Former faculty member Betsy Beisecker honored at KU with posthumous award

Former Professor of Preventive Medicine Analee “Betsy” Beisecker, PhD, was known to those she worked with as a professional, a scholar, an advocate and a friend. In an April 18 ceremony held on the Lawrence campus, the legacy of Dr. Beisecker—who died of breast cancer in 1997—received a special honor, when she was inducted posthumously into the KU Women’s Hall of Fame.

Dr. Beisecker, who also served as associate director of the KU Cancer Center and director of the Division of Behavioral and Social Science Research, was chosen for induction because of her many professional and personal accomplishments. She was known nationally and internationally for her research into doctor-patient communication, which focused on older adults and cancer patients. She also served on grant review committees for the National Institute on Aging, the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, and the U.S. Department of Education. Active during her lifetime as an advocate for breast cancer research, the 1997 breast cancer “Race for the Cure” in Kansas City was dedicated to her memory.

Known for her deep and sincere interest in students, Dr. Beisecker also served as advocate, counsel and mentor for students pursuing the masters of public health degree, as well as medical, thesis and dissertation students.

“Betsy was a loyal KU faculty member, social worker, and involved in everything,” said Executive Vice Chancellor Donald Hagen, MD. “I am happy she has been given this award.”

The Hall of Fame award was accepted in Dr. Beisecker’s name by her husband, Tom, assistant professor of Communication Studies on the KU Lawrence campus.

Senate dissolves hospital oversight committee

In a vote of 115-7, the Kansas House of Representatives recently gave KU Med a resounding vote of confidence, by passing a bill to dissolve the Joint Committee on Oversight of the University of Kansas Hospital Authority.

The measure, Senate Bill 24, repeals K.S.A. 1999 Supp. 46-2901, which established the monitoring committee shortly after the Authority Board was formed. According to KU Med President and CEO Irene Cumming, the vote reflects the Kansas Legislature’s faith in the Hospital Authority Board to manage the hospital’s affairs.

“In the year and a half since the Authority Board was formed, Board members have demonstrated great leadership, made sound business decisions and laid the groundwork for solid success in the 21st century,” Cumming said. “This action clearly indicates that the Legislature has full confidence in the Board’s stewardship of KU Med.”

Gov. Bill Graves signed the bill on April 16. It will become effective following the bill’s publication in the Kansas Statute Book.
Like many academic health centers, we are at a crossroads in our history. Momentum and support for research is growing in almost unprecedented ways.

Our nation would not enjoy much of the prosperity we do if it weren’t for the work of previous academic health centers and great research universities. We take for granted the breakthroughs made possible by the space programs in the late 1950s and 1960s. Biomedical technology has brought the world unprecedented health and prosperity. Where did these advances take place? You only have to look to our nation’s research universities and academic health centers. Here, the best and brightest combined their knowledge, tested and retested their theories, often only partially supported by funding bases. As a result, we today enjoy the Good Life.

If we are to ride this current wave of prosperity, we must capture the moment—move out with conviction to accept our role in the emerging scientific renaissance. We must encourage our governmental representatives to fund research initiatives. Internally, we must dedicate our resources to deepen and expand our existing research programs. Senior researchers must mentor junior researchers. Lab space and equipment must be fully utilized.

We could spend the next few years bemoaning everything we don’t have. If we do, we will miss the ride. This will be a poor legacy to leave future generations. Fortunately, we are creating a strong research strategic plan, and taking steps to accept our role as a national leader in the research enterprise. We cannot take these steps in isolation. We must enthusiastically recruit and embrace new partners—business, industry, governmental leaders, privately based research institutions, potential international partners and regional universities.

I believe we have the people in place to make it happen. Now we must combine our efforts and focus on the future.

Volunteers are unsung heroes . . . for our patients, their families and our patient care teams. They provide services we have come to expect and depend upon. And, they do so without monetary compensation . . . they serve because they believe in what KU Med does and what KU Med is. They are here every day and every night. Most of the time, we rush by, hardly noticing what they do. However, in April each year we pause, reflect and recognize their valued role.

