

IN THE CENTER

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New Infant/Child Security System Installed at Hospital

The University of Kansas Hospital wants young patients' parents to rest a little easier. That's why a new security system has been installed to help keep infants and children as safe and secure in the hospital as they are in their parents' arms.

The new Windows-based system is now fully operational in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Pediatrics, Labor and Delivery, and the Mother and Baby Unit. It replaces an older system that had been used by the hospital since 1998.

"The new system keeps babies and children safe and offers peace of mind for parents and for our staff," said David Cobb, director, Biomedical Technologies.

The new system relies on innovative radio frequency and alarming

band technologies to safeguard infants and children, while allowing staff and visitors access to the units.

A transmitter is secured to each infant's or child's ankle or wrist using a comfortable, lightweight and reusable alarming band. It can be sized to fit any infant or child and adjusted without setting off an alarm. The transmitter stays on until the patient is dismissed from the hospital. Only authorized personnel can remove the band.

Every 10 seconds, the transmitter communicates with a host computer in each nursing unit, allowing staff to monitor the location of each patient within the unit using a computer screen. If someone attempts to take an infant or child through a closed secure doorway, it will be locked down; if the doorway is open, an alarm will sound. And if someone tries to remove or tamper with a patient's band, an alarm will sound, and the area will be automatically locked down, adding another layer of security.



Harold Golden, Biomedical Technologies repair technician, demonstrates the computer software that supports the hospital's new upgraded infant and child security system.

The system also monitors doors, hallways and stairwells. When an alarm sounds, it allows staff to easily identify the infant or child, as well as the exit where the alarm occurred.

Marla Bernard, vice president, Support Services, was instrumental in getting the funds allocated for the hospital's new security system.

"The request for emergency funding to support this upgrade was submitted to senior management as a formal recommendation from the Hospital Safety Committee," Bernard said. "Senior management wholeheartedly supported this initiative.

"The upgraded security system is an excellent measure in protecting our tiny patients. But no mechanical system is ever as good as our best defense mechanism – the human element of staff training and vigilance."

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Hospital Survey Seeks Employees' Opinions

Got an opinion? Most of us do, and we usually enjoy an opportunity to share them.

Beginning Monday, Feb. 9, all employees of The University of Kansas Hospital will get a chance to express their opinions on a variety of workplace topics, such as job security, benefits, retirement, pay, policies, environment, culture and communications.

That's when the hospital will launch its fourth employee survey, explained Terry Rusconi, senior director, Organizational Improvement. However, it's the first time an electronic version of the survey will be offered.

Look for a broadcast e-mail on Feb. 9 that will provide detailed information on how to access the survey via the intranet. Or, if you prefer a paper version, a number of "walk-in" survey sessions have been scheduled. This schedule will be sent by e-mail and posted in departments and on bulletin boards. Employees will have two weeks to complete and return their surveys.

The 56-question survey can be completed in about 10 minutes. Employees must read statements and select one of four responses: agree, strongly agree, disagree and strongly disagree. There is also one open-ended question at the end of the survey that provides employees an opportunity to express their opinions in their own words.

The initial employee survey was developed in 1998, using focus groups to determine key issues and

develop questions. Follow-up surveys have been conducted in 1999 and 2001.

"We have had a number of key issues identified and addressed through the survey process," said Bob Page, hospital chief operating officer.

"In the last survey, people asked that we recognize years of service, and that resulted in the creation of the Service Award Program."

Employees also mentioned replacing KPERS as the hospital's retirement program. As a result, the hospital created a new retirement plan option, which was launched in January.

In previous surveys, paying for parking was identified as an issue. From that feedback, the hospital began reimbursing staff for the cost of yellow lot parking.

Investment in new capital improvements and expansions also was an issue raised in prior surveys. Recent hospital improvements include the Cancer Center expansion, the new sixth floor and the groundbreaking for a new heart facility, just to name a few.

