

# Newsletter

Photo courtesy of Casey Pickering, BSN, RN, CCRN; The University of Kansas Hospital



KANSAS CITY  
CHAPTER  
AACN Critical  
Care

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By Heather Nelson-Brantley

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## LETTER FROM THE GKC CHAPTER PRESIDENT

By Heather Nelson-Brantley, BSN, RN, CCRN



Welcome AACN members to another year of nursing excellence. I would first like to start by welcoming our new chapter board members: **Nancy Barr, Rebecca Lake, Anne Goodman, Denise Miller, and Anne Gramkow**. In addition, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for the service of those who came before them: **Caryl Goodyear-Bruch, Cheryl Radar, and Brad Strecker**. We are truly standing on the shoulders of giants—together, stronger, bolder.

In May, we welcomed our 45th national AACN President, **Teri Lynn "TK" Kiss** in Denver, CO at the 2014 NTI. There, Teri unveiled her theme, "Focus the Flame." As TK explains, "The energy at NTI is the pilot light that keeps the flame in our hearts going all year long," and this year was no exception.

TK dared to share her personal story of the night that almost extinguished her flame when she realized she did not have the knowledge, skills, and ability that she needed to care for her vulnerable patient while working as a new graduate nurse. Instead, that experience became her catalyst to "focus her flame" to become the best nurse she could possibly be. She credits her professional development to the community of exceptional nurses whom she worked with and learned from in the ICU at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital in Fairbanks, Alaska. Under their mentorship, she developed her critical thinking skills; learned how to use her compassion at the end of life; how we honor our patients by always remembering the importance of basic care and caring; to never, ever, ever be a minimalist; and how to master her fears. It was this same group of exceptional nurses who invited and welcomed TK into their local AACN chapter. AACN was the professional home Terri had been looking for—it became her true north.

Teri's story fueled my fire as I thought about my own passion for mentoring new graduate nurses. I am pleased to share that our chapter is well under way in focusing our flame to drive our mission to serve as role models in encouraging student nurses to join this exciting field. This summer we launched the **Authentic Leadership Mentor-Mentee (ALM-M) Program**. (Continued on page 2)



*(Continued from Page 1)* The aim of this program is to foster the professional development of future AACN leaders through authentic leadership mentoring. The program pairs existing AACN GKC Chapter board leaders with pre-licensure nursing students interested in pursuing critical and high acuity care nursing careers. Over a period of three years, mentees are integrated into the AACN community of exceptional nurses, and develop interpersonal skills for a successful transition to practice and board-level leadership.

Please help me congratulate and welcome **Kristin Ondrejka** and **Zachary Wright**, our first ever student mentees selected for the ALM-M Program. I would also like to express my gratitude to their mentors, **Mindy Stites, GKC Chapter President-Elect, and Akiko Kubo, GKC Chapter Communications Chair**. I look forward to watching the professional growth of these future chapter leaders as they are mentored to focus their flames to drive action.

Teri Lynn Kiss also reminded us of the AACN mission: Patients and families rely on nurses at the most vulnerable times of their lives. Acute and critical care nurses rely on AACN for the expert knowledge and the influence to fulfill their promise to patients and families.

AACN drives excellence, because nothing less is acceptable. These words became the focus of her flame and empowered her to live out her personal mission of service to others.

TK said it best when she said, "The new era of health care demands that we have the capacity to create, learn, and apply new knowledge; the capacity to change and fix broken systems instead of defaulting to workarounds; capacity to confront our moral distress and move towards resolution." This requires a huge source of energy. It requires fire.

Fire is associated with assertiveness, passion, and high ideals. F-I-R-E: Fearlessness – Inquiry – Resilience – Engagement. Using FIRE as our source of energy, TK challenges us to image a world where we can create positive change, make bold moves, and achieve anything we put our minds to; where we transform our passion into action. Imagine driving excellence because nothing less is acceptable, and then focus your flame on achieving it.

