Sarah Buschmann, RN, a Chandler Hospital Neurosciences ICU nurse, settled into her seat near the back of an airplane departing Bluegrass Airport for Las Vegas on April 3. Gearing up for a fun vacation with family and friends, Buschmann decided to put on her headphones and take a nap about 20 minutes into the flight.

Bill Schutters, a 63-year-old businessman and entrepreneur from Richmond, Ky., and his companion, Carol Conyers, were on Buschmann’s flight. Schutters had a stressful week of traveling and work, and the pair was looking forward to a little rest and relaxation in Las Vegas. About 20 minutes into the flight, Schutters felt hot and began sweating. As he removed his jacket, he told Conyers he was going to be sick.

“We joke around a lot and at first I thought he might be joking,” Conyers said. “But when he threw his head back gasping for air and his normal ruddy complexion turned white as a sheet, I knew he was in trouble. His head fell forward and his eyes rolled back into his head as he passed out. I thought he was having a heart attack.”

Buschmann was dozing peacefully to her music when she heard a voice talking over the loud speaker. She asked a nearby flight attendant what was happening. The flight attendant told her that a doctor or nurse was needed for a passenger in distress.

Without hesitation, Buschmann stood up and volunteered to help.

She was led to a three-seat aisle in the middle of the plane where she saw Schutters in the middle seat – pale, sweating and unresponsive.

“He was having difficulty breathing, epigastric pain with nausea, in a cold sweat, dusky and in and out of consciousness,” Buschmann said. “He was struggling to answer my questions, and Ms. Conyers had to fill in the blanks for him. I had to continually probe him and repeat questions.”

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research,” said Mark Evers, Markey director. “It’s a huge part of what they’re looking for when they award the designation.”

Research Day not only provides an opportunity for investigators to showcase their work, it also helps educate researchers about other ongoing projects at UK that they may not have known about before — and this often leads to new, fruitful collaborations for future research projects.

Supervisors/managers receive survey results

Results from the employee engagement survey conducted in March were recently rolled out to supervisors and managers. This year’s survey results show that the level of employee engagement at UK HealthCare has increased over previous years. Supervisors and managers will soon be meeting with their individual staffs to identify areas where action planning and goal setting can further improve employee engagement.

Employee Service Awards events scheduled for mid June

There will be two “come-and-go” receptions for employees being honored for five, 10 and 15 years of service. The first will be held June 12, 7-11 a.m. in the lobby of Chandler Hospital Pavilion A; the other will be June 13, 7-11 a.m. in the hospital administration suite at Good Samaritan Hospital. Invitations for both of these events will come via e-mail from Michael Karf, MD, executive vice president for health affairs.

Employees with more than 20 years of service will be honored June 13, 6-8 p.m. at Spindletop Hall. Invitations have been mailed to the honoree’s home address. Photos from the events and a complete list of honorees will appear in the next edition of Vital Signs.

New 8th floor can house 64 cardiovascular patients

Planning of special events for donors and staff is underway for the opening of the new cardiovascular unit on the eighth

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to keep him awake and talking.”

Conyers said Buschmann handled the situation like a pro.

“She asked for a blood pressure cuff, a stethoscope and oxygen,” Conyers said.

“The oxygen tank arrived covered in dust. Sarah just calmly wiped it off with her hand and onto her pant leg as she checked the gauges and expiration date. She didn't hesitate to turn it on to start getting oxygen to Bill. He went through four tanks. She knew he needed fluids and elevated blood pressure had plummeted, he was dehydrated and unable to get enough oxygen. The extreme turbulence the airplane experienced that day only seemed to exacerbate his symptoms.

Buschmann never left Schutters’ side for the duration of the four-hour flight, constantly monitoring him and checking in with the pilot and air medics by phone until the plane safely landed.

A medical team was on the runway when the plane landed, ready to perform medical tests and take over Schutters’ care.

But to Schutters and Conyers, Buschmann was the real hero that day.

“Sarah was our angel because we don't know what would have happened if she hadn't been there,” Conyers said. “She jumped to help us immediately. She is amazing and an excellent reflection on UK. I have adopted her into my heart.”

Buschmann said her upbringing taught her to offer help when others are in need.

“My parents raised me well, teaching me to always help others,” she said. “My mother is also in the medical profession and my godfather is a physician. All my life I've witnessed them jumping in to provide care when called upon. I'm a nurse in the ICU and I'm used to helping in a moment's notice without stopping to think about it. We see everything here at UK and feel well prepared. It was my job to make sure that he was OK first and foremost.”

After getting off the plane, Buschmann made sure that Schutters and Conyers were OK before leaving them with the medical team. Schutters and Conyers thanked Buschmann many times over for everything she had done to help.

“I told them not to thank me,” Buschmann said. “It's what I do. It's what I'm here for.”

Recognition continued from previous page

Birdwhistell, Steltenkamp receive excellence in business awards

Mark Birdwhistell, vice president for administration and external affairs, and Carol Steltenkamp, MD, chief medical information officer, were recently honored at the 2014 Medistar Awards banquet in Louisville. IGE Media, publisher of Medical News and Medical News For You, has recognized excellence in the business of health care at the exclusive MediStar Awards since 2007.

Birdwhistell received the Seven Counties Services Health Advocacy Award, and Steltenkamp received the Hall Render Leadership in Healthcare Award.

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floor of Chandler Hospital Pavilion A. The celebration of the first finished floor since the towers opened in 2011 is tentatively scheduled for November; move in is targeted for some time in December or early January.

The new cardiovascular unit will care for complicated heart patients such as those who suffer from adult congenital heart disease, heart failure or who receive a heart transplant. The eighth floor will have 32 ICU step-down beds in one tower (one of the largest in the U.S.), 32 acute-care beds in the other tower and be the location for in-patient cardiac echo imaging.
Nurses awarded for their high level of care and initiative

Seven nursing awards were presented to deserving professionals during National Nurses Week. The awards recognize UK HealthCare registered nurses for their outstanding contributions to the nursing profession and the delivery of health care.

Left to right: Sarah “Sally” Quigley, RN, Karen E. Hall Nursing Education Award recipient; Christina King, RN, Nightingale Preceptor Lamp Award recipient; Tsitsi Gwanyanya, RN, Nursing Professional Advancement Award recipient; Alice Carpenter, RN, M.J. Dickson Quality Nursing Care Award recipient; Emergency Department PharmD (Regan Baum, RN; Abby Bailey, RN; Stephanie Baker, RN), AI UK Quilt of Teamwork Award recipients; and Sarah Gabbard, RN, Firestarter Award recipient. Not pictured: Jill Dobias, Diana Weaver Leadership/Management Award recipient.