HARMONY

“Made in Taiwan”

“Made in Taiwan” is a trade mark familiar to most people in the world as a result of Taiwan’s leading position in exportation of textiles, toys and shoes. Modern Taiwan is a world class producer of bicycles, computer chips, plastics, chemicals and in addition boasts a very successful and strong professional nursing association.

The Taiwan Nursing Association hosted the International Council of Nurses 23rd Quadrennial Congress in May 2005. 4,000 participants from 148 countries attended the congress in Taipei. Our congratulations go to Dr. Hiroko Minami, president of the Japanese Nurses Association, who was elected as the ICN President and will hold office for the next four years. She has chosen HARMONY as the watch word for her term in office.

The University of Sheffield, School of Nursing and Midwifery hosted an evening reception (see the photograph below) which demonstrates a harmonious evening in which staff and students met with colleagues, alumni and friends from around the world. Face to face exchanges are certainly better than email communications!

Six members of staff and two of our students attended the event. I hope you enjoy reading about their experiences in this issue of International Nursing and Midwifery Linkup. It was a truly harmonious ICN Congress.

Paula Hancock
Editor

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Changes to the University of Sheffield’s School of Nursing and Midwifery

From September 2006, the University of Sheffield will no longer be recruiting new pre-registration nursing and midwifery students. From this time, the training of new pre-registration students in South Yorkshire will transfer to Sheffield Hallam University. All current pre-registration students at the University of Sheffield, and those joining in May 2006, will follow their courses to completion and be awarded University of Sheffield qualifications as planned.

The University of Sheffield will continue to provide outstanding nursing and midwifery education and research in a Graduate School which will be expanded in the coming years. Both the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University are working closely together to ensure that these changes occur smoothly.
Setting the ICN Congress in Taiwan offered a formidable scientific programme and gave an indication of the progressive nature of nursing and health care in South East Asia. It may also have been somewhat uncomfortable for Taiwan’s huge neighbour China. The People’s Republic of China believes that Taiwan should be part of China and not a separate entity. Evidence of the political tension could be seen by the absence of any formal World Health Organisation (WHO) representation at the congress, and in the opening speech by Chen Shui-Bian, the President of Taiwan.

This problem is being compounded by the loss of African nurses who are moving to the West for better pay, conditions and professional prospects. The migration of nurses from the developing world to the developed world was a hot topic throughout the congress. I thought Stephen Lewis made a very telling point when he said that whilst there is a great deal of attention given to the financial debt of African nations, Africa is subsidising the West by a steady stream of skilled nurses who trained in Africa and are now moving to the West. Skilled nurses are an export which does not appear on the balance sheets. His speech wasn’t all negative however. He argued for the increased availability of retro-viral drugs which should be supplied free. This medication can, he suggested, change AIDS from a death sentence to a chronic disorder. He also called for global investment in health and women’s rights as it is women, world-wide, who carry the burden of caring.

In contrast to Stephen Lewis’s Keynote plenary lecture in the main auditorium, Dr Chuaprapaisilp’s concurrent session was tucked away in one of the small presenting rooms. She was advocating ‘Thai Buddhist nursing theory as a framework for reducing suffering of persons living with HIV/AIDS’. I must admit to being intrigued by the idea of a Buddhist nursing theory, perhaps it would rival Roper, Logan and Tierney! What she suggested was an interesting blend of traditional Thai Buddhism and nursing care. A holistic approach fusing ontology, epistemology, methodology and Buddhist ethics with scientific nursing theory which provides, she argued, ‘a balanced way providing care according to natural law and nursing science.’

Dr Chuaprapaisilp had used this model with 16 HIV/AIDS sufferers. Using meditation ‘as medicine’ and herbal remedies they reported an improved quality of life and a decrease in the use of prescribed medication. This was a fascinating study combining the spiritual and the cultural with the scientific. I did find myself querying how effective this approach would be outside Thailand or where Buddhism was not a central feature of life.

We ended the conference on a high note with a visit to the top of Taipei 101. It towers an amazing 508 meters over the city offering the most amazing views. It is serviced by the world’s fastest elevator which speeds you up its 101 storeys in just over a minute, your stomach joining you a little later!