Our chapter is actively focusing its flame to drive action in new and exciting ways. In addition to the ALM-M Program, we are also pleased to drive our dedication to serving our GKC community of exceptional nurses through the **RNovator** program. This program supports the innovative thinking of nurses through an open-mic style presentation of creative solutions and new care ideas. Nurses who are selected as having the best innovative idea of the evening are supported financially by the GKC Chapter to focus their flame and bring their innovation to life.

In addition, we are continuing to focus our flame on our commitment to continuing education. You will find these events showcased in this newsletter and on our website at [www.aacngkcc.org](http://www.aacngkcc.org). Be sure to make plans to attend our **28th annual Visions Symposium on March 5th and 6th at the Ritz Charles in Overland Park, Kansas**.

How will you focus your flame? How will you drive excellence, in your personal lives, in your community, in the care you provide to your patients, and in your commitment to the AACN community of exceptional nurses? I challenge you to channel your passion into action, focus your flame and dare to step forward. Maybe that is through seeking certification. Maybe it is through creating practice change within your unit, or policy change at the organization, state, or national level. Maybe it is service to others—service to the GKC community of AACN acute and critical nurses. Whatever your passion, focus your flame to action. Drive excellence, because nothing less is acceptable.

Please share with me how you are focusing your flame throughout the coming year, as we share with you how our chapter is channeling our energy, our FIRE, to drive excellence. You can reach me at [hnelson-brantley@kumc.edu](mailto:hnelson-brantley@kumc.edu). I look forward to hearing from each of you, our community of exceptional acute and critical care nurses.

**Your GKC AACN Chapter President,**  
**Heather Nelson-Brantley, BSN, RN, CCRN**

To receive up-to-date information, announcements, and event information, "Like" us on Facebook at:



[www.facebook.com/aacngkcc](http://www.facebook.com/aacngkcc)

Or, join our conversation at Twitter:



@aacngkcc

## **Authentic Leadership Mentor-Mentee (ALM-M) Program: *Mentees*** **"Developing Sustainable Nurse Leaders through Authentic Leadership Mentoring"**

Over a year ago, the vision was to maximize the talents and experience of the GKC Chapter board members through the development of a program aimed at fostering the professional development of future AACN leaders. Following a rigorous application process, the program would pair existing AACN GKCC board members with selected nursing students from around the Greater Kansas City area. The ALM-M Program is a three-year program, in which the mentee will be mentored by nurse experts in critical and progressive care with the goal of serving as a local chapter board member.

For our inaugural year, 2 students were selected. Here are their bios:

### **ZACH WRIGHT**, University of Kansas School of Nursing

*Mentor: Akiko Kubo*

While completing his senior year at KUSON, Zach is staying focused on critical care RN opportunities by working as a Nursing Associate in the Cardiothoracic ICU at KU and serving as President for the KU Student Nurses' Association and KU School of Nursing Critical-Progressive Care Interest Group. Zach was selected as a mentee because of his insightfulness into what he intended to accomplish from a mentor-mentee relationship through this program, a commitment to advancing the profession of nursing, and desire to serve in the difficult role of a leader in an authentic manner. We were impressed by his statement: *"My sole passion is to have an influential nursing career fulfilling the promise to patients and their families of optimal outcomes and a voice to be heard. Serving in a position of nursing leadership presents a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to develop competent nursing professionals, committed to positively impacting the lives of each patient they touch."*

### **KRISTIN ONDREJKA**, University of Saint Mary

*Mentor: Mindy Stites*

Kristin is in her senior year at University of St. Mary, and remains busy by working as a Nursing Associate in the Medical ICU at KU. She has extensive experience in a hospital setting as unlicensed support personnel and is looking forward to completing her BSN and starting her RN career in an intensive care setting. Kristin stood out as a very self-motivated, go-getter who goes the extra mile to set herself up to succeed. The chapter wanted to harness this fire and help direct her career through formal mentorship. It was evident in Kristin's personal statement that she "gets" the AACN mission where it is the critical care nurses' obligation to provide expert knowledge and influence for the patients/ families at their most vulnerable time.