"Our goal is to get the largest possible percentage of employee participation in the survey process so that we are sure we have heard all significant concerns," Page added. "In the past, we have had upward of 65 percent participation. We hope for even higher rates this time, especially with the new electronic option."

Page added that the survey process is totally confidential. Each

employee receives a survey code, based on the department in which he or she works. The code identifies the department but not the employee.

Survey reports will then be provided to each supervisor or manager, detailing departmental results compared to the overall organization. Supervisors or managers are required to hold feedback meetings with their staffs to discuss the survey results and identify and develop plans for improvement.

Charity Chili Feed

You can show off your culinary skills and serve the community at the same time by volunteering to support the annual chili feed, sponsored by the Emergency Medicine Interest Group. Just donate a pot of your special homemade chili for the campuswide event. All proceeds from the chili feed will go to the charity of your choice.

The chili feed will be held Wednesday, Feb. 25, noon-1 p.m., in Hixson Atrium. Students, residents, faculty, administration and hospital staff are encouraged to participate. Submit your name, department and the name of your chili and charity of your choice to Dawn Yan at dyan@kumc.edu.

“Do Not Use” Abbreviations Go into Effect

As part of an ongoing commitment to patient safety, the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff of The University of Kansas Hospital has recently approved a list of unsafe abbreviations that may no longer be used when caring for patients. The fourteen abbreviations should be avoided because they can be easily misinterpreted, resulting in possible medical errors. This initiative is of high importance since The University of Kansas Hospital has identified medication errors as one of its four primary quality measures.

The abbreviations identified have also been listed as high-risk by

several national organizations including the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP). Nine of the abbreviations were originally selected by JCAHO with the requirement that each organization target three or more additional abbreviations of its choosing.

The goal is for The University of Kansas Hospital to meet this requirement by July 1, 2004.

“This is a very important multidisciplinary initiative that supports patient safety and takes a proactive approach in reducing the potential

for medication errors,” said H. William Barkman, MD, hospital chief of staff. “Reaching 100 percent compliance will require everyone’s adherence and cooperation.”



Reception Honors Chair of Physical Therapy

Lisa Stehno-Bittel, PhD, PT, was appointed chair of the Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences in the KU School of Allied Health in January. She was honored with a reception Jan. 29.

Prior to her appointment, Stehno-Bittel served as interim chair of the department and directed departmental activities during the search process.

In addition to her duties as department chair, Stehno-Bittel directs the KUMC Diabetes Research Laboratory, investigating the effects of diabetes on the vascular system and the impact of physical exercise on diabetic pathology.

“I believe Dr. Stehno-Bittel will guide the department and its talented faculty and staff to new,

higher levels of achievement,” said Karen Miller, RN, PhD, dean of the Schools of Allied Health and Nursing. “She has an exemplary record of scholarship with academic leadership experience.”

Before joining KU in 1995, Stehno-Bittel was a research associate in the Department of Pharmacology at the Mayo School

of Medicine in Rochester, Minn. She practiced physical therapy in Lawrence, Kan., and has been a staff clinician at the University of Missouri Hospital and Clinics.

Stehno-Bittel received her PhD in physiology from the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., in 1992, and completed post-doctoral training at the Mayo School of Medicine.

Stehno-Bittel is recognized for excellence in teaching and mentoring doctoral students in the PhD program in Rehabilitation Sciences. Also, she has overseen the implementation of the PhD of Physical Therapy entry clinical program that begins at KUMC this year.



Lisa Stehno-Bittel, PhD, PT (left), and Dean Karen Miller, RN, PhD (far right).

Recruitment Video Award

The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Region IV-West recently presented an award to **Stephanie Bohling** (center), KU School of Nursing student and student director of the Community Outreach Program (COP). The award was for a video she created to help recruit more students to COP. Honoring her at a reception Jan. 26 were (from left) **Theresa Brown**, director of Student Resources and COP advisor; **Nick Briscoe**, Instructional Services, who helped edit the video; **Bohling**; **Fonda Briles**, Student Services coordinator; and **Dorothy Knoll, PhD**, dean of Students, who started COP in 1995.



