

CONNECTIONS

UNITED NATIONS DAY

By Elaine M. Kopp

FALL 2009



Contemporary Nursing Global Health Issues

United Nations (UN) Day: “Contemporary Nursing Global Health Issues” held on May 26, 2009 was hosted by the Alpha Omega Chapter of Adelphi University—School of Nursing. Conference Co-chairs Dr. Marilyn Klainberg and Dr. Holly Shaw coordinated the events, which took place at UN Headquarters and included a walking tour and lecture, an optional buffet, and educational briefings. Honor Society guest speaker Carol Huston, President, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) was among the nearly ninety participants as were Connie Sobon-Sensor, Region 14 Coordinator of STTI chapters, and Marianne Duffy, Program Coordinator, New Jersey Consortium of STTI chapters. Chapter members Caroline Kornutik, and Madelyn Yu who is the President of the Philippine Nurses Association of New Jersey (PNANJ), and I attended.

Orientation to UN System and House Briefings

We entered the UN via the General Assembly one of four main buildings on its eighteen-acre East side of Manhattan complex. Official tour guides greeted visitors in the main lobby and escorted us in smaller groups through the chambers. Addressed in morning briefings were key elements in the UN system. Our guide provided an in-depth commentary on the extensive compilation of exhibits lining the corridors. Synergistically arranged visuals and wall text described coordinated humanitarian responses and ongoing international initiatives.

Millennium Goals and International Initiatives

The UN Anti-malarial Initiative exemplifies a major effort that aims targeted measures toward disease eradication in malarial-endemic countries. Malarial mosquito control strategies involve long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLIN), and environmental or vector management. Access to state-of-the-art technologies enables prompt disease diagnosis and counters the additional threat of contagion spread. Treating infected individuals with cost-effective combinations of anti-malaria drugs and preventively treating pregnant women intermittently is critical.

The School-in-a-Box Program implemented by the Lions Clubs International and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is a collaborative project begun in 1994. It aptly demonstrates how a seemingly simple yet, practical solution resolves unmet global needs. Together they have shipped culturally neutral school supplies to teachers in Rwandan refugee camps. UNICEF maintains that the primary purpose for sending pre-packaged kits is to ensure that children’s education resumes quickly (by the first 72 hours of an emergency). The program continues because holding school (even in makeshift classrooms) engenders a sense of belonging and brings stabilization to children living in crisis.

Worldwide Health Concerns—A Call to Action

After lunch in the Delegates’ Dining Room, there were two concurrent briefings. One focused on the training and military use of children in situations of armed conflict. The other dealt with the trafficking of humans’ and inherently related human rights violations. Both topics are growing worldwide problems that greatly affect health and well-being or factor into their loss. Carol Huston delivered the final session and concluding remarks. Carol presented the STTI Vision 20/20 statement. She spoke about STTI priority goals in the context of being an internationally global organization empowered as a thought leader and positioned to create and share knowledge and leadership development. Carol related that the plan represents an international call to action. Consistent with the vision plan, STTI applied for associative status in May 2009 as a non-governmental organization (NGO) at the UN.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

By Caroline A. Kornutik

Possibilities to Make a Difference Abound



In early June, I fulfilled a lifetime aspiration by participating in a nurse-led mission outside of the United States (US). In this instance, I joined fellow board members Dr. Eileen Specchio and Paula Lefever, and Catherine Van Orden a recent inductee, on a delegation to a southern region in the Dominican Republic (DR). Experienced travelers too, having been on the same trip previously, were truly assets in getting us off the ground and running. They lessened the workload for Eileen—our delegation leader who guided a diverse group. Our delegation included faculty, graduate nurses and undergraduate nursing students, a medical student, counseling psychology majors and practicing nurses from multiple niches (education, emergency room, mental health, operating room, and pediatrics). From the beginning, we remained united in our efforts to make a difference in the lives of others.

Foundation for Peace Outreach Serves Needy

The intent of our mission was to provide nursing care and health education to the medically underserved. The Foundation for Peace (FFP) served as our liaison. FFP volunteers provided us with food and shelter and we shared meals and sleeping quarters. They also set up the provisional clinics and arranged our transport. Several, young American organizational representatives were available to our group members around-the-clock. They accompanied us on clinic visits and being fluent Spanish speakers excelled at problem solving and provided valuable translation services. In addition, area churches recruited others to assist us in overcoming the language barrier. Relief volunteers split into two subgroups seeing patients in four church locations. Handed out in advance were one hundred tickets per site. Due to the small church sizes, one ticket holder would come forward to pre-register. Each ticket holder could then bring back six people and most brought the maximum number or more. As a result, we saw approximately 3,000 people in three days!

