

Honor Society of Nursing Sigma Theta Tau International

NEWSLETTER Spring 2013 Vol. 16 No. 1

President's Message

Alice WONG

Dear PIC Members and Colleagues,

Starting in 2013, our biannual newsletter will feature forthcoming events in a Spring/Summer issue and a subsequent Autumn/Winter issue.

A change of conference co-host: now Wuxi instead of Macao

Life is full of surprises. From May to October 2012, the PIC Board of Directors devoted resources to working with the Nursing Education Association of Macao (NEAM) to establish what we envisioned to be a valuable collaboration and a three-day conference to be held in Macao around June 2013. However, we received shocking news from our collaborating institution, who regretfully informed us that "NEAM is not able to join and be the co-host for the international conference in 2013" because they do not have sufficient manpower resources to work simultaneously on the conference and towards the accreditation of their academic program. This was most unfortunate and came as quite a blow to the PIC.

In view of this abrupt change and to fill the void left by the cancellation of the Macao event, Dr Esther Wong, our VP, stepped up in November and December to network with some mainland nurse leaders for potential collaboration. Our advisor, Prof. Alice Yuen Loke, also established a new collaboration and connection with WUXI Medical School. As a result, WUXI Medical School will be the co-host and our joint conference organizer at the upcoming WUXI conference to be held on 20-23 June 2013. Details for the WUXI conference will be announced online in May, and we hope that you will support us by submitting abstracts for the conference. We are also looking for volunteers to participate on site and take part in promoting our Chapter at the booth!

While our Chapter is planning for the conference event and focusing on bridging and transforming nursing practice knowledge, our Program Committee continues to allocate a considerable amount of effort to our local Chapter community work in the Nam Tin Alliance Church, serving cancer survivors and their families. Both planned sessions of the church event have been submitted to STTI's Biennial Convention in November 2013 in Indianapolis for oral presentation during the Asia Region Symposium in response to the President's call to vulnerable groups to 'Give Back and Move Forward'.

Last but not least, I want to express my sincere thanks to Mr Aero Li for his support as Secretary of the Pi Iota Chapter for the past 5 years. Aero has been supporting our day-to-day Chapter operations and has contributed all the artwork and design in our program book and posters. As Aero will step down in June, I encourage you to attend our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Induction Ceremony on 8 June 2013 (Saturday) to extend your warm welcome to our new inductees, to bid farewell to Mr. Aero Li, and to meet Miss Samantha Lee, our new Secretary.

In the spirit of a Happy Nurses Month in May, I look forward to seeing you both at our AGM in Hong Kong and at the WUXI conference!!

Best regards,

Alice KY WONG
President

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National Day Celebration Dinner

Olivia FUNG



Prof. Alice Yuen Loke, Ms. Sylvia Fung and Dr. Alice Wong (from left to right).

Representatives from our Chapter, Prof. Alice Yuen Loke and Dr. Alice Wong, joined the Hong Kong Health Services Sector's 63rd National Day Celebration Dinner on 15 September 2012, spending a great evening with fellow professionals. They also enjoyed a magic show performed by Mr. Wilson Wan, founder of the Hong Kong Caring Magic Circus.



Prof. Alice Yuen Loke, Mr. Wilson Wan and Dr. Alice Wong (from left to right).

Walk Hand-in-Hand Community Program

Pin Pin CHOI

The Chapter launched a community project, the "Walk Hand-in-Hand" community program, at Lam Tin's Christian & Missionary Alliance Church on 12 January 2013. The aim of the program was to promote wellness among cancer survivors and their family members, and it involved a wide variety of activities, including: (1) An educational talk on skin care for cancer patients, delivered by a Nurse Specialist in Oncology and Wound Care; (2) An exercise session, led by a group of nursing students from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University; (3) A magic show, performed by members of the Hong Kong Caring Magic Circus, and (4) A sharing session, involving the sharing of thoughts and feelings between cancer survivors and family members through appreciation cards. Over 50 participants and seven board members of the Chapter joined the event, sharing educational information as well as their inner feelings concerning self-care and life challenges.