Front & Center

Dirty Dishes on the Move

A new automatic tray-return system was recently installed in the cafeteria. A conveyor moves dirty dishes and trays out of sight and into the kitchen for easier clean-up.



SoN Student Honors

The KU School of Nursing has accepted three junior students to the BSN Honors Program. Pictured (from left) are **Kristy Reynolds**, **Jessica Powell** and **Stephanie Stremming**. The SoN Honors Program offers enhanced educational opportunities while providing a foundation for leadership development and facilitation into graduate education. It also enables students who started University Honors on the Lawrence campus to finish the University Honors program when they enter the SoN.



Graduate Student Council

This school year, members of the Graduate Student Council (GSC) have reached new heights in student participation and donations to local and international charities. In addition to donating \$2,000 to United Way, the group also donated \$1,000 to KUMC's International Medical Mission Outreach. GSC provides annual funds to help a girl in rural China finish high school and has doubled its budget allocation to the Adopt-a-Family program. It also assists with the KUMC Street Fair, Christmas in October and Meet-the-Mentor program.

Council members include (left to right seated) **Alex Dajkovic, Christina Newport, Nick McWilliams, Mike Oller, Ramsey McIntire, Erica Perryn, Heather Hudson, Audrey Blacklock, Christina Kaiser, Anna Bomhoff**

and **Dave Hout**, and (standing) **Seok Hun Kim, Jennifer Ho-Chen, Darcy Griffin, Adnan Abu-Yousif, Emily Harris, Mariam Riazi** and **Karen Stanze**.



Faculty Appreciation Day

Celebrating Faculty Appreciation Day Jan. 30 in the School of Nursing Atrium were (from left) **Syed Omar Ahmad, OTD, PhD**, Occupational Therapy Education faculty candidate; **Winnie Dunn, PhD**, Occupational Therapy Education chair; **Kathy Parker**, Occupational Therapy Education clinical instructor; and **Susan Jackson, PhD**, Hearing and Speech associate professor. The annual event honors faculty of the KU Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health.

NASA Awards Grant to KUMC Researcher

As America charts a course for further space exploration to Mars and beyond, the work of one KU School of Medicine researcher may take on even greater significance.

Joseph Tash, PhD, associate professor, Molecular and Integrative Physiology, recently received a new three-year \$1.38 million grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to study the impact of extended exposure to microgravity on male reproductive health. NASA's Fundamental Space Biology Division of the Office of Biological and Physical Research funded the study.

Through work on previous space shuttle missions and ground-based experiments, Tash and his research team determined that prolonged periods of time in simulated low-gravity cause infertility in

males, which could have major consequences as plans advance for life in space. With this new grant, Tash will be able to expand on that work.

"We know that simulated microgravity can produce sterility in males using an animal model," Tash said. "This animal model reproduces many of the key physiologic changes that occur in both rats and humans in space flight."

Tash said the new grant could lead to potential answers to male reproductive problems on earth as

well as in space.

"This helps us to understand the basic mechanisms that affect the aging process and male fertility," he said.



This 1997 photo shows Joseph Tash, PhD, standing on the launch control center in front of the space shuttle Atlantis at the Kennedy Space Center.

"Go Red" Campaign Offers Health Screenings and More

Mid-America Cardiology will staff an information table outside the cafeteria from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 5 and 6 to increase awareness and provide information about women's heart health and cardiovascular disease. The event is part of the national "Go Red for Women" campaign, sponsored by the American Heart Association.

All employees, faculty and students are encouraged to wear red Friday, Feb. 6, and make a donation to the American Heart Association.

With a \$5 donation, you will receive a red pin to wear and a brochure on heart health. For a \$10 donation, you will receive the pin, the brochure and a coupon for a health screening that includes a blood pressure test and cholesterol screening (complete lipid profile). You must make an appointment before the Feb. 6 health screening.

