

# AIRWAYS



MIDDLE TENNESSEE SCHOOL OF ANESTHESIA

REFLECTING CHRIST IN ANESTHESIA EDUCATION

## “Why Did You Choose MTSA?”

–This question was asked of several incoming first-year students

### CLASS OF 2013 PROFILE

The new school year will begin

July 19, 2011 for the new incoming

Class of 2013. The class is very

diverse and comprised of 33 men

and 39 women who come from across

the United States with the majority

(51 percent) of the admissions from

outside the State of Tennessee. The

average age of the new class is 29.



HAL DUNGAN,  
Brandon, Mississippi

“The spiritual dimension and history of the school was an important element for me as I began considering a career in anesthesia. Current MTSA Senior Justin Burge (Class of 2011) speaks so highly in recommending the school; I knew I had to take a serious look.

“As I researched and really began to look seriously at MTSA, I could see how it is much different from other anesthesia schools. I applied to another school and was accepted. Yet, when I had the opportunity to interview at MTSA I jumped at the chance – and when I learned I was accepted, I made the decision to forfeit a \$1,000 application fee at the other school. That’s how important coming to MTSA is for me.

*“I wanted to work with a variety of people and facilities...”*

“Another major factor in my decision process to attend MTSA is the volumes of cases students regularly log. Most schools have clinicals at one facility. I wanted to work with a variety of people and facilities which I believe will better equip me as a well-rounded CRNA.

“I have worked in surgical ICU for many years and have given report to many CRNAs and MDAs. I’ve always wanted to advance in my field and enjoy more autonomy. I believe everyone wants to advance and always be learning.”

Hal works in ICU at University Medical Center, a level one hospital, located in Jackson, Mississippi.

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MTSA  
President  
Kenneth L.  
Schwab, EdD.

# FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

In anticipation of the new 2011-2012 fiscal year beginning in July, MTSA has initiated a strategic planning process focusing on the next five years (2012-2017).

You will be interested to know that the alumni focus groups provide a footing to begin the process. The MTSA administrative team, with the help of facilitator/consultant Cissy Myatt will do some initial work followed by the MTSA Board of Trustees having its retreat in Aug, 2011.

*“This planning effort will have as its central focus the enhancement of academic and clinical excellence that fosters a life of service for our students.”*

The core discussions include integration of new technologies, faculty development, expansion of simulation in the classroom, Board of Trustee development, capital needs, and campus development in anticipation of the new DNAP. Additionally, this planning effort will have as its central focus the enhancement of academic and clinical excellence that fosters a life of service for our students.

I appreciate the support of the MTSA Board and alumni, in addition to our community friends, as we look to the future and outline a plan for the coming years. Any suggestions you have as we begin this process are welcomed. You may contact me at (615) 732-7678 or [kschwab@mtsa.edu](mailto:kschwab@mtsa.edu). Thank you for your support of MTSA.

Kenneth L. Schwab, EdD  
President



PRESENTED BY PBG BUILDERS, INC.

You are cordially invited to participate in the **Eighth Annual MTSA Golf Classic presented by PBG Builders, Inc.** The 2011 tournament will be held Thursday, September 15, 2011 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 15, 2011**, 1:00 p.m. shotgun start

#### FORMAT:

4-person scramble

#### COST:

(Entry fee includes green fees, cart, lunch, awards, door prizes and dinner)  
\$150.00 per player  
\$600.00 per foursome  
\$750.00 per hole sponsor and foursome

#### PRIZES:

1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes to be awarded in three flights

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)**



MTSA junior student Todd Koppa, SRNA reminisces with Jean Wallace, Skyline Medical Center volunteer, whose life he saved by performing the Heimlich maneuver in the hospital's cafeteria. Mrs. Wallace's son Robert is a 1983 graduate of MTSA who works and lives in Jackson, Tennessee.

## Student Saves Life of MTSA Alum's Mother

April 8, 2011 was to be just another day of clinical instruction and classroom lectures for MTSA Junior Todd Koppa. He began the day in his usual manner of waking early to head-out the door for a busy day in the operating room followed by MTSA lectures in the afternoon.