And, it’s an important message—Volunteers are valued . . . by our patients, our staff and our organization. KU Med has one of the largest and most diverse volunteer programs in the region. We are privileged to have more than 425 dedicated, committed and spirited volunteers.

In 1999, volunteers ran 12,000 errands and delivered more than 200 packages to patients. They made more than 11,000 flower and mail deliveries to patients. Our volunteers gave more than 50,000 hours of volunteer service . . . at a value of more than $690,000. In addition, many thousands of envelopes were stuffed and labeled . . . shirts were folded, patient surveys sent, packets collated and stapled. You know, not an event or a meeting takes place without volunteer help.

Clearly, volunteers make things work and they are dedicated to this end . . . to our patients!
Kimberly Cuda named director, alumni and community relations

Kimberly Cuda, former executive director of the Providence/Saint John Foundation, has been named director of alumni and community relations at KUMC. Cuda officially began her duties April 13.

Cuda will be responsible for planning, organizing and directing operations of the allied health, medical, and nursing alumni relations offices on the Kansas City campus, and coordinating activities for the Wichita medical alumni relations office. She will also direct community relations activities, which include public service projects to foster mutual understanding between KUMC and neighboring communities.

“I’m very pleased to welcome Ms. Cuda to the KU Medical Center,” said Executive Vice Chancellor Donald Hagen, MD. “She brings the perfect mix of vision, experience, skills and enthusiasm to help us move into the next century. I’m excited about the opportunities before us and know she will help us reach new levels of success.”

Cuda has 16 years’ experience developing and managing fund raising, public relations, marketing and training programs. Prior to her position with the Providence/St. John Foundation, she served as director of development for the Baptist Medical Center Foundation, Kansas City, Mo., director of public relations at Doane College, Crete, Neb., and communication director for the United Way of Lincoln (Neb.) and Lancaster County. Cuda has a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a bachelor’s in journalism and speech communications from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

New dispenser tracks scrubs use, saves money

KU Med has recently acquired a new high-tech piece of operating room equipment. No, it’s not a device to improve surgery. It’s called the Scrubstation, and it looks like a vending machine. Instead of dispensing candy bars, however, this machine spits out scrubs.

It may sound crazy, but this money-saving device is no laughing matter. Before purchasing Scrubstation, the hospital spent up to $9,600 a month on scrubs. “Scrubs were being lost, or taken home and not returned, and unauthorized scrub users were wearing them,” explained Ken Kuse, operations manager for Environmental Services.

Now, scrub use can be tracked and monitored, thanks to Scrubstation. In order to obtain a pair of scrubs, users must insert an identification card into the machine. Scrubstation will only dispense scrubs to authorized users, and if a person has too many pairs “checked out,” the machine won’t give them another. There is also a second machine, to which employees can return their dirty scrubs.

Over the past six months, the Scrubstation has saved KU Med $52,000 in scrub costs. Even accounting for the cost of the machine, the hospital should break even in a little more than a year. “That money saved allows us to buy things we need for patient care,” Kuse said. He added, “This is working because of a team effort between the hospital, KUPI and all the schools.”
Certified Health Care Assistant Latricia Smith of Employee Health Services performs a blood glucose screening April 13 outside the Main Cafeteria. The screenings, which were offered free to employees, measured glucose levels and determined employees’ risk for developing diabetes.

Rajesh Pahwa, MD, associate professor of Neurology and director of the Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorder Center at KUMC, presented a research update at the April 14 Parkinson’s Disease Symposium XVI. Also appearing was Steven Wilkinson, MD, associate professor of Neurosurgery, who spoke on current surgical techniques. The symposium was sponsored by KU Med and the Parkinson Association of Greater Kansas City.