Robin Richards
Nursing Lecturer
A Students Perspective: ICN Congress in Taiwan

It was the second time in my life that I can say that I felt honoured. The first was when I opened the letter formally inviting me to attend the University of Sheffield to begin my nurse training, the second when I received a phone call asking if I would like to represent the University at an International Nursing Conference in Taipei, Taiwan. I am not what you would call a well travelled individual, my exploration consists of childhood summers on the Lincolnshire coast in England and one rather ill advised visit to Spain as a teenager. This was the most exciting opportunity I had ever considered. To this day, now six months on, I still remember the excitement and I still remember the whole experience.

The teachers I spent my time with during my stay showed me how to develop more skills than I ever thought I would ever need. It dawned on me that simply feeling confident in taking a blood pressure or making a bed was not the essence of becoming a nurse. The social skills I learned from watching my teachers interact with some of the most powerful people in nursing today was awe inspiring and I really found my communication lessons being drawn upon every day. I also learned how important it is to take control of my own learning. I truly understand what being an independent adult learner is from seeing how those around me sought out every opportunity to improve their own knowledge.

I attended a talk on remote nursing at the conference, which I thought would add an interesting comparison into the remote and community nursing I was aware of in England. It did that and much, much more. I listened as a male nurse spoke of his problems with accessing much needed technology in his role as part of an immediate response team of airborne nurses and doctors in the Australian outback. The second lady I listened to spoke of the unknown and ignored needs of the community of Inuits in Northern Canada, to say I was enthralled would be an understatement. From this one opportunity I had access to nursing on a global format having the opportunity to witness and listen to problems, experiences and levels of professional practice that I didn’t even know existed. My independence and self confidence soared as I wandered round the city and introduced myself to new faces every day.

Upon my return (and of course while reflecting upon my experience), I felt that I had been given a privileged view on the profession I hope to become part of and as I observed the teachers that accompanied me I saw the type of nurse I would love to become. I would recommend any student or nurse of any level to try to access this prestigious event as I can honestly say it was a lesson I will never forget.

Emma Elliott
Student Nurse
(Emma was one of two students funded by the School of Nursing and Midwifery and The University of Sheffield Students Union to attend Congress. They were chosen in recognition of their services to the school as student representatives working on many committees and in many other ways for the benefit of our community.)
I immediately felt amongst friends, even though I did know a considerable number there from the UK, which was well represented with 270 delegates! So many different nationalities, colourful national costumes, midwives celebrating achievements with presentations on so many aspects of international midwifery and results of midwifery research to improve the evidence base for practice. It was difficult to know which concurrent sessions to go to sometimes, but I tried to choose the international aspects that maybe I would never have the chance to hear about again. The whole week was inspiring and my admiration went out to so many midwives from around the world, who are struggling against so many problems to deliver midwifery care and try to improve conditions in their locality.

My own presentation, ‘Exploring midwifery practice in an international context: the East West experience’ centred on the two International Summer Schools, when we have hosted Japanese students and their teacher, Professor Keiko Takenoue. The students were introduced to the British health care system, maternity care and midwifery practice and the benefits this has had in emphasising woman centred and midwifery led care. The focus was on normality, which is something new to their experience. I discussed the international aspects and the learning and cultural awareness that can enrich practice when international sharing takes place.

Another important aspect for this university was the promotion of the Masters in Midwifery international on-line programme, which commenced in September 2004, for which we had a booth in the exhibition area and were very busy discussing the programme in all the breaks.

We were in Brisbane in their winter, which was as warm as the British summer. See Professor Mavis Kirkham’s article in READ on her experience of the ICM conference.

The next ICM in 2008 is in Glasgow, UK, and preparations are already underway for the next gathering of the world’s midwives.