Historical Denial of Citizenship Fosters Poverty

Our clinics were located in the Bateyes, which are similar to company towns yet, essentially without any services. Initially, its residents (former sugar workers) left their native homeland in search of a better life. Caught in a cycle of hard labor, poor wages, and indebtedness to the

employer, they are unwelcome in Haiti and unrecognized as equal citizens in the DR. Industry or plantation owners were unsupportive to their workers especially if they needed medical attention. Unfortunately, the same overall injustice continues to spiral down to any immigrant offspring. FFP works in conjunction with groups like ours to improve their quality of life by providing latrines and running water. Nonetheless, most people remain impoverished and live without basic amenities like plumbing. Dwellings had little furniture and few possessions. Draped sheets hanging between living and resting spaces acted as partitions for privacy. Despite an absence of material goods, families were gracious when inviting us into their homes. The sugarcane crop is long gone, but they stay in the Bateyes because there is nowhere else to go.

Clinics Provide Basic Community Health Care

Although poor, the patients we assessed appeared nourished. We found some who were anemic. Others complained most commonly of headache and nausea, had parasites or infections typically involving the urinary tract. Our pharmacy had antibiotics, assorted vitamins, and over the counter medications such as Tylenol®. We met patients with prescriptions that they could not afford to fill. We distributed self-care packages with shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. A local physician was present at each clinic assisting with referrals when people needed further evaluation. We monitored patients for diabetic control. We conducted health education about the necessity of hand washing and drinking bottled water, taught parasite prevention, and attempted to do some teaching on the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STD's).

Nurses Work to Build Global Understanding

On the final day, we again reconfigured. Some visited a minimally equipped and sparsely supplied area hospital and some went to a graduate nurses association. In the latter, we liaised with professional nurses to find out how we might best meet the needs of medically underserved people in the DR. We discussed having local nurses work with volunteers from the US to help identify community resources. Our dialogue opened the lines of communication and potentially established a mutually beneficial relationship. Realistically speaking however, there is much more to accomplish. While we all worked hard and had an opportunity to meet nurses from various backgrounds and countries, we also had fun! It was a wonderful learning experience, which certainly raised my awareness and made me more appreciative of the standard of living and what we have here in the USA.

NEWLY INSTALLED OFFICERS

Barbara A. Carrig, RN, BSN, MSN, APN-BC President Elect—2009 to 2011

Barbara graduated from the Passaic County Technical Institute—Licensed Practical Nursing Program, Wayne, NJ (1988). She continued her nursing studies at Passaic County Community College obtaining an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Nursing degree (1994). She returned to school earning both Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degrees from Felician College, Lodi, NJ where she completed induction into Mu Theta-at-Large (2004).

Barbara worked in medical-surgical arenas and maternal-child health specialties including labor-delivery, newborn nursery, post-partum, and pediatrics at the Wayne General Hospital before moving into academia. She reconnected with her earlier roots and began teaching at the Passaic County Technical Institute—Licensed Practical Nursing Program in 2000. Since 2003, she has served as the Program Coordinator. At the same time, she is on the Advisory Committee at Passaic County Community College and functions as an appointed volunteer instructor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) School of Health Related Professions, a consortium partner.

Barbara is an Adult Nurse Practitioner Board Certified through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Barbara holds a Supervisor's Certificate in Education from the New Jersey Department of Education, a Teacher of Practical Nursing Certificate (Health Occupations Career and Technical Education), is a Certified Nurses Aide Instructor by the Department of Health and Senior Services and a Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) Instructor. She belongs to the Practical Nurse Educator Council (PNEC), American Nurses Association (ANA), New Jersey State Nurses Association (NJSNA) and the National League for Nursing (NLN) as well as the New Jersey League of Nurses (NJLN).

During her husband's illness, Barbara became active in Organ Transplantation and she has presented on "The Impact of Organ Transplantation Process in Patient and Family". As president-elect, Barbara hopes to share her teaching and learning skills to inform and inspire students and practicing nurses about STTI. Barbara recognizes that Nursing is a profession that encourages personal satisfaction and where possibilities are not only challenging, but also interesting, and almost infinite!

