Mu Theta-at-Large Chapter

CONNECTIONS

FALL 2012

GIVING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

A Message on Behalf of the Reaching the Unreached Program

By Sister Mary Prisca Nwogu

Proverbs 31:8-9 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy" (NIV).

My name is Sister Mary Prisca Nwogu, I am a Nigerian, an alumna of the College of Saint Elizabeth and a member of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI). I left this country in 2008 at the request of my community. My college adviser Dr. Eileen Specchio and my director Dr. Linda Hunter volunteered to assist me with the assignment of building a hospital for the poor in a rural area in Benin, Edo state, the western part of Nigeria.

Novartis Pharmaceuticals, the college community and the alumni have helped arrange for medications and supplies, which we use for our mobile clinic to reach the poor—rural dwellers. Some nurses volunteered to assist with the program as we move to the rural areas where patients are unable to get medical assistance due to poverty, and inaccessible or unsafe roads. We have attended to approximately 9,743 (Nine thousand seven hundred and forty three) patients. Their many afflictions include malaria, typhoid fever, arthritis, hypertension, diabetes, and different types of infections and ulcers. We give them health education and counseling.

During my rounds, I have experienced too, patients suffering from eye diseases who are also going blind quickly. I am currently unable to help them since I do not have any eye medications as part of the medical donations that I have received thus far. I hereby, ask for your assistance with this program. Connecting me to pharmaceutical contacts, foundations, or philanthropists to supply us with medications or finances to build the new hospital or to start an eye clinic will go a long way. Having teaching aids for the nursing training is an equally great need.

While in America, I learned that people have more than one job. To put this into practice, I am involved in the education of our nurses in one of the Nursing training schools. I find this position interesting and take pleasure in continuing this work in addition to my mobile clinic program. I am looking forward to hearing from you through chapter communications while I pray for God's blessings on all as you consider supporting us to 'Reach the Unreached.'

WORK / LIFE BALANCE

Our Trip to Germany

By Elaine T. Walsh

A little over a year ago, my husband, Tom, bought a bottle of wine at the local Montclair Farmer's Market. He recognized the name on the label from Alps Family Practice in Wayne, New Jersey where I had completed a clinical rotation while studying for my masters in the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Program at Felician.

Dr. Anthony Ventimiglia is the senior physician in the practice. His brother Gene runs the Ventimiglia Vineyards in Wantage, NJ. He encouraged Tom to come for a tasting at the family winery. Here Gene introduced Tom to a passport book containing some thirty wineries located throughout the state. The object of this particular passport was to have people (prospective contestants) visit all listed wineries and obtain their stamps.

Once Tom had followed through, he sent the full passport to the headquarters of the New Jersey Wine Growers Association in order to become eligible for a special trip to sample fine wines. Last year the winner won a trip to France, the previous year the recipient traveled to Italy, and this year the prize and destination was to Germany. The drawing took place over Memorial Day weekend when Tom received notification that he was in fact, the winner!

Wine Tasting Itinerary

Con pan y vino se anda el camino [With bread and wine you can walk your road]. —Anonymous: Spanish Proverb

My husband and I flew into Frankfurt in August. We traveled over a period of ten days to the west central wine country. Our itinerary included touring German wineries and plenty of other memorable places in the cities of Mainz, Heidelberg, Trier, and Cologne.

Mainz

We spent two days in Mainz, a scenic town on the Rhine River. We went to the Kupferburg Museum, a multilevel, working Sekt winery. Sekt is what the Germans refer to as their sparkling wine. We found ourselves two floors beneath the ground in order to see the wine cellars and sample glasses of Sekt with pretzels—wonderful! Later we had authentic German food at a sidewalk café.

The next day, Tom and I strolled along the banks and took a walking tour of the town absorbing all the high points including the Dom (cathedral) where we attended mass. We went to the Dom Museum, which holds many beautiful paintings and statues and busts of prominent Mainz citizens. Johannes Gutenberg is probably its most famous son. In addition to the printing press, Gutenberg invented type frames, moveable type, and mechanisms for inking the type—revolutionizing an entire new industry. We also saw the Gutenberg Bible and examples of the hand written bibles of the era.

