The University of Kansas Hospital’s Department of Nursing held its first Annual Staff Meeting this week to celebrate key nursing accomplishments during the 2004 fiscal year, outline plans for the current year and share the vision of the future.

Tammy Peterman, RN, MS, chief nurse executive and vice president of Patient Care Services, recapped key nursing goals outlined in the five-year Department of Nursing strategic plan. She also congratulated the entire Nursing staff for its continuous commitment to delivering high quality, compassionate patient care. Her presentation highlighted key quality indicators, reduction of nursing turnover and hospital support for education and certification.

“We don’t often have an opportunity to sit down together as nurses,” said Peterman. “So, it’s wonderful to have a chance to share what nurses do every day. You care for people when they are facing the darkest hours of their lives, you provide support to families through education and just listening to their fears and concerns. You have the opportunity to see miracles occur in our patients’ lives, and you are an important part of those miracles each and every day.”

The meetings were held over a three-day period at various times and locations to accommodate the scheduling needs of nurses on all shifts.

“Our goal is to add The University of Kansas Hospital to this exclusive list,” said Peterman. The list currently includes slightly more than 100 health care organizations.

“Achieving Magnet designation will not only recognize the quality of our Department of Nursing, but also demonstrate the critical role our nurses play in the hospital’s success,” said Peterman.
Annual Report Highlights Nursing Excellence

Nurses and their extraordinary accomplishments are the focus of this year’s first-ever Nursing annual report produced by The University of Kansas Hospital’s departments of Nursing and Communications Services.

“The 2003-04 report tells the story of our successes and progress by sharing the ways our nurses impact people’s lives,” said Tammy Peterman, RN, MS, chief nurse executive and vice president of Patient Care Services.

The report is organized around the Department of Nursing’s six strategic goals established in July 2003.

- **Excellence**: Achieve standards of nursing excellence through pursuit of Magnet accreditation.
- **Caring**: Assure caring in all nursing relationships.
- **Professionalism**: Support a culture in which nurses are respected and recognized as competent caregivers and are accountable for their professional practice.
- **Communication**: Assure open, honest and timely communication to promote trust, commitment and empowered action.
- **Stewardship**: Promote efficient stewardship of all resources.
- **Quality**: Assure a high-quality, outcomes-driven nursing environment.

The report highlights achievements and stories of the department’s nurses and profiles interesting facts from the previous fiscal year.

- Total hours providing direct patient care: 1.7 million
- FTEs on July 1, 2003: 1,099
- FTEs on July 1, 2004: 1,159
- Average RN age: 37.5 years
- Longest tenure by employee: 42 years
- Number of different nursing schools employees attended: 220
- Number of cities in which employees live: 106

Copies of the annual report are being distributed to Department of Nursing employees, as well as members of the medical staff and hospital leadership. To obtain a copy of the report, contact Suzanne Shaffer, RN, at sshaffer@kumc.edu or at 8-4457.

In Memoriam

Gilbert S. Greenwald, PhD, University Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Kansas Medical Center, died Aug. 26 at the age of 77.

Greenwald retired from KUMC in 1996 after an illustrious career as an internationally recognized reproductive biologist and distinguished professor. He also served as chairman of the Department of Physiology for 16 years (1977-93).

In 1961, Greenwald joined the KUMC Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, where he held an endowed chair in Research in Human Reproduction. He received numerous awards for his outstanding research accomplishments from several scientific societies. The National Institutes of Health supported his research for more than 30 years.
Treads & Threads Takes Off Sept. 10

Treads & Threads, one of the Kansas City area’s most entertaining and exciting charitable events, takes its third spin around the track at Kansas Speedway to benefit the Cancer Center at The University of Kansas Hospital.

“A Night at the Races” revs up Friday, Sept. 10, with a special party for sponsors and patrons at 6 p.m., followed by the main event at 7:30 p.m. The creative black-tie gala offers an up-close look at Kansas Speedway, as well as dancing, fireworks and fine food from 22 of the area’s best restaurants and caterers. (See details in box.)

Last year, when the checkered flag came down, the event’s 1,950 guests and sponsors had raised more than $300,000. Proceeds from the first two years of Treads & Threads helped purchase equipment and fund a patient resource center. In the past year, the Cancer Center has more than doubled the size of its examination and treatment areas and has added a new Breast Center.

For more information, visit www.treadsandthreads.org. To purchase tickets, contact Cheri Kramer at ckramer@kuendowment.org or 8-1433.

A Night at the Races

Here are highlights you can expect from this year’s Treads & Threads gala:

• Chicago’s Bill Pollack Band is back by popular demand for the third straight year. Whether you love rock ’n’ roll, big band, jazz or rhythm and blues, Bill and his talented group of singers and musicians offer something for everyone.