Angela Walker
Senior Midwifery Lecturer

When my abstract was accepted for the conference in Brisbane, I was supported by the Department of Midwifery and Children’s Nursing to attend. The International Congress of Midwives happens every three years in different parts of the world. I had never been to an ICM and gladly took my opportunity to meet with other midwives from all over the world.
New Perspectives for Romanian Midwives:

University Education to meet European Union Directives

With just a week’s notice, we responded to a plea from the President of the Romanian Midwives Association, for somebody from the Midwifery team at the University of Sheffield to attend their conference in Cluj the following week, to present a paper on midwifery education in the UK. Several days later I received the conference programme and confirmation of my flight details, just 72 hours before I left the UK. My slight nervousness at the speed of the arrangements and not knowing exactly where I was going, where I was staying and who was going to meet me were very quickly dissipated when I was met at Bucharest airport and from that point made to feel most welcome. I was immediately amongst friends; after all we were all midwives. The term ‘world wide sisterhood’ became a reality in the few days I spent in Romania. The other international guest speaker was a Dutch midwife, who had flown in about an hour before me and whom I met as we were taken to our city centre hotel.

The six days spent in Romania were very busy, but I enjoyed every minute. On the first afternoon and evening we visited the main maternity unit at the University Emergency Hospital in Bucharest, being shown around the unit, meeting staff and discussing care, aspects of midwifery practice and ‘getting a feel’ for their situation and needs. The maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity rates are the highest in the European region, yet despite the lack of equipment and the poverty of the general environment, it was clear the midwives were committed to their work and the mothers and babies were well cared for within their capabilities and resources.

Midwifery is only in the embryonic stage of being recognised as a separate profession in Romania. As the country aspires to become a member of the European Union. It is seeking to meet the requirements of Article 155 European directives which define the activities of the midwife. This was the purpose and theme of the conference, which was attended by government ministers, the head of the Romanian Nursing Council, and university professors of obstetric and gynaecology and neonatal paediatrics, who currently manage the service and to whom the midwives, known as medical assistants, are accountable. Some very important issues about the future of midwifery and midwifery education were discussed and significant promises made by those representing government, to move maternity care and midwifery forward.

Lack of formal training for the midwives has been the big issue that the Romanian Midwives Association has been trying to address for so long. The majority of the current midwives working in the maternity service are nurses who have worked there for many years and learned through an apprenticeship scheme, without any formal educational programme or assessment of their skills. They are pressing for formal university based education for all midwives and currently two programmes are underway, in Bucharest and Cluj. Programmes in other universities have closed because of lack of participants. There are only a very small number of government funded places and most student midwives have to pay their own fees. None receive any payment from the state whilst they are training. Even where the programmes are underway, all the teaching is done by the obstetricians, there are no midwifery books, and only a very small number of medical textbooks. Midwifery research, access to the internet and databases, evidence based practice, health promotion and education, and community based midwifery care, are all new concepts.

One of the many aspects of the education programme that we discussed is mentorship and assessment in clinical practice by clinical midwives. They are keen to explore and develop this aspect, to raise the profile of the clinical element of the pre registration programme.

We had a lot of fun, much laughter, various social activities and a visit to a salt mine, which was dark and cold but fascinating. And of course, as with any gathering of midwives, we never stopped talking and shared so much information about midwifery and midwifery education issues. I felt very honoured and humble to be amongst such wonderful, strong women, determined to establish their profession and to improve the status of the midwife and the care for all mothers and babies. There is much hope for the future of midwifery practice in Romania.

Angela Walker
Senior Midwifery lecturer
I was delighted when my abstract “Bring Back Matron! Researching the implementation of the “modern matron” role in the English National Health Service” was accepted for presentation in Krakow. Prior to submission the abstract title was translated into Polish through the kind offices of Nigel Gotieri and colleagues in the University of Sheffield’s Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies.

I enjoyed a day’s sightseeing in bright September sunshine on arrival in the beautiful and historic city, reveling in the architecture and managing to find my way round using the trams, despite my total ignorance of the Polish language!

The conference began with an evening reception in the oldest part of the Jagiellonian University, where we were treated to a guided tour of the wonderful building, including looking at some astronomical instruments which had been used by Copernicus. Talking to staff of the Institute of Nursing I instantly found myself among friends – as soon as I mentioned Sheffield there were broad smiles and inquiries about the wellbeing of Paula Hancock, Penny Hilton and Joe Saverimoutou!

The serious business began in earnest the next day, with six plenary sessions given in English, led by Christine Hancock, former General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, and until recently President of the International Council of Nurses. Christine spoke about how the re-unification of Europe, following the fall of the “Iron Curtain” is leading to a new vision of health care. She described the international context which includes war, poverty, HIV/AIDS, chronic disease, under-nourishment for some but also obesity for others, ageing societies (with especially women living in poverty), economic restraints yet increased demand for health services, shortages and migration of nurses, globalisation and opportunity, accessible technology and communication; above all - constant change.

