

# IN THE CENTER

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## Former faculty member Betsy Beisecker honored at KU with posthumous award

**F**ormer Professor of Preventive Medicine Analee “Betsy” Beisecker, PhD, was known to those she worked with as a professional, a scholar, an advocate and a friend. In an April 18 ceremony held on the Lawrence campus, the legacy of Dr. Beisecker—who died of breast cancer in 1997—received a special honor, when she was inducted posthumously into the KU Women’s Hall of Fame.

Dr. Beisecker, who also served as associate director of the KU Cancer Center and director of the Division of Behavioral and Social Science Research, was chosen for induction because of her many professional and personal accomplishments. She was known nationally and internationally for her research into doctor-patient communication, which focused on older adults and cancer patients. She also served on grant review committees for the

National Institute on Aging, the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, and the U.S. Department of Education. Active



*Dr. Betsy Beisecker was known as an advocate for breast cancer education and research, and a mentor and friend of students.*

during her lifetime as an advocate for breast cancer research, the 1997 breast cancer “Race for the Cure” in Kansas City was dedicated to her memory.

Known for her deep and sincere interest in students, Dr. Beisecker also served as advocate,

counsel and mentor for students pursuing the masters of public health degree, as well as medical, thesis and dissertation students.

“Betsy was a loyal KU faculty member, social worker, and involved in everything,” said Executive Vice Chancellor Donald Hagen, MD. “I am happy she has been given this award.”

The Hall of Fame award was accepted in Dr. Beisecker’s name by her husband, Tom, assistant professor of Communication Studies on the KU Lawrence campus.

## Senate dissolves hospital oversight committee

In a vote of 115-7, the Kansas House of Representatives recently gave KU Med a resounding vote of confidence, by passing a bill to dissolve the Joint Committee on Oversight of the University of Kansas Hospital Authority.

The measure, Senate Bill 24, repeals K.S.A. 1999 Supp. 46-2901, which established the monitoring committee shortly after the Authority Board was formed. According to KU Med President and CEO Irene Cumming, the vote reflects the Kansas Legislature’s faith in the Hospital Authority Board to manage the hospital’s affairs.

“In the year and a half since the Authority Board was formed, Board members have demonstrated great leadership, made sound business decisions and laid the groundwork for solid success in the 21st century,” Cumming said. “This action clearly indicates that the Legislature has full confidence in the Board’s stewardship of KU Med.”

Gov. Bill Graves signed the bill on April 16. It will become effective following the bill’s publication in the Kansas Statute Book.