On day three, we headed for the Kloster Eberbach (a Cistercian Monastary) west of Mainz. It was from this abbey that the monks shipped their very good wine throughout the region via the Rhine. Since this location is also aesthetically pleasing, it has served as a backdrop for a contemporary film.

Heidelberg

Heidelberg has a cosmopolitan vibration and interesting people. Here, we met an Astronomy professor from the United Kingdom, who taught in France yet, was at Heidelberg University for three years conducting astronomical research. He commented about the light pollution in the city and said he was seeking a new site for the telescopes that they were building. We had a chance to visit the same university site where Robert Bunsen developed his burner. He was the scientist who focused on spectroscopy and discovered that elements give off light in specific wavelengths. In the eve, we enjoyed some great beer in a great beer garden (it is, after all, Germany).

CONNECTIONS

Early the next morning we snapped pictures of the sitting brass monkey at the end of Old Bridge on Neckar. We also captured photos of a barge going through a lock. Our departing venture from this juncture was a ride on the *Heidelberger*, a completely solar-powered boat. It became apparent to us that this country is taking advantage of alternative sources of power in a big way. En route to Trier for example, we saw nearly 100 wind turbines and several solar farms.

Trier

Small and ideal to navigate, Trier is foot friendly so, we saw a good bit on our arrival. We initially stepped into the Dom that houses the reliquary of Saint Helen (Constantine's mother). She was the woman who traveled to the Holy Land returning with artifacts associated with the life of Christ. His tunic was locked and not viewable but a crucifixion nail was on display and that we did see. Burned and then re-erected this cathedral is quite regal.

We stopped too, at the Imperial Roman Gate, a northern city fortress and former empire capitol. We toured a winery and observed the various stages of winemaking. The owner, a hospitable white wine maker served the wines, joined in the sightseeing, and escorted us back to our hotel.

After checking out, we spent time at the unfinished Roman Baths and because these are in ruins provided only glimpses of its earlier grandeur. At noon, we boarded another boat, sipped delectable wine while taking in the vineyards surrounding the Mosel River.





Cologne

Once in Cologne we were eager to see as much of the Kölner Dom (Cologne Cathedral) as possible. It is the country's oldest and largest Gothic cathedral and certainly impressive. Construction took more than 600 years beginning in 1246 and ending in 1876. The ceiling soars above, over 100 feet. Replaced were some of the original windows after damages from WWII. Still, lovely stained glass is in evidence and the cathedral has stunning treasures including chalices and crosses of gold, and jeweled liturgical implements, There are numerous relics as well. Most important amongst them are those of the Three Kings (the wise men who gave gifts to Jesus at His birth).

From this point, we moved on to a beer garden and the Wine Museum with its rooftop vineyard! Later, we had a cable car ride across the Rhine giving us a spectacular view of the city. After evening mass in the Dom, we dined at an Argentine steakhouse. On our ninth and next to last day, we ambled around the Lindt Chocolate Museum in the heart of Cologne. The educational exhibits covered a continuum from the cultural significance of cocoa (especially to Aztecs and other tribes in Central America) to the labor needed to commercially produce, process, and sell chocolate.

Our final stay over was at the Kempinski, an elegant yet, inexpensive hotel. Here we had a nice dinner, a swim, and a cup of tea before turning in. On day ten, we said Auf Wiedersehen, Germany.

Image left: Aerial view of Old Bridge / Holy Spirit Church, Heidelberg, Germany. Image above: Cologne Cathedral, Cologne, Germany. From the travel albums of Tom and Elaine Walsh, August, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrea Centrella-Nigro, DNP, RN, CNE who is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Saint Peter's University, School of Nursing arranged its guest lectureship, which chapter members are welcome to attend (kindly refer to page 6 for the program specifics).

