



# THE ANESTHESIA CIRCUIT

**Barry University**

**Anesthesiology Programs**

**Spring 2021 Edition**

## **Featured: MS Class of 2020 Graduates Amidst a Pandemic**

Master of Science in  
Anesthesiology Class of 2020  
students celebrate virtual  
graduation (p. 3)

## **Alumni Spotlight: Victor Pareja, MS Class 2020**

Victor discusses his life as a former  
Marine and his journey to becoming a  
CRNA. He also shares the importance  
of pursuing a Doctor of Nursing  
Practice (DNP) (p. 5)



## **Barry University Esteemed Alumni Celebrate 25 Years**

In a pre-COVID-19 world, the Class of 1995, fellow alumni, and Barry faculty had planned to gather in October of 2020 at the annual Florida Association of Nurse Anesthetists (FANA) conference for a live celebration of our collective accomplishments. Though we are unable to reconnect, reminisce, and toast this major milestone in person, we pay tribute nonetheless to the faculty, students, and alumni that shape twenty-five years of Nurse Anesthesiology at Barry, and the numerous ways in which our first-ever graduates helped carve a path for the generations that have followed. Happy 25th! We salute you!

## Inside

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- Alumni Spotlight: Victor Pareja, MS, CRNA, Class of 2020 (p. 5)
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## Send us your news!

We want to hear about your updates  
& achievements!

You could be featured in the  
next Anesthesia Circuit!

Email us at [ane@barry.edu](mailto:ane@barry.edu).

## Trivia Corner

What year did the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) administer their first qualifying (certification) examination? And how many individuals took the examination?

(Answer on page 12)

## From the Director's Desk

Rebecca Lee, DNP, CRNA, APRN  
Associate Professor & Program Director Anesthesiology Programs

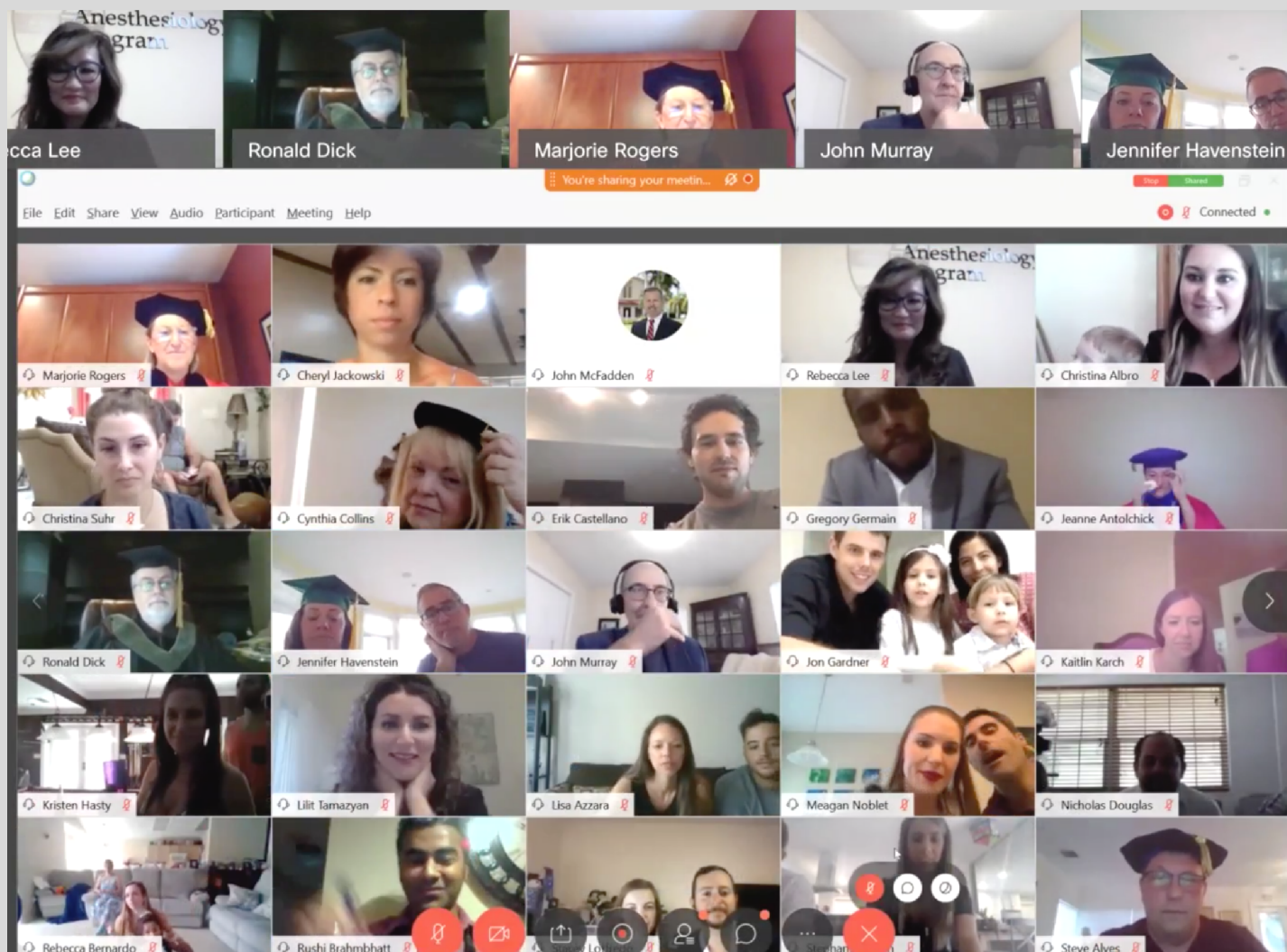
Happy New Year to our Barry Family! It has been quite some time since we last connected. To say that it has been a crazy year would be an understatement. 2020 upended our normal routines, but the disruptions did not extinguish our spirits. Our Barry Faculty, Staff, Graduates and Alumni are resilient and tenacious. Distance teaching modalities were championed and delivered without any hiccups and faculty and graduates galvanized their efforts on achieving program goals. As we review our accomplishments in 2020, we are especially proud of the last Master of Science (MS) in Anesthesiology graduates. They completed all requirements to graduate earlier than anticipated, April 2020, during the height of the pandemic. We even made the headline news! Congratulations Class of 2020! Additionally, did you also know that our program celebrated its Silver (25th) Anniversary of nurse anesthesiology education? The first MS in Anesthesiology Class graduated in 1995. Congratulations to our Barry Alumni for your steadfast dedication to quality and safe anesthesia care. As we move forward into 2021, let's continue to unite and lead our communities in mitigating social justice concerns and health care disparities. We remain ever so grateful for life's abundant opportunities to continue to serve our communities.