Scientists and administrators from the Stowers Institute for Scientific Research visited KUMC April 14 to present their areas of research expertise, the first step in exploring mutual academic interests. Such interests could eventually lead to adjunct faculty status at KUMC for Stowers staff members, and their involvement with graduate student training programs. The visit was also the first of several events in the Stowers/KUMC Scientific Exchange Program. Shown are: James Coffman, PhD, assistant scientist, left; Linheng Li, PhD, assistant scientist; Ting Xie, PhD, assistant scientist; Leanne Wiedemann, PhD, staff scientist; Robert Krumlauf, PhD, scientific director; Nelson Pleau, Stowers chief administrative officer; and William Neaves, PhD, Stowers president and CEO.

John Janzen, PhD, professor of Anthropology at the KU Lawrence campus, speaks with medical student Chris Blosser at a reception preceding Dr. Janzen’s April 13 presentation for the International Lecture Series. Dr. Janzen spoke on “The Human Cost and Challenge of Unresolved War Trauma: An Anthropological Look at Central Africa.”
KUMC employees, family and friends joined together to help raise funds for local AIDS service organizations by participating in AIDS Walk Kansas City 2000, April 15 in Mill Creek Park. Among the KUMC team members shown are Pat Pohl, PT, PhD, Physical Therapy Education, fourth from left, and several family members of Vicki Eaton, Research Administration.

Janet Rowley, MD, of the University of Chicago presented “Chromosome Translocations: Dangerous Liaisons” at the April 18 Kansas Cancer Institute (KCI) Research Round Table. Dr. Rowley is shown with Professor of Surgery and KCI Director William Jewell, MD. The presentation was broadcast live to the KU Lawrence campus.

Members of the Wyandotte and Johnson County Medical Society Alliance delivered Easter baskets to pediatric patients on April 18. Among those making the deliveries were Alliance members Kay Hamilton, left, and Karen Hagen; Chair of Pediatrics Carol Lindsley, MD; Darlene Ball, RN, Pediatric Plastic Surgery, and Peter Witt, MD, associate professor of Pediatric Plastic Surgery.
Upcoming events

Cultural Competency

Students Educating and Advocating for Diversity (SEAD) will present “Cultural Competency—A Beginning Provided by SEAD,” April 24-28. Food will be provided at all events. The schedule of events is:

April 24: Introduction to Cultural Diversity, noon-1 p.m., Wahl West Auditorium.

April 25: Introduction to Muslim Cultural Competency, noon-1 p.m., Rieke Auditorium.

April 26: Intercultural Film Series, “And the Band Played On,” 4:30 p.m., Sudler Auditorium.

April 27: Poverty as a Culture, noon-1 p.m., Rieke Auditorium.

April 28: Pieces of African Culture, noon-1 p.m., Rieke Auditorium.

Worlds of Fun Day

The Student Governing Council and the KU School of Medicine will sponsor a Worlds of Fun Day on Saturday, April 29. Tickets are available at the KUMC Bookstore through April 24, at a cost of $10 for adults and $8 for juniors (4 years old-4 ft. tall and under), with a valid KU Student ID. Children 3 and under are free. Tickets are limited to two adult and two junior tickets per Student ID. The ticket price includes lunch; parking is $6 per vehicle, payable at Worlds of Fun.

Medical student seeks to conserve Earth’s resources by bringing recycling to KUMC

Earth Day may not be until Saturday, but KUMC is already doing its part to conserve Earth’s resources. Under the leadership of second year medical student Mike Lipnick, the medical center has instituted a campus-wide aluminum and plastic products recycling program.

Recycling bins are located in Stoland Lounge, the Courtyard Café and the Student Center Lounge. As participation increases, Lipnick hopes the program will expand to include more bins and the recycling of office paper and newspaper.

According to Lipnick, aluminum recycling saves 95 percent of the energy used to make the material from scratch. Plastic recycling also conserves resources; in fact, if every American household recycled just one-tenth of the plastic bottles they used, it would keep close to 200 million pounds per year from being deposited in landfills.