Christine posed some challenges, in the light of all this -

- To think globally, but act locally
- To appreciate cultural diversity
- To develop technological know-how
- To build partnerships and alliances (including with the public) to give political leverage
- To make nursing more visible
- To strengthen the health workforce by attracting new recruits and keeping qualified staff – increasing satisfaction and morale and improving the working environment.
- To effectively influence policy – at all levels
- To ensure sound governance through standards and codes
- To sustain relevant roles as well as encouraging new ones (Christine quoted Aiken’s research (Clarke and Aiken 2003) that higher numbers of qualified nurses increase patient safety and reduce length of stay, and also mentioned the ICN nursing innovations data base (www.icn.ch/innovations/

Christine concluded by stressing the pivotal role of leadership in meeting these challenges, especially transformational leadership (Kouzes and Posner 1995). She said more nurses must develop skills to network and influence change, and explained how ICN leadership programmes can help. She hoped the ICN vision, for nurses to lead societies & people to better health, would be realised and that nurses would speak with one collective voice.

Other plenaries were given by Chris Gastmans from Leuven, Belgium, on “Interprofessional ethical dialogue: a nursing-ethical perspective”, Erica Froelicher from USA on “Prevention of cardiovascular disease: lessons from practice and research”, Beata Tobiasz-Adamczyk from Krakow, on “Body Identity”, Alexander Bischoff from Basel, Switzerland, on the need for a stronger patient and community focus and...
Elizabeth Blunt from Philadelphia, USA, on “Nursing, yesterday, today and tomorrow”, which returned to the theme of the importance of leadership in a changing world, an age of information and instant communication.

The remainder of the conference involved concurrent sessions and posters, and a wonderful dinner at an old manor house out in the countryside. I made many new friends from around the world and would encourage colleagues to visit Poland and particularly Krakow and the Jagiellonian University, where nurses who are striving to become research active need all the encouragement they can get.

Susan Read MBE, FRCN, Professor, University of Sheffield School of Nursing and Midwifery.

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New challenges and innovations in community nursing

A perspective on the International Conference of Community Health Nursing and Research (ICCHNR) 3rd International Conference 30th Sept – 2nd Oct 2005 Tokyo

ICCHNR and the Japan Academy of Community Health Nursing welcomed nurses from across the globe to this exciting and stimulating conference. The objectives of ICCHNR include: working towards improvement in the quality of community health nursing practice through research; increasing personal commitment by community health nurses to evidence based practice; encouraging the appropriate use of community health nursing research; and promoting awareness of the contribution of research to public health policy and governance. The conference certainly proved to be an excellent arena for the dissemination of research findings, exchange of ideas and the establishment of new research partnerships.

The pre-conference and intra-conference organisation was exemplary with great attention being paid to detail in respect of almost any dimension of the conference you could care to mention. Time keeping was executed with precision. I attended the conference along with three colleagues from the School of Nursing and Midwifery Sheffield, Professor Kate Gerrish, Dr. Louise Brereton, and Angela Tod.

The keynote addresses were given by Prof Karen Luker of the University of Manchester, UK - Challenges for home care nurse in providing quality care and Dr Jeanne Bresner, Calgary Health Region, Canada – Optimizing scope of practice within a primary care context: linking accountability roles to nursing outcomes set the tone and standard for the conference, both were excellent in very different ways providing insights into the cultural context which shape and define community health nursing in both Canada and the UK. Conferences of this nature always remind me of the commonality and shared experiences that we as nurses have across the globe, regardless of the country in which we practice.

Although workshops and presentations I intended in the formal part of the conference were of a high standard and extremely valuable, the networking and collaboration that occurred on an informal basis beyond the sessions also proved to be extremely valuable. I personally was able to network with Public Health Nurses (PHN) from the University of Kobe and Osaka University which has resulted in a Japanese arm of a research study in development which examines public health nursing competencies and the extent to which PHN feel their education equips them to fulfil this vital role in a modern health care system. This is a really exciting development and holds the potential for an excellent cross-country comparison.

