



Volume 57, Issue 2
August 2016
2nd Quarter
Newsletter

A publication of the
Greater Kansas City
Chapter of the Oncology
Nursing Society

Save these dates!!

- **Tuesday, August 23rd at 6:00pm**
(PLEASE RSVP to wyles@kumc.edu. We can't guarantee a meal for those who do not RSVP)
Olathe Medical Center, Doctors Bldg. 2, 20805 W. 151st St., Olathe, KS
Genetics by Alisdair Philp, PhD, MS, Genetic Counselor
- **Saturday, October 15th 7:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.**
ONS FAIR at Centerpoint Medical Center, Independence, MO
- **Tuesday, October 25th**
Shawnee Mission Medical Center
Topic: Compassion Fatigue

Meeting invitations will be emailed and listed on the virtual community web site. Please contact Yvonne Ward (Yvonne.ward@hcahealthcare.com) if you are not receiving emails.

Highlighted Member of the Month



Melody Alexander: Becoming a Nurse Practitioner

It was amazing how over the last five years, time was able to find a way to fly and drag on at the same time. During that time, as many have also done in our chapter, I balanced work, school, and life. I made the decision in 2011 that I was going to pursue my master's degree to become a nurse practitioner. Each year was like shifting into a new gear until I hit my final year and was flying down the road, full speed ahead, toward completion of what I set out to do. I found such great support from our chapter members while trying to figure out my path in becoming a nurse practitioner. Many of you answered my questions about your own experiences in a graduate program, about the credentialing process, and about making the decision as to which career opportunity to pursue. Some of you may not even realize your words of encouragement and advice were taken to heart. I am sure my experience is not the only one when a chapter member was able to find support from the wonderful group of professionals that make up the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Oncology Nursing Society. I share my experience to remind each of us how important our networking and day to day interactions can be to each other. I am walking away from my experience with the intention of passing on those same words of encouragement and advice to others seeking growth as an oncology nursing professional...no matter the path. The word mentor is used often, but at the end of the day it is about being a true professional and human being to another. I encourage each person in our chapter to always nourish those around as we all are constantly seeking ways to become a better nurse and a better human being.

Ahhh, the Memories

Becca Claassen rubbing elbows with our speaker, Matt Jones, at the Annual Banquet at Boulevard Brewery in April.

VICTORY!!!



“Mission trip or family fun – I LOVE Africa! This was our third trip (2 for fun and one medical mission trip). Could not get enough of the beautiful sunset every night.”

Yvonne Ward

My 9-year old, Jolie, at riding lessons. Her first day riding bareback!

Jeanni Thompson



GKCCONS CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

January 2016 to January 2017

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Community Events

- Head For the Cure 5K Run/Walk (Brain Cancer)
August 28th at 8:00 a.m.
Corporate Woods, KCMO
 - Free to Breathe 5K Run/walk and 1-Mile Walk (Lung Cancer):
October 2nd at 8:00 a.m.
Theis Park, 533 Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd, KC MO
 - Light The Night Walk (LLS)
September 30th at 6:00 p.m.
Cleveland University, KC
Overland Park, KS
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We hope you are having a GREAT summer. You just read Melody's encouraging message. Now's the time for YOU to reach to new heights. If you have not yet obtained your OCN, do it now!! Why now? Besides enhancing your professional credibility and enjoying the feeling of personal accomplishment that comes from being certified, you can save 30% on 2016 testing (and EVERYONE loves a sale). Go to oncc.org for more details and to apply. Share your success story with us and YOU may be highlighted in the next issue☺. YOU CAN DO IT!!!!

Thanks for taking a few moments to view the newsletter. If you would like to write an article, have suggestions for the newsletter or you would like to share some fun photos, please let me know.



Your friend,

Jeanni Thompson, RN, BSN, OCN