



The Pipeline

The online newsletter of Geary Community Hospital
Junction City, KS
www.gchks.org

**April/May
2010**

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➤ GCH Auxiliary celebrates 50 years of service



"Volunteer of the Year" Gail Stein, right, and "Distinguished Auxilian" Joanne McKenna, left, led the awards given out at the 50th Anniversary Service Luncheon on April 14.

After 50 years of wearing pink and enduring the nickname of "pink ladies", the GCH Auxiliary changed to burdundy and tan jackets and scrub tops. The volunteer ranks include both men and women and the new colors should appeal to everyone.



Volunteer models were, left to right, Karen Cyphers, Jean Richardson, Connie Peck, and Betty Voshel.

Board of Trustees passes budget

The GCH Board of Trustees passed the Fiscal Year 2011 budget at a special meeting April 13.

A line item titled **"Cash Generated from Operations"** is budgeted to be in the black by \$672,000 by the end of the fiscal year.

Key positive factors in this year's budget include:

- Start-up of Dr. Lo's general surgery practice in January 2010.
- The possibility of Dr. Khoury adding a second ob/gyn in the summer of 2010.
- The switch of Dr. Holiday's clinic to hospital-owned on May 1, 2010.
- AlphaCare start-up on April 1, 2010.

Potential negative influences include:

- Senior Health Center and Fred C. Bramlage Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit volumes are not adequate to cover the costs of the units, so the management contract was canceled.
- Employee health insurance claims for last year were significantly more than premiums paid in, so the two bids GCH got this year had increases of approximately 60 percent. GCH will be self-insured starting May 1.
- The employer's rate of contribution to KPERS will increase from 6.1 percent to 7.1 percent on July 1.

Allan Holiday, M.D. joins the GCH employee family

Allan Holiday, M.D., will officially join the GCH employee family May 1 in the hospital's orthopedic clinic named Flint Hills Orthopedics.



Dr. Holiday really enjoys doing his surgeries at GCH. From May 2005 through an early retirement in December 2007, he was doing nearly all of his surgeries at GCH. Then he retired. He came out of retirement in February 2009 to return to GCH full-time, but under the umbrella of the Manhattan group. Now, however, he's a employee of Geary Community Hospital.

Dr. Holiday is a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, and has a particular interest in artificial joint replacement. He does all kinds of general orthopaedics and sports medicine.

His Junction City clinic remains in the Medical Arts I, Suite 204, with the same telephone number: 785-238-1391.



New KU resident starts July 1

Jason Leep, M.D., will join the University of Kansas Family Practice Residency-Junction City Rural Track, on July 1. He is currently completing his first year of a family practice residency in Kansas City.

The last two years will be completed in Junction City.

Dr. Leep was born in Detroit, Michigan, but calls Chassell, Michigan home.

He earned a B.S. in Biology from Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan in 2001 before graduating from the American University of The Caribbean, in Netherlands Antilles in 2006.

He joins third-year resident Ryan Harrison, M.D., in the resident's clinic, Medical Arts I, Suite 305. Appointments are available for both physicians by calling 762-7707.

Resident to graduate

Kristina Diaz M.D., will complete the family practice residency on June 30 and move back to her hometown of Yuma, Arizona to join Yuma Valley Family Medicine, effective August 1.



Dr. Diaz's husband Robert worked at GCH in Patient Access for several months while she was completing her residency and having their first child, also named Robert.

She and her family will be sorely missed.



AlphaCare now open

by Harold Marion, Director of Marketing

When AlphaCare opened its doors on April 1, the staff was pleased to see their first patient was already there seeking treatment at GCH's new after-hours rural health clinic. Since then, AlphaCare continues to build its patient base by offering the community care for minor illnesses and injuries during evening and weekend hours.

The rolling out of AlphaCare has been most visible on the hospital campus with the installation of two electrical signs to help guide patients to AlphaCare. Visitors now see a large sign outside of the Emergency Department beckoning them to that entrance. A second sign (that lights only when AlphaCare is open) is mounted on the interior hallway leading to the clinic.

A ribbon cutting ceremony and open house will be held the afternoon of Wednesday, May 12. AlphaCare will offer refreshments for the community and GCH employees.

AlphaCare is open Wednesday through Friday 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday noon to 6 p.m., and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. To visit AlphaCare, patients should enter through the Emergency Department and follow the signs to the clinic.

For more information about AlphaCare please call 238-0828 or pick up an informational brochure at various locations throughout the hospital.



