; and 4) Reversing Medicare anesthesia cuts, because according to AANA, recurring Medicare payment cuts would amount to a 35-40% cut to anesthesia and physician services within three years.

We were each given the opportunity to meet with Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, and their Legislative aides at 'Tennessee Tuesday' to discuss the different topics in Congress that are affecting our profession. Then each TANA representative was placed into a small group with the responsibility to visit each U.S. House

When chosen as a Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetist (TANA) representative for MTSA, each of us as MTSA SRNAs Walt Lee ('10), Jeff Epley ('10), Jana Jones ('10), Michael Heck ('11), and Samantha Porter ('11) did not realize the influence nurse anesthetists have on government issues. As a national organization, our lobbyists represent more than 90% of CRNAs in the nation, which allows us as an organization to have a strong voice on Capitol Hill. Even though the AANA provides lobbyists for our profession, it is we as individuals who help determine a Congressman or Congresswomen's vote for a certain bill.

At the Mid-Year Assembly, the AANA staff put on an impressive demonstration of their knowledge, commitment, and ability to achieve success in the political arena. The wide spectrum of topics was evident by in depth discussions that lasted two-and-a-half days. The controversial topic of

*Continued on Page 7*



# FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

## Welcome

What a privilege it is for me to serve as your interim president. The MTSA community has welcomed me with warmth and openness. This is a fine institution with many dedicated individuals determined to provide the best education possible to our students.

In my first few weeks on campus, I have enjoyed meeting many of you and look forward to visiting with many more of you who serve this fine institution. I have also visited with several of our students on campus as they prepare for the next step in their education. Each of these students has expressed excitement about their education at MTSA and commitment to their future service as a CRNA. We are blessed with a very capable and dedicated student body. My conversations have been inspirational for me.

*“I welcome you to stop by my office, so that I can greet you and say hello...”*

It was great to meet many of our trustees, alumni, and community friends at the welcome reception held for my wife Kathy and me earlier this month. If you did not have opportunity to attend this reception, I welcome you to stop by my office (located in Building A), so that I can greet you and say hello to those that I have not had a chance to meet. I look forward to meeting all members of the MTSA family.

Thanks again for such a warm welcome to the campus.

Kenneth L. Schwab, EdD  
Interim President

## Alumni President's Message

### So Where Do We Go From Here?

With suspected Russian spies having been captured, the greatest oil disaster in recorded history still spewing crude into the Gulf and onto our beaches, the longest running war for America in Afghanistan going into the second decade with no end in sight, the federal government suing the state of Arizona for trying to protect their borders, the economy in decline with California broke and New York city following close behind, how can we as CRNAs make a difference that counts? After all, every one of us makes a difference in society.

And you might be asking about something that's happening in your own life; is it a good thing, or is it a bad thing. I like the story I heard some years ago about an old man and his only son who lived somewhere out in Montana on a little ranch before modern machinery was invented and they had one mule for plowing their fields. The only son worked the ground as the father was not physically able. One day the mule up and disappeared. The neighbors came by and said to the old man, "What a bad thing has happened, your mule is gone." The old man said, "How do you know it's a bad thing?" The neighbors responded, "Because you don't have a way to plow your fields." A few days later the mule returned along with two wild mustangs, and of course the neighbors returned and said, "Oh, what a good thing has happened; your mule has come back." The old man said, "How do you know it's a good thing?" They responded, "Well, now you have three strong animals to help with the plowing."

About a week later the old man's only son decided to break in the two wild mustangs. He was thrown off and broke both his legs. Again, here come the neighbors. "What a bad thing has happened to you." The old man responded, "How do you know it's a bad thing?" "Well, look at your son; he has a cast on both legs and it's going to be harvest time in another week, so who will bring in your produce?" The neighbors finally threw-up their hands and left the old man and his son in disgust. The next day the Civil War broke out and a general came through and took every able bodied man away to war, except for the old man's son.

So as you hear and read or see changes at MTSA over the next few months, stay tuned. I really believe there are some great things on the way. We have the 7th Annual Golf Classic on September 16, 2010. We are working on putting together a CEU fun cruise scheduled for June, 2011. The regional dinners the MTSA Alumni Office is hosting in different cities are a real hit. When you are invited to one in a city near you, please try to attend and support the Alumni. You will not be disappointed.

I'm proud of our Alumni, and I just want to say thank you for the quality of anesthesia care you are providing where ever you may be practicing. If you have any questions, or if you have something you would like to share with MTSA, either call MTSA at 615-732-7674, or contact me at 970-380-0717 or khbisalski@msn.com.