Sr. M. Patricia Kennedy, CSSF, BSN, RN Corresponding Secretary—2009 to 2011



Inducted into the Mu Theta-at-Large Chapter as a Community Leader in 2001, Sr. Patricia is an active member of its Board of Directors for seven years. As a vice president representing Felician for three consecutive terms, she oversaw the long-term planning of two large-scale annual inductions. As such, she carried out and delegated the planning tasks associated with reserving the banquet hall, ordering of flowers, honor cords, invitations, and programs as well as ensuring their mailing or delivery. Sr. Patricia has also partaken in numerous ceremonies. Pictured (above left) she pins a corsage on a new inductee as is customary. In her role modeling to prospective initiates, she continues to encourage students to increase their working knowledge of STTI by inviting them to Chapter events.

Beyond these role-specific responsibilities, she has previously accepted other appointments. She was a former newsletter editor, who named the Chapter publication—*Connections* and served as an acting recording secretary over the last year. Sr. Patricia works in the Nursing Resource and Simulation Center at Felician College. The Board held Chapter meetings on campus because she would reserve a room and arrange for audiovisual equipment. Prior to the calling of the roll, Sr. Patricia would often say a spontaneous prayer reminding each of us about the importance of integrating the spiritual dimension into our daily routines. During officer installations, she passed out pledges, shared votive lights, and in a personal way illuminated the path for new leaders.

Along with other Felician Sisters, Sr. Patricia offered services in Kingstree, SC last summer. Sr. Patricia assisted at the Bible Camp of the Saint Anne's Outreach Center—a Felician Sister's Mission. Here, the sisters minister to those who are less fortunate. During the week, she provided blood pressure readings and lent a hand as needed. Sr. Patricia reflected, "it was an enriching experience. The atmosphere was filled with God's love for all who participated".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Teru Coleman, MSN, RN accepted a one-year appointment to Treasurer and completed installation during the planning meeting of the Mu Theta-at-Large Chapter on August 26, 2009.

Danielle Fox, BSN, RN is pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree in the acute care nurse practitioner track at New York University (NYU). Danielle presently works in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) and Cardiovascular Surgical Care Unit (CVSCU) at the New York University Langone Medical Center.

Carolyn M. Garzone-Johnson, RN, MSN, ANP was named Assistant Dean at the Christ Hospital School of Nursing (CHSON), Jersey City, NJ. In addition to serving in this administrative capacity since June of 2008, Carolyn is Adjunct faculty for both the College of Saint Elizabeth and Fairleigh Dickenson University (FDU). She previously worked full-time as a clinical instructor at FDU and was formerly an Assistant Professor at Bergen Community College (BCC). Prior to these appointments, Carolyn had instructed Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) for several years. Her diverse experience in academia includes teaching the didactic and clinical rotation components for the accelerated BSN (one and two year) tracks and the traditional BSN (four-year) program as well as the RN to BSN and RN to MSN programs.

June Halper, MSN, APRN-BC, FAAN, MSCN, Executive Director of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Centers (CMSC) and the International Organization of MS Nurses (IOMSN) served as faculty for the Visiting Professors Series. She presented Best Practices for MS Nurse Specialists: "Immunopathophysiology of MS" on June 23, 2009. The University of South Florida and Teva Neuroscience co-sponsored the education and dinner program held at the Stony Hill Inn, Hackensack, NJ.

Kathleen A. Kavanagh, MSN, Ed., RN, Nursing and Health Management Instructor at Felician College coordinated a Health Fair held in the downstairs dining hall of the Lodi campus on April 2, 2009. This well-attended event featured forty community-based exhibitors, nurse and physician health screeners, nursing student poster presentations, and a wide array of complimentary raffles.

Elaine M. Kopp, BSN, RN, CNRN is a member of the 2009-2011 Cohort of the STTI Board Leadership Development Program (BLDP). She participated in the required on-site orientation at STTI Leadership Institute Headquarters, Indianapolis, IN from June 3-5, 2009.

Kathryn Labriola, MSN, RN, C accepted a one-year appointment to Recording Secretary and completed installation during the planning meeting of the Mu Theta-at-Large Chapter on August 26, 2009.

Paula A. Lefever, MSN, CRNA earned a Master of Science in Nursing Education (MSN) degree on May 16, 2009 from the College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, NJ.

