Message From Dr. Ratchneewan Ross

Over the summer, students, staff, and faculty from the College of Nursing traveled and worked in several continents: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America. We are very excited about the expansion of our international endeavors to support the mission and vision of Kent State University and to serve the world beyond our campus. I hope that everyone enjoys the photos and articles included in this issue. Have a great academic year!

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Research in Brazil Creates Opportunity

Mary K. Anthony, Ph.D., professor and associate dean for research at Kent State University College of Nursing, traveled to Florianópolis, SC, Brazil, from April 19 - May 20, 2014 as a special visiting researcher with the Graduate Nursing Program and Nursing Department at the Federal University of Santa Catarina.

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International Director Visits Thailand

Dr. Ratchneewan Ross, associate professor and director of international initiatives for Kent State University’s College of Nursing, recently returned from her seventh trip to Thailand. Ross’ first trip to Thailand in 2004 put Kent State on the Thailand map and the first Ph.D. nursing student from Thailand joined Kent State via Ross’ recruitment.

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CoN Associate Travels to Africa

In June, 2014, Heidi Weisel, an administrative clerk in the College of Nursing, traveled to Masara Village, Kisumu County, Kenya, with Bonyo’s Kenya Mission (BKM) and Dr. B. Bonyo.

BKM is an organization founded by thirteen medical students in 1995 who shared a common dream: to improve the health care for those in need - specifically in the poverty stricken area near Ahero. BKM’s main objective is health care for the people of Masara and the Nyanza District. The clinic provides 24/7/365 care for the local villagers, and for people from miles around.

This is Heidi’s second trip with BKM and she can see progress. Mothers who are HIV positive are now able to care for themselves and their children through the clinic’s medication distribution and counseling center. Cases of malaria have declined thanks to nets given to all newly pregnant mothers and to the babies at the well-baby visits.

With an on-site pharmacy, laboratory, eye clinic, nutrition services and a community outreach department, the clinic is able to provide more well-rounded health care services to the surrounding communities. Bonyo’s Kenya Mission also sponsors approximately sixty orphaned or vulnerable children who live in the villages around the clinic and provides school supplies, computers, books, and uniforms to many local primary and secondary schools.

Brazil (Cont. from pg. 1)

Anthony’s visit was funded by the Science without Borders Program, which approved the research project titled, “Governance and Healthcare Management in Nursing and Health: Translation, Adaptation and Validation of International Instruments for Use in Brazil.” While in Brazil, Anthony engaged in lectures, seminars and visited local universities and healthcare organizations.

She was a lecturer at four formal classes and several informal classes, reviewed manuscripts and met individually with nursing students in baccalaureate, master’s, doctoral and postdoctoral programs to discuss their research projects.

She also visited a university hospital and three federally funded healthcare agencies: primary care, specialized care and UPA, an urgent care facility.
Since then at least a few students from Thailand apply to the College of Nursing’s graduate programs every year. The Royal Thai government has been sponsoring Ross’ Thailand visits with different Thai universities as host institutions. Each time, Ross has helped scholars and students in various health care fields in Thailand to move their science forward. In 2010, the U.S. Department of State granted Ross a Fulbright scholarship, a distinguished international award, to conduct research on violence against Thai women and to teach at eight universities. Besides her work in Thailand, Ross has worked collaboratively with colleagues and students in countries like Australia, Brazil, Gabon, Japan, Mali, Taiwan, Tanzania, South Africa, and Vietnam.

As a result of her international contributions as a researcher, research consultant, lecturer, dissertation member, and editorial board member for several journals, Ross received the International Distinguished Award in Teaching and Nursing Science Discovery for the Advancement of the Nursing Profession from Thailand in 2010 and the Giovanna Jackson Faculty Award for International Culture from Phi Beta Delta Zeta Chapter in 2011. Based on her work in vulnerable women and research methodology and statistics, Ross has published over 50 articles and book chapters and made approximately 100 research presentations and 90 professional presentations at all levels in different countries. Ross states, “My international work seems to benefit our students here at Kent State as well. In my course evaluations, students find research examples of my overseas work to be valuable. That’s not surprising since cultural competency is both an added value and an essential for nurses in today’s world.”

Click to see more photos.

Dr. Ross lectures to graduate nursing students and faculty at Naresuan University, Thailand.
Study Abroad Students Learn About Japan

In February, 2014, Dr. Mary Lou Ferranto, faculty Diane Hill, MSN, CNS, Lorene Martin, MSN, CNP, and nine Kent State undergraduate nursing students traveled to Ise City and Nagoya, Japan. This study abroad opportunity helps prepare students to be globally competent health care practitioners.

Students had the opportunity to meet with CEO’s of several health care agencies, as well as the Chief Surgeon, Chief Nurse, staff nurses, administration, and clients. Students also met with patients and staff in some of the acute care and tertiary health care facilities. Not only were students able to investigate cultural needs of the patients, they were also provided a platform to explore similarities and differences in health care policy and provision of care between Japan and the United States.

Study Abroad Goes to Geneva!

In spring of 2014, Dr. Carol Sedlak and Tracey Motter, senior academic program director, traveled with undergraduate and graduate nursing and public health students to Geneva, Switzerland, as part of the College of Nursing’s Study Abroad program. Students learned about health care from a global perspective and attended the World Health Assembly at the United Nations in Geneva. They were thrilled to meet Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO) at an International Council of Nurses meeting.

The group also visited France and the Alps, earning three credit hours (undergraduate or graduate). Students had the option to extend their time abroad by traveling prior to or after they completed the course.

“It was the trip of a lifetime and definitely one of the best experiences that I’ve ever had.” said Emily Nighswander, nursing undergraduate student. “I’m now really considering working internationally, either with the Peace Corps or Doctors without Borders.”

Interested in traveling to Geneva?
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Students meet Margaret Chan, director-general of the WHO (third from left).
**Student Spotlight**
Meet Jehad Rababah, Ph.D.(c), RN

**Education:**
BSN, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid, Jordan
MSN, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio

**Research area(s):**
Community mobility in the older adult population.

**Recent Position(s):**
• Nursing Instructor, Fortis College, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.
• Orthopedics RN, Aultman Hospital, Canton, Ohio.
• Clinical Instructor, Faculty of Nursing, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid, Jordan.

Jehad, how did you choose KSU?
In 2006, I started looking for a university to pursue my graduate education in nursing. I started by sending inquiry emails and contacting faculty and staff at different schools. The response I received from Kent State University was very welcoming. That was very encouraging and I decided to apply to Kent State.

What have you liked best about the College of Nursing?
My experience at Kent State has been spectacular. I have worked with many experts in nursing research and education and learned many things including how to conduct rigorous nursing research. I have also established professional relationships with faculty members at the College of Nursing and other departments. Finally, working with graduate nursing students from different countries who have a variety of expertise in nursing has been an outstanding opportunity to learn more about nursing in those countries as well as some global health/nursing issues.

**Melissa Dyer Travels to China**

In June 2014, Melissa Dyer, lecturer and course coordinator for the College of Nursing, was one of 15 American delegates to travel to Shanghai and Beijing, China, to study different aspects of Chinese nursing education. Her trip was partially funded by the Confucius Institute, a non-profit public institution, and Kent State’s College of Nursing.

During her two-week stay, she studied health care education and ways to promote critical thinking and problem-solving with students. To help understand the economy’s impact on healthcare, she traveled to Shanghai and met the president of the Shanghai Stock Exchange. This hands-on assessment will allow Melissa to bring new knowledge into the classrooms of her Parent Newborn Nursing and Healthcare Policy and Delivery Systems courses.