KU Med will celebrate National Nurses’ Week May 5-9. This year’s theme is “Pride and Passion.”

“KU nurses are passionate about what they do and take pride in doing it well,” said Robyn Lindsey, RN, who co-chairs the PRIDE committee that is sponsoring KU Med’s activities. Her co-chair is Lila Martin, RN.

Several activities are planned to honor all Department of Nursing employees.

- **Monday, May 5:** A cart will make the rounds to all nursing units and areas, delivering sweets and treats.
- **Tuesday, May 6:** A “Sock Hop” vendor fair will be held from noon-4 p.m. in Hixson Atrium. Nurses can bop to their favorite music while visiting with pharmaceutical and supply vendors.
- **Wednesday, May 7:** All Department of Nursing employees will receive a special gift.
- **Thursday, May 8:** Each unit will create a “themed” backpack filled with treats that will be given away in a “Nurses for Nurses” raffle.
- **Friday, May 9:** Top 10 List contest winners will be announced. Each nursing unit will develop its “Top 10 reasons to be a nurse at KU Med.” Entries will be judged, and three prizes awarded.

Other Nurse’s Week activities include the nomination and selection of Nursing Excellence Award winners. They will be announced May 5.

**SoN Reception**

In honor of National Nurses’ Week and in recognition of the contributions of faculty and staff at the University of Kansas School of Nursing, the SoN will hold a reception on Monday, May 12, Florence Nightingale’s birthday. The reception is from 3-4:30 p.m. in the SoN Atrium.

**Nursing Exhibit**

“American Red Cross Nursing: A Tradition of Service” will be on display May 5-June 30 in the foyer of Clendening Library.

The exhibit will include objects and photographs from the collection and two vintage Red Cross nursing uniforms on loan from the American Red Cross, Greater Kansas City Chapter.

May 5-9 a special traveling exhibit from the National Red Cross depicting the history of the organization also will be on display.

The exhibit is presented by the KUMC Archives, Clendening History of Medicine Library and Museum, the Department of History and Philosophy of Medicine, and KU Endowment Association.
Meeting the Need for Nurses

All across the United States, registered nurses are being saluted during National Nurses Week, May 6-12. “Nurses: Lifting Spirits, Touching Lives” is this year’s national theme.

National Nurses Week opens on May 6, the traditional National Nurses Day, and ends on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of nursing as a modern profession.

In honor of the dedicated effort of the nearly 2.7 million registered nurses nationwide who promote and maintain the health of this nation, the University of Kansas School of Nursing (SoN) will recognize faculty and staff during a 3 p.m. reception Monday, May 12, in the SoN Atrium.

Traditionally, National Nurses Week is devoted to highlighting the diverse ways registered nurses, the largest health care profession, are working to improve health care. As of November 2001, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that more than one million new nurses will be needed by the year 2010.

The Art and Science of Nursing

As I make rounds throughout the hospital, I am continually amazed by the compassion and sensitivity shown by KU Med’s nurses as they care for patients and their families. They are masters of the “art” of nursing. At the same time, their knowledge and skill level in managing highly complex patient cases attest to their expertise in the “science” of nursing.

Providing outstanding patient care requires a balance between art and science. KU Med nurses strive for and achieve that balance every day. It is the result of their commitment to high standards of patient care.

Dozens of examples of this kind of patient care take place daily at KU Med.

During a recent visit to one of our Intensive Care Units, I witnessed the heroic efforts of our nurses as they battled to save the life of a patient. I stood in awe as they focused solely on the patient and meeting his immediate medical needs. However, they never lost sight of his need for emotional support and comfort as well.

Many patients send letters telling us of the wonderful care provided by our nursing staff. One patient recently wrote that his nurse stayed with him well after her shift had ended to make sure his condition had stabilized. He truly appreciated the extra care and attention she showed him.

From clinical nursing in hospitals and long-term care facilities to the halls of education and research institutions, state legislatures and Congress, nurses are helping to meet the expanding health care needs of our nation. Thank you for your work and commitment every day!
KU First Family Campaign
Loyalty Prompts Gift to KUMC

K.N. Dileepan, PhD, explains why he and his wife, Kanakam, have given to the School of Medicine Faculty Research Fund.