Barbara Lynch is Director of Marketing and Publications at Felician. Her design background includes integrated marketing communications experience. She creates organizational and promotional materials for health care and higher education. Barbara has collaborated with nurses on several successful projects such as the Biennial Health Fair and Clinical Residency Program. She has also donated her time and talents to Mu Theta-at-Large Chapter and received a 'Friend of Nursing' award announced on April 25, 2009.

Daisy Molina-Lucke, MSN, BSN, RN, C, CLC, CIME earned a Master of Science in Nursing Education (MSN) degree from the College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, NJ and attended the commencement exercises on May 16, 2009.

Kathleen Motacki, MSN, RN, BC, Clinical Associate Professor, Saint Peter's College School of Nursing will speak at the Annual Founder's Day Dinner Program of the New Jersey Consortium of STTI chapters. Her topic is "Safe Patient Handling: It's the Law". She is presenting at the Rutgers Club, New Brunswick, NJ on October 13, 2009.

Mary E. Norton, EdD, RN, APN, Associate Dean and Professor for Global Initiatives at Felician College is a recipient of the prestigious President's Medallion (2008). In the spirit of the Franciscan tradition, she has generously contributed to the academic community.

Dula F. Pacquiao, EdD, RN, CTN delivered a keynote address titled "Celebrating Scholarship as Pathway to Nursing Excellence" during the Chapter's Nineteenth Annual Induction Luncheon and Ceremony. Dr. Pacquiao is Associate Professor, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, (UMDNJ) School of Nursing and Director and Coordinator of the PhD in Urban Health Systems program.

Eileen C. Specchio, PhD, RN led a forty eight-member delegation to North Villa Mella in the Dominican Republic through the Foundation for Peace from June 5-10, 2009. Volunteers conducted two clinics per day for two days serving four church areas, and visited two different Bateyes on another day. They saw approximately 3,000 medically underserved people in three days.

NETWORKING PROGRAMS

College of Saint Elizabeth

Co-Sponsored with Morristown Memorial Hospital and NJSNA Region 1

Day and Date: Wednesday—October 7, 2009

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Venue: College of Saint Elizabeth Campus

Address: 2 Convent Road

Morris Town, NJ 07960

Building: Annunciation Center

Location: (Above Convent Station)

Directions/Map/Campus Directory Retrievable

At: <http://www.cse.edu>

Networking Dinner and Education Offering

Guest Speaker: Mary de Chesnay, DSN, RN, CS, FAAN, Director and Professor, Wellstar School of Nursing Kennesaw State University

Presentation Title: "Life History Methodology and Vulnerable Populations"

Admission Fee: \$35.00 (Includes registration, light supper, and poster presentation session)

Student Admission Fee: \$20.00

Checks are Payable to: Nursing Network

Mail Registration to: College of Saint Elizabeth, Nursing Programs

Continuing Education Credits: Certificates are awarded upon completion of the program.

New Jersey Consortium of STTI Chapters

Annual Founder's Day Dinner Program

Day and Date: Tuesday—October 13, 2009

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Venue: The Rutgers Club

Address: 199 College Avenue

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Building: Rutgers Faculty Club (Ground floor)

Location: (Near Lafayette Street)

Directions/Map/Campus Directory Retrievable

At: <http://www.rutgersclub.rutgers.edu>

Networking Dinner and Education Offering

Guest Speaker: Kathleen Motacki, MSN, RN, BC, Clinical Associate Professor at Saint Peter's College School of Nursing

Presentation Title: "Safe Patient Handling and Movement: It's the Law"

Admission Fee: \$30.00 (Includes registration and buffet style meal)

Checks are Payable to: Gamma Nu, STTI, NJ Consortium

Advanced Registration: Seating is limited to 58

Continuing Education Credits:

The New Jersey State Nurses Association (NJSNA) accredited by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation will provide 1.0 contact hour for completion of the offering. The Continuing Education Committee of UMDNJ SON and University Hospital is an approved provider of continuing education in nursing by the NJSNA, Provider Number P160-2/07-10.

2009 CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Education Scholarships Recipients:

- Ava Dimaculangan
 - Awarded One Thousand Dollars
- Julie Mathew
 - Awarded One Thousand Dollars

Research Grant Recipient:

- Cheryl A. Krause-Parello
 - Awarded One Thousand Dollars

Acknowledgements

The editor gratefully acknowledges Daniela Schlüter for her assistance on the masthead and Barbara Lynch for contributing the Annual Induction photographs and permission to use them. Elaine Kopp, Editor produced the copywriting, design, and layout.