# SAVE THE DATE

## 2015 Visions Symposium, March 5-6



## Ebola Virus Disease Resource Page at [AACN website](http://AACN website)



The Ebola virus. (Courtesy of Ivan Konstantinov, Visual Science, Moscow)



## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

### Local Chapter Member Publications in National Journal

**St. Luke's Hospital of Kansas City, Missouri. Cardiac ICU**  
~November 2014 Issue~

#### **Speed of Blood Withdrawal and Accurate Measurement of Oxygen Content in Mixed Venous Blood**

Katie Jaschke, Dianna Brown, Alicia Clark, Sarah Doull, Ashley English, Nicole Hoover, Philip Jones, David Klamm, Chung Odom, Brenna Primrose, Kristin Sollars and Marci Ebberts

Am J Crit Care 2014;23:486-493 doi: 10.4037/ajcc2014309  
© 2014 American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  
Published online <http://www.ajcconline.org>

**University of Kansas Hospital, Kansas City, Kansas**  
~July 2014 Issue~

#### **Early Mobility Activities During Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy**

Cherylynn A. Brownback, Patricia Fletcher, Lynelle N. B. Pierce and Susan Klaus

Am J Crit Care 2014;23:348-351 doi: 10.4037/ajcc2014889  
© 2014 American Association of Critical-Care Nurses  
Published online <http://www.ajcconline.org>



## CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU, CARYL GOODYEAR-BRUCH!

Caryl Goodyear-Bruch, RN, PhD, CCRN has been an active member of the Greater Kansas City AACN Chapter for over 25 years, serving in multiple leadership roles including President, Treasurer, and Education Chair. We appreciate how much her expertise and commitment to critical care benefited the entire Kansas City community. In 2008-2009, she became the AACN National President. Earlier this year, Caryl officially accepted a position as Senior Director at AACN, giving her the opportunity to continue carrying out her mission at the national level. Her innovative and passionate approach to her work as a Clinical Nurse Specialist, Researcher, Professor, and Mentor was the inspiration for GKC Chapter's Authentic Leadership Mentor-Mentee (ALM-M) Program. Caryl was instrumental in mentoring young nursing minds to do things we never imagined we could in our early careers, such as: presenting at NTI, helping us believe that we are a Beacon unit, entering a PhD program, becoming involved in a professional organization while a student, etc. As if that were not enough, Caryl and her husband, Ron, started the **Ron Bruch and Caryl Goodyear-Bruch National Teaching Institute Scholarship** in 2014 to help local AACN members attend NTI and continue *focusing the flame*. Congratulations, thank you, and we miss you.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

All GKC Scholarship applications  
are due no later than...

**JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**

We offer over 8 different types of scholarships for various professional development opportunities such as certification exam, NTI, Visions Symposium, academic completion, research, etc.

In the past, we have not awarded all available scholarship funds due to a low volume of applicants. This is your chance. Go ahead and apply! You never know until you try.

~See scholarship application packet~  
<http://aacngkcc.weebly.com/scholarships.html>