The morning was uneventful, the cases went well, while nothing out of ordinary occurred. Little did he realize that lunchtime may be a time he would not soon forget. While he was in line at the Skyline Medical Center cafeteria, he noticed 80 year-old hospital volunteer Jean Wallace was having severe trouble breathing and was beginning to turn blue. Todd noticed her gesturing as her color was changing and quickly moved into action, assessed Mrs. Wallace, and determined she may have food lodged in her airway. He immediately started performing the Heimlich maneuver and after eight attempts – and to his relief – a bite of food dislodged, and she began to breath.

Todd takes this all in stride and prefers to not draw attention to himself. "I simply did what anyone else would have done in that situation," he said. "I just happened to be in the right place at the right time. I'm just glad she is doing well today."

Mrs. Wallace recently stopped by MTSA to meet Todd for the second time and learn more of what actually took place that day. "Todd is my hero," she said. "He's a very special person who I know will continue to be a credit to this school and his profession. I'll always love him and would gladly take him into my house if he needed a place to go." She continued saying, "He was

*Continued on Page 7*

## Alumni President's Message

Summer is here and I know it brings opportunity to spend time with family and enjoy a break from some of the routine. MTSA is embarking on some change too as it considers the future with the new DNAP and all the details required to bring this new program to reality.



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

Later this summer, the MTSA Board of Trustees will be involved in an extensive strategic planning retreat with intention to bring focus, clarity, and direction for the next five years (2012-2017). We will review MTSA's mission, values, and four main strategic priorities. As a member of the board and a representative of our alumni, I welcome your input or suggestions as this process moves forward. I too encourage you to remember the School in your devotions and pray that the Lord continues to lead and bless.

Again, thank you for your continued support of MTSA. If you wish to contact me, you may call me at (970) 380-0717 or email me at [khbisalski@msn.com](mailto:khbisalski@msn.com).

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

## HOW MANY CRNAS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A FLAT TIRE?



This question was put to a test in Columbus, Ohio when MTSA alumnus and regional dinner attendee Randy Hillis had a flat. Assisting, supervising, observing, reflecting and/or overseeing the task are fellow Class of 2010 alumni Walt Lee, Joel Schlittenhart, Chris Humston, and Brian Hall.

# “Why Did You Choose MTSA?”



**DESHON CHRISTIAN,  
Marion, Mississippi**

“The main reason I chose MTSA was because of the Christian atmosphere. I went on-line to research schools throughout the Southeast and when I read about the mission and background of MTSA, I knew I wanted to apply.

I’ve always wanted to advance my nursing beyond the typical floor nursing arena. So, because of my fascination with surgery, I believe anesthesia is right thing for me.”

Deshon currently works as a travel nurse at Rush Hospital in its cardiac recovery and intensive care units.

*“...when I read about the mission and background of MTSA, I knew I wanted to apply.”*



**JUSTIN WILSON,  
Tacoma, Washington**

“Ultimately, I plan to live in a state that allows CRNAs to perform regional anesthesia and I know from my research that MTSA has a strong emphasis in regional instruction. I too recognize that Nashville is a strong educational

hub with Vanderbilt and other universities located there, so that made MTSA even more appealing. I too really like the idea of a moral, Christian basis and foundation for the program. I believe that is a really great thing.

“I was actually accepted into another program in Fargo, North Dakota, but their students don’t seem to get the breadth of regional training MTSA students receive. Therefore, based on my career interests and professional pursuits, I knew MTSA would be a good thing for me.”

Justin currently works in the medical/surgical ICU at a Tacoma Washington Hospital.

*“...MTSA has a strong emphasis in regional instruction.”*



**TREY TURNER,  
Fresno, California**

“There are several reasons I chose MTSA including the fact that MTSA has a high student retention rate, high pass rate on the certification exam, and that it’s private, faith-based – where I believe the quality of the

education will be better. The Christian atmosphere for a school was high on my list. I went to private undergraduate school and I appreciate the personal attention and commitment to mission that the faculty exhibit. I too had worked at Redbud Seventh-day Adventist Hospital in Clearlake, California and liked my experience there.

“I learned about MTSA through the AANA website. After making a list of all the schools, I noticed the low attrition rate, high national examination pass rates, and knew MTSA must be a good school. I too like the location and climate in that I grew up along the South Mississippi Gulf coast.

“The idea that MTSA students are in the OR right away and exposed to a variety of cases is very appealing to me.

*“...I noticed the low attrition rate, high national examination pass rates, and knew MTSA must be a good school.”*

I know the program will be challenging both academically and clinically. I just love the OR environment.