✉ To have your announcements, articles, committee reports, letters, photos, or human interest stories considered for inclusion in the next edition please contact:

koppelaine@yahoo.com

Fundraising Committee

Scholarship Campaign and Patron Program

Annual Awards

Three Education Scholarships

and

One Research Grant

- Applications are available from each of the three colleges that comprise the Chapter.
- All candidates must submit application materials within the established timeline.

Patron Recognition

Four Donation Levels:

Platinum Level
Donates \geq \$500.00

Gold Level
Donates \geq \$100.00 or $<$ \$500.00

Silver Level
Donates \geq \$50.00 or $<$ \$100.00

Bronze Level
Donates \$25.00 or $<$ \$50.00

✉ To request a scholarship award application or additional donation information please contact:

kamafrn@aol.com



Past Presidents Kay Fagan, seated above left, and Geneva Marie Ricci, standing above right, raise funds for scholarships at the Annual Induction. Revenue from the cookbook sales is solely for scholarship and research grant awards. Insignia items are available to purchase during general membership meetings.

📖 Chapter Cookbooks	\$15.00 each
T Chapter Tee Shirts	\$15.00 each

Beverley H. Wright, MSN, ANP-C, WCC, CWCN
Immediate Past President—2007 to 2009



Chapter Stepping Stones to Chapter Milestones

- Successfully Launched Chapter Website—April 2007
- Approved Scholarship Policy/Procedure—September 2007
- Expanded BOD Recognition Awards Platform—April 2008
- Approved Patron Program Fundraiser—April 2008
- Initiated “Stay Connected” Program—June 2008
- Approved Research Grant Policy/Procedure—June 2008
- Developed Five-Year Strategic Plan—August 2008
- Submitted Chapter Key Award Application—July 2009



2009 *CHAPTER* *SERVICE RECOGNITION* **AWARDS**

Friend of Nursing Award Recipients:

- Barbara Lynch
- Basil Ricci (Posthumously)

BOD Recognition Award Recipients:

Outstanding Contribution to Chapter Service

- Sr. M. Patricia Kennedy
- Elaine M. Kopp

✉ **To volunteer your time, and share your ideas or talents please visit our newly updated website at:**

www.muthetaatlarge.org

CONNECTIONS

Leadership Succession Committee

Call for Nominations—2010 Open Ballot Positions

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| ▪ Faculty Counselor, FC | ▪ 2010-2012 |
| ▪ Faculty Counselor, CSE | ▪ 2010-2012 |
| ▪ Governance Committee
Faculty Chairperson | ▪ 2010-2012 |
| ▪ Governance Committee
Member | ▪ 2010-2012 |
| ▪ Leadership Succession
Committee Member, CSE | ▪ 2010-2012 |
| ▪ Leadership Succession
Committee Member, SPC | ▪ 2010-2012 |
| ▪ Recording Secretary | ▪ 2010-2012 |
| ▪ Treasurer | ▪ 2010-2012 |
| ▪ Vice President, CSE | ▪ 2010-2012 |
| ▪ Vice President, FC | ▪ 2010-2012 |

Saint Peter's College (SPC) ▪ Felician College (FC) ▪ College of Saint Elizabeth (CSE)

  **To request position description information or to send your biographical letter or professional résumé please contact:**

bhwight1@verizon.net

Board of Directors and Committee Members

- **Barbara A. Crowley**
Faculty Counselor, Saint Peter's College
- **Kathleen A. Kavanagh**
Faculty Counselor, Felician College
- **Eileen C. Specchio**
Faculty Counselor, College of Saint Elizabeth
- **Caroline A. Kornutik**
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- **Barbara A. Carrig**
President-Elect
- **Elaine M. Kopp**
Vice President, Felician College
- **Daisy Molina-Lucke**
Vice President, College of Saint Elizabeth
- **Teru Coleman**
Treasurer
- **Kathryn Labriola**
Recording Secretary
- **Sr. M. Patricia Kennedy**
Corresponding Secretary
- **Barbara A. Buongiorno**
Website Coordinator
- **Beverley H. Wright**
Leadership Succession Committee Chair
- **Paula A. Lefever**
Leadership Succession Committee Member
- **Buffy L. Reilly**
Leadership Succession Committee Member
- **Kathleen A. Fagan**
Research/Scholarship Committee Chair
- **Ellen G. Ehrlich**
Research/Scholarship Committee Member
- **Mary T. O'Donnell**
Research/Scholarship Committee Member