• KARMA, Kansas City’s high-energy, super-charged dance band, also takes the stage, performing funk, rhythm and blues, jazz and favorite Motown sounds.

• Guests can get an up-close look at popular racecars and Kansas Speedway’s track and pit areas.

• Sponsors and patrons can take an exhilarating turn around the speedway track in a pace car during a special pre-event party.

• Twenty-two of Kansas City’s premier restaurants and caterers will offer samples of their signature dishes. Participants include 40 Sardines, Andre’s Confiserie Suisse, Lidia’s, Peppercorn Duck Club, Piropos, Plaza III, Capital Grille, Vivace and Yahooz.

• The event features a fantastic fireworks display to light up the night sky.
**Smooth Operators**

Switchboard operators at The University of Kansas Hospital answer 120,000-130,000 calls per month, or up to 1,300 calls per person on a busy day. Among the best, from left, are Lois Anderson, Mary St. Clair and Linda Guinnip. They recently received certificates for answering and transferring more than 97 percent of their calls correctly over the entire year.

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**Welcome Reception**

Numerous state educators, business leaders and state government officials, including Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius, welcomed David Adkins to his new position as KUMC vice chancellor for External Affairs during a reception Aug. 31 in the School of Nursing Atrium. The reception also recognized the successful efforts of Adkins, a 12-year veteran of the Kansas Legislature, and his fellow lawmakers in passing legislation promoting health science research in Kansas. Pictured from left are: Robert E. Hemenway, PhD, KU Chancellor; Rep. Kenny Wilk, Lansing; Gov. Sebelius; Sen. Nick Jordan, Shawnee; Adkins; and Dick Bond, chair, Kansas Board of Regents.
Book 'em, Dano

Students and faculty recently played “The Game of Life,” a cultural awareness activity sponsored by Students Educating and Advocating for Diversity (SEAD). From left, second-year medical students Ryan Endress, Hank Puls and Luis Salazar played the roles of judge, criminal and police officer.

Double Retirement

Karen Stanze, director of KUMC Graduate Studies, and Donald Stanze, director of Telecommunications, Information Resources, received best wishes from hundreds of colleagues and friends during a retirement reception Aug. 25 to honor their combined 53 years of service at KUMC. Karen Stanze retired with 35 years of service, while her husband had 18 years.

Best Clinical Paper

Oleg Militsakh, MD, a fourth-year resident in the KUMC Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, recently received the “Best Resident Clinical Paper” award at the 6th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer held in Washington, D.C. and sponsored by the American Head and Neck Society. Pictured from left are members of the department: Derrick Wallace, MD, assistant professor; Terry Tsue, MD, associate professor and co-vice chairman, residency program; Militsakh; and Doug Girod, MD, professor and department chairman.
Facilities Announcement

Don Rau, director of Facilities, recently announced that James Hawthorne will fill the newly created position of administrative manager. Hawthorne will continue his current duties as coordinator of training and safety, fire marshall project manager and departmental information technology manager. In addition, Hawthorne will manage the university dock in the Delp building and assist in the ongoing Facilities inventory operation.

Sign Language Classes

Two levels of sign language classes will be offered in 10-week sessions beginning Sept. 13. Instruction will include basic sign vocabulary, basic health/medical terms, information about deaf culture, how to work with a deaf client and how to utilize interpreters. Brenda Hoff, Maple Woods Community College adjunct faculty member and freelance interpreter, is the instructor.

ASL I classes will be held noon-1 p.m. Wednesdays beginning Sept. 15, and ASL II classes will be held noon-1 p.m. Mondays beginning Sept. 13. The first class will take place in G006 Murphy. Later classes will be held in 1020 Olathe Pavilion.

Fees are $60 for each 10-week session. Course books are available in the KUMC bookstore. For more information and to register, call 913-588-1227.

Malpractice Speaker

Ralph Hunt, MD, retired surgeon, will speak on “Discovering Balance: A Physician’s Perspective on Medical Malpractice” noon-1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, in 1050 School of Nursing. Although anyone is welcome, lunches are only for the first 30 students who attend.

Book Fair

The “Books Are Fun” Book Fair will take place 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sept. 14, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sept. 15 and 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sept. 16 in Stoland Lounge near the bookstore.

The sale features gifts and more than 150 book titles, including cookbooks, special interest, children’s, art, hobbies and crafts books. Proceeds from the event, sponsored by the Division of Student Services, directly benefit students currently enrolled at KUMC.

Clothing Drive

Kansas City Healthy Start, a resource and referral agency that assists families with basic needs to make sure they have healthy and happy babies, is seeking donations of gently used clothing and shoes for men, women, children and babies for its annual giveaway.

Donations may be left in the Developmental Disabilities Center main hallway 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays and 9-11:30 a.m. Fridays through Sept. 17. Volunteers will also pick up clothing from employees who bring items to their departments.