“I must say how positive orientation was for me. I loved meeting the staff who all seemed so supportive. I did not

hear, ‘look to your left, look to your right, because in 6 weeks one of the people you just looked at will not be student here any longer.’ There is a very supportive atmosphere where the staff seems to have a sincere interest in the students. I look forward to getting started.”

Trey works in ICU at Community Regional Medical Center, Fresno, California.

# News Notes...



## ASHLEY GODSEY, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

"I've always wanted to live in Nashville," said Ashley when asked why she wanted to attend MTSA. "I've wanted to be a CRNA for a long time – and the mix of didactic and clinical (concurrently) is very appealing to me. MTSA is also less expensive than the

program close to my home in St. Louis, Missouri.

"MTSA alumni Amanda McGuire Stahly ('07), Lee LaValle ('05), and Allen Collier ('05) each influenced my decision to attend MTSA. They spoke so highly of the program and how wonderful the faculty and staff are to work with. I can't wait to learn from the vast experience of rotations I will get while attending.

*"...the mix of didactic and clinical (concurrently) is very appealing to me."*

"I want to be a CRNA because I love to learn. Not only will the program be challenging, but a career as a CRNA will be challenging too – something I am very much looking forward to pursuing."

Ashley currently works at Southeast Missouri Hospital in the medical ICU.



## CHRISTOPHER ASHTON, Carbondale, Illinois

"I began looking at MTSA because a co-worker told me about it. I've always enjoyed the atmosphere of the operating room, and particularly anesthesia, because you can be totally focused on one goal and one job.

"I like to think about the broad overall big picture, and welcome the opportunity to experience a Christian School. I'm very curious about the perspective that will come from a private, versus non-private, Christian environment. I too like the fact that MTSA has its students rotate through multiple clinical sites rather than all clinicals happening at one facility."

*"...MTSA has its students rotate through multiple clinical sites..."*

Christopher currently works in the intensive care unit at Carbondale Memorial Hospital, Carbondale, Illinois.

• **MTSA is in the beginning stages of a strategic planning process to formulate direction for the next five years (2012-2017).** The administrative group has begun the challenge to be followed by a Board of Trustee retreat in Aug, 2011. New technologies, simulation expansion, capital needs, Board of Trustee development, and campus development in anticipation of the new DNAP are all important elements to be discussed.

• **MTSA continually strives to engage students in the classroom.** To help with this, MTSA purchased an audience response system (ARS), Turning Technologies' ResponseCard NXT. You may know these more familiarly as "clickers." These handheld devices will enable students to anonymously submit responses to instructors' questions during class to self-assess their comprehension of classroom materials. Through the use of multiple-choice, alpha-numeric, multiple-response, short answer and essay questions, this system will also provide useful data collection for instructors to engage students and enhance their teaching.

• **Amy C. Gideon, EdD, Ackerman Learning Resource Center Director has been accepted into the Certificate Program in Health Informatics and Information Management at the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center in Memphis.** The program which begins this fall will provide her with additional tools to assist students in managing the information in the constantly growing and increasingly complex electronic health environment. Amy has been with MTSA since June, 2000, and received her Doctor of Education from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University in June, 2009.

• **MTSA hosted a two-hour continuing education session and dinner at the Tin Angel Restaurant, Nashville, Tennessee on May 5, 2011.** More than 25 MTSA alum and area CRNAs attended the event sponsored by a \$3,500 grant from Baxter Healthcare. Two topics were presented by speaker Ann Briggs, CRNA, MS, Loyola University Medical Center, Chicago, including: "Post Discharge Nausea and Vomiting: Management in the First 48 Hours;" and, "Anesthesia in Special Populations: The Overweight & Elderly."

• **The MTSA Founders, a group of alumni who each gave \$1,000 several years ago, have awarded two \$500 scholarships to current MTSA students (one junior and one senior).** These grants are based on financial need and anonymously awarded by the Founders.

• **Mark your calendar to attend the FREE TANA Alumni Luncheon to be held Friday, October 14, 2011 at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.**



Regional Alumni Dinner — Cookeville, Tennessee, May 10, 2011. (l to r front) David Frost ('00), Jason LeVoy ('99), Tammy Kellogg ('03), Robert Ley ('57), and Arnold Agbunag ('97). (l to r back row) Kevin Crawford ('95), Mike Stovall ('03), Scottie Smith ('03), C.D. Webb ('98), Hampton Bisalski ('85/'95), and Wayne Winfree ('87/'94).

