

Greater Kansas City Chapter AACN Spring 2014 Newsletter



DARE TO

VISIONS 2014

Last month, the 27th Annual Visions Symposium was held at the Ritz Charles Event Center in Overland Park. Over 130 attendees from around the KC metro area and neighboring areas such as Columbia MO attended. Participants enjoyed a silent auction, wonderful speakers, networking opportunities, and great food and vendors.

Janet Pierce PhD, RN wowed everyone with her research on cellular energetics and CoQ10. **Dr. Dennis Allen** had the audience in stitches while discussing evidence-based management of tachyarrhythmias and **Stephanie Meyer RN, MSN-FNP** taught us how to be the best version of ourselves. Finally, **Lisa Riggs MSN, RN, ACNS-BC CCRN** challenged all of us to “Step Forward”.

Thank you so much to all of the local vendors and organizations that contributed to this event, and to our speakers who volunteered their time developing wonderful talks. We couldn't do it without you!

Sneak Peek 2015: the local chapter is exploring a new venue for Visions 2015 that promises to be fun and affordable. We welcome your suggestions on how to improve our local conference and hope to see you all in 2015!!



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LOCAL MEMBER JOINS NATIONAL AACN!!

Caryl Goodyear Bruch PhD, RN is a long-time member of both national AACN and our local chapter. Recently, she left her position as the Director of Professional Resources and Leadership Development for Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO to join national AACN as a Senior Director for the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN).

In this new position, Caryl is responsible for the Organizational Effectiveness Department, also called the Research Pod. The focus of this department is to facilitate strategic work and improve the organization's effectiveness. "We complete environmental scanning, target data analysis on a variety of data that we gather and also improve com-

munication amongst and between departments. I have 9 direct reports. In addition to this work, this department also leads and manages the AACN CSI Academy, which is a leadership program targeted to direct care nurses helping them improve and sustain patient and fiscal outcomes in their workplace. We currently have 6 cohorts in this program, Indianapolis, Raleigh/Durham, Boston, Austin, Philadelphia and New York. We have completed the first 3 and I was honored to have served as the lead faculty for the Raleigh/Durham area. This is an exciting new program and I encourage all to go to the AACN website and check out the Innovation Database which contains all the projects to date. Go under "education" then AACN CSI Academy."-Goodyear Bruch



Congratulations Caryl and thank you for your years of service to the local chapter. You will be missed!

CELEBRATING THE NEWLY CERTIFIED

Jessica Luark (CCRN)-St Luke's Hospital-Cardiac ICU

Ali Ruckman (CCRN)-St. Luke's Hospital-Cardiac ICU

Laura Amos (CCRN)-St Luke's Hospital-Cardiac ICU

Morgan Brulez (CCRN)-St. Luke's Hospital-Cardiac ICU

Amber Peterman (CCRN)-St. Luke's Hospital-MSTICU

Amy Bell (CCRN)-St. Luke's Hospital-Neurosciences ICU/House Supervisor

Suzanne Cummings (CCRN)-St. Luke's Hospital

Lauren Dhans (CCRN)-The University of Kansas Hospital-Neuroscience/ENT ICU

Alicia Klausner (SCRN)-The University of Kansas Hospital-Neuroscience/ENT ICU

Katie Clausen (PCCN)-The University of Kansas Hospital-Unit 62

Cassie Davis (CCRN)-The University of Kansas Hospital-Medical ICU

Lynelle Pierce (CCRN for 30 Years!!)-The University of Kansas Hospital-Critical Care

Danielle Jones (CCRN)-The University of Kansas Hospital-Medical Surgical ICU

Erin Inciardi (CCRN)-The University of Kansas Hospital-Medical Surgical ICU

Ray Pettigrew (CCRN)-The University of Kansas Hospital-Cardiothoracic ICU

Rachel Lanaghan (CCRN)-The University of Kansas Hospital-Burn Center

John Diederich (CCRN)- The University of Kansas Hospital-Medical Transplant ICU

Claire Peterman (CCRN)-The University of Kansas Hospital-Medical Transplant ICU

Charis Grosdidier (CCRN)-The University of Kansas Hospital-Cardiac ICU

Austin Hunter (CCRN)-The University of Kansas Hospital-Cardiac ICU



UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS

Look for more information about our upcoming summer offering soon!!



