By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

You’re walking down the hall in Chase County Community Hospital and you hear a cheery laugh. It sounds familiar. It is, because Annette Kasselman, a floor nurse at the hospital from 2003-04 is back. She is in training to become the Director of Nursing next year.

Kasselman and husband, Dr. Jeff Kasselman, resided in Imperial from 2002-07. He was a doctor for the hospital and Chase County Clinic. The couple and their family moved to Omaha so that Jeff could pursue a residency in anesthesiology. He will be returning to Chase County next summer.

Annette Kasselman is being trained by Director of Nursing Delores Francis to take over when Francis retires, sometime next spring or summer.Kasselman said she’s grateful to learn under Francis’ guidance and years of exper-ience.

“I’m learning the ropes. Now I’m in the clinic, and will also be at the hospital,” Kasselman said. As Director of Nursing she will be in charge of a staff of about 50, including nurses at the clinics in Imperial and Wauneta, the hospital and specialty clinics.

Shannon Kuhlmann will continue as Assistant Director of Nursing, Kasselman said.

While in Omaha, Kasselman was a supervisor for Methodist Hospital. She moved back to Imperial the first part of July and began working July 21.

Prior to the move to Omaha, Kasselman provided hospice nursing through Community Hospital Home Health and Hospice of McCook.

She received her Bachelor of Nursing Science degree from St. Marys of the Plains College in Dodge City, Kan. in 1983.From 1983-91 she was with the Army Nurse Corps stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and served in Desert Storm.

She has performed “the whole gamut” of nursing, Kasselman laughed, from labor and delivery, school nursing, community health, hospital and hospice — from birth to death.

She has also taken post-graduate classes in public health.

Why did she and her husband consider moving back to Chase County when they had been “romanced” by other hospitals?

“This is home,” she replied. “The people here feel like my family. The community has been very supportive of me and my husband.”

Kasselman anticipates a busy year, learning her new job and being involved in new concepts coming to the hospital. The most important of those is the new electronic medical records department, which involves all aspects of the medical system.

Medical records are now kept on paper, she noted.

“I’m impressed by how this is coming about,” she said of the program, and “glad to be involved.”

She'll also be busy with youngest son, Freddie, who is with her and will be an eighth grader at Chase County Schools this fall. Daughter Susy, a sophomore at Papillion South, will join her and attend CCS second semester.

Daughter Katie is a senior at Papillion South and will graduate from there next spring, living with Jeff in the mean time.

Son Sam attended college at Oklahoma Panhandle State University last year, and will attend Metro in Omaha this year.

Oldest son Paul lives in Lincoln and will be deployed to Afghanistan in October with the 623 Engineers of the Nebraska National Guard.