

# FANA SPOTLIGHT

Shining a light on Florida CRNAs making a difference

## **Dr Tony Umadhay, Ph.D., CRNA**

Our FANA Spotlight highlights Dr. Tony Umadhay, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for the College of Nursing & Health Sciences (CNHS) at Barry University in Miami Shores, FL. Dr. Umadhay's accomplishments and accolades can be summed up as "service to others". With this as his personal and professional motto he has strived to better the lives of those around him. It is no wonder that he has found a home at Barry University, whose mission is to foster individual and communal transformation where learning leads to knowledge and truth, reflection leads to informed action, and a commitment to social justice leads to collaborative service.

## **Dr Tony Umadhay, Ph.D., CRNA**

Dr. Umadhay began his journey in the Philippines. With \$500.00 dollars to his name he sought opportunities in the United States to better support his family back in the Philippines. With a strong work ethic and a personal philosophy of giving to others he quickly rose through the nursing ranks to become a leader in the nursing profession.



In his concrete gesture of giving and commitment to social justice, Dr. Umadhay integrates community service in his professional nursing career. On a personal basis, he has been a persistent advocate for the homeless population of Broward County. Since 2010, he has consistently volunteered his services at the Broward Partnership for the Homeless (BPHI). As a Workforce Development volunteer, he helps homeless residents with resumes, cover letters and computer applications to assist them in obtaining adequate employment. His inspirational work was recognized when he received the Legacy Award from BPHI in 2015. In addition, he also serves as a video mentor for Infinite Family, a global mentoring organization dedicated to cultivating self-reliance in South Africa's teens affected by HIV/AIDS and poverty. Recently, Dr. Umadhay together with select Barry University faculty completed a pediatric medical-surgical mission to provide

specialized health care in Georgetown, Guyana. Leading others came easy to Dr. Umadhay as he is a team builder and projects an accepting and understanding manner. His qualities of leadership and team building were assets as he was a member of the inaugural class of the Anesthesiology Nursing Program at Florida International University. He and his classmates established a high benchmark of performance that others continue to emulate today. He also assumed the responsibilities of President of the Florida Association of Nurse Anesthetists in 2008, just 5 years after graduating from CRNA residency. As a practicing CRNA, he worked as a full-time Staff Nurse Anesthetist at Jackson Memorial Hospital. As many of his peers have been drawn to teaching, he too answered the call. Accepting his first teaching assignment as Adjunct Assistant Faculty at Barry University, he developed his teaching and academic leadership skills under the mentorship of Dr. John

McFadden. He was the director of the Master of Science Program in Anesthesiology from 2008 – 2015 and the founding director of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) with a Specialization Program. After 10 years at Barry University, Dr. Umadhay now holds the position of Associate Dean for the College of Nursing & Health Sciences (CNHS). The CNHS offers 14 core programs ranging from traditional undergraduate pre-licensure degrees all the way to doctoral degrees. These academic programs are delivered through traditional classroom experiences as well as synchronous videoconferencing and on-line formats. Presently, CNHS has over 1600 graduate and undergraduate students with more than 85 full-time faculty & staff.

As Associate Dean, Dr. Umadhay provides overall administrative leadership for academic matters by supporting programs, integrating academic best practices, and developing initiatives that meet the college's strategic goals and

promote the university's institutional mission.

When interviewed for this spotlight, Dr. Umadhay's comments were directed toward crediting others for their work, accomplishments, and successes of Barry University and its students. To spotlight Dr. Tony Umadhay is to shine a spotlight on all those who surround him. He truly embodies the team approach, interdisciplinary collaboration, and service to others. He credits all his previous and current mentors and faculty and staff at Barry University for achieving the level of excellence they set for themselves. Dr. Umadhay is most proud of the students who remain his primary focus. Barry University's Master of Science in Anesthesiology Program admits 70 graduate students every year with 27 clinical sites throughout the state of Florida. Technology-enhanced classes are offered via synchronous videoconferencing in 5 different locations in the state. Barry University has consistently achieved a 100% National Certification Exam pass rate for the past 8 years. Barry

CRNA graduates have a 100% employment rate within the first 6 months of graduation and are actively sought by many anesthesia departments.

The post-master's DNP with a Specialization in Anesthesiology Program founded by Dr. Umadhay in 2012 provided a platform for practicing CRNAs to acquire the clinical, organizational, and leadership skills to design and implement initiatives which can significantly impact our healthcare system. Numerous CRNAs who graduated from this DNP Program have gained advanced leadership positions in both clinical and academic environments. Several student manuscripts have been accepted for publication in various peer-reviewed journals contributing to the body of anesthesia knowledge. Many graduates have assumed roles as CRNA change agents and advocates for evidence-based anesthesia care in their respective practice settings. The success of Barry University Anesthesiology Programs is because of the hard work and

dedication of all. Dr. Umadhay would not allow a spotlight upon himself without due deference to those who surround him. Those highly respected and appreciated individuals include the Barry Anesthesiology Program team: John McFadden, PhD, CRNA (CNHS Dean), Rebecca Lee, DNP, CRNA (Current Director), Johanna Newman, DNAP, CRNA (Assistant Program Director)

Faculty members: Dr. Jeanne Antolchick, Dr. Ron Dick, Dr. Kay Rogers, and Dr. Jorge Valdes

Administrative Staff: Mercedes Diaz-Pinero and Carolyn Kaercher.

And all the adjunct faculty members, clinical coordinators and instructors that are the backbone of nurse anesthesia education.

Dr. Tony Umadhay truly embodies the core commitments of Barry University, knowledge and truth, inclusive community, social justice, and collaborative service. In addition to his tireless work as Associate Dean, faculty and clinician he is proud of his service giving back to others in most need.