AACN's National Teaching Institute and Critical Care Exposition is the premier conference for high acuity and critical care nurses.

Registration is open now for this year's NTI May 19—22, Denver, Colorado.

SPOTLIGHT ON YOU! KAREN MURRAY, RN, ADN, CCRN, PEDIATRIC ICU, CHILDRENS MERCY HOSPITAL

Why did you become a nurse?

I chose nursing because I thought it would be a good job, then during nursing school I fell in love with the idea of nursing. I love helping others when they are at their most vulnerable time in life.

What about your job makes you most proud?

I don't look at my "job" as a job, it is my passion. It is what defines who I am. I love watching the kids improve. I enjoy making a difference not only to the patient, but also their family. I find satisfaction in the ups and the downs. When we lose a patient, I find peace in allowing the parent to climb in the bed to hold their child one more time. While that same night I can let another parent hold their "baby" for the first time in a long time. I love knowing that I made a difference in someone's life "today" even if it was for just a moment.

Tell us about a recent extraordinary patient care experience as a critical care nurse.

The most recent extraordinary patient care experience I had was with a 9 month old who has a terminal illness and who lived in our unit for over 10 weeks. He was critically ill for most of his stay and then by the grace of God he started to improve. I thought as many did that this day would never come but it did and now he is home with his family.

At the end of a busy day, how do you find balance in your life?

My family and friends are my balance at the end of a day. My friends know what I have been through and my family simply just makes me appreciate what I have. I thank God everyday that my child isn't laying in one of the beds I work with and pray that the others get to leave soon. I am humbled by what I do.

How has AACN impacted your career?

AACN has played a huge role in my career. I took one of the first pediatric CCRN exams that was offered. They have provided me with a foundation to what I do and helped elevate my nursing skills and knowledge. They empower me to take a stand when I know I am right, to voice my opinion, and to approach each situation with confidence.

AACN-GKC ANNOUNCES THE ALM-M PROGRAM!!

Developing Sustainable Nurse Leaders through Authentic Leadership Mentoring

The AACN GKC Chapter is pleased to announce the launch of our new Authentic Leadership Mentor-Mentee (ALM-M) program, set to begin this summer. The aim of this program is to foster the professional development of future AACN leaders through authentic leadership mentoring. The program will pair existing AACN GKCC board members with three selected students from around the greater Kansas City area. Soon, we will put out a call for applications. Eligible students will have successfully completed at least one semester in an accredited ADN or BSN pre-licensure nursing program, show verification of active full-time enrollment, anticipate graduating and passing NCLEX within one year of starting the ALM-M program, and have plans to pursue nursing positions in critical or progressive care upon graduation.

The program will start at the beginning of the students' senior year and continue for three years. During the first year, students will learn about critical and progressive care nursing, the AACN professional organization, authentic leadership and healthy work environments, and what it means to serve on a professional nursing organization board by working close with their AACN GKCC board mentor. These students will transition from student to new graduate nurse during their second year in the ALM-M program. They will continue working closely with their mentor as they take on an Elect board position. During their final year in the ALM-M program, these students will have completed their first year in nursing



practice and will assume an AACN GKC Chapter board position. The program comes full circle as these new board members become mentors for newly selected ALM-M students.

The AACN Greater Kansas City Chapter is dedicated to mentoring student nurses, for they are the future of our profession. Please help spread news of this exciting opportunity throughout your work settings, academic institutions, and wherever you might encounter interested student nurses. Visit our website, aacngkcc.org, for ALM-M program announcements and updates.

