Student Spotlight

By Monica Masemer, RN, BSN
Fiscal Year 2012 Student Representative to the AANA Foundation Board of Trustees

In this issue, the AANA Foundation is pleased to introduce Student Spotlight, a new feature that will recognize students who have captured our attention through their dedication to education, professional excellence, and overall commitment to advancing nurse anesthesia.

Spotlighting Faresha Sims, RN, BSN

Please join me in honoring our first Student Spotlight. If you haven’t already had the pleasure of knowing Faresha Sims, I’m sure it won’t be long until you see her name showcased on AANA campaigns in the future! Her enthusiasm for the profession and passion for knowledge is contagious. Originally from Columbia, Miss., Faresha earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Mississippi. Her career ambitions evolved during nursing school when a CRNA made an informational visit to her class.

Understanding the value of diverse clinical experience, Faresha worked in the cardiothoracic intensive care units at Duke University Medical Center and University of California, Los Angeles.

Currently a student registered nurse anesthetist at Virginia Commonwealth University, Faresha has an impressive list of accomplishments. She was inducted into the Golden Key International Honour Society, serves as the student representative for the Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and earned an AANA Foundation Scholarship in 2011.

Upon graduation, Faresha’s goals are to work at a large University teaching hospital as well as serve on the Board of Directors for the AANA.

Her advice to future students: “Be honest with yourself on how hard you are willing to work for what you want. Doing enough to get by isn’t going to get you far. Be willing to sacrifice whatever it takes.” She encourages current SRNAs to get involved professionally on the local and national levels. According to Faresha, her professional service has been complementary to her clinical experience and feels the academic setting is the most important time to be exposed to the keystones of professional obligation.