Thank you and stay safe!  
Dr. Rebecca Lee



# Congratulations to the Last MS Anesthesiology Class of 2020!

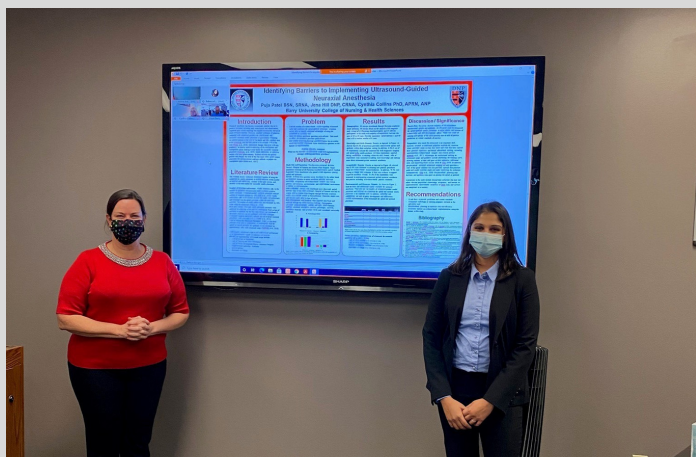
Commencement is a time for endings, but also beginnings. In April 2020, we celebrated the last Master of Science in Anesthesiology Class of 2020 as they received their graduate degrees. The global pandemic of 2020 limited us to a virtual ceremony, but it did not stop us from celebrating their accomplishments. Barry Leadership, Faculty, Graduates and their families joined us online to toast the Class of 2020! Great job!



Barry University SRNAs MS Class 2020 Virtual Graduation



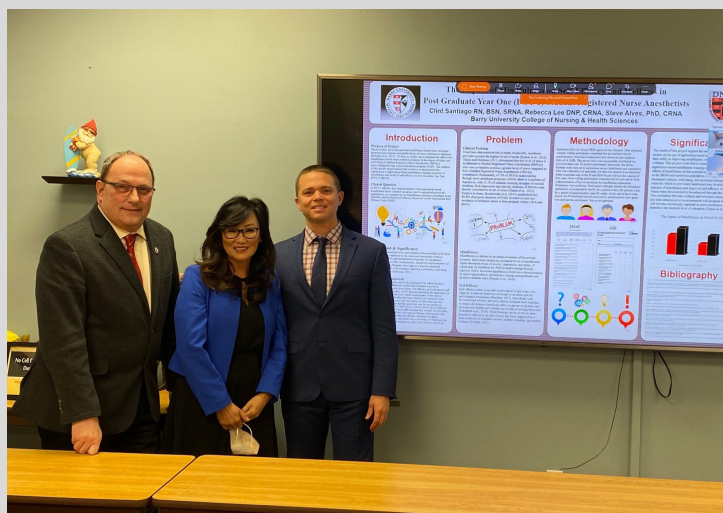
# The Inaugural Post Baccalaureate DNP Class of 2021 Poster Presentations



