

Honor Society of Nursing Sigma Theta Tau International

NEWSLETTER Winter 2008 Vol. 11 No. 2

President's Message

Alice Yuen LOKE

Dear Colleagues,

Much has happened since the last issue of our newsletter. First of all, we are proud to announce that the Pi Iota Chapter has received recognition from the Headquarters of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing for 'Outstanding Achievement in Community Service' in 2008. This award is in recognition for the fact that the Chapter raised funds and organized a series of health promotion programs for the Women's Organization at Tin Shui Wai. Details of the event are reported in this issue in the article entitled "The 2008 Showcase of Regional Excellence". We would like to extend our thanks particularly to those who contributed to the programs, namely Esther WONG, Engle Angela CHAN, Claudia LAI, Betty AU, Sylvia FUNG, Stanley AU, Jennifer CHAN, and Shirley LO. In connection with this award presentation, Ms. Esther Wong (Vice-President) and Ms. Ellen Ku (counselor) took time out of their busy schedules to attend the award presentation ceremony in Indianapolis, Indiana in September 2008. The Chapter is committed to continuing to promote health in the community among different community groups.

I would also like to extend an invitation to all members to attend our next induction ceremony scheduled for Saturday May 30, 2009 (Li Ka Shing Building, M1603, at 10am; there will be a tea reception before the ceremony). This will be a good opportunity for you to meet and get to know our new members: students who have demonstrated outstanding academic and clinical performance in the nursing program and nurse leaders for their outstanding achievements. They will be most honored to have our members there to congratulate them in person. We have also invited Ms. Sylvia Fung, our new Chief Manager (Nursing) at the Hospital Authority Head Office, to speak to our nurse leaders and potential leaders in the induction ceremony.

The Chapter is also co-organizing an International Symposium on 'Capacity Enhancement for Disaster Resilience' from October 20-22, 2009 with the School of Nursing, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University at the Hong Kong Community College. Details of this symposium are provided in this issue. Please do take part in the symposium to equip yourself for disaster and to help us build up our capacity and resilience.

In this issue of the newsletter, I would like to give our thanks to Dr. Emmy Wong, who has served the chapter as President-Elect during the past year. Dr. Wong has resigned from this position as she is leaving The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. We would like to thank Dr. Wong for her contribution during her office, and wish her all the best in her new position. In light of her departure, the chapter will be searching for a suitable candidate to take up this role in the coming year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Vice-President, Ms. Esther Wong, for her generous gift to the Pi Iota Chapter of 20 honor cords from STTI Headquarters. This was to replace many of the cords that were missing or worn out after many years of use. The cords will have to be worn by all board members and newly inducted members at related activities, such as at induction ceremonies and on graduation day. This is a sign of honor for 'Love, Courage, and Honor', the spirit of the society.

Best regards,

Alice Yuen LOKE
President

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Our Chapter, Pi Iota Chapter (PIC), Hong Kong, received a Certificate "Recognizing Outstanding Achievement for Service" for our outstanding performance in community activities during 2007. The program committee of 2007, which was chaired by Ms. Esther Wong, conducted a series of community activities, of which the Tin Shui Wai project was the major one. The accomplishment of the Hong Kong Chapter in Region I was honored during a special recognition event during the Leadership Academy in Indianapolis, USA on 25-27 September 2008. Ms. Esther Wong (Vice-president) and Ms. Ellen Ku (Counselor) represented PIC at the event and received the international award.



The certificate

The following is a narrative summary of the Tin Shui Wai project – "LOVE & CARE THAT CHEER UP A BLUE TOWN".

Tin Shui Wai is a satellite town in Hong Kong. Much media attention has been drawn to the family violence, elderly depression and other social problems of its residents, many of whom are new immigrants from mainland China. Recognizing the needs of this community, our Chapter has been working in collaboration with a local organization, the Tin Shui Wai Women's Association and the Hong Kong Women's Development Association (HKTSWWA). With the theme "creating harmonious families through enhancing the core values of women", we started off with a fundraising event for this community, which we believe was unique as it aimed to examine and address the community needs and issues of new immigrants from mainland China. This fundraising activity was launched in January 2007 in the form of a performance of Chinese opera songs to an audience of 700. Donations of HK\$85,426 were collected and then used to run a number of courses on dancing, yoga, singing, knitting, handicrafts, haircutting, and cooking, as well as other medically related training for volunteers. These volunteers subsequently were able to serve over a hundred residents. It was hoped that through the learning and recreational activities, we would bring happiness and a sense of caring for each other to the residents and their families.

Accordingly, besides the fundraising activity, from July through November 2007 our Chapter conducted a series of seminars/workshops on specific topics that benefited the immigrants through training the local volunteers, who would then be able better to serve the residents. These workshops also helped to empower the volunteers, who were very much part of the community. Altogether, there were 175 attendees. The age of those who attended the programs varied from 28 to 72 years old. The topics included: 1) Household safety for children; 2) Care of bereaved families; 3) Management of depression; 4) Suicide in the elderly; 5) Accompanying patients to the clinic/hospital for follow-up visits; 6) Patient lifting and transfer; and 7) Wheelchair operation. The seminars were well received and feedback was positive. The findings from the immediate evaluation revealed that all participants valued their acquired learning and felt that all the topic areas had been extremely useful to them. All these volunteers started to serve the Tin Shui Wai District shortly after completion of their programs.