All proceeds from the "Go Red" campaign will benefit KUMC's Heart Walk fundraising efforts. Kansas City's American Heart Walk will be held Saturday, June 12.



WHAT'S NEWS

AT KUMC

Indoor Triathlon

Kirmayer Fitness Center is hosting its second indoor triathlon on Sunday, Feb. 29.

It will consist of a 10-minute swim, a 15-minute bike ride and a 15-minute run. Participants will try to accumulate as much distance as possible within these time frames.

There will be 12 heats of four participants. Because this limits the event to 48 participants, Kirmayer Fitness Center members will have first priority to enter through Feb. 10. After Feb. 10, remaining slots will be open to any KUMC employee, faculty member or student. Entry forms are available at Kirmayer Fitness Center.

Volunteers are needed for the triathlon. There will be two shifts: 7:30-10:30 a.m. and 10:15-1:15 p.m. All volunteers and participants will receive T-shirts and refreshments. If you are interested, contact Jan Schmidt at jschmidt@kumc.edu or call 8-7703.

Running Clinic

Get an individualized assessment of your running biomechanics from faculty and students in the KUMC Department of Physical Therapy. A running gait analysis clinic will be held 4:30-6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Kirmayer Fitness Center.

Participants will go through a

series of stations to check the biomechanics of several joints from the toes on up. Running shoes will be examined for wear patterns.

Participants will also be videotaped while running on a treadmill so their motion can be analyzed. Those wanting copies of the video are asked to provide VHS tapes. The information can help a runner avoid injury and run more efficiently.

Because space is limited to 32 people, this special service will be free to Kirmayer members. The cost for nonmembers is \$5.37.

Student Auction

KUMC International Outreach will make an inaugural trip over spring break to Belize to do medical work in Mayan villages. Twelve KUMC students, six doctors and two nurses will go on the medical mission trip.

To raise money, KUMC International Outreach is sponsoring an auction Friday, Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m. in Battenfeld Auditorium. Everyone is invited to bid on students or faculty members who will take winning bidders out for a fun activity or agree to do their chores, like laundry and cleaning. Participants can also bid on a day of golf, a night with a bowling pro, KU basketball tickets, dinner with professors and many more items.

Call for Nominees

Student Services is seeking nominations for the sixth annual KUMC Student Leadership Award. A student will be chosen on the basis of his or her capacity to demonstrate exceptional leadership skills that impact the KUMC campus, community involvement and ability to interact and work with a wide variety of students and student organizations.

The winner of this \$300 award will be announced at the Student Leaders Reception on April 21, as well as at commencement in Lawrence, Kan., on May 23.

Nominations may be made by anyone on campus. If you would like to nominate someone, complete a form and return it to Student Services, 3001 Student Center, no later than 4:30 p.m. March 1.

Nominations will also be accepted for:

- Student Organization of the Year
- Student Organization Advisor of the Year
- Student Diversity Award

If you have questions or need a form, contact Sara Honeck at shoneck@kumc.edu or Fonda Briles at fbriles@kumc.edu or stop by the Student Services office.

Classifieds, etc.

Automotive:

2002 Nissan Altima 3.5 SE, 4-door, 5-speed, silver, loaded, excellent condition, \$17,000. 816-468-0082.

2001 Mustang GT, mineral gray, leather interior, 30K, excellent condition, tinted windows, ground effects match Mach 1 Mustang, custom exhaust system, specialized wheels, low-profile tires, lowering kit added, still under warranty, \$16,500 OBO. 913-244-9127.

1999 F250, extended cab, 4 x 4, 8' bed, diesel, 47K, \$23,000. 913-269-0095.

1996 Ford Explorer, Eddie Bauer model, excellent condition, all-wheel drive, automatic transmission, leather interior, 8-cylinder, great in snow and rain, very reliable, \$7,500. 913-579-5039.

1991 Toyota Celica, white, \$600. 816-309-7816.

1987 Mazda 323, runs and handles great, 5-speed, FWD, quick, 33 mpg, new tires/struts/exhaust, \$900 OBO. 913-961-3248.

1979 shovel-head Harley, all-custom low-rider, 2" off the ground, titled in 1999, \$15,000 OBO. 913-269-0095.