“I have a loyalty to this institution because I work here and do research here,” said Dileepan, who has been at KUMC for 18 years. “Contributions of any size are important.”

Dileepan, professor in the Department of Medicine, division of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, studies the role of infection and inflammatory cells in vascular disease. He knows the value of private support. His own laboratory receives support from a KU Endowment fund.

Dileepan also knows the value of fund raising for support. Shortly after the space shuttle Columbia disintegrated Feb. 1, he was inspired to raise money for the establishment of a fund to support scholarships in aerospace engineering at the KU School of Engineering. The scholarship fund will honor Columbia astronaut Kalpana Chawla, who died on the mission.

Dileepan is asking Kansas City’s Indian community for contributions for the fund. Chawla was the first and only Indian-American in space.

The Dileepans’ gifts count toward the $500 million goal of KU First: Invest in Excellence, the largest fund-raising campaign in KU history. KU Endowment is conducting KU First on behalf of KU and KU Med through 2004 to raise funds for scholarships, fellowships, professorships, capital projects and program support for the university, and capital projects, program support and patient services for the hospital.

Hear Today, Gone Tomorrow

Most of us take listening and speaking for granted. But one in six Americans has a hearing, speech or language problem that makes it difficult to communicate with others.

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month. The KUMC Hearing and Speech Department will provide information at a table outside the cafeteria, Wednesday, May 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. At that time, employees can sign up for free hearing screenings, which will be given May 15 and 16.

An estimated 28 million Americans have a hearing loss that can be treated. You or someone you know may have a hearing problem.

The signs include:

• Frequently asking people to repeat themselves.
• Losing your place in group conversations.
• Having trouble hearing in a noisy background.
• Keeping the volume on your radio or TV at a level that others consider too loud.
• Often turning your ear toward a sound to hear it better.
• Feeling others frequently mumble or don’t speak clearly.
• Having pain, fullness or ringing in your ears.
• Experiencing a temporary muffling of sound after exposure to loud noise.

An annual hearing checkup is recommended for everyone over the age of 45. If you have any of the signs of hearing loss or have difficulty hearing, call the Audiology Clinic at 8-5730 to make an appointment for an evaluation.

If you know a child with a hearing difficulty, call the Hartley Family Center at 8-5750 for more information about programs and service designed to help families of hearing-impaired children.
Community Outreach Works

M. Nichole Hancock (center), health educator at Emory University’s Winship Cancer Institute in Atlanta, spoke April 24 about “Using Community Health Advocates to Increase Breast Cancer Awareness.” Jan Nelson (left), cancer prevention advocate, and Carol Fabian, MD, director of the Breast Cancer Prevention Center at KUMC, joined Hancock for the discussion about developing successful community outreach. The lecture was sponsored by the Kansas Cancer Institute and KU Breast Cancer Program and supported by an educational grant from Cytec.

Auxiliary Spring Sale

KUMC Auxiliary member Sally Goodwin (left) brought her homemade pies to the bake sale table staffed by Ann Nelson during the annual Spring Plant and Bake Sale held April 23.

SoN Honor Students

Five University of Kansas School of Nursing undergraduate honors students recently gave their final research presentations to faculty, staff and administrators. Pictured, with their presentations listed in parentheses, are: back from left, Meghan Welch (Nurses’ Spiritual Knowledge), Amanda Cackler (Dopamine’s Effect on In-Vitro Diaphragm Contraction) and Ashley Wann (Pregnant Teenagers’ Attitudes Toward Breastfeeding); front from left, Angela Cofer (The Effect of Continuous Positive Airway Pressure on Reaction Time in Persons with Obstructive Sleep Apnea) and Elizabeth Yoder (Significance of Spirituality in Holistic Weight Management).