Clare Cruz, MSN, RN is a member of the Trinitas Hospital Center for Excellence (COE) Committee. Clare and her colleagues have received word that Trinitas achieved the National League for Nursing (NLN) Center of Excellence status in the category of Creating Workplace Environments that Promote Academic Progression of Nurses. Trinitas is one of three hospitals in the nation to attain this honor, which recognizes organizations that have made significant achievements in providing nursing staff with opportunities for academic advancement, and can simultaneously document that nurses use their new knowledge to improve patient care and outcomes.

Corinne Ellis, DNP, ANP, RN, BC, graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) in May of 2012 with a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. Her dissertation title is "Improving Nutrition in Mechanically Ventilated Patients." Dr. Ellis is an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Saint Peter's University, School of Nursing.

Linda Flynn, PhD, RN, FAAN, gave the keynote titled "Nursing Leadership, Work Environments, and Patient Safety" at the Annual Induction in April. Dr. Flynn serves as a Professor and Associate Dean of Rutgers College of Nursing, Graduate Education. Published in interdisciplinary and nursing research journals, she is the lead author of a recent article appearing in the June 2012 print issue of *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*.

Elaine M. Kopp, RN, BSN submitted an abstract proposal titled "Sigma Theta Tau International Board Leadership Development Program: Vehicle to Voice," which received acceptance to present as a poster during the upcoming STTI Leadership Forum, Indianapolis, IN.

Cheryl A. Krause-Parello, PhD, RN, is serving as the Kean University planning committee director for its Inaugural Nursing Research Summit: "Using Research and Evidence to Transform Health Care in a Contemporary Society."

Mary McTigue, RNC, MA is a member of STTI, vice president of Nursing at Trinitas Regional Medical Center (TRMC), and a visionary leader for its Center of Excellence (COE) Committee. The Trinitas School of Nursing (TSON) is a repeat recipient of the NLN COE status in Nursing Education making TRMC and TSON the first in the nation to hold a dual NLN COE designation. The NLN will formally recognize TRMC at its annual Education Summit this month in Anaheim, CA, 19-22 of September.

Mary E. Norton, EdD, APN-C organized a briefing at the United Nations (March 2012) as a follow up to the 2010 UN Conference on "Achieve the MDGs: Advance Global Health." Additionally, a Felician-nursing student presented the UN Fellows Project on Water completed in the Spring Semester of 2011. Dr. Norton is Associate Dean and Professor of Global Academic Initiatives at Felician College. Please consult the website below to view project details.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6r180JanF8

NATIONAL RECOGNITION IN CRITICAL CARE NURSING

Elaine Van Buren-Rizzo, RN, MSN, CCRN at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, Englewood, NJ recently received national recognition for reaching а significant milestone in the nursing profession. Since 1992, she has consistently maintained CCRN certification offered through the AACN Certification Corporation. Elaine is one of 1,611 CCRNs honored this year by the corporation and American Association of Critical-Care Nurses for 20 years continuous certification.

2012 CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Frank Bernard A. Bobadilla

A w a r d R e c i p i e n t

Saint Peter's University



Susan Paramonte

A w a r d R e c i p i e n t

Saint Peter's University

Note: The application and submission due date as well as award criteria are available on our website. Kindly direct all other queries to members of the Nursing Faculty or Scholarship Committee.

BEST WISHES!

TRIBUTE

37 YEARS OF SERVICE

President of Felician College Retires

Sister Theresa Mary Martin retired after 37 years of service to the Felician College community. During her 28-year presidency, Sr. Theresa touched people in the most meaningful and life-changing ways. As a caring religious, a steadfast leader, and a friend to nurses she holds a special place in our hearts. Thank you!

WELCOME NEW CHAIR

New Chairperson of CSE Nursing Program

Dianne DeLong PhD, RN, CNE is the new chairperson of College of Saint Elizabeth (CSE) Nursing Program. She came to CSE from Cedar Crest College in Pennsylvania. She has been a nurse for over thirty years. Dr. DeLong brings a special understanding to the upper division program, as she is a diploma graduate from Allentown Hospital School of Nursing who returned to Kutztown University for her BSN. She continued her studies for the MSN in nursing education at Villanova University and completed her PhD in higher education leadership through Capella University.

