Message From Dr. Ratchneewan Ross

Congratulations! We have reached the Fall 2015 semester finish line. My sincere thanks to all of our students, staff, and faculty, without whom we would not have accomplished the events in this newsletter. I wish everyone a wonderful and peaceful holiday season and a happy and successful year. Now it’s time to rest, re-energize, and relax before we return safely and soundly in Spring 2016!

My warmest regards,

Ratchneewan Ross, Ph.D., RN, Associate Professor
Director of International Initiatives
College of Nursing, Kent State University
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Three-Minute Thesis® Competition

Three College of Nursing doctoral students took part in the Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition in the Kent State Ballroom on October 21 - 23, 2015. All currently enrolled graduate students were eligible to participate and compete for cash prizes.

Students were allowed three minutes and one PowerPoint slide to present research they are conducting for a thesis, dissertation, terminal project, or any other research project they are engaged in.

Under the African Sun

On November 19, 2015, the College of Nursing held Under the African Sun as part of KSU’s International Education Week.

Attendees learned that Africa is the planet’s second largest continent and the second most-populous continent, after Asia, with 54 individual countries made up of an estimated 3,000 plus African tribes, many with their own language or dialect.
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Ghada Shahrour presented *Cognitive and Affective Empathy in Adolescents with ADHD: Are Comorbidities and Parental Acceptance-Rejection Important Factors?* on Wednesday, October 21. Her chairperson is Dr. Wendy Umberger.

Ahmed Alsadoun presented *Toward a Shift in Type 2 Diabetes Management in Saudi Arabia* on Thursday, October 22. His chairperson is Dr. Ann Jacobson.

Sureeporn Suwannaosod, Ph.D.(c), presented *Health-Related Quality of Life in Thai Adolescents with Cancer: Structural Equation Modeling* on Friday, October 23. Her chairperson is Dr. Ratchneewan Ross.

### Fall International Events

*Photos courtesy of Pimpanitta Saenyakul*

**Kayaking on the Cuyahoga River**

Thailand Ph.D. students, Wimonthip Phuangkhem, Sureeporn Suwannaosod and Pimpanitta Saenyakul, took Giovana Callegaro Higashi (Brazil), and Sitang Jittapirom (Thailand), kayaking on the Cuyahoga River and to see Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

**Under the African Sun**

November 17, 2015

See page 4 for story and additional photos

**International Graduate Fair**

(L-to-R) Chutarat Akkarawongvisit, Pimpanitta Saenyakul, and Sureeporn Suwannaosod

**International Networking Potluck Party**

September 14, 2015
Student Spotlight: Chutarat Akkarawongvisit

**Education:** I finished my bachelor’s degree in Nursing Science in 1991 from Kuakarun Faculty of Nursing, Navamindradhiraj University, Thailand. I attended Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, and received my Master of Nursing in Nursing Administration degree in 1998. From there I went to Thammasart University in Bangkok, Thailand, where I completed a Master of Art in Industrial and Organizational Psychology in 2002.

**Research area:** Before pursuing a Ph.D. in nursing, I was a nursing instructor and taught nursing students for 12 years. While I was teaching and supervising nursing students, I realized that almost all of the nursing students experienced stress, several dropped out of school each year, and several even became depressed. This led me to work on my dissertation to examine predictors of depression in nursing students in Thailand and the United States. I hope that findings from my study will help nursing faculty and health care providers to develop interventions that can help prevent depression among nursing students in these two countries.

**Recent Position:** Ph.D. Candidate, Kent State University College of Nursing, Kent, Ohio, and Adult Nursing Instructor, Kuakarun Faculty of Nursing, Navamindradhiraj University, Thailand.

**Why did you choose Kent State University?**
First of all, I chose to study in the United States because the US has a world-renowned reputation for its education, advanced technology, and human rights advocacy. Second, I chose KSU because I had heard from a Thai student who was studying in the Ph.D. program at the College of Nursing about its excellent Ph.D. program. Finally, and most importantly, I learned from my friend that a nursing professor from Thailand (Dr. Ratchneewan Ross) worked there and that she had been very supportive of international students. As studying at the Ph.D. level is a big step, I decided to come to Kent State where I could find the support I needed.

**What have you liked best about the College of Nursing?**
I love Kent State overall because of the beautiful campus, college town environment, the many strong academic programs and friendly people. I like the various expertise that our nursing faculty have. This is a great opportunity for me to learn and study with diverse faculty and engage in their research.

In addition to the academic aspect, I also love the wonderful relationships among faculty, staff, and students. We are like family members and we all care for each other. All in all, I feel so blessed to be a member in this wonderful KSU community.
Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Gambia and a number of other countries were represented throughout the event. Guests were invited to wear traditional clothing from many of the countries during the party.