Cancer Expo

Cinda Lyon, RN (right), performs a skin cancer screening exam for Cancer Expo visitor Joe Pollack. More than 100 people attended the Cancer Awareness and Prevention Expo April 26 in the KU Med lobby. About 300 screenings were conducted.
Student Leadership Awards
The Division of Student Services sponsored the fifth annual KUMC Student Leadership Awards luncheon April 23. An award was presented to the American Medical Student Association for outstanding Student Organization with Jennifer Scott Koonz, president (left), accepting. Joe McDonald, MD, PhD student, received the Student Leadership Award; Sarah Were, a master’s student in Occupational Therapy, won the Student Diversity Award; and Mark Meyer, MD, associate dean for Student Affairs and advisor to the Medical Student Assembly, the American Medical Student Association and the Family Medicine Interest Group, received the Student Organization Advisor Award. Dorothy Knoll, PhD (background), dean of students, presented the Student Leadership Awards.

Crane Departs
Weather conditions were perfect on April 26 for the dismantling and removal of the 380-foot construction crane from KU Med. The crane has been a campus landmark since last July, when KU Med began its sixth-floor expansion project.

Emeritus Dinner
At the KUMC Emeritus Dinner April 22, Ruth Hassanein, PhD, (front center) and Masahir Chiga, MD, who passed away last Feb. 28, were recognized as the 2002 Emeritus Professors. Ruth Chiga, MD, (left) accepted on behalf of her husband. Also pictured (back, from left) are Karen Miller, RN, PhD, dean of the Schools of Nursing and Allied Health, Donald Hagen, MD, KUMC executive vice chancellor, and Barbara Atkinson, MD, executive dean of the School of Medicine and vice chancellor for clinical affairs.

KUMC Street Fair
School of Graduate Studies students (from left) Erica Johnsrud, Brian Hermann, Julie Christianson, Rohan Gandhi, Mike VanSaun, Kevin McIntire, Ramsey McIntire and Christina Kaiser participated in a Student Olympics event at the annual KUMC Street Fair April 12.
In Memoriam

On April 27, KU Med tragically lost a member of its Nursing family. Elizabeth Wisdom, RN, a nurse in the Medical Intensive Care Unit, died in a car accident.

Liz joined KU Med two years ago, following graduation from nursing school. She is remembered as a tremendous, hard-working nurse and leader in the MICU, where she served as a preceptor. Recently, Liz was selected to represent the MICU at the National Teaching Institute.

Visitation will be held Thursday, May 1, 6-8 p.m. at Park Lawn Funeral Home, 8251 Hillcrest Road in Kansas City, Mo. The funeral will be at 10 a.m., Friday, May 2, at Park Lawn.

Patients Praise KU Med for Exceptional Care

The following comments are from recent KU Med patients and reflect a high level of patient satisfaction with physicians, nurses and staff. March patient satisfaction scores were in the 87th percentile, the highest monthly average ever achieved by KU Med. April’s average is not yet available.

From a parent on Unit 51: “Megan was so personable, while still being very professional. She was so helpful and really made my daughter’s hospital stay a lot less stressful that I thought it would be.”

From a parent on the Pediatric Unit: “Ellen did an excellent job connecting with my son. She explained things well to him and did a wonderful job cheering him up when needed. Kris on the evening shift was calming and reassuring.”

From a Same Day Surgery patient: “I would like to thank your entire staff for the excellent care I received. Plus, a special thanks to Leroy, the anesthesiologist and the surgeon, Dr. Hermreck. All of the staff were relaxed, informed and concerned, which put me at ease.”

From a patient on Unit 43: “I’d like to thank all the nurses and employees at KU Med. Housekeeping too! Everyone is nice, kind and very considerate and caring. God bless everyone at KU Med. My stay was pleasant.”

From a patient on Unit 43: “I don’t know who the people are who made my meals, but you should be congratulated for doing a great job every time.”

From a SICU patient: “The nurses in ICU were exceptional. Their hearts were truly in their work, and it showed to the patients. And Dr. Tsue and his team in the ER were also exceptional.”

From a patient on Unit 56: “Special thanks to Dr. Calkins and nurses Karen and Michelle. These were the most skilled, friendly, kind and patient medical personnel I have ever met. Their excellent work provided me huge support and comfort, which helped me through the delivery of my baby, a memory I will cherish always.”