It is the Chapter's long-term goal to serve vulnerable groups in the community; a similar program will be held on 11 May 2013. If you would like to volunteer at this worthwhile event, please contact Mr. Aero Li (by email: aero.li@polyu.edu.hk).



A group photo taken with the participants, student volunteers, and members of the Hong Kong Caring Magic Circus.

Regional Committee Meeting

Pin Pin CHOI



Front row (from left to right): Prof. Alice Yuen Loke, Prof. Claudia Lai, and Prof. Myoung-Ae Choe and Dr. Heeseung Choi from South Korea. Back row (from left to right): Mr. Tommy Hung, Ms. Shirley Lo and Mr. Rick Kwan.

The 5th Regional Committee Meeting, chaired by Prof. Claudia Lai, Regional Coordinator for the Asia Region of the Honor Society of Nursing, was held on 21 February this year in Thailand. Representatives from our Chapter, including Prof. Alice Yuen Loke and Ms. Shirley Lo, as well as those from other member countries in Asia, attended the meeting. Representatives from the respective Chapters reported on their progress in organizing various scholarly activities and collaborative projects, and shared ideas about how to recruit potential members and get them involved in Chapter events, as well as how to strengthen connections among the Chapter members in the region. The Asia Region Chapters have recently issued a newsletter, which serves to provide a platform for networking and information exchange. The next newsletter will be published in August 2013, and will be sent to STTI members by post or email.

Cross Cultural Gathering with Linda O'Dell (a STTI member from Arkansas, USA)

Alice WONG

As a Chapter President within an international organization like the STTI Honor Society of Nursing, I have experienced communication throughout this global village, receiving countless emails from members of other Chapters who are seeking help in establishing contact with the Asia region. One of these contacts actually turned into a face-to-face gathering when we received an invitation from an Arkansas STTI member who was going to be visiting Hong Kong around the Chinese New Year holiday and wanted to have a cross-cultural gathering, in particular with our mainland nursing students. I had the privilege to invite one of our research students, Miss Xuejiao ZHU.

Miss Linda O'Dell describes herself as playing a nurse's role since childhood, when she had volunteered as a candy stripper (this word is derived from the red and white stripped jumpers that female volunteers traditionally wore in USA, which resembled stick candy). With increasing dependence on consumer-driven services, resulting from the general public's understanding of healthcare through internet WebMD and Mayo Clinic information, etc., she was strongly committed to teaching clients about self management to avoid unnecessary triggers for hospitalization. With former ICU experience, she currently works in the field of mental health case management for veterans with persistent mental illness. She has coached and helped the veterans to manage pill box organizers for symptom management while combating the universal myth of medication-seeking behaviors in looking for the "miracle pill" to solve all problems they have in life. Her team, made up of 2 Registered Nurses, 2 Medical Social Workers, and 1 Advanced Practice Nurse, makes home visits to help these veteran clients to meet their goal of reaching recovery. Some of their long-term clients have progressed from their adult to their elderly years, so their visits involve helping them, in particular, to organize their medication boxes and keep their medical appointments, not only giving physical care like anti-psychotic injections every 2-4 weeks, but also giving them psychological support through the home visits. She believes that the effort their team devotes to a 30-minute briefing first thing each day helps them to discuss and plan treatment comprehensively by planning the same intervention approach to enhance communication within the team. In addition, she also says that clients benefit a lot from the nursing rotation, as it is more frequent than when they are seen by the psychiatrists, so there is a very important role played by the nurses among these long-term mental illness clients.