“I think this recycling program is long overdue,” Lipnick said. “Hopefully the KUMC community will embrace it, expand it, improve it and make it last.”

Senior Research Associate Marjorie Bott, Grants and Research, left, received the first Millennium Scholar Award during an April 13 reception in the Hixon Atrium. The award provides $1,000 to a PhD student nearing the completion of his or her dissertation in the KU School of Nursing’s Health Care Effectiveness Research Area, and who has demonstrated vision, innovation and leadership throughout the doctoral studies program. With Bott are Professor of Grants and Research Roma Lee Taunton, RN, PhD, center, who provided funding to establish the award, and Professor and Associate Dean for Research Lauren Aaronson, RN, PhD, who announced the award.
**Junior Volunteers**

The Office of Volunteer Services is still accepting applications for the Summer Junior Volunteer Program. The program will run June 5-August 11. The application deadline is May 1. For more information or to receive an application, contact Marilyn Coup, ext. 8-6560, or e-mail <mcoup>.

**Bohan lectures**

Two prominent speakers will visit KUMC next week thanks to funding from the Ruth Bohan Trust. On Tuesday, April 25, Visiting Bohan Professor Everett Rogers, PhD, will present “Diffusion of Health Innovations” from noon to 1 p.m. in Clendening Auditorium. Dr. Rogers is professor and former chair of the Department of Communication and Journalism at the University of New Mexico. Much of his work centers on how health-related concepts, practices and products have become accepted nationwide. Dr. Rogers’ appearance is sponsored by the Department of Preventive Medicine. On Wednesday, April 26, Larry Green, MD, will present the Bohan Lecture, “The Future of Family Medicine and Primary Care,” from noon-1 p.m. in Sudler Auditorium. Dr. Green is director of the Center for Policy Studies in Family Practice and Primary Care, Washington, D.C. His appearance is sponsored by the Department of Family Medicine.

**Shuttle and escort services**

During its first year of operation, the KUMC shuttle service transported more than 22,000 people to and from KUMC parking lots. In fact, the shuttle has been so successful that Parking Services plans to purchase a second, larger bus and expand the program in the months ahead. Escort services are also in high demand with 20,000 people taking advantage of the program in 1999, compared to 15,000 in 1998. The average wait for an escort vehicle is 7.7 minutes.

**Literacy 2000**

KUMC will collect children’s books for the Literacy 2000 Book Drive, April 24-28. All books will be donated to elementary, middle and high schools in Wyandotte County. The books should be new, and may be purchased at a 20 percent discount with a KUMC ID at cooperating bookstores, including the KUMC Bookstore, Reading Reptile in Westport, Rainy Day Books and The Bookstore (8149 State Ave.). Drop boxes for books will be set up in the Community Relations Office (1028 Murphy), the Delp Cafeteria and the KUMC Bookstore. For more information, contact Shelley Bratton, ext. 8-1252.

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**Going up?**

Renovations to the elevator in the Student Center revealed this sign inside the elevator shaft. In previous decades, parts of the Student Center served as lodging for visitors to the medical center.

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### FOR SALE:

- 2 large mirrors, unframed, 50 ½” x 32” and 44 ½” x 50 ½”. Call 816-531-6183.
- Acer Extensa 368D laptop computer, 233 MHz i3 Pentium processor, 12.1” high contrast LCD, 128-bit graphic accel., 2 gig, memory, 3-hour battery life, 20X CD-ROM, USB, ZV port & Cardbus support, built-in fax/modem up to 60 kbps, external hot-pluggable disk drive, 1.1 MB video RAM, all Windows 97 programs, $850 OBO. Call 913-558-7841.
- Sony Dolby-Pro home theater stereo system, complete w/front & rear speakers, stands & cabinet (all in black), components are 100 watt receiver, 5-Disc CD & dual auto-reverse cassette, manuals, remotes, invested over $1,500, sell for $600 OBO. Call 913-362-4847, leave message.
- 1997 Sea Doo GTI, 85 HP, 3-seater, 55 mph top end, will pull skier, 111 hours, immaculate, $4,200 package deal. Call 913-395-3669.
- Medela Pump in Style breast pump, $90. Call 913-438-8635.
- 44 ½” x 50 ½”. Call 816-531-6183.