Dr. Jeanne Antolchick and Puja Patel



Tatyana LaTorres and Dr. Kay Rogers



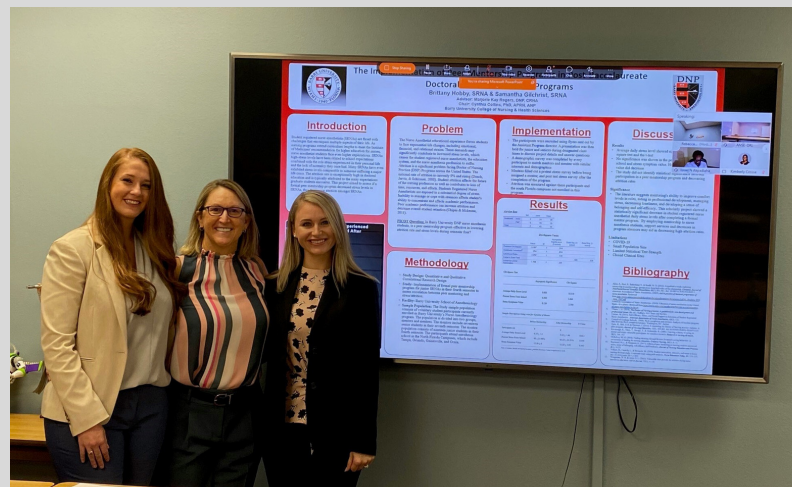
Dr. Steve Alves, Dr. Rebecca Lee and Clint Santiago



Shaheed Stone and Dr. Jennifer Havenstein



Lillian Moya and Dr. Steve Alves



Samantha Gilchrist, Dr. Kay Rogers and Brittany Hobby



## Alumni Spotlight: Victor Pareja, MS, CRNA



Victor Pareja is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), and proud Barry University graduate, who currently practices at Orlando Health, South Seminole Hospital in Longwood, Florida and Winnie Palmer Hospital in Orlando, Florida.

Victor's interest in anesthesiology began during his service in the United States Marine Corps, where he met a Naval CRNA who inspired him to pursue the career. He followed suit by obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of North Florida and then gained critical care experience in the intensive care unit (ICU) at Halifax Health in Daytona Beach, Florida.

He applied and was accepted to the Nurse Anesthesiology program at Barry University in 2018 and completed a Master of Science in Anesthesiology in 2020. Victor has kept an interest in giving back to Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists (SRNAs) at Barry University. Acting as an avid preceptor for Post Graduate Year One (PGY-1) students, Victor has developed a close relationship with cohorts beyond the clinical setting and into the mentorship role. He strongly believes that the future of the profession lies in the tutelage and support of SRNAs, and that mentorship is paramount. Pursuant to said commitment, Victor started the Academic and Clinical Excellence (ACE) scholarship award to recognize an exemplar Barry University Nurse Anesthesiology student in their second clinical semester (one of the most challenging clinical semesters). Victor can also be seen actively participating in simulation workshops hosted by Barry University.

To further cultivate his passion for teaching and mentoring, Mr. Pareja is currently pursuing the degree of Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), as he wishes to pursue a position in academia. His interests lie in virtual & physical simulation and education for SRNAs to aid in their clinical performances. Discipline is one attribute he holds with high regard.

## Student Spotlight: Tatyana LaTorres, SRNA Class 2021



Tatyana LaTorres' nursing journey began with a BSN from the University of Tampa. She worked for three years in the neurosurgical and cardiac intensive care units at Tampa General Hospital before her acceptance to Barry University's Nurse Anesthesiology Program in 2018. Tatyana is part of the inaugural Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) with specialization in anesthesiology entry level cohort. Tatyana states, "Furthering my education was the best decision I have ever made! Not only have I learned to be a nurse anesthesiologist, but I have also learned how necessary it is to be a political advocate for this astounding profession!"