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



## Schwab Named MTSA Interim President

"The MTSA Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Kenneth L. Schwab, EdD as MTSA Interim President," announced Steven R. Dickerson, MD, Chairman. "We are indeed fortunate to have Dr. Schwab join MTSA in this capacity. His leadership, experience, and commitment to our mission are extremely important during this transition as we continue the search for a permanent President."

Dr. Schwab is currently on sabbatical from Centenary College of Louisiana where he serves as President Emeritus and Professor. He was President and Chief Executive Officer of Centenary College from 1991-2009. Previously, he was Executive Vice President for Administration at the University of South Carolina from 1988-1991, and Executive Assistant to the President for Institutional Planning from 1986-1988. He too held administrative positions at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina including Assistant to the President for Institutional Planning and Community Relations from 1980-1986; Dean of Students from 1974-1986; and Assistant Dean of Students and Direction of Residential Operations from 1970-1974.

"I am honored to have been selected to be part of MTSA," says Dr. Schwab. "Its unique history is of great interest to me. I have high appreciation for MTSA's mission and values, and very much look forward to becoming integrated with our team and help move the organization forward." He continued by saying, "I am impressed that MTSA is committed to high standards and excellence in both the classroom and its clinical sites."

Schwab's academic positions include Centenary College of Louisiana, Professor with tenure from 1991 to the present; University of South Carolina, Associate Professor of Education with Tenure – Department of Educational Leadership and Policies from 1986- 1991; and Guilford College Associate Professor of Education from 1984-1986 and Assistant Professor from 1978-1984.

He received a Doctorate in Education in 1978 from Indiana University with an emphasis in Higher Education Administration, Counseling, and Psychology. He earned a Masters of Education in 1972 with a focus in guidance and Counseling from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. His Bachelor of Science degree was conferred at Indiana's Purdue University in 1969.

Additional educational achievements of Dr. Schwab's include Salzburg Seminar (July 2002), *Trends and Innovation in Health Professions Education: Building Comprehensive and Sustainable Reforms* (Salzburg, Austria); *Oxford Roundtable on Education*



MTSA Interim President Kenneth L. Schwab, EdD.

*Policy* (July-August 2000), Oxford University (Oxford, England); *European Community Visitor* (1993), Commission of European Communities (Brussels, Belgium); and *Fellowship in Academic Administration* (1985-1986), American Council on Education (Washington, DC).

Dr. Schwab's publications and professional presentations are numerous, including the following sampling: Teaching in a Church Related College (April, 2001); Leading the Challenge: Fostering Transformational Change (Summer 2000); and Managing Governmental Relations-State and Federal (November, 1990). His selected grants, conference papers, and panels include: *Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement*, SACS-COC 2002 Annual Meeting; and *Presidential Leadership and Transformational Change*, funded by WK Kellogg Foundation (2000-2002).

Dr. Schwab is a member of the University Senate of the United Methodist Church – a position he has held since 2004. He grew up in Indiana bailing hay and working a dairy farm. He and his wife Kathy live in Gallatin, and she is principal of Robert F. Woodall Elementary School.

"I look forward to engaging our trustees, staff, and alumni in MTSA's quest to become an even greater institution of higher education," said Schwab. "My office is always open."

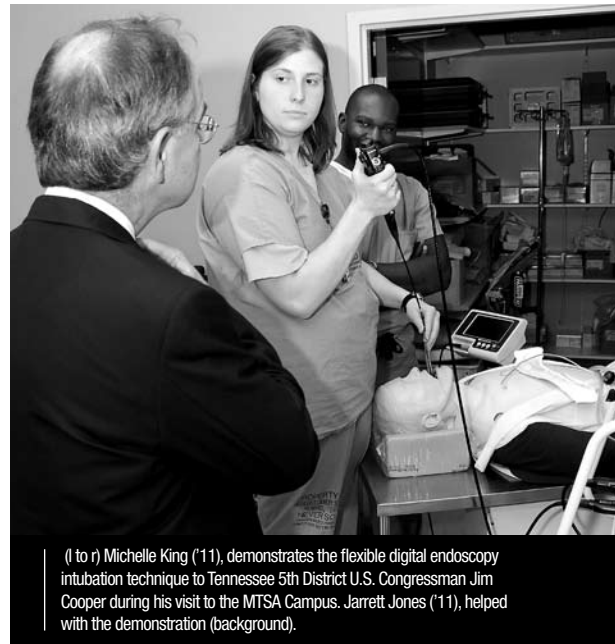
# U.S. Congressman Cooper Visits Campus

MTSA hosted a visit from Jim Cooper, U.S. House of Representatives of the Tennessee 5th District, on Thursday, June 3, 2010. Congressman Cooper enjoyed a tour of the campus with the highlight being several simulation demonstrations by MTSA students. He joined the MTSA administrative team for lunch, and then addressed the junior class with a short talk on the new healthcare bill and other issues. Several questions were asked by students.