Ms. Esther Wong (left) and Ms. Ellen Ku (right) pictured with the president

We believe that the success of the project lies in the number of participants at the workshops, the merits of the workshops, the pertinence of the topics, the more sustainable learning facilitated by the local volunteers who serve this community, and the fact that it was a collaborative effort with a local organization. Our Chapter also viewed this endeavor as our commitment to making a difference in the lives and health of immigrants, who need much support through health education, which also translates into individual self-efficacy. In turn, the nurses involved in this project, who trained the volunteers, displayed their ability to contribute knowledge and professional commitment in serving to better a community as part of the mission of our Honor Society. In addition, their involvement promoted the image of the Honor Society of Nursing.



All award winners



The atmosphere

PSDAS Disaster Symposium 2009

Helen CHAN

International Symposium: Capacity Enhancement for Disaster Resilience

Our Chapter is collaborating with the School of Nursing, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in organizing an international symposium "Capacity Enhancement for Disaster Resilience" on October 20-22, 2009, in response to the increasing need for disaster healthcare training. The event is partly funded by the "Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme" of the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The Symposium aims to bring together health professionals from around the world to share expertise, knowledge and experience on disaster preparedness, mid- and long-term care of disaster survivors, disaster resilience and disaster education, and to unite national and regional capabilities for better disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Internationally renowned experts have been invited to share their insight and experience with participants, representing a golden opportunity to strengthen the network of professionals in the field of disaster healthcare.

Following the two-day Symposium, there will be a series of thematic workshops. Participants who are interested in further exploring and developing their competency in disaster handling and preparedness are encouraged to join the workshops for practical simulation of disaster scenarios, experience sharing and open discussion with international experts.

The Symposium is now calling for abstracts:**Sub-themes**

1. Prevention, Response and Recovery
2. Education and Training
3. Community Preparedness and Resilience
4. Disaster and Pandemic
5. Recent Disaster Experiences

You are welcome to submit an abstract on the related areas or just join in to further explore and develop your competency in disaster handling and preparedness. For more information, please go to the website:
<http://sn.polyu.edu.hk/symposium>



of Region I with the president



at the award ceremony

Editors' Message

Linda LEE and Helen CHAN

Greetings from the Promotion & Publication Committee!

The theme for this issue is "Recognition". This is a word that means showing appreciation for one's performance and can be used to describe a number of events that have happened recently. Firstly, we are delighted to announce that our chapter has received an award from the STTI, recognizing our outstanding performance in community service. Secondly, our President-Elect has left us, as she has resigned from the Polytechnic University. We would like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize her efforts and commitment in the past year. Lastly, the Pi Iota Scholarship Awards has invited nominations and will present five awards. The presentation of the awards is a means of showing our recognition for students' and community leaders' efforts in research projects and community achievements, and to motivate them to attain even greater achievements in the future. Needless to say, there is a lot of chapter news included in this issue. We hope you enjoy reading it.

News

Departure of the President-Elect

Our President-Elect, Dr. Emmy Wong, has left The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and at the same time resigned from PIC with effect from March 2009. Her contribution and commitment throughout the past year are highly appreciated.

Free Articles Available from Virginia Henderson International Library

Each month, registered users of the Virginia Henderson International Library can access 6 full-text articles on a particular topic from CINAHL. Registration with the Library is free. To learn more and access the articles, visit www.nursinglibrary.org.

Book of Letters Honoring STTI President Carol Huston

A special book of letters is being created for STTI President Carol Huston, to provide an opportunity for her friends and colleagues to acknowledge her contributions as the society's president from 2007-2009. Please send letters to the attention of Margie Wilson at Margie@stti.iupui.edu no later than 2 October 2009.

20th Annual International Nursing Research Congress

The 20th International Nursing Research Congress will take place from 13-17 July. As a result of the Influenza A H1N1 outbreak, the venue has been changed to Vancouver, Canada. More information can be found at <http://www.nursingsociety.org/STTIEVENTS/RESEARCHCONGRESS/Pages/congress.aspx>.

Pi Iota Scholarship Awards

Linda LEE

The annual Pi Iota scholarship award has invited nominations for the year 2007/08. As in previous years, a number of awards will be presented to nursing students to recognize their scholarly activities, and to community leaders to appreciate their contribution to community service. Winners of the Scholarship Award will be offered an opportunity to present and share their scholarship project and personal experiences in the Induction Ceremony 2009.

Special acknowledgement

Special acknowledgement is given to Ms. Esther Wong (Vice-president), who has kindly donated 20 honor cords to our Chapter. This cord is to be worn by members during important chapter events such as the Induction Ceremony.



An honor cord