# 2014 March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award Winners

## Local Chapter Members Honored – Sandra Merritt and Janet Pierce

### ...CRITICAL CARE/INTERMEDIATE CARE/TELEMETRY: **SANDRA MERRITT, BSN, RN, CCRN**

Congratulations to Sandra Merritt from North Kansas City Hospital for receiving the 2014 March of Dimes Nurse of the Year Award for Critical Care! She is a Critical Care Clinical Educator who has contributed much to the education of progressive care and critical care nurses in her organization through her oversight of the graduate nurse program and transition program of nurses from med-surg and progressive care to critical care. As an educator, she provides her expertise by teaching classes in hemodynamics, basic EKG, 12-Lead EKG, graduate nurse survival skills, precepting, BLS/ACLS, and "The 4 As to Rise Above Moral Distress". Other key accomplishments include the roll-out of the ABCDE bundle and St. John's sepsis protocol – both which require tremendous attention. She contributes her time to improving processes at the hospital through her involvement in the Critical Care Clinical Practice Council (chair from 2008-2011), Education Council, Organ and Tissue committee, Mentor and Product Review and Evaluation committee to name a few. Sandra has been a valued member of AACN for a long time, serving as a Hospital Representative, assisting with Visions Symposium planning, and facilitating the Greater Kansas City Chapter's Critical Care/Progressive Care Consortium's education programs to area hospital nurses. Sandra continues her professional development since her days as a CNA, LPN, ADN, and now a BSN with CCRN certification. She is currently completing her MSN with a focus on Nursing Education. Sandra truly exemplifies a commitment to critical/progressive care nursing, *"I've always had a great passion for critical care nursing and these programs give me the opportunity to mentor and share my love and experience with these new nurses."*

### ...SCHOOL OF NURSING EDUCATOR: **JANET D. PIERCE, PHD, APRN, CCRN, FAAN**

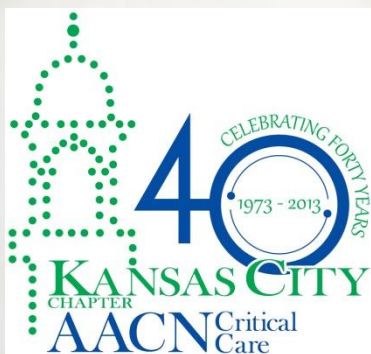
Through Nurse of the Year Awards, the March of Dimes recognizes nurses who demonstrate exceptional patient care, compassion, and service. This year Janet Pierce, Ph.D., CCRN, APRN, received the School of Nursing Educator award at this year's March of Dimes Nurse of the Year ceremony on November 7<sup>th</sup>. She was among 20 Kansas and Kansas City area nurses recognized for their contributions to health care during the black tie evening event at the InterContinental Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri.

Dr. Pierce was honored for her ability to engage, encourage, and motivate students to pursue excellence in nursing as a result of her tireless contribution towards the art and science of nursing through various research projects and faculty work in the doctoral program. Dr. Pierce has conducted extensive research in cardio-pulmonary measures to address illness management related to hemorrhagic shock, and has taught literally hundreds of graduate nursing students in advanced physiology and advanced pathophysiology. Most recently, Dr. Pierce was awarded a grant through the Department of Defense to investigate the effects of ubiquinol in preventing and reducing cellular damage in traumatic brain injury. As a retired Navy Captain, Dr. Pierce is acutely aware of the needs of our military service men and women and returning veterans. It is remarkable that an individual can make doctoral work and research sound FUN to the most lay person, but that is exactly the effect that Dr. Pierce has on her students through her passion for research, teaching, and service. Dr. Pierce's passion for research extends outside of the lab setting by asking questions about educational systems for preparing nurses for expert practice. She is a member of the *Promoting Nursing Education in Kansas* project, helping design the State's first survey of the RN workforce. Dr. Pierce leads a faculty team in teaching the first course that new PhD nursing student take: a Professionalism and Scholarship Workshop. The course has been so successful that all new doctoral students, including DNP students, will be joining Dr. Pierce and the faculty team in this concentrated learning experience.

Upon completion of her PhD at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Dr. Pierce performed her postdoctoral training at the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Va., under the direction of Dr. Andrew Wechsler. In addition to her faculty position in the School of Nursing, Dr. Pierce also serves as adjunct professor in the KU Department of Molecular and Integrative Physiology.

Among her many academic awards, Dr. Pierce was elected outstanding undergraduate nursing instructor by School of Nursing students for two consecutive years and was presented the University of Kansas Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Classroom Teacher. She also received the Kemper Teaching Fellowship Award and the Phyllis Keeney Lawrence Teaching Award from the University of Kansas. Additionally, Dr. Pierce recently received the Honorary Nursing Alumni Award from the University of Kansas Medical Center.