During her first semester at Barry, she became aware of the professional hurdles that people were trying to place in front of certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). She believes that CRNAs should be proud of their accomplishments, and feels that there are many barriers that exist for CRNAs. Having been inspired from a young age by a cousin who is a professional lobbyist in Washington, D.C., Tatyana knew that she could make a difference in the way the profession is viewed. Tatyana gives a great deal of credit to her mentor, Dr. Debra Diaz, CRNA and graduate of Barry's Post Master's DNP Program, Class of 2014. Dr. Diaz inspired Tatyana to taste the world of political advocacy. She is a mentor to students on many levels, as well as an accomplished CRNA and staunch advocate for our profession. Tatyana quickly learned the ropes of how to navigate political dialogues through the examples set by Dr. Diaz. During the CRNA lobbying sessions in Tallahassee, Tatyana learned the importance of advocating for having a seat at the table. As a very busy graduate student nurse anesthetist, Tatyana still finds time to participate in numerous virtual legislative sessions with the Florida Association of Nurse Anesthetists. She and her student colleagues have educated many legislators on the roles of advanced practice registered nurses, especially CRNAs. "If we, as a profession, do not fight for the right to make decisions, someone else will decide that they can make them for us. When I graduate in May of 2021, I am committed to continuing the fight for that seat at the table and to being a part of how our profession progresses into the future". Thank you Tatyana LaTorres! You are a student rockstar!



## Florida Association of Student Nurse Anesthetists (FASNA) and Clinical Faculty Updates



Barry Alumnus, Craig Carter, MS CRNA received the Guiding Light Award from FASNA. Clinical Preceptors make a difference in the lives of all SRNAs. Thank you!

Florida Association of Student Nurse Anesthetists (FASNA) Update from Barry FASNA Representative – Christopher Staczek, BSN, SRNA Class 2021. The Florida Association of Student Nurse Anesthetists (FASNA) is an organization developed as a way for nurse anesthesia students in Florida to gain experience with a professional nursing organization, create meaningful, professional connections, and contribute to political healthcare issues. I have been Barry University's FASNA representative for little over a year and have had many meaningful experiences during that time. Being involved has allowed me to better understand the political nature of nurse anesthesia and why it is so important for everyone to be up to date on the latest happenings in the state capitol. One experience that resonates with me to this day was learning about all the small legislative battles that happen behind the scenes which do not get much attention, but have major legislative consequences when laws are passed. This experience also demonstrated why grassroots activism, building relationships with legislators, is so important. Legislators are ordinary Floridians, husbands, wives, small business owners, who felt compelled to make Florida a better place to live and work. As future anesthesia providers, we, too, want the best for our state. Being involved with FASNA and eventually the Florida Association of Nurse Anesthetists, is the best way to advocate for your profession and ensure that Floridians have access to the most affordable, evidence-based anesthesia care.

## Barry University CRNA Program honors Mount Sinai Hospital, Clinical Coordinator, Dr. Jampierre Mato.



Dr. Mato was named as the 2020 Annual Clinical Instructor of the Year 2020. Dr. Mato has made immeasurable contributions to the education of over 500 nurse anesthetists during his tenure in his position. He is a generalist CRNA, but he excels in the specialties of orthopedic and neurosurgical anesthesia. Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists assigned to work with him know right away that the “very bare minimum” will not suffice. In his words, “Excelling as a nurse anesthetist is much more than simply knowing the mechanics of anesthesia. I make it very clear to my students that, in order to be the very best, you must have broad anesthesia knowledge, a grasp of emerging trends and evidence-based practice changes, and a basic understanding of surgical principles. Becoming a CRNA entails a lifelong commitment to learning, including conveying knowledge to others. I feel it is a privilege to contribute even a small amount to the education of future generations of nurse anesthetists.”

# News & Announcements

## Barry University welcomes Christina Vera, PhD, DNP, MSN, CRNA as new CRNA Faculty Member



Dr. Christina Vera serves as an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at Barry University College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Dr. Vera completed her undergraduate nursing degree at the University of Miami in 2005 and also obtained her Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia in 2009 from the University of Miami. Dr. Vera completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at Barry University in 2015 and a Doctorate in Philosophy at Vanderbilt University in 2020. Dr. Vera has worked in the clinical capacity in both hospital and outpatient settings. She has published on both clinical issues and the utility of high-fidelity simulation in the area of nurse anesthesia training, having presented on topics such as the delivery of anesthesia, novel anesthesia technology, and office-based anesthesia considerations. Dr. Vera's research interests

include patient safety and the delivery of nursing and anesthesia care in non-hospital settings. Her recent dissertation work focused on describing nursing workforce conditions and functions in the ASC setting, as well as an examination of state regulation and ASC institutional policy. Her future research interests include the influence of working conditions, anesthesia provider roles and functions, and state nurse practice laws on patient outcomes.