## Regional Alumni Dinners See Increase

There was an increase in both the number of MTSA regional dinners held and number of alumni attending over the previous period, announced Jim Closser, Vice President for Advancement & Alumni. MTSA hosted 23 regional alumni dinners from September, 2010 through May, 2011 as compared to the same period in 2009-2010 when 16 dinners were held. There were 97 alumni that attended in 2009-2010, compared to 117 alumni in 2010-2011 (an increase of 20 percent).

“Regional dinners have been a great way for alum to re-engage with fellow graduates and learn what is happening at MTSA,” says Alumni President Hampton Bisalski ('85/'95), CRNA, MS, APN. He continued saying that “its great fun to see folks you haven’t seen in a while, catch a free meal, and win a door prize.” He says that “feedback from the alum has been very positive regarding

the dinners and we are looking at ways to increase exposure in other regions and locales.”

The dinners are held in areas where there is some level of concentration of graduates. Alumni dinners are also planned when required business travel takes MTSA administrators throughout the country. “We will always look and see if we have any alum in a given city when traveling and make an attempt to get them together,” says Closser. Dinners were held in Huntsville, Montgomery, and Florence/Sheffield, Alabama; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Little Rock, Arkansas; Biloxi, Mississippi; Greeneville, Knoxville, Memphis, Chattanooga, Lebanon, Franklin, Hendersonville, and Cookeville, Tennessee; Lexington, Bowling Green, and Louisville, Kentucky; Loma Linda, California; Snowmass, Colorado; Atlanta, Georgia; Columbus, Ohio; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Tampa, Florida.



Regional Alumni Dinner – Lebanon, Tennessee, March 7, 2011. (l to r) Tonya Donnell ('97), Jennifer Hearn ('10), Lynn McCall ('10), Max Harper ('69), Michelle Birch ('10), and Katie DeArango Jorge ('10).



Regional Alumni Dinner – Lexington, Kentucky, May 12, 2011. (l to r) Richi Gambrel Cox ('08), Stace Dollar ('03), Ikey DeVasher ('69/'94), Bernard DeVasher ('76/'94), John Edwards ('02), Judd English ('03), and Rebecca Rippetoe ('10). Zohn Centimole ('05) attended the dinner but was unavailable for the picture.



Regional Alumni Dinner – Hendersonville, Tennessee, April 19, 2011. (l to r) Les Andrus ('03), Arlene Cooper ('78), John Gerome ('87), Matt Demaree ('08), and Meg Bessey ('08).



Regional Alumni Dinner – Franklin, Tennessee, April 12, 2011. (l to r) Kevin Burns ('99), Elizabeth Foster ('88), and Todd Holt ('94). Attendees not pictured include: Yvette Riker ('02), David Carter ('10), Katie Cooper ('05), Jon Burks ('00), Jeff Harmon ('94), and Chris Reid ('06).

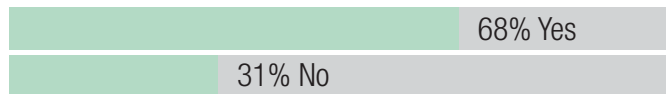


Regional Alumni Dinner – Columbus, Ohio, April 11, 2011. All attendees are from the Class of 2010, except MTSA dinner hostess Alescia DeVasher Bethea ('95) – third from right. (l to r) Chris Humston, Randy Hillis, Brian Hall, Walter Lee, Joel Schlittenhart, Diane Vance, and Monika Banach.

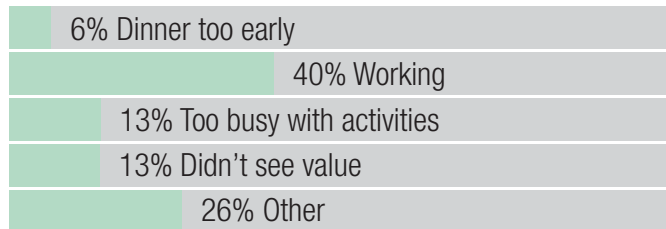
# REGIONAL ALUMNI DINNER SURVEY RESULTS

MTSA regional alumni dinner invitees participated in a survey seeking feedback regarding the dinners. Below are the results which will be used in evaluating and planning 2011-2012 events.