### HOUSING:

**For Rent:**
- Room, beginning May/June, walking distance from KUMC, will share 3BR house w/all bills paid (heating, etc., gas, water, cable), pay 1/3 of phone bill, share kitchen & living space w/roommates, $400/mo., $400 deposit. Call Daniel, 913-384-1599, for more details.
- Sharehome, within walking distance of KUMC, 4138 Springfield. 1 bedroom for single person, $300 plus 1/3 utilities, available immediately. Call 816-468-5411.
- Studio apartment, completely furnished, utilities paid, walk to KUMC, deposit required, $400/mo., will rent by week or month. Call 913-677-3248.

### AUTOMOTIVE:

- 1997 Sea Doo GTI, 85 HP, 3-seater, 55 mph top end, will pull skier, 111 hours, immaculate, $4,200 package deal. Call 913-395-3669.
- Medela Pump in Style breast pump, $90. Call 913-438-8635.

### STUDY SUBJECTS WANTED:

Healthy adult subjects, 18-50 years of age to participate in non-invasive study of memory and learning. Involves 1 hour visit to the Cognitive Neuroscience Lab for the recording of event-related brain potentials (ERP’s or brain waves). For more information, contact Jennifer Vavold, ext. 8-5997.

The Easter Bunny came early this year to children attending the April 15 KU MedWest Springtime Event. Shown are Alex Shearer, left, Andrew and Nathan Nicklaus, and Megan Shearer.

### IN THE CENTER

Jennifer Shearer.

### CLASSIFIEDS, ETC.

**Coming Up**

**Friday, April 21:**
- Psychiatry Grand Rounds, “Bipolar Disorder in Children & Adolescents,” 10:30 a.m., Clendening Amphitheater.
- Neurology Grand Rounds, “Pain from the Brain,” noon-1 p.m., Clendening Amphitheater.
- Catholic Holy Week Mass, 4:45 p.m., Spencer Chapel.

**Sunday, April 23:**
- Catholic Easter Mass, 10 a.m., Spencer Chapel.
- Easter Non-Denominational Service, 11:15 a.m., Spencer Chapel.

**Monday, April 24:**
- Alzheimer’s Disease Support Group, noon-1:30 p.m., Delp Cafeteria.

**Tuesday, April 25:**
- Cognitive Therapy Addiction Treatment, 1-3:30 p.m., Family Medicine.
- Head and Neck Cancer Support Group, 6-7 p.m., 5003 KU Med.

**Wednesday, April 26:**
- KUMC Interfaith, noon-1 p.m., 203 Wescoe.
- Center on Aging Visiting Professor Lecture, “Good Vibrations! Probing the Human Proprioceptive System from the Cellular to Behavioral Levels,” noon-1 p.m., Wahl West Auditorium.
- National Bereavement Teleconference, “Living with Grief: Children, Adolescents, and Loss,” moderator: Cokie Roberts, 12:30-3:30 p.m., 1014 Orr-Major. To register, call ext. 8-7758 or e-mail <sparmen>.
- Stroke Support Group, 2-3 p.m., Westwood City Hall, 47th and Rainbow.
- National Stuttering Project Support Group, 20X CD-ROM, USB, ZV port & Cardbus support, built-in fax/modem up to 60 kbps, external hot-pluggable disk drive, 1.1 MB video RAM, all Windows 97 programs, $850 OBO. Call 913-558-7841.

**Thursday, April 27:**
- Lung Transplant Support Group, noon-2 p.m., Westwood City Hall, 47th and Rainbow.