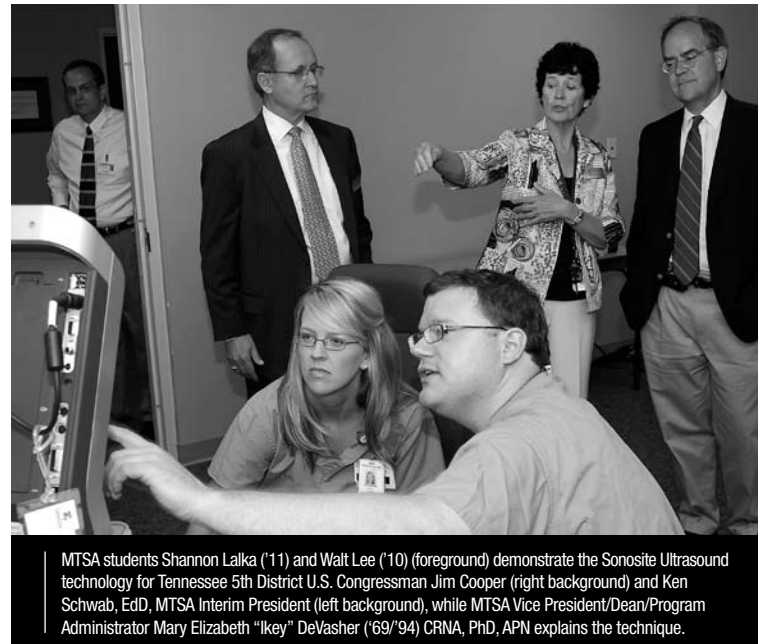
Congressman Cooper was also part of the Tennessee Tuesday event in Washington, D.C. in April, 2010 when several MTSA students took part in the lobbying activity.



Tennessee 5th District U.S. Congressman Jim Cooper addresses the MTSA Junior class while sharing highlights of the healthcare bill and other legislative issues. Ken Schwab, EdD, MTSA Interim President looks on.



(l to r) Michelle King ('11), demonstrates the flexible digital endoscopy intubation technique to Tennessee 5th District U.S. Congressman Jim Cooper during his visit to the MTSA Campus. Jarrett Jones ('11), helped with the demonstration (background).



MTSA students Shannon Lalka ('11) and Walt Lee ('10) (foreground) demonstrate the Sonosite Ultrasound technology for Tennessee 5th District U.S. Congressman Jim Cooper (right background) and Ken Schwab, EdD, MTSA Interim President (left background), while MTSA Vice President/Dean/Program Administrator Mary Elizabeth "Ikey" DeVasher ('69/'94) CRNA, PhD, APN explains the technique.



Jim Cooper, Tennessee 5th District U.S. Congressman (back to camera) responds to questions from the MTSA Junior class following his comments to the class.

# News Notes...

## •MTSA New Student Recruiting Seeing Significant Activity

MTSA new student recruiting has seen significant activity since the beginning of the year, announced Debbie Rose, Operations Assistant & Student Recruitment Coordinator. MTSA has been part of 13 different recruiting fairs in 2010 and nine of the 13 events have been outside the State of Tennessee. "We continue to place an emphasis on recruitment opportunities in surrounding states," says Rose. Some of the areas visited by MTSA staff this year other than Tennessee include Michigan, California, Massachusetts, Ohio, Indiana, Alabama, and Florida.

## •New Junior Class Will Begin Class July 20, 2010

Admissions Coordinator & Meditrax Assistant Pam Nimmo says that MTSA's new junior class will begin class with Broadfields Orientation on Tuesday, July 20, 2010. The class of 2012 totals 72 enrollees including students from the following states: Alabama (12), California (1), Georgia (1), Kentucky (6), Louisiana (2), Massachusetts (1), Missouri (1), Mississippi (1), North Carolina (1), Ohio (1), Texas (2), Virginia (1), Washington (1), West Virginia (1), and finally Tennessee (40). Some interesting highlights of this class include: One set of identical twins; a twin sister of a current MTSA senior; a couple that married last month; one alumni sibling; and two spouses of current students.

