

OKLAHOMA BLOOD INSTITUTE



NEWS RELEASE

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IN MEMORY OF OKLAHOMA BLOOD INSTITUTE LAB TECHNICAL MANAGER, KATHEY KEETER

On January 30, 2008 Oklahoma Blood Institute (OBI) and the transfusion medicine community lost a brilliant colleague, friend, teacher and mentor with the passing of Kathey J. Keeter, MT (ASCP), SBB.

Kathey came to OBI in the early 1980's to open its first Specialist in Blood Bank (SBB) Technologist Training Program. In the early 1990's she followed her love for teaching and moved to the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center to be program director at the University's Medical Technology Training Program. In 1995 she moved to Texas where she worked as a training manager and senior technologist until returning to OBI in 1999. Kathey, who had returned to Oklahoma to help take care of her mother, was persuaded to establish and manage an OBI Tulsa Center Immunohematology Reference Lab (IRL) and remained in the position of Lab Technical Manager until her death.

Kathey is known throughout the United States as one of the best serologists and teachers in the transfusion medicine industry. She was a member of American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP); AABB (formerly known as American Association of Blood Banks); South Central Association of Blood Banks (SCABB); and American Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (ASCLS).

Among her professional awards, she was the 1993 "Outstanding Junior Faculty in Teaching" recipient, awarded by the College of Allied Health, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. In 2005, she was presented with the Larry L. Trow Memorial Education Award by the South Central Association of Blood Banks for her significant contributions to the promotion of education in the field of immunohematology.

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OBI – KATHY KEETER

“Kathey was not only working as my manager in the Tulsa Reference Laboratory, but she was also my mentor in the SBB program at UT Southwestern Medical Center,” says Heather vonHartitzsch, MT (ASCP), OBI Laboratory Technologist. “Her eyes would light-up every time we talked about school. She loved helping people with their education and she will be greatly missed, both professionally and personally.”

“One of the small things that Kathey loved was the gentle and quiet beauty of a butterfly,” says Charles Mooney, OBI Vice President of Quality Management. “To our sadness, OBI and the industry have lost a vital technologist and teacher as well as a friend who had a still and quiet beauty of her own. OBI plans to pursue the establishment of a Kathey Keeter scholarship fund at an SBB training program.”

Oklahoma Blood Institute is a non-profit, regional blood center providing transfusion products and clinical services to 110 hospitals in Oklahoma and north Texas. It is headquartered in Oklahoma City and manages the life-saving donations from more than 120,000 individuals each year.