Heather Nelson-Brantley, BSN, RN, CCRN

AACN GKCC President-Elect

ALM-M Founder

May is National Critical Care Awareness and Recognition Month!!

American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) recognizes and salutes the dedicated nursing professionals who care for critically ill patients and their families. In honor of their efforts, May is designated **National Critical Care Awareness and Recognition Month**. This observance is an excellent time to pause to celebrate and recognize the dedication and commitment that critical care team members demonstrate every day to their patients and their patients' families.

Join with us in wearing **BLUE** May 16th!!

This May...

TURN YOUR ICU
BLUE



Be
**Critical
Care Aware**
National Critical
Care Awareness and
Recognition Month™
Society of Critical Care Medicine



Your 2014-2015 Greater Kansas City AACN Board Members and Board Candidates!!

President- Heather Nelson-Brantley (KU School of Nursing)



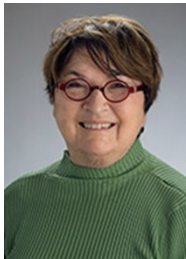
My passion is all things nursing with emphasis in critical care and progressive care. In 2011, I received my BSN from the University of Kansas School of Nursing, and now I am back working towards my PhD in Nursing with a research focus in organizational leadership. The Medical Intensive Care Unit has been my professional practice home until recently when I transferred to the Cardiothoracic PCU. In 2012, attained CCRN certification. That same year, I began teaching clinical and now didactic courses in the BSN program for the University of Kansas School of Nursing. I am deeply passionate about equipping student nurses with the tools necessary for a successful transition to practice, including mentoring and modeling professional values. It has been a pleasure to serve on the AACN Greater Kansas City Chapter board for the past 2 years as Education Co-Chair, as well as various committees. In 2012, I attended my first NTI and Leadership Development Workshop where I committed to Dare To...inspire our chapter to stretch further and in new ways.

Candidate: President-Elect-Mindy Stites (The University of Kansas Hospital)



I started my nursing career as a CNA, then progressed to an LPN, ADN, BSN, and her Masters' degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia in May 2012 in the CNS track. I am currently a Critical Care Clinical Nurse Specialist at The University of Kansas Hospital and am board certified as a clinical nurse specialist in adult health and critical care and maintain my bedside critical care certification. I am so excited to have the opportunity to become more involved in the Greater Kansas City Chapter of AACN! I truly love critical care nursing and learning from my colleagues in critical care. Serving in this role on the board would allow me to give back to the Kansas City critical care community.

Candidate: Secretary-Nancy Barr (KU School of Nursing)



Nancy is an undergraduate clinical instructor for the University of Kansas School Nursing with her teaching area focusing on critical care and leadership. Her educational background is adult health, nursing of adults and nursing administration. She recently served as a delegate to the 2011 House of Delegates of the American Nurses Association and a member of the Executive Committee-West Central Region of the Missouri Nurses Association. Nancy is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, Kansas City Chapter of Clinical Nurse Specialists, Emergency Nurses Association, the Missouri Action Coalition and the local AACN chapter, serving as treasurer in 2010.

Candidate: Secretary-Elect-Rebecca Lake (Children's Mercy Hospital)



Becca graduated from the University of Kansas in 2011 with a Bachelor's degree in Speech-Language-Hearing. She then decided to pursue nursing and will graduate in May with a BSN from KU School of Nursing. During her time at KU SON, she gained leadership experience while leading a project in collaboration with the Missouri Action Coalition to raise nursing awareness about the Missouri Nurse Practice Act. This culminated in a webinar attended by approximately 250 nurses throughout the state of Missouri. She has worked as a care assistant at Children's Mercy Hospital for the past two years and is excited to begin her nursing career on the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit this upcoming August. Through her capstone experience, Becca has developed a passion for pediatric critical care. Becca has a strong desire to learn about nursing leadership in critical care through the AACN and is interested in serving on the board of the local chapter, and being able to grow alongside such a successful and inspirational group of nurses.