## •Building "A" Becomes Hub for Five Learning Centers for MTSA Students

Advanced Cardiac Life Support - Experienced Providers (ACLS-EP) taught by Tinsla Trotter, RN, BSN, was held at MTSA last month, according to Carol Stinson, Academic Schedule Coordinator. Building "A" becomes the hub for five different learning centers for MTSA students. Trotter is the Critical Care/Resuscitation Educator at Centennial Medical Center.

ACLS-EP is designed for experienced ACLS providers to learn and be challenged in critical thinking skills beyond the regular ACLS algorithms. The class helps further develop the understanding, skills, and depth of background knowledge that experienced providers are expected to possess, including "rational background information and supplementary data on basic ACLS core material; and material to increase the provider's depth of understanding more complicated and special resuscitation situations." (American Heart Association ACLS for Experienced Providers).

# SRNA Career Fair Targets Anesthesia Practices Across Region

The First Annual Student Nurse Anesthetist Career Fair will be held on the MTSA campus, Thursday, August 5, 2010 from 2-4pm located at 315 Hospital Drive, Madison, Tennessee. "This event provides anesthesia groups, hospitals, and others the opportunity to market their organization on campus and identify potential CRNA employees," says MTSA Assistant Program Administrator Chris Hulin ('06) CRNA, MBA, DNP, APN.

There will also be an opportunity to meet student nurse anesthetists who will be seeking employment opportunities, as well as to complete the last quarter of clinical training in the form of a senior elective. The senior elective is often used as an evaluation period, and/or an opportunity to orient the student to the anesthesia department prior to full time employment as a CRNA. If the student joins the group as permanent CRNA staff, this orientation period saves the anesthesia department considerable money and increases productivity.

"We sincerely hope group practice administrators, medical recruiters, and anesthesia groups, will consider joining us during this exciting event," said Hulin. "The students have been working hard mastering the skills necessary to practice in a demanding field, and are eager to speak with potential employers."

Please reserve your booth soon, as space is limited. If you have questions, please contact Debbie Rose, MTSA Operations Assistant and Student Recruitment Coordinator at [debbie@mtsa.edu](mailto:debbie@mtsa.edu) or 615-732-7673.



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



Mike Morel ('80) CRNA, MS, APN is the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists 2010 Federal Political Director of the Year Award recipient.

# Morel Honored as AANA Federal Political Director of the Year

Mike Morel ('80) CRNA, MS, APN, Co-director of Martin Anesthesia Group, Martin, Tennessee, is the recipient of the 2010 Federal Political Director of the Year award presented by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). Morel received the award during the AANA's Mid-Year Assembly held in Washington, D.C. in May, 2010. He has served MTSA in a variety of capacities through the years and is currently an MTSA Trustee, and Alumni Association Past President.

The Federal Political Director of the Year award was established in 2001 by the AANA Board of Directors to acknowledge a CRNA who has made significant contributions in advancing AANA's federal healthcare agenda through state and federal grassroots political initiatives while serving as a Federal Political Director for the Association.

"I accept this award on behalf of all nurse anesthetists who promote our profession at the state and national level," said Morel. "Many achievements of the nurse anesthesia profession are the direct results of CRNAs across the country informing and building relationships with their local legislators. I am truly proud to be a CRNA and equally honored to receive this award."

A CRNA and member of the Tennessee Association of Nurse Anesthetists (TANA) for 30 years, Morel is well known to local, state, and federal legislators for his political involvement. During his seven years as TANA's Federal

Political Director, Morel worked closely with lobbyists to help educate potential candidates on issues that affect nurse anesthetists and healthcare access in rural areas.

In reflecting on his political activity, Morel stressed the importance of taking every opportunity to advocate on behalf of the nurse anesthesia specialty. One example he gave was how he and Sen. Jim Sasser (D-TN) began their friendship over a conversation while sitting next to each other on a plane.

"To maintain a permanent seat at the table, and to stay at the forefront of the minds of our state and federal decision makers, it is important that we take advantage of any opportunity to build such relationships," Morel added. "I have been lobbying since the Capitol Hill underground trolley system was in place, and I can wholeheartedly say that the importance of CRNA's presence on Capitol Hill today is just as important as it was back then."

Morel is currently pursuing his doctorate in philosophy with a concentration in health care administration at Kennedy-Western University. He completed his master's degree in nurse anesthesia at the Gooding Institute of Nurse Anesthesia within the Bay Medical Center located in Panama City, Florida and received his CRNA certificate from the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia. He earned his bachelor's degree from Regents College in Albany, New York, and an associate's degree in nursing from Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee.