This year’s giveaway will take place Sept. 24. First priority goes to Healthy Start’s KUMC clients and families. Remaining clothing goes to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. Last year’s giveaway helped more than 250 parents and children. For more information, contact Lynn Thompson at 8-5755.

Christmas in October

Volunteers are needed for this year’s Christmas in October event, which is set for Oct. 2. Employees, students, family and friends are invited to refurbish homes in the Rosedale neighborhood in an effort to make them safer, warmer and more comfortable.

To volunteer, sign up at www.kumc.edu/community.

YouthFriends Mentors

YouthFriends is seeking mentors to help make a difference in young people’s lives. YouthFriends connects caring adult volunteers with students to encourage success, promote healthy behaviors and build stronger communities.

The YouthFriends recruitment luncheon is at noon Sept. 23 in the fourth-floor Varnes Conference Center, School of Nursing. To sign up for the luncheon, visit www.kumc.edu/community.
Street Fair Theme Baskets

The KUMC Street Fair, an annual family event to raise funds for Wyandotte County community organizations, is seeking donations of theme baskets for the event’s silent auction. The Street Fair and silent auction will be held 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, in the parking lot at the corner of 36th and Rainbow. The event is sponsored by the Student Governing Council and is held in partnership with the Rosedale Development Association.

Ingram’s Favorite

The September special medical issue of Ingram’s magazine ranked The University of Kansas Hospital as one of the area’s top three hospitals in a readers’ poll. The other two named were St. Luke’s Hospital and Shawnee Mission Medical Center.

Red Cross Volunteers

The Wyandotte County chapter of the American Red Cross is seeking nurse volunteers for several flu shot clinics scheduled for retirement homes and other locations in October and early November.

Volunteers will give injections, help residents fill out paperwork and perform related clinical tasks. Nurses must be licensed in the state of Kansas. To volunteer, contact Kristy Reynolds at kreynolds1@kumc.edu or 8-3643.

LabOne Results

Information Technology Services (ITS) recently announced that LabOne results are now available on the Siemens NetAccess system, which means that physicians can view these managed care lab results online.

Lab test results from LabOne are sent several times a day across an interface with the hospital information system. The results are stored in the hospital’s Lifetime Clinical Record and available right away.

“This has been a cooperative effort with the Information Systems personnel at LabOne and our ITS and Clinical Lab folks here at the hospital,” stated Malcolm Cunningham, assistant director, ITS. “Next, we will be talking to LabCorp and Quest, our other managed care labs, to see when we can offer online results from them.”

Physicians must place the patient’s medical record number on the requisition, according to Lowell Tilzer, MD, medical director, Clinical Lab. Without the medical record number, results will be transmitted to the doctor by hard copy only. The online results will not replace the hard copy results the doctor receives, but will be an additional tool to look up results.

Excellence Award

Michael Quintero, director, Patient Financial Services at The University of Kansas Hospital, was one of four people recognized nationally by the Healthcare Financial Management Association for distinguished service in the patient financial services profession. Quintero was selected for the honor by the organization’s Heart of America Chapter.

Kickin’ for Kids

The Kickin’ for Kids juggling competition fund-raiser to benefit Children’s Miracle Network hospitals, including The University of Kansas Hospital, will be held 3:30-6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, prior to the Kansas City Wizards vs. Colorado Rapids soccer game at Arrowhead Stadium.

Youth soccer participants and high school students will participate in soccer juggling exhibitions, how-to juggling clinics and autograph sessions with members of the Wizards, Kansas City Comets and college players. Volunteers are needed for the event.

Interested participants and volunteers can find out more by visiting the event Web site: www.cmnkc.org.

Helen Gold 5K

The third annual Helen Gold 5K Race/Walk will be held at 8 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at The Fountains Center, 119th and Glenwood, Overland Park, Kan. The event benefits the Parkinson Foundation of the Heartland and KUMC’s Parkinson’s Disease Center for Excellence.

The race is sanctioned by the Kansas City Track Club. Race registration information is available at www.helengold5k.com.

Correction: Michael J. Wall, pictured in last week’s Surprise Patrol photo, was listed with the wrong title. His correct title is vice president for medical development, Kansas University Endowment Association.
Audio-Reader’s second annual “For Your Ears Only” fund-raiser Sept. 24-25.

Recycled Sounds

Donate used albums, CDs, cassettes, videos, DVDs, radios, turntables and other gently used audio equipment to Audio-Reader, a reading service for people who are blind or print-disabled in Kansas and Missouri.

Bring donated items to the Alumni and Community Relations Office, 1028 Murphy Hall, from Sept. 7-15. Recycled audio products will be sold at Audio-Reader's second annual “For Your Ears Only” fund-raiser Sept. 24-25.