Dr. DeLong holds certification as a Nurse Educator. She has been an educator for over twenty years teaching at all levels of nursing education. Administratively, her experience encompasses preparation for professional accreditation and work in curriculum and institutional research. Her interests in areas of education include curriculum development as well as assessment of learning, and leadership development. She is a member of the American Nurses Association, National League for Nursing, and Sigma Theta Tau.

The College of Saint Elizabeth welcomes her as their new chairperson.

REGIONAL EVENTS

CONGRATULATIONS

SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY

NURSING COLLEAGUES

Mu Theta-at-Large Chapter extends its heartfelt congratulations to all of our colleagues at the School of Nursing and celebrates together the historic transition from Saint Peter's College to Saint Peter's University. We recognize this achievement in excellence and send best wishes for every measure of continued success!

SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING

Annual Distuinguished Lectureship

"Improving Healthcare Quality & Patient Outcomes with Evidence-Based Practice & The ARCC Model"

BERNADETTE MELNYK

• PhD • RN • CPNP • PMHNP • FNAP • FAAN • Dean • College of Nursing • The Ohio State University

01October 2012

Saint Peter's University—Jersey City Campus
Roy Irving Theatre at 12:00 pm

Saint Peter's University—Englewood Cliffs Campus
Main Building at 7:00 pm

Admission is Free

Includes receptions with light refreshments
Please respond to the Saint Peter's University
School of Nursing at (201) 761-6270 or e-mail
jdemaria@saintpeters.edu to reserve your seat

NEW JERSEY CONSORTIUM

of Sigma Theta Tau International Chapters

Annual Founders Day Dinner & Continuing Education Program

"Nursing in New Jersey: What you Need to Know About Policy, Legislation, and Regulation"

Grace Reilly, APN, Guest Speaker

Goal:

 To enhance participant's knowledge of changes and challenges within the current nursing practice

Objectives:

- Understand the true impact of the Nursing shortage on New Jersey
- Look at new strategies to address the Nurse Faculty dilemma
- Envision ways to be an active participant and change agent

16 October 2012

Tuesday Evening: From 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Rutgers Club • 199 College Avenue • New Brunswick, NJ • 08091

Driving directions accessible at www.rutgersclub.rutgers.edu

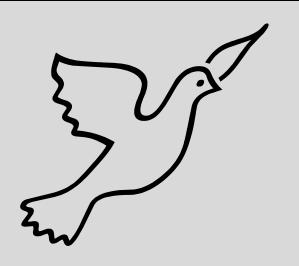
Seating is limited to 58 people • Advanced registration advised • Deadline is 10 October

Admission is \$35.00 per person • Make checks payable to Gamma Nu of STTI • NJ Consortium Includes buffet supper and dessert • continuing education program • certificate of achievement

award ceremony and presentation

Kindly contact Lolita Jacob, Program Coordinator at jacobnpc@hotmail.com for questions or more info

NIGHTINGALE INITIATIVE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH



AN INTERFAITH CELEBRATION

Spiritual Reflections • Music • Sacred Dance Campaign Launch and Worldwide Webcast

Daring, Caring, and Sharing To Save Mother's Lives

HOSTED BY NIGH

21October 2012

Sunday: From 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH 325 Park Avenue • New York, NY 10022

BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Millennium Development Goals: A Focus for Region 14 of STTI

I Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger I Achieve universal primary education I Promote gender equality to empower women I Reduce child mortality rate I Improve maternal health I Combat HIV / AIDS, Malaria, and other diseases I Ensure environmental sustainability I Create a global partnership for development

02 December 2012

Sunday: From 8:00 am to 12:00 pm



HOLIDAY INN MIDTOWN

440 West 57th Street New York, NY 10019

Members: \$30.00 • Students with I.D: \$15.00

Admission Fee Includes:

- Business Meeting
- Networking Breakfast
- Research Presentations

Kindly contact Teri Torsney, Region 14 Coordinator via e-mail at sttregion14coordinator@gmail.com for questions or more info

INTERNATIONAL LENS

Sigma Theta Tau International

LEADERSHIP

FORUM 2012

20 to 22 September

Includes:

Keynote / Plenary Speakers

Featuring:

Suzanne Prevost, PhD, RN, COI, President, STTI

Personal Leadership Journey

Loretta Sweet Jemmott, PhD, FAAN, RN

• The Voice of Nursing: Leading the Charge

Patricia E. Thompson, EdD, RN, FAAN, CEO, STTI

- Membership: An Honor and a Responsibility
- Chapter Leader Events
- Concurrent Presentation Sessions
- Poster Viewing Sessions

Hyatt Regency Hotel



Travel Library

The Emily C. Specchio Foundation

The Emily C. Specchio Foundation is a not-forprofit organization dedicated to supporting young people who want to change the world for the better. The foundation is named after Emily C. Specchio who integrated the ideas of academic excellence with social responsibility.

International Council of Nurses

A mobile nursing library from the International Council of Nurses was funded (\$3,000) through the Emily C. Specchio Foundation for the Ganta United Methodist Nursing School in Nimba County, Liberia. Clinton G. Zeantoe, a former student of Dr. Eileen Specchio is now dean of this nursing school having completed his Masters of Science in nursing education at Stella Maris University in Monrovia, Liberia, where Dr. Eileen Specchio did her sabbatical teaching.

Mu Theta-at-Large Chapter

Julia Plotnick, a long time mentor and friend from STTI, suggested the mobile nursing library trunk to Dr. Specchio who has asked Dean Zeantoe to report on the usefulness of the library to the nursing school. If his response is positive, the hope is that more trunks could be funded through Mu Theta-at-Large.

For more information on the trunk, please go to http://www.icn.ch/projects/why-a-nursing-mobile-library.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

UNITED NATIONS INTEREST GROUP

By Elaine M. Kopp

Upsilon Chapter Serves as Meeting Host

New York University (NYU) College of Nursing served as the host venue for the STTI United Nations (UN) Interest Group. Gloria Chan, president of the STTI Upsilon Chapter at NYU organized the meeting and Teresa (Teri) Torsney, the coordinator of STTI Region 14 presided. During this inaugural gathering, Teri recommended that chapter leaders provide an orientation for ambassadors. She encouraged leaders to devise networking activities for its newest members including initiatives at UN headquarters.

Consultative Status with ECOSOC Attained

Connie Sobon Sensor who is the secretary for the STTI board of directors (BOD) attended. Connie is also a liaison to the UN and Global Health Advisory Council for the Honor Society of Nursing. Connie informed participants that STTI, a non-governmental organization (NGO) is now in consultative relationship status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This means that STTI will have a strong nursing presence at the UN.

Healing the Haitian Health Care Crisis

The Invited speakers were Dr. Carol Roye and Dr. Steven Baumann who jointly presented "Partnerships to Enhance Nursing Education in Haiti" (PENEH). Their talk focused on the current situation in Haiti. Power Point slides clearly showed how Haitians remain in a serious developmental crisis since a major earthquake hit the island in 2010. For starters, there is a lack of food, clean water, and safe housing. Efforts to rebuild have been slow and

those in Port-au-Prince live in crowded tents with limited access to electricity and plumbing or proper ventilation. A confluence of factors as such predisposes populations to infectious diseases including Cholera, Dysentery, and Tuberculosis.

Nursing Shortage Compounds Problems

Exacerbating concerns even more is the fact that the country lacks a stable workforce. In order to remedy a dire nursing shortage for instance, especially in its rural areas, Haiti must develop an adequate supply of educated nurses as well as highly skilled primary care providers. The latter requires a multifaceted commitment and is a long-term undertaking.