The last day of the conference consisted of various study tours to health care facilities in Japan. I took the opportunity to visit a brand new health centre, which hosted many public health nurse led facilities, e.g. child health clinics, carer support groups, health promotion clinics and activities during which I was able to observe the similarity between this role and a health visitor’s role in the UK. The health centre located in area of deprivation countered the widely held perception of Japan with a high GDP as being an entirely affluent society.

Japan certainly lived up to the reputation of the land of the rising sun, during our stay the temperature soared from 23 to 30°, however this did not detract from my maximising opportunities to gain insight into the Japanese culture. I cannot express truly how fascinating I found Tokyo to be, the contrast between modernity and tradition is striking. The urbanisation created by a population of 12 million people is staggering, characterised by high rise buildings as far as the eye can see. This of course creates a number of health imperatives, in respect of the environment, pollution and the personal pressure that many individuals feel to achieve success. However, in the midst of this, it is possible to stumble upon exquisite Shinto Shrines constructed in the traditional way of wood.

I can’t end without mentioning the delicious Japanese food. I took the opportunity to indulge in a health enhancing Japanese diet for the whole week; miso, ramen, tempura,
Here we are again, the triennial pain congress organised by the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP). It would be difficult to beat the venue last time in San Diego. Darling Harbour in Sydney Australia was equally as amazing. The conference centre overlooked the harbour so the views were stunning. As usual the congress attracted people from all over the world from neuroscience, medicine, nursing, psychology and physiotherapy backgrounds with over 7000 delegates. The University of Sheffield was well represented this time with a presentation by myself on “pain in older people” and Margaret Dunham presenting a poster on the “annotated bibliography for pain in older people”.

The five day programme offered a host of plenary presentations and workshops with plenty of satellite symposium covering a range of topics. Basic sciences were covered along with topics related to clinical issues around both acute and chronic pain and there were sessions on pain in all types of clinical situation including spinal cord injury, cancer pain and even a demonstration of “on line” consulting for chronic pain patients. Along with the plenary sessions there was a packed programme of workshops to suit special interests of all delegates including topics as diverse as assessment, music, hypnosis and virtual pain management. Special interest groups also held their meetings at this congress with groups on pain in children, acute pain, systematic reviews and pain related to torture.

This year two exciting initiatives were launched. A number of nurses have formed an alliance to develop a special interest group on interprofessional undergraduate education which will be to “facilitate multi-professional undergraduate pain education using a multimodal model (web based resources, patient exemplars and newsletters)”. There appeared to be a lot of interest from all around the world and from many members of the multidisciplinary team. The second exciting development is the launch of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) Core Curriculum for Professional Education in Pain (3rd edition). This covers all aspects of pain and this time includes new chapters on older adults, people with cognitive impairment, substance abusers and pain relief in areas of deprivation and conflict. This curriculum can be accessed on line at the web site below.


This is a time of great developments in pain management with “World Against Pain” commencing on the 17th October focussing on pain in childhood and pain in older people. Information can be found on the link below.

http://www.efic.org/ewap.htm

Dr Pat Schofield
Senior Lecturer
Harmonising Occupational Health Nursing in the European Union (HOHNEU) Teaching and Learning Project

This EU Leonardo da Vinci funded three year project was launched in October 2004 and aims to harmonise and strengthen education and training opportunities for occupational health nurses across the European Community.

The project is co-ordinated by the School of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom, in collaboration with six other partners:

- The Federation of Occupational Health Nurses within the European Union
- The University College of Nursing Studies, Maribor, Slovenia
- The Irish Nurses Organisation, Dublin, Ireland
- The Danish Association of Occupational Health Nurses
- The Department of Ergonomics and Efforts Physiology, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Krakow, Poland
- Swiss Occidental, Leonardo, Switzerland.

As the largest single group of health professionals involved in delivering health care at the workplace, occupational health nurses have a key role in the prevention of work related disease and the promotion and maintenance good health. The project identified that there is currently a lack of standardised preparation for practice in this specialist field of nursing practice across the European Union. Whilst some countries have robust training and educational programmes in place, others had little or none.