Linda was very interested to learn more from our mainland research student, Xuejiao, about the practice setting in hospitals versus in community settings in mainland China. Xuejiao told us that the academic preparation for becoming a community nurse is more or less like that for the Licensed Practice Nurse (LPN) in the USA, while hospital nurses have received at least a high school diploma and some even have a Bachelor's degree in Nursing (BSN) for their RN positions. Although clinical nurses working in the hospitals are doing better than those working in community health centers in terms of pay and advancement, there is a great need for health education both to community health center staff and to the general public in order to promote primary health care in a cost-effective means. This explains why Xuejiao's PhD study area, "cardiac patient rehabilitation program in the home setting", resonates with Linda's passion for community health nursing from her insider's point of view!

The two-hour gathering flew past, including a site visit to some of our nursing labs and integrative nurse-led clinics. After all, we found this worldwide phenomenon whereby nurses are all caring while clients are hungry for our nursing care! Indeed, Linda made the following remark after reading the above article in draft form: *"It is exciting to realize that nursing has so many more similarities than differences, no matter where we practice."*

Interview Guest Introduction

Ms Linda O'Dell works at the Veterans Healthcare System of the Ozarks in Fayetteville, Arkansas, USA. She was inducted into the Gamma Xi Chapter and is currently active with the Pi Theta Chapter.



Ms. Xuejiao Zhu, Dr. Alice Wong and our visiting guest, Ms Linda O'Dell (order from left to right)

Forthcoming events

Induction Ceremony

The next induction ceremony will be held on 8 June 2013 at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. This year, we will invite scholarship awardees to present at the ceremony and share with us their outstanding scholarly work. As usual, a number of undergraduates and graduates from local universities, as well as community leaders from various organizations, will be inducted to the Chapter. Please mark the date in your diary and come to share their joy. Relevant information will be sent to you in due course.

International Nursing Conference: From Knowledge to Practice – Advances in Nursing Care 2013

The Chapter is collaborating with the Wuxi Medical School of Jiangnan University to organize an international nursing conference, which will be held from 20 to 23 June 2013 in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, China. We are honored to welcome international nursing scholars, Prof. Laurel Northouse and Prof. Janet Louise Larson from University of Michigan, Prof. Alex Molasiotis and Prof. Alice Yuen Loke from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and many more (including current and ex-presidents of the Chapter) to give speeches at the conference. The conference themes include: nursing education, clinical / research advancement, best practice for leadership, community care for family, long-term and acute care. The conference organizing committee is now inviting the submission of abstracts related to the conference themes (deadline: 1 May 2013). Individual and group registration with a special offer of "six registered, one registers for free" is now open till 21 May 2013. For further details, please visit our website at:

http://sn.polyu.edu.hk/filemanager/common/collaborations/pi_lota_chapter/AbstractForm_RegistrationForm_INC2013.pdf

Research Methods in Gerontology – Workshop Series 2013

The Centre for Gerontological Nursing of the School of Nursing of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University is organizing a series of workshops on research methods, which will be held from 4 June until 13 August 2013. The aim of the workshop series is to provide registered nurses with knowledge of the basic concepts and processes in clinical research, and to enhance their understanding regarding the application of nursing research in clinical practice related to elderly care. The workshop series comprises nine modules (CNE bearing, with three CNE points per module), and is conducted in Cantonese supplemented by English. For further information and online registration, please visit:

<http://sn.polyu.edu.hk/cgn>

Please contact Ms Samantha Lee (Tel: 2766 6761) for any queries.

The latest news in chronological order with congratulations

PIC would like to express its congratulations to two Nurse Leaders who have been inducted members since the era of the Honor Society of Nursing (before the chartering of PIC in year 2000).

Prof. Sophia SC CHAN on her appointment as the Under Secretary for Food and Health in Hong Kong since 2012

Prof. Frances KYWONG was invited to join a task force charged with developing the criteria for a new STTI research award: The Excellence in Nursing Education Research Award, funded by Chamberlain College

We are always on the lookout for news about our members, so please notify us with any good news you may have or come across.