Partnership Aims to Offer Solutions

Nevertheless, members of the Nursing faculty at Hunter College of the City University of New York have engaged in a partnership with the Ministry of Education / University of Haiti in an effort to begin providing nurses in Haiti with a BSN / MSN program that will take 3-5 years to finish. The first cohort of eight is set to begin in 2013. Candidates successfully completing the requirements will then be eligible to pursue a doctoral degree in Nursing at CUNY in the United States.

Adopt-A-Nurse-For-Haiti Fundraiser

The cost of tuition and educational expenses is approximately \$5,000 per nurse and is being raised through Promoting Health in Haiti, Inc. (PHH), a not-for-profit organization. Carol Roye, EdD, CPNP, RN, President; Carmelle Bellefleur, PhD, RN, Vice President; Joanna Hofman, EdD, RN, Treasurer; and Steven Baumann, PhD, APRN-BC, RN, Secretary serve on its BOD. Their next fundraising event is scheduled in November (please see page 10 for the particulars).

PROMOTING HEALTH IN HAITI

Invites you to a fundraising party to launch

Adopt-A-Nurse-For-Haiti

WINETASTING

Special Performance by the NYC Labor Chorus

HAITIAN ART FOR SALE

09 November 2012

Friday: From 7:00 pm To 10:00 pm

Unit Hall

235 West 23rd Street New York, NY

Seating is limited and pre-registration encouraged.

Admission is \$50.00 per person. To purchase tickets or to make an online donation go to the following website:

www.PromotingHealthinHaiti.org

For more info kindly, contact Joanna Hofmann at jfhof@aol.com.

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CHAPTER 2012 Meeting Calendar Mu Theta-at-Large Planning Meeting Date / Time Venue **Notations** T.B.D. T.B.D. Year Ahead Refreshments STTI Leadership Forum Date / Time Venue **Notations** 09/20/2012 Hyatt Regency Chapter Best **Practices** 09/22/2012 New Jersey Consortium of STTI Annual Founders Day Program Date / Time Venue **Notations** 10/16/2012 Rutgers Club Guest Speaker 5:30 pm to 9 pm Network Dinner Announcements Nightingale Initiative for Global Health Date / Time Venue **Notations** 10/21/2012 St. Bart's Church Campaign Launch 3 pm to 4 pm STTI Region 14 Biennial Conference Date / Time Venue **Notations** 12/02/2012 Holiday Inn Guest Speakers 8 am to 12 pm Business Brunch Calendar is subject to change For more info visit our chapter website at www.muthetaatlarge.org Editor's Note: Elaine Kopp produced the newsletter content editing and layout and thanks STTI and its members for their contributions. To submit news items for inclusion in our next issue or for queries you may contact her at koppelaine @yahoo.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2012 - 2013

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2012 - 2013

FACE BOOK

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■ Lei Zhu, Webmaster, CSE ■ Beverley H. Wright, Contact Person ■

Chapter Membership Drive

Can Mu Theta-at-Large renew just 20 inactive members? That will help bring STTI 10, 000 members closer to meeting the annual renewal goal. You will also give your chapter financial stability, make more local connections and find a new pool of volunteers for chapter initiatives.

For more info visit www.nursingsociety.org

GET INVOLVED

INNOVATORS NEEDED!

Chapter Fundraising

Antique Appraisers • Bakers • Bargain Hunters • Basket Makers • Bibliophiles • Calligraphers Ceramists - Closet Organizers -Coupon Queens • Crafters Decorators • Display Designers • Doll Lovers • Entrepreneurs • Fashionistas • Faux Finishers • Foodies • Flea Marketers Framers - Friday Night Knitters -Gallery Goers - Gift Wrappers -Glass Enthusiasts • History Buffs • Kitchen Wizards - Nesting Boxers -Painters • Quilters • Scrapbookers • Sewers • Shoppers • Shutterbugs • Sign Makers • Silent Auction Bidders Silver Polishers
 Tea Cup Collectors • Tricky Tray Devotees

Come One, Come All Share Your Hobbies