To broaden the teaching and learning opportunities available to nurses across Europe, the project is developing flexible, distance learning materials that will lead to the higher degree awards of Post Graduate Diploma and Master Degree in Occupational Health Nursing. This will help to harmonise and strengthen the training available to nurses, who in turn, will be better placed to lead enhanced occupational health and public health initiatives for the working population as a whole.

Project development meetings have so far taken place in Sheffield, Dublin, Copenhagen and Slovenia, and the group are now at the stage of developing the agreed materials for eight Units of learning. The first four Units will explore and reflect on the role and scope of practice for OHN, and the principles and practice of workplace health surveillance and environmental control. The second four Units will equip students to critique and undertake research alongside exploration of workplace health promotion and management skills, with the final Unit focusing on application of learning in the students’ unique European context.

The development team aim to have all the Unit material written and approved by the end of the project in 2007. Initially, the Units will be accredited through the University of Sheffield, but it is anticipated that EU Member Countries will adopt the Units and offer them through their own particular educational systems.

The Team welcome comments and suggestions on this development, and details of progress and WEB links to the Project team can be found on the HOHNEU web site at http://lsd.uni-mb.si/hohneu/

Anyone wishing to have their name and details entered onto a database so that enrolment details can be sent to you in 2007, please contact the Project Lead Mrs Paula Hancock at p.k.hancock@sheffield.ac.uk

Jan Maw Nursing Lecturer, Occupational Health Nurse Specialist
Peaceful days in Sheffield

I am a nursing PhD student in the Tehran University of Medical Sciences, in Iran. British Council in Iran awarded me a partial scholarship, and accordingly I visited Sheffield University, School of Nursing and Midwifery for three months. This was my first experience of visiting a foreign country and I was very anxious about how I would cope with the climate and especially how I would get on with Professor Sheila Payne the head of palliative and End-of-life Care research group. Professor Payne supervised my visit, planned a very useful programme and helped me to adapt quickly to the new environment.

Professor Payne is a scientist who practises her theoretical knowledge and I learned a new thing at every meeting with her. I was able to participate in palliative and end-of-life care research projects that were based on qualitative research methodology that was very exciting and useful for me. As well, she arranged visiting to a Hospice and meeting with key people on spirituality (my other interest). Dr Paula Smith also arranged for me to meet scholars here that are working on the area of theory-practice gap, because my research project at PhD degree in Iran is on this subject.

I had discussion with some faculty members of the Sheffield School of Nursing and Midwifery to share ideas about qualitative research methodology, nursing education system in the UK, Iran, and theory-practice gap in nursing education in Iran. I learned a lot about nursing education, qualitative research, palliative and end-of-life care and related research projects. Palliative care is still a new topic in Iran and I was able to learn a lot from the projects that presented in the Sheffield School of Nursing and Midwifery by palliative and end-of-life care Research Group. I got familiar with the Nursing and Midwifery system in the UK with a very useful lecture of Mrs Paula Hancock just for me with some useful materials about this area and curriculum of undergraduate nursing in Sheffield School of Nursing and Midwifery. I learned some good ideas and principals for designing a curriculum. The School of Nursing and Midwifery staff based at the Northern General Hospital gave me some valuable materials on clinical mapping and evaluation. All this material would be useful for me after return to my country in the process of my research.

The undergraduate programme in my country prepares the nurses with bachelor degree for employment in all care settings. The all encompassing curriculum in the Sheffield School of Nursing and Midwifery is very practical and appropriate with the nature of nursing as practical science, especially in the undergraduate programme. In my country, Iran, the undergraduate pass rate for employment in all care settings is very practical and appropriate with the nature of nursing as practical science, especially in the undergraduate programme.

In my country, Iran, the undergraduate pass rate for employment in all care settings is very practical and appropriate with the nature of nursing as practical science, especially in the undergraduate programme. In my country, Iran, the undergraduate pass rate for employment in all care settings is very practical and appropriate with the nature of nursing as practical science, especially in the undergraduate programme.