## Cruise CEC Event Sets Sail

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. MTSA alumnus Lin Sherrill ('99) CRNA, MS, APN, cruise event chairman says 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. The cruise event is not a fund-raising event. 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.

### CRUISE SURVEY Your Opinion, Please!

Visit [www.mtsa.edu](http://www.mtsa.edu) and click on CEC Cruise Survey. We want to know your ideas. We're looking for presenters, topics of interest, and what you would like to see as part of this adventure.

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## MTSA Delegation to U.S. Capitol for Mid-year Assembly

Representative for Tennessee concerning topics at hand. We were able to meet with Representatives Marsha Blackburn, Steve Cohen, John Tanner, Jim Cooper, and Bart Gordon. Each Congressman was very informed, and was willing to discuss different health care topics that were specific for Tennessee and CRNAs. One of the most interesting things from our meetings was the willingness of our Representatives and Senators to understand how the new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) teaching rules were affecting SRNAs' abilities to get the best possible clinical education experience.

The Mid-Year Assembly is not only a time to address certain key points with Congress, but a time to network within our own state and other states' nurse anesthetist organizations. Members from TANA, DANA (Delaware Association of Nurse Anesthetist) and KANA (Kentucky Association of Nurse Anesthetist) sponsor a dinner every year to allow students the opportunity to build professional relationships among the states present at the dinner. This dinner has become a tradition that was started by a few very generous CRNAs. From our state, MTSA Trustees Mark Haffey, CRNA, MSN, APN and Mike Morel ('80) CRNA, MS, APN are some of the founding members of this dinner. It gave us the opportunity to meet several students like us that were sponsored to come to the Mid-Year Assembly and learn about the politics behind our profession. The dinner was a success and a good time was had by all!

After our small group meetings with each Tennessee Representative, one realized the importance of a voter's opinion. Each Congressman and Congresswoman prefers to hear the voice of his or her voters. If we as CRNAs do not take a stand to protect our profession through continuous communication with Congress, the opposing argument will win. For instance, in Tennessee, without the letters to state congress and perseverance of the TANA board, CRNAs could have been facing new rules regarding pain management. Now is not the time to stay quiet about matters concerning our profession. The AANA lobbyist continuously needs our support through letters and e-mails to Congress to influence their vote for certain bills. The present decides the future of our profession. So, be an active member of AANA by going to AANA conferences, writing to Congress, and donating to TNPAC.

NEW DATE  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

## MTSA'S 7TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

-Presented by PBG Builders, Inc.

You are cordially invited to participate in the **Seventh Annual MTSA Golf Classic presented by PBG Builders, Inc.** The 2010 tournament will be held Thursday, September 16, 2010 at the *Hermitage Golf Course General's Retreat*. 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, General's Retreat

### WHEN:

Thursday, **September 16, 2010**, 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 place prizes 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

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



# AIRWAYS

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jul 6 ..... MTSA Finance Committee
- Jul 8 ..... Welcome Reception for Ken Schwab, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- Jul 12 ..... MTSA Board of Trustees Meeting
- Jul 20 ..... New Class Begins
- Jul 25-28 ..... SACS Summer Institute, Tampa, FL
- Aug 4-7 ..... ASI Convention, Orlando, FL
- Aug 5 ..... MTSA First Annual Student Nurse Anesthetist Career Fair
- Aug 19 ..... MTSA Advancement Committee
- Sep 14 ..... MTSA Faculty Committee (Academic & Clinical)
- Sep 16 ..... MTSA Golf Classic
- Sep 20 ..... MTSA Alumni Committee
- Sep 21 ..... MTSA Progressions Committee
- Oct 21 ..... MTSA Advancement Committee
- Dec 2 ..... MTSA Graduation
- Dec 4-7 ..... SACS Annual Meeting, Louisville

## A PIECE OF HISTORY

Members of the 1977 MTSA graduating class proudly display their diplomas following the ceremony held at Old Hickory Lake. The graduation day was filled with fun on the lake, a volleyball game or two, and great picnic food for all. Pictured (l to r) are William O.T. Smith, MD, former MTSA President; Nevin Downs, MD, former MTSA Board Chairman; Nelda Faye Ackerman ('65) CRNA, former MTSA Instructor (deceased); Linda Riley, CRNA; Joe Hall, MD, CRNA; Marilyn Luther, CRNA; Myron Dobbs, CRNA (deceased); and MTSA Founder Bernard V. Bowen, CRNA, DSc.

