**Student Spotlight**

The AANA Foundation is pleased to present Student Spotlight, a feature that recognizes student registered nurse anesthetists who have captured attention through their dedication to education, professional excellence, and overall commitment to advancing nurse anesthesia.

**Kyle Martinez, RN, BSN**

At the base of Lake Tahoe, Nev., lies the small, rural town of Gardnerville, a close-knit farming community. Kyle Martinez was raised in this small town and was greatly influenced by the sense of community that existed in Gardnerville. Growing up, Martinez was very involved in volunteering and community outreach. It was only natural that he would pursue an education that would allow him to continue to be a role model and positive agent of change within his community and chosen profession.

Martinez graduated summa cum laude from the University of Arizona. During his OB rotation in nursing school, he describes his initial interaction with a nurse anesthetist and the spark of his journey towards becoming a CRNA: “The confidence, knowledge, and bedside manner displayed by the CRNA left a positive impression on me and gave me a standard of professionalism to attain.” Upon graduating, this spark led Martinez to pursue work in both cardiac and trauma intensive care units prior to attending nurse anesthesia school. This background provided him with a strong foundation for the rigorous academic and clinical training required of nurse anesthesia students.

Martinez is a senior at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) in Portland, Ore. He describes his CRNA training as “truly exceptional.” His classmates, faculty, and preceptors at OHSU are remarkable, and he credits them for the overwhelming positive experiences during his training. Kathy Cook, assistant program director at OHSU, says Martinez is an “exemplary student and outstanding individual. Kyle exhibits the character traits every nurse anesthesia faculty member hopes to see in their students: maturity, professionalism, flexibility, diligence, intelligence, and the courage to always do what is right. His passion and determination for academic and clinical excellence is evident to all. We are so fortunate Kyle has chosen to join the nurse anesthesia profession and our OHSU community.”

While Martinez devotes most of his time to academics, clinical rotations, and his new baby boy, he still makes time to continue his community involvement. Recently, he coordinated a fundraising event to raise money and awareness for the people of Haiti by organizing a 5K fun run team, and hosting a carb-loading event the night before the race. This event was especially rewarding because Martinez will be part of a small team from OHSU that will be involved in a medical mission trip to Haiti next spring. He hopes that this medical mission will be the first of many journeys abroad to provide anesthesia care to underserved populations. As an avid traveler, he hopes to combine the unique and advanced set of skills inherent to the anesthesia role with community outreach in order to provide care to many underserved populations around the world.

During his time at Oregon Health and Science University, Martinez has also discovered the importance of professional involvement. Recently, the Oregon Association of Nurse Anesthetists (ORANA) won legislation allowing practicing CRNAs further autonomy. “It was very apparent that this was a lengthy, and oftentimes arduous, journey for those involved. However, through hard work and dedication, the team was able to accomplish their goals.” Earlier this year Martinez had the opportunity to attend the ORANA Legislative Day at the capitol in Salem, Ore., where CRNAs across the state gathered to educate lawmakers on the role of the CRNA, thank them for their support, and promote the CRNA profession. “It was very impressive to work with these individuals and witness the importance of being involved in the professional organization,” he said.

Martinez firmly believes that CRNAs are in an ideal position to be role models and leaders within the healthcare community. He feels it is the kind of position that requires a genuine commitment to the best possible care of those people who entrust him with their well-being. “I understand that every person I care for is someone’s relative, friend, or partner. Nurse anesthesia is not just a nine-to-five job—it is a calling that requires the anesthetist to be at the top of their education and practice.” As a burgeoning leader in this field, Martinez is devoted to advancing new and innovative therapies within anesthesia. He will be presenting his research in acupuncture as an adjunct to multimodal pain control at the ORANA annual meeting.

This is just one example of demonstrating leadership in his role as a student and being an agent of change. “I believe I have been an agent of change in every location I have lived – getting involved in community education, prevention, health promotion, and community service. These are the areas where my passion lies, and I am so privileged to be able to incorporate them with my role as a student nurse anesthetist.”

By Christopher Reed, RN, MSN, MPH, CCRN, CFRN Fiscal Year 2014 Student Representative to the AANA Foundation Board of Trustees

**Kyle Martinez, RN, BSN**