Eunice Golloh, a student from Ghana, spoke about her country and deciphered everyone’s Ghanaian “day name” according to their day of birth and gender. Day names are said to provide deeper understanding of the soul and character of the individual.

Grace Okoko Brown, a student from Nigeria and Gambia, spoke about her native countries, and arranged for members of the Barefeet Dance Tribe of KSU to teach a few dance steps to the group.

Heidi Weisel, administrative clerk for the College of Nursing, spoke about her travels to Kenya. “Much of Africa is safe and dependent upon tourism for survival,” she said.

On display was Heidi’s ‘Hair-on’ drum from the Maasai Tribe from Kenya in the Maasai Mara. The drum, a souvenir from her trip in 2014, is quieter than a ‘Hair-less’ drum, and is made of cowhide and a tree trunk. It is similar to a Djembe drum, a goblet-shaped drum traditionally carved from a single piece of African hardwood and topped with animal skin.

Other displays consisted of literature from various African children’s books, fiction and nonfiction writing, soapstone carvings and beaded jewelry from the Masai, wooden sculptures, fabric, baskets, woven items from all over Africa, and a large wedding ring for ceremonial use from Gabon.

Participants enjoyed sampling an array of traditional African dishes including Greens Salad, Chapati (fried flat bread), Naan bread, mango juice, tea, curried vegetable stew, Ghana Jellof rice and Gambia meat pies.

“Many countries in Africa are considered ‘third-world’ by those outside of the continent; however, those who live in or who have fallen in love with Africa, consider it the ‘first-world,’ as it is believed that it is Africa from which life evolved,” Heidi concluded.
Visiting Scholar Spotlight: Giovana Callegaro Higashi

From which school are you visiting? Federal University of Santa Catarina in Florianópolis, Brazil

Education: I am a nurse. I am working on a Ph.D. in Nursing from the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil.

Research area: My research is about process management in higher education institutions focusing on university organization and decision-making.

Recent Position: During this past semester, I have attended classes, learned about other research approaches, learned about the projects of other students, and exchanged academic experiences. The interaction with my advisor, Dr. Mary Anthony, has also been a great opportunity to expand my knowledge.

Why did you choose KSU? Kent State College of Nursing has an established relationship with the Federal University of Santa Catarina. I liked the structure and organization Kent State offered its students. Being able to experience excellent research conducted by qualified teachers with expertise in various lines of study was important to me as well.

How has KSU contributed to your research? Kent State has given me the opportunity to learn new approaches and methods of research and expand my research skills in database software. I participated in research groups and presented my dissertation in the classroom which exposed me to new ideas and knowledge.

What do you plan on doing after you complete your Ph.D.? I am preparing to apply for a position in a higher education institution in Brazil to work as a professor. I will also continue studying, focusing on a post-doctorate in nursing.

What have you liked best about the College of Nursing? I have enjoyed the various activities the College of Nursing has put on during the semester and the time spent with professors and other international students learning about different cultures.
Birth Announcement

Congratulations to Ph.D. student Muntaha Alibrahim on the birth of her twins, daughter, Zain, and son, Abdullah. They were born on Thursday, June 11, 2015.

Wishing you a Happy Holiday
And a prosperous New Year!

Dissertations

Mohammed Aldalaykeh, Ph.D.c., MSN, BSN, proposed his dissertation Predictors of Partial Hospitalization Attendance by U.S. Adults with Mental Illness on Friday, July 10, 2015. His chairperson is Barbara Drew, Ph.D., PMHCNS-BC.

Ghada Shahrour, Ph.D.c, RN, proposed her dissertation Cognitive and Affective Empathy in Adolescents with ADHD: Are Comorbidities and Parental Acceptance-Rejection Important Factors? on Wednesday, September 16, 2015. Her chairperson is Dr. Wendy Umberger.

Chutarat Akkarawongvisit, Ph.D.c, MSN, BSN, RN, proposed her dissertation Cultural Orientation as a Predictor of Depression Among Thai and U.S. Undergraduate Nursing Students on Friday, October 2, 2015. Her chairperson is Ratchneewan Ross, Ph.D., MSC, BSN, RN.

Hossam Alhawatmeh, Ph.D.c, MSN, BSN, proposed his dissertation The Effects of Abbreviated Progressive Muscle Relaxation on Stress in Jordanian Nursing Students on Thursday, October 15, 2015. His chairperson is Ratchneewan Ross, Ph.D., MSC, BSN, RN.

Pimpanitta Saenyakul, Ph.D., MPH, RN, defended her dissertation Classification among HIV-Infected Pregnant Women in Thailand on Friday, November 6, 2015. Her chairperson is Ratchneewan Ross, Ph.D., MSC, BSN, RN.