## Prayers and Reflections for 2020-2021



As we continue to reflect and serve our communities, we pay tribute to all of you who have placed yourselves in harm's way to care for patients during a pandemic. Like soldiers, you hold the ground and do not retreat from the work necessary to provide care. Over 450,000 people have died from COVID 19 thus far, a frightening and overwhelming statistic. It is a race against time. Vaccinations are being offered to many of our providers. We continue to pray for the victims and families who have passed from COVID. We also pray for the safety of all of our front line providers. May you continue to safely ease the suffering of those afflicted by COVID. Your actions inspire us to achieve and transform the landscape of healthcare. Thank you for your service!

Thank you to all of our front line providers!



# Class of 2020 Post Master's DNP CRNA Graduates



## **Kimberly Roderick, MS, CRNA**

Scholarly Project Title:

"Attitudes and Perceptions of Anesthesia Providers Regarding Residual Paralysis and Utilization of Alternative Reversal Agents"



## **Leslie Torres, MS, CRNA**

Scholarly Project Title:

"Suspected Drug Diversion Reporting by Healthcare Workers: An Application of the Theory of Planned Behavior"



## **Sandra Choi, MSN, CRNA**

Scholarly Project Title:

"The Use of Tranexamic Acid During Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery to Reduce Intraoperative Blood Loss: A Qualitative Feasibility Study"

## Reflections of Barry Alumni and Twenty Five Years of Nurse Anesthesiology Education



Barry University  
MS Class 2000.  
Dr. Rebecca Lee's class



Left: MS Class 2015

Below: Dr. Umadhay with MS Class 2014



Left: MS Class 2017

Above: Steve Clark with friends, students,  
faculty and family.



## More Barry Memories...



MS Class 1998



Inaugural Graduates from 2014  
Post Master's DNP Dr. Michelle Cantinella,  
Dr. Chris Lonetta and Dr. Debra Diaz



Naples Cohort MS Class 2000 with  
Dr. John McFadden



**Join our family of CRNAs who learn together and stay together**



## **Barry University**

### **DNP with Specialization in Anesthesiology**

#### **About the Program:**

- NO EXTRA PRACTICUM HOURS
- Designed specifically for CRNAs
- Flexible, online coursework & assignments
- Supportive faculty who treat you as colleagues
- High quality education you can afford

#### **Tuition Breakdown:**

<b>Tuition (flat rate)</b>	\$1,000 per month \$24,000 total program
<b>Program Fee</b>	\$1,500 per year (August)
<b>Technology Fee</b>	\$75 per semester
<b>TOTAL COST:</b>	<b>\$27,450</b>

#### **To learn more, contact:**

Fabiana Cover  
305-899-3246 or [fpamphilecover@barry.edu](mailto:fpamphilecover@barry.edu)

#### **Curriculum:**

- Healthcare Informatics for DNP
- Role of the DNP
- Scientific Foundations of the DNP
- Leadership, Policy & Interdisciplinary Collaboration
- Applied Biostatistics
- Translational Research for the DNP
- Legal & Ethical Issues for Advanced Practice Nursing
- Finance & Business Management in Anesthesia Practice
- Advances in Anesthesia Practice
- Perioperative Safety, Risk Reduction, & Outcomes Assessment
- Advanced Health Assessment & Differential Diagnosis
- DNP Scholarly Project (semesters 5-6)

**Total length: 2 years, part-time**  
**Classes begin in August**

**Apply at: [barry.edu/current](https://barry.edu/current)**



## We are stronger together.

We ask you to join us in supporting the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists and your state associations. These organizations advance the nurse anesthesia profession and advocate for the important issues facing our practice.

Join us and the many thousands of CRNAs already involved. Let your contributions and voice be heard!



### Trivia Answer:

**According to the AANA, the first  
anesthetists qualifying (certification) exam  
was administered to 90 women in 39  
hospitals in 28 states, plus one in the  
Territory of Hawaii in 1945**

[www.aana.com/membership/become-a-crna/crna-fact-sheet](http://www.aana.com/membership/become-a-crna/crna-fact-sheet)



**Join us in Austin!**

**AANA 2021 Annual  
Congress Meeting**

**August 13-17, 2021  
Austin Convention  
Center**