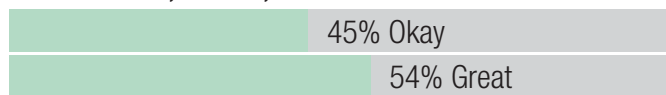
I ATTENDED A MTSA REGIONAL ALUMNI DINNER WITHIN THE PAST 9 MONTHS



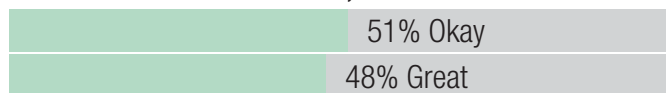
IF YOU ANSWERED “NO” ABOVE, WHY?



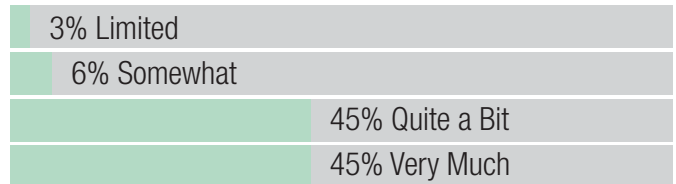
IF YOU ATTENDED A DINNER, PLEASE RATE THE RESTAURANT, VENUE, LOCATION



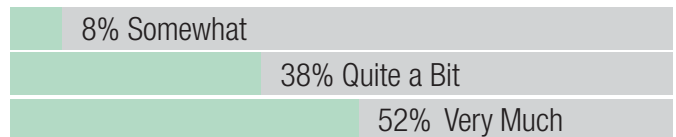
IF YOU ATTENDED A DINNER, PLEASE RATE THE FOOD



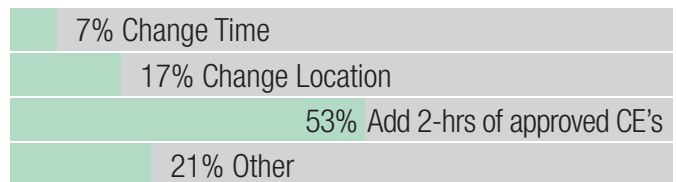
IF YOU ATTENDED A DINNER, TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU VALUE THE INFORMATION SHARED/SCHOOL UPDATE



IF YOU ATTENDED A DINNER, TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU VALUE SEEING AND VISITING WITH FELLOW MTSA ALUM



WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO IMPROVE THE REGIONAL DINNERS?



WOULD YOU AND YOUR FAMILY BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING A “MTSA NIGHT AT THE SOUNDS BASEBALL GAME?”



Continued from Page 3

## Student Saves Life of MTSA Alum's Mother

supposed to be there when I needed him. I'm a firm believer in Divine guidance, and Todd being there that day was no accident.”

Robert Wallace, CRNA a 1983 MTSA graduate and Jean's son says, “I am so proud that ‘one of our own’ came to mom's rescue. I very much appreciate Todd's actions because when those types of situations are thrust upon you – we are not sure how we'll respond.” He continued, “I'm grateful he had the courage

to step-up and do something – I would expect nothing less from a well-trained MTSA student. This really completes the circle allowing my mom to continue to be active and vibrant.”

MTSA is proud of Todd and the quick action he took to save and extend a life. Todd and his son Kaden (age 5) moved to Nashville from Phoenix, Arizona so Todd could pursue his dream of becoming a CRNA. He will graduate in 2012.



# AIRWAYS

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jul 4 ..... Independence Day (Holiday)
- Jul 6 ..... TICUA on Campus Visit
- Jul 19 ..... Class of 2011-2013  
Enrollment/Broadfields  
Orientation begins
- Jul 21 ..... Madison Chamber Community  
Breakfast—Amqui Station
- Aug 3-6 ..... ASI Annual Conference,  
Sacramento, CA
- Aug 4-10 ..... AANA Workshop & Annual  
Meeting, Boston, MA
- Aug 14 ..... Comprehensive Exam
- Aug 23 ..... MTSA Finance Committee
- Aug 29 ..... MTSA Board of Trustees Retreat
- Sep 5 ..... Labor Day (Holiday)
- Sep 13 ..... MTSA Faculty Committee  
Academic & Clinical
- Sep 15 ..... MTSA Golf Classic
- Sep 20 ..... Progressions Committee

## A PIECE OF HISTORY

Former MTSA President William O.T. Smith, MD celebrates with graduates from the Class of 1974 following graduation: (l to r) Wanda Ibrahim, Mary Bass, Brenda Swindle, and Faryl Fuller.



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