Carissa Horton, Certified Physician Assistant, left, and Nicole Hall, CNA/CMA/Receptionist, posed just before opening the doors to patients on opening day, April 1. Not pictured: Amanda Jones, office nurse.

Spring retirements



**Mary Whitson, RN
Asst. Director
Surgery Center**



**Georgenia Bowling, RN
Certified Wound
Care Nurse**

Mary Whitson RN, Surgery Center, and Georgenia Bowling, RN, Certified Wound Care Nurse plan to retire in May.

The hospital will host a retirement party for two long-time employees on Thursday, May 6, from 2-3:30 p.m., in the cafeteria. The public is invited to attend and wish these ladies well.

Mary Whitson, RN, Assistant Director of the Surgery Center, will retire May 1 after 36 years at GCH. She plans to take a European cooking course (Go Julia!) and travel. She may return at some unknown date to help out in the Surgery Center, but nothing regular.

Mary was honored at the 2009 GCH Employee Recognition Banquet for 35 years. She was the 2002 Employee of the Year and was frequently singled out for her knowledge of the operating room equipment and skillful negotiation with vendors.

Georgenia Bowling, RN, Certified Wound Care Nurse (CWCN), will retire on May 31 after 17 years at GCH. Georgenia was the first CWCN at GCH and one of the first in Kansas. The wound care clinic opened in April 2005 in the hospital's rural health clinic even though Georgenia had been doing wound care along with her regular nursing duties for about two years. The hospital is looking for her replacement.

In 1999, she was one of eight state winners of "Nursing: The Heart of Healthcare" for her exceptional nursing care. She also received employee of the month honors during her tenure.

She and her husband, Warren, who retired from the hospital's materials management department, will be traveling and camping with the family in their RV. She's also planning long walks, lots of reading, and remodeling their home.

↻ Hospital to replace aging radiography/fluoroscopy unit with Siemens AXIOM Luminos TF in June



The tilt table holds patients up to 500 pounds, providing easy access for bariatric patients. In static mode, the table can accommodate patients weighing up to 600 pounds.



Barium enema colon diverticula, male, unknown age

Thanks to a gift of \$300,000 from Geary Community Healthcare Foundation donors, GCH will be replacing its aging radiography/fluoroscopy unit in June. The total cost of the unit, including construction during the installation, is \$514,224.

The system will do digital x-rays and fluoroscopy studies, like the example to the left. Fluoroscopy studies include gastrointestinal exams, providing real-time images of the stomach, esophagus and colon.

The images from this system will be accessible on the PACS (Picture Archive Communications System).

↻ March and April Employee's of the Month



Ngoc MacGown
Nutrition Services

March:

Ngoc MacGown, Cook, Nutrition Services: After 22 years at GCH, MacGown is still very dedicated, hard working and always smiling. She puts patients' and cafeteria customers' needs first. She is interested and picky about the food she prepares and wants to hear what customers have to say.

April:

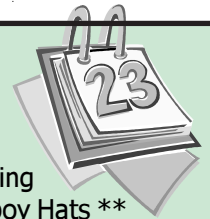
Donna Houser, RN, Clinical Coordinator, Home Health and Hospice: Her 23 years at GCH have shown her to be consistent, knowledgeable and patient. She is fair, compassionate and knows how to get the best out of everyone. Her staff feels comfortable going to her with any question and knows she'll be the first to jump in and help out.



Donna Houser, RN
Home Health & Hospice

She helps out with visits no matter what the task, if needed. She is accessible to the staff and is a good teacher and a better listener.

↻ Events Calendar



April 22	Beijo Purse
April 22, 24	Hospice Volunteer Training
April 24	Boots, Chaps and Cowboy Hats **
May 1-31	Memorial Trellis **
May 6	Mountain Man Fruit and Nut *
June 8-9	Imagine Nation Books *
June 11	Night at the Ballpark **
July 8	Stone House Jewelry & Estate Jewelry *
Sept. 10	Fall Classic Golf Tournament ** (New date)
Oct. 21	Beijo Purse *
Nov. 17-18	Imagine Nation Books *
Dec. 2	Mountain Man Fruit and Nut *
Dec. 3	Holiday Tree of Memories **
Dec. 9	Stone House Jewelry & Estate Jewelry *
Dec. 11	Holiday Glitz **

* Auxiliary-sponsored sales are held in the hospital's main lobby.

** Geary Community Healthcare Foundation events. For tickets, sponsorship, or general information, call 238-3787.

