Message From Dr. Ratchneewan Ross

Welcome to Spring 2015! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. In this past Fall semester, we had several significant and delightful international events. With the stories and pictures covered in this issue, we hope you will enjoy them.

We also received overwhelmingly positive feedback on our ‘face-lift’ Summer newsletter. Thanks to Sharon Cunningham, Corey Moore, Raya Albataineh, and HuiKwan Yip for being instrumental to such a successful transformation. Thanks also to Pim Saenyakul who has been our talented photographer at most of the events. I wish everyone a fruitful and enjoyable Spring semester.

Until next time…
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CoN Hosts Middle-East Cultural Event

On November 20, 2014, the College of Nursing held a Middle East Cultural event with various activities aimed at sharing Middle Eastern Culture with nursing students and faculty.

Students from three Arabic countries (Jordan, Palestine, and Saudi Arabia) participated in the event. The participants included Mohammad Albataineh, Raya Albataineh, Mohammad Aldalaykh, Hossam Alhawatme, Talal Alkateeb, Noor Alshannag, Ruba Alshyab, Mazen Alzyoud, Nada Faraj, Abrar Fawaz, Thomyla Masa’adh, and Ra’a’da Ramadan.

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Aline Pestana, MSN, RN, and visiting scholar from Brazil, presented at an Engagement Series: Brown Bag for Kent State University College of Nursing faculty and graduate students on December 1, 2014.

Aline’s presentation was titled Process of Organ Donation and Transplant: Brazilian and North American Context. During this presentation, she explained how organ donation lists are developed and monitored, and how people become organ donors.

She covered the rates of organ donation and transplantation in Brazil and the United States and described the structures for organ donation and transplant in both of these countries. In addition, Aline explained the limitations of organ donation and the transplant process, presented research questions from her study, and suggested questions for future research.

Aline visited Kent State as part of the partnership between the College of Nursing and the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil. (see the Summer 2014 edition of this newsletter for the story).

Dr. Anthony & Brazilian Scholars Attend Research Conference in Dallas

José Luís Guedes dos Santos, Ph.D., RN, assistant professor at the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil, stopped in to say hello to Dean Barbara Broome before he, Mary Anthony, Ph.D., RN, CS, Associate Dean for Research, and Aline Pestana, MSN, RN, and visiting scholar, attended the International Nursing Administration Research Conference in Dallas, Texas November 12-15, 2014.

All three researchers gave poster presentations on nursing governance at the conference. Santos and Pestana also gave a poster presentation, reviewing the literature of LEAN thinking in health and nursing.

New Baby for the Aldalaykehs

Congratulations to Mohammed Aldalaykeh on the birth of his beautiful new daughter, Lena, on November 21, 2014. Her weight was 8 pounds.
Congratulations Thailand Team for Internat’l Cook-Off Win!

On Thursday, November 20, 2014, the Thailand Team won the 5th Annual International Cook-Off contest for the second year in a row. The competition, which took place in the KSU Student Center Ballroom, was judged by KSU faculty from several departments. The six competing teams were India, Brazil, Egypt, Libya, Thailand, and Iran. The winning Thailand team included Dr. Ratchneewan Ross, Sureeporn Suwannaosod, Wimonthip Phuangkhem, Patchareya Promploy, Peaches Promploy, and Chutarat Akkarawongvisit.

Last year, the Thailand team’s winning dish was Sweet Green Curry chicken. This year, the Thailand team discussed several dishes and narrowed it down to two Thai dishes that are famous with foreigners: Spicy Fried Chicken with Holy Basil and Hot & Sour Shrimp Soup. Spicy Fried Chicken with Holy Basil is the most common Thai dish, because it is flavorful and easy to cook. After some discussion, the team chose Spicy Fried Chicken instead of the shrimp dish for the cook-off.

Spicy Fried Chicken with Holy Basil is a delicious and easy stir-fried dish and one of the favorites among Thai people. It is served over rice as a one-dish meal for breakfast, lunch, or dinner and is often topped with a crispy fried egg. The team chose this dish to serve at the cook-off so the Kent State community would have a chance to taste the popular Thai food. Also, this dish is a very healthy food containing complete nutrients: carbohydrate from rice, protein from chicken, and minerals and vitamins from basil, red peppers, and string beans.

The team enjoys cooking because it helps them to relax and relieve the stress from school and work. They also love eating fresh, safe, and healthy food and feel good when they see others enjoying the dishes they have made.

Members of the Thai team have different experiences and backgrounds with cooking. Generally, Thai girls learn how to cook from grandmothers or mothers when they are young. Suree, one member of the Thailand team, learned to cook starting when she was eight years old by helping her mother prepare ingredients and watching her cook. As little girls, Patchareya and Peaches helped their parents cook in the restaurant where her parents worked. Though her mother did most of the household cooking, Chutarat began helping her grandmother prepare ingredients and watching her cooking when she was nine years old.

Only the judges can say for sure why the team won first place, but the team thinks there are several reasons they won. First, two of the members, Peaches and Patchareya, prepared the dish while the judges watched and did a great job of presenting it to them. The judges saw all the ingredients that were added and the process of cooking. Another reason is that the taste and smell of basil in the dish is very pleasant. The last and most important reason is that they worked as a team. They respected, shared, worked well together, and had great fun. They wanted people to enjoy Thai food and to learn more about Thailand.
Student Spotlight
Meet Pimpanitta (Pim) Jittapirom, RN, MPH, BSN

Education:
BSN, Thailand Ministry of Public Health’s College of Nursing, Thailand
Masters of Public Health, Chiang Mai University, Thailand

Research area(s):
Depression in HIV+ pregnant women

Pim, how did you choose KSU?
While studying for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), I read stories about Lake Erie, Buffalo, Amish country, and snow. Being from Thailand, where we only have summer-like weather, I wanted to experience the four seasons, like we have here in Ohio.

I had a friend at Kent State University who encouraged me to come here, so I decided to explore the College of Nursing. I decided it was the best fit for me to pursue my Ph.D. My dissertation title is “The Stressors of Depression Among HIV-Infected Pregnant Women In Thailand.”

What did you do prior to attending KSU?
I worked as a research nurse for 25 years, with both public and private organizations performing qualitative and quantitative research.

What do you plan on doing after you complete your Ph.D.?
Upon completion of my Ph.D., I hope to continue my research focus on a professional level in the U.S. Eventually, I would like to travel back to Thailand to utilize the knowledge gained during my time here to work with women’s health issues in vulnerable populations, especially Burmese migrants.

International Director was Keynote at STTI Pi Chi Induction

Ratchneewan Ross, Ph.D., RN, was the keynote speaker at the New Member Induction Ceremony of the Pi Chi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), the Honor Society of Nursing, on Dec. 2, 2014, at Malone University.

Dr. Ross is an Associate Professor and Director of International Activities at Kent State's College of Nursing. She has been a member of STTI since 1997. Her research interests are physical and mental health of vulnerable women around the globe, including women experiencing HIV and violence/trauma.

Sigma Theta Tau International is the only worldwide honor society for nursing. The mission of STTI is to advance global health and to celebrate achievement and development of nursing leadership, scholarship and services. STTI serves to foster high professional standards and encourage creative work.