Scholarship Chair-Nancy Haynes (St. Luke's College of Nursing)



Recently retired from teaching at St. Luke's College for over 35 years.

I feel that serving on the Board of our local chapter is a great privilege and I am committed to furthering the interest of critical care here in Kansas City. I feel that through scholarships our local chapter can assist the nurses in the community attend educational events, both local and national.

Candidate: Treasurer-Kay Luft (St. Luke's College of Nursing)



Kay has been a nurse educator at St. Luke's College in Kansas City for almost 30 years. Her areas of teaching and clinical expertise include critical care nursing, adult health, and pathophysiology. Kay is also an instructor for the Kaplan Corporation and has been helping new graduates prepare for the NCLEX for almost 20 years. Kay graduated from Avila College in 1974 (BSN) and the University of Kansas in 1983 (MSN). She is currently a PhD in Adult Education student at Capella University and is in the dissertation phase. She has also been a co-contributor and reviewer for many nursing textbooks published in recent years. Kay is an active member of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), most recently having served as President of the local chapter (GKC-AACN). She has served as a national chapter advisor for Region 14 (Missouri and Kansas), and has served on a variety of different advisory teams. She is also a member of Sigma Theta Tau, ANA and MONA. Kay

serves on the Nursing Research Council at St. Luke's Hospital and volunteers her time as an ACLS instructor once or twice a year. Kay has maintained her professional certification in critical care nursing (CCRN) for 20 years and became a certified nurse educator in 2010. Kay appreciates the many opportunities she has had through her job and the AACN organization to promote her own and her students' learning and professional development.

Candidate: Treasurer-Elect-Courtney Ramlow (Shawnee Mission Medical Center)



My name is Courtney Hodges Ramlow. I earned a BS in Business Management in 2005 from Baker University and a RN/BSN in 2007 from Baker University. I have four years of Critical Care experience. I obtained my CCRN in July 2010. I am married to Paul Ramlow. We have a wonderful 5 month girl, Taryn. We also have two dogs, Maggie and Wally. We live in Overland Park and love our busy lives! I am currently employed at Shawnee Mission Medical Center where I work in the Quality Management Department as a Quality and Outcomes Coordinator. I work closely with physicians, policies and procedure, and CMS core measures. I would like to be the Treasurer-Elect. I have enjoyed the past few years working with such a strong and collaborative Board. I am a very organized and detail-oriented individual. I would love to expand my knowledge and role on the Board and feel that Treasure-Elect is a great fit. It is important for me to stay involved in critical care and I am grateful for the opportunity. I am a dedicated individual who wants to make a lasting imprint in nursing and continue to be involved in the greater KC

community.

Education Co-Chair-Jenn McNeil (KU Hospital)



Jennifer graduated from the University of Kansas School of Nursing in 2008 with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing. She has spent her clinical time on the Medical ICU as a staff nurse and Unit Educator before her current position as a Quality Outcomes Coordinator. She is very interested and excited about the opportunity to continue serving on the board for GKCC AACN. She has a passion for critical care nursing and love to support continuing education and motivating nurses to reach the next level of their career.

Education Co-Chair-Janet Marts (KU Hospital)



Janet received her BSN from Washburn University and her MSN from Walden University. She has been the unit educator on Cardiovascular Progressive Care Unit at The University of Kansas Hospital since July 2012 and at KU for 12 years. She has been a telemetry/PCU nurse her entire career. She also teaches Basic Dysrhythmia and is a BLS instructor. Janet likes to serve on the Board to help plan classes that focus on PCU topics. She is not far from the bedside so feels she understands what the staff nurses are experiencing.

Candidate: Education Co-Chair Elect-Denise Miller (Shawnee Mission Medical Center)



I received my BSN from Washburn University. I joined the ICU at Shawnee Mission Medical Center after two years of being a nurse. I worked in the ICU for 22 years before becoming a Clinical Documentation Specialist. Taking care of patients was my passion and ICU allowed me a great opportunity to do that and be a patient advocate.