*This Holiday Season...*

## **The Greater Kansas City AACN Chapter Celebrates YOU at Our Certified Nurses' Celebration!**

### **Event Sponsored by Physio Control**

Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 6pm

*Affare Restaurant, 1911 Main Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64108*

Guest Continuing Education Speaker  
Nicole Kupchik, RN, MN, CCNS, CCRN, PCCN  
<http://www.nicolekupchikconsulting.com/about/>  
"Improving Outcomes from Cardiac Arrest"

Celebrate your achievement at this dinner exclusively for certified nurses who hold credentials from AACN Certification Corporation and its partners (CCRN, CCRN-E, CCRN-K, PCCN, CNML, CMC, CSC, CCNS, ACCNS-AG, ACCNS-N, ACCNS-P, ACNPC, ACNPC-AG or ACNP-BC and those who hold Alumnus, Retired or Inactive status).

Enjoy a beautiful elegant dinner at the trendy Affare Restaurant in midtown Kansas City (Crossroads District), celebrate your accomplishments, receive free continuing education, and network with your peers!

**Affare Restaurant**  
"A Modern German Restaurant"  
[www.affarekc.com](http://www.affarekc.com)

**Affäre**  
A MODERN GERMAN RESTAURANT

RSVP by  
December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Free to Attendees

<https://2014certificationdinner.eventbrite.com>



## HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR GKC AACN

Centerpoint Hospital: John Wood  
 Children's Mercy Hospital: Marilyn Maddox  
 Cushing Memorial Hospital: *Please contact us if you are interested in being a rep!*  
 Kindred Hospital: Barbara Flakus  
 Lawrence Memorial Hospital: Cassandra Showalter & Christie Orwig  
 Lee's Summit Medical Center: Amy Pickren  
 Liberty Hospital: Trisha Leonard  
 Menorah Medical Center: DeRecia Wade  
 Mercy Hospital - Joplin, MO: Joan Wilson  
 North Kansas City Hospital: Janell Huskey and Sandra Merritt  
 Olathe Medical Center: Michele Wegemer & Joey Barton  
 Providence Health (including St. John Hospital): Jodi Fincher  
 Research Medical Center: Cheryl Edwards  
 Select Specialty Hospital: Trish Harris  
 St. Luke's East: Alisha Studer  
 St. Luke's Hospital: Cheryl Rader  
 St. Luke's Northland: Craig Williams  
 St. Luke's South: Laura Sanders  
 Shawnee Mission Medical Center: Armida Torres  
 St. Francis Health Center: Dawn Garcia-Brinker  
 St. Joseph Medical Center: Mary Kay Bloom and Paula Ising  
 St. Mary's Medical Center: Julie Baker  
 Stormont Vail Healthcare: Angela Rodecap  
 The University of Kansas Hospital: Janet Marts and Amanda Gartner  
 Truman Medical Center: Susanne Stockman  
 Truman Medical Center – Lakewood: Wendy Richardson  
 VA Medical Center, Kansas City, MO: Cheryl Buntz

## SAVE-THE-DATE



## Intermediate Level Cardiac Dysrhythmia Course!

*Coming Soon...*

## January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

St. Joseph Medical Center  
Kansas City, MO

## 2014-2015 BOARD MEMBERS

President > Heather Nelson-Brantley  
 President Elect > Mindy Stites  
 Secretary > Nancy Barr  
 Secretary Elect > Rebecca Lake  
 Treasurer > Courtney Ramlow  
 Education Co-Chairs > Jennifer McNeil, Janet Marts  
 Education Co-Chair Elects > Denise Miller, Anne Gramkow  
 Communications Chair > Akiko Kubo  
 Communications Chair-Elect > Anne Goodman  
 Membership Chair > Janell Huskey  
 Scholarship Chair > Nancy Haynes  
 Visions Chair > Cheryl Rader  
 ALM-M Mentees > Zach Wright, Kristin Ondrejka