From a Same Day Surgery patient: “Just before the procedure, everything was explained to me. They listened to me and made me feel that they were concerned and cared about what I was asking and saying. They made me feel comfortable and that each and every one of them cared.”
Ready for the Race?

Kansas Speedway is extending a special offer to all KUMC employees for tickets to the ARCA RE/MAX Series BPU 200 on Sunday, June 1. Special employee tickets cost $20, $25 and $30. They are only available for purchase Thursday, May 1, and Friday, May 9, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., outside the cafeteria.

The offer also includes your choice of free grandstand tickets to qualifying day races Saturday, May 31, or to Oklahoma Joe’s BBQ Cookoff at Kansas Speedway, also on May 31. You’ll also be eligible for a drawing for great prizes.

For more information, visit kansasspeedway.com.

Pediatrics Symposium

KUMC’s Department of Pediatrics, KU Continuing Education and the Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics will sponsor the Annual Pediatrics Symposium, Friday, May 9, and a Healthy Steps Kansas Pre-conference, Thursday, May 8. The symposium and pre-conference will be held in Wahl Hall East and Hixson Atrium.

The Annual Pediatric Symposium will feature nationally known speakers and cover topics such as seizures, learning disabilities, headaches, obesity, scoliosis and sports medicine. The event is designed for pediatricians and family physicians who care for pediatric patients, as well as pediatric and primary care nurses and nurse practitioners.

Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8 a.m. May 8 and at 7 a.m. May 9. For more information or to register, contact Continuing Education at 877-404-5823, or visit www.kuce.org/kumc.

Stroke Conference

The American Stroke Association’s Sixth Annual Professional Stroke Conference and Acute Stroke Treatment Program will be held Friday, May 2, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, May 3, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at the Ritz Charles in Overland Park, Kan.

Continuing education credits are available for physicians, nurses and emergency medical providers. For more information, call Sheri Fairfield at 913-676-2097.

Credit Union Picnic

KUMC Credit Union will hold its annual meeting and announcement of officers 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday, May 21, in the courtyard. A catered picnic will be served to all registered members who attend. Advanced registration and voting will take place in the Credit Union office from May 5-16. If you have questions, contact Lee Burton, Credit Union manager, at 913-962-8144.

Award Recipient

University of Kansas School of Medicine student Walter Ingram of Stuebenville, Ohio, has won the national Osler Medal from the American Association for the History of Medicine for his essay on racial integration of clinical education at KU in the 1930s. He will receive the medal during a May 1-4 conference of the American Association for the History of Medicine in Boston.

Ingram is the 55th recipient and the third KU SoM student to win the medal in the award’s 62-year history. Ingram’s essay examined the history of Edward Williams, MD, the first African-American graduate of the SoM.
Thursday, May 1

- “Financing Your Surgical/Medical Practice,” Carla Braxton, MD, 6-7 p.m., Clendening Auditorium.

Friday, May 2

- Caregiver Support Group Meeting, “Family Issues,” 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Landon Center.

- Psychiatry Grand Rounds, “Treating Suicidal Behavior,” M. David Rudd, PhD, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Sudler Auditorium.

- Neurology Grand Rounds, “Sleep and Epilepsy – A Happy Marriage,” Kore Liow, MD, 8:30-9:30 a.m., 1563a hospital.

Monday, May 5

- J. Hambleton Abrahams Lectureship in Physiology, “Connecting Genes to Complex Systems Biology,” Allen Cowley Jr., PhD, noon-1 p.m., Rieke Auditorium.

Tuesday, May 6

- “Cytokines and Growth Factors in the Regulation of Immunity at the Maternal-Fetal Interface,” Jeffrey Pollard, PhD, 11 a.m.-noon, Lied Auditorium.

- “Overcoming Elderspeak in Nursing Home Interactions,” Kristine Williams, RN, PhD, 4-5 p.m., Room 200, Landon Center.

Thursday, May 8

- Healthy Steps Kansas Pre-conference, 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Wahl Hall East Auditorium and Hixson Atrium.

- Women’s Health Care Symposium, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., School of Nursing Atrium.