I have participated in Visions since it was held up by the airport and rarely missed it. I have always enjoyed the interaction with my fellow ICU and Critical Care Nurses and have wanted to be more a part of the team. I have always felt that I needed to keep my education up to date even though I do not do beside nursing and therefore have continued to be a part of the educational opportunities provided by AACN.

Candidate: Education Co-Chair Elect-Anne Gramkow (KU Hospital)



Anne graduated from MidAmerica Nazarene University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2009 and a Masters in nursing education in 2011. Anne is currently working on her doctorate in leadership with a nursing informatics focus at KU. Anne's experience has been in progressive care with unit experience on a medical telemetry renal, cardiothoracic surgery progressive care, and cardiac and family medicine. Anne is currently in a leadership position as the unit educator for a new Family Medicine and Heart Failure unit at the University of Kansas Hospital. Anne enjoys the responsibilities of being a nurse educator and the opportunity to inspire, train, and educate an eager and young staff into effective and caring nursing professionals.

Membership Chair-Janell Huskey (NKC Hospital)



Janell is a graduate of Graceland College. She started in critical care as a new graduate nurse. "I have always had an active interest in the Greater Kansas City Chapter having served as education co-chair elect and co-chair in the past. Recently, I have had some involvement in AACN on the National level serving on several volunteer groups as well as being part of the NTI Work Group 2010-2011.

Communications Chair-Akiko Kubo (KU Hospital)



"I am excited for the opportunity to continue serving on the Greater Kansas City AACN Board as the Communications Chair after having served in several positions since 2006. In the past few years, I have helped introduce electronic and web based methods of communicating with our critical care and progressive care nurses, including a chapter website, Facebook page, online event registration, online CE evaluation and receipt of CE certificate process. We will continue being a progressive chapter that explores and integrates technology and processes that streamline communication to our members.

Since 2005 when I began my career as an ICU nurse, I have also been a unit educator, an education specialist for critical care, project manager, and currently the Nurse Manager for the Medical ICU at The University of Kansas Hospital. The best part about my job is the opportunity to inspire and mentor staff nurses as future leaders and managing daily operational challenges in a complex healthcare system. I enjoy engaging bedside staff in being part of the solution to real bedside problems. I look forward to meeting as many Chapter members as possible and find ways to through the Board to better serve your professional needs."

Candidate: Communications Chair-Elect-Anne Goodman (KU Hospital)



I will graduate with my BSN from the University of Kansas School of Nursing come May 2014 with plans of working in the MICU at the University of Kansas Hospital thereafter. I received a previous degree in Community Health from the University of Kansas in 2012 with a passion for international health and advocating for underserved populations. During my very first semester of nursing school, I gained an additional passion for critical care nursing under the powerful mentorship and guidance of various nurses/clinical faculty. This passion only flourished throughout the duration of school, inspiring me to become involved with professional nursing organizations and pursue leadership opportunities for various positions with school organizations. I immediately knew I wanted to become further involved with GKC AACN after attending my first Annual Visions Symposium in Feb/March 2013. As a new graduate, I aim to bring fresh vision, passion, and energy to this chapter and also serve as a mentor and professional example for student nurses.

Candidate: Historian-Cher Brownback (KU School of Nursing)



Cher was a MICU nurse in Rhode Island and at University of Kansas Hospital for a total of seven years. She also served as MICU educator in the past, but is currently taking time off of work to raise my daughter. "I am interested in serving on the board as I am very passionate about education and love critical care. I think that there are so many excellent opportunities for nurses to continue learning and growing. My goal is to help other nurses realize their full potential through education and promotion of the profession."

Local chapter members should receive their link via email to the electronic ballot (Survey Monkey) in early May. Voting will end on May 30th, so please take the time to vote!!