For Sale:

Prairie Village home, updated on treed lot in great neighborhood, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, large deck, new gutters, new paint, 5 miles from Westport and Plaza. 913-236-9216.

3 BR, 2½ BA, 17 miles from KUMC campus, remodeled roof/siding/windows/driveway in '97, finished walkout basement, loads of extras, \$154,900. 816-880-0255.

Oversized beige sofa, \$350; tall wood and glass curio, \$350; round glass-top table with wood base, 4 large chairs, \$500; antique wood table, 5 chairs, \$70; full bed with rails, \$60; cherry wood queen headboard with carvings, \$150 OBO. 913-636-6189.

Large dog kennel, \$40. 913-677-2004.

Contemporary kitchen table with rolling chairs, leaf, octagon shape, \$200 OBO; contemporary whitewash coffee and end tables, \$150 OBO; e-mail sirmills@gbroline.com for pictures. 913-642-7231.

Welch Allyn pocket otoscope and ophthalmoscope sets, nearly new, lightweight halogen, model 92800, each scope has its own tool so no switching heads, 2 sets for sale, 1 with carrying case/box/original instructions, both with desktop chargers, work well, \$200 each set. 913-262-7759.

Scrubs, 4 pairs pants, 5 tops, 2 lab coats, all size 4X, never worn, some still in package, \$60 for all OBO. 816-228-6856.

To Rent:

Spacious, newly remodeled duplex, circle drive in front with private entrance, large kitchen, new clay tile floors, new appliances, 1-car garage with auto door opener, large basement, 2 BR with new carpet, 1 BA with new fixtures, washer/dryer hookups, \$650/mo. 816-452-1363.

Wanted:

2004 grad wants summer nanny job in or near Olathe, daycare and lifeguard experience, wants to be a teacher, has car. 913-558-5279.

IN THE CENTER

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Ad Policy - Send or bring your ad, 30 words or less, to Bldg. 48, Room 1070, fax to 8-1063, or e-mail bjjaekel by noon Thursday of the week before it is to run. Ads run free of charge for employees, students and volunteers. All ads must include the advertiser's name and work extension (or student box number) for verification. Only home phone numbers—no pager numbers or work extensions—will be published. Please include area code. No ads for commercial services or pets for sale will be accepted. Ads will not be taken by telephone. Ads may be held a week if space is limited.

Coming Up

Friday, Feb. 6

- "Go Red for Women" information table, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., outside cafeteria.
- Neurology Grand Rounds, "Numbers in Neurology," Sarab Alseoudi, MD, 8:30-9:30 a.m., 1563a hospital.
- Black History Month lecture, "Klan-Destine Relationships," Daryl Davis, noon, Battenfeld Auditorium.
- Wellness program, "Off the Beat: Atrial Fibrillation and Palpitations," Loren Berenbom, MD, noon-1 p.m., Room 200, Landon Center.
- Ophthalmology Grand Rounds, "Perspectives on Glaucoma and Intraocular Pressure," Gregory Skuta, MD, University of Oklahoma, 3:45-6 p.m., Sudler Auditorium.

Saturday, Feb. 7

- Sixth Annual Susan Henke Miller Try 4 A Cure fitness benefit, 8 a.m.-noon, Prairie Life Center, Overland Park, Kan.

Monday, Feb. 9

- "Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement" photo exhibit, Clendenen Library, continues through Feb. 29.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

- Sigma Xi Seminar, "Cryptosporidium Outbreak Investigation in Kansas," Gianfranco Pezzino, MD, noon, School of Nursing Atrium.

Thursday, Feb. 12

- Cultural Creatives Discussion, "Tutu and Franklin: A Journey Toward Peace," noon, 1014 Orr-Major.

For a more complete listing of campus events, go to <http://www2.kumc.edu/calendar/>.