The extra-curricular benefits of this three month visit were the opportunities to visit some attractive places in and around Sheffield. I may have the opportunity to do some international collaborative research into Theory-practice gap in nursing, Palliative and end-of-life care as a result of this visit. I wrote an article on spirituality and end-of-life care in Iran under the supervision of Professor Sheila Payne, and we submitted it to International Journal of palliative Nursing. In addition, my article on theory-practice gap in nursing education in Iran was accepted in 13th Multidisciplinary Iranian Researchers Conference in Europe (IRCE) and I presented my article there on 2 July 2005. As I am a nursing PhD student in Tehran University of Medical Sciences and I was thinking that I have arrived to my high level of knowledge and skill on nursing education. I was impressed with many wonderful and very new dimensions in nursing education and nursing research that would be a new prospect in my professional aims. I hope to be able to transfer my great experiences to my colleagues and students in Iran.

Grateful thanks to the British Council in Iran for this partial scholarship that was a very good experience in my professional life.

Mr Mohammed ali-Cheroghi
PhD Student, Tehran University of Medical Sciences
As part of its Centenary celebrations in 2005, The University of Sheffield commissioned Centenary Medals and commemorative certificates which were presented for outstanding achievements in the areas of community, culture, environment, scholarship and sport. The purpose of the awards was to recognise those whose efforts and contributions to society would not normally be publicly recognised. 75 local people—‘ordinary’ residents including university staff and students were chosen.

Paula Hancock was awarded a medal for her exceptional work and out-of-hours commitment as international officer in the School of Nursing. Paula said that she was "absolutely thrilled and honoured to receive the award" and paid tribute to her colleagues and family who had supported her and made the achievement possible.

Abdi Mohamed Chairman of the Horn of Africa Blind Society (HABS) and inventor of Somali Braille was also honoured in recognition of his work and his contribution to research. He is working in collaboration with The Sheffield Health and Social Health Consortium and Gina Higgingbottom who is a Senior Lecturer, to explore the needs of visually impaired Somali people in Sheffield.

Nursing student Denise Dunn has been awarded this year’s Chancellor’s Medal by the University of Sheffield. Denise has received the annual prize for her services to the School of Nursing and Midwifery and continued work in the community helping and supporting cancer patients.

This is a very special award as out of 25,000 Sheffield University Students only one student is able to receive the medal annually.

Denise 46, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1997. At the time of diagnosis she was a proprietor of a nursery and baby shop.

Denise then took steps to fulfil a lifelong ambition to be a nurse and began the Advanced Diploma in Nursing at the University of Sheffield in September 2001.

While at University Denise was an active member of many committees, representing the University at conferences nationally and internationally. Away from her studies, she became a very active and vocal campaigner for better services for cancer patients. She trained as a volunteer with Breast Cancer Care, supporting women nationally through their helpline, and becoming the network organiser for Doncaster.

After receiving the Advanced Diploma in Nursing last year, Denise worked at Doncaster Royal Infirmary. She is the co-founder of the ‘Aurora Centre’, a unique project which focuses on the psychological affects of cancer treatments by providing beauty therapy and pampering sessions along with advice for all cancer patients.

Denise, who has five children aged between 12 and 21 years old, is currently studying for a degree in Midwifery Studies. She is also arranging a number of charitable events for the Aurora Centre, including this year’s main fundraising event – a fashion show where all the models are cancer patients.

She was presented with the Chancellor’s Medal at the Nursing graduation ceremony at the Octagon Centre on Saturday 10 September 2005.
Tribute to Florence Nightingale
Woman of Steel

As part of the University of Sheffield centennial celebrations, the School of Nursing and Midwifery organised a special exhibition associated with Florence Nightingale and her links with our city. It was a mixture if items on loan from The Florence Nightingale Museum in London as well as pieces from local collections. It featured a range of handwritten letters, pictures, books, including her personal Bible and artefacts.

As our readers will know she is one of the world’s most famous women, a pioneer of nursing and heroine of the Crimea war. Her family links with the Derbyshire village of Holloway are well documented but few people know that Miss Nightingale spent most of her early life in Sheffield.

Her father William Edward Shore was a banker at the time the city was developing its steel and coal industry (originally her father’s name was Shore but he took the name Nightingale to receive an inheritance). Florence’s grandparents lived on the edge of the city in a large house which now provides accommodation for many of our students. Whilst researching Nightingale’s spirituality, Tom Keighley, (a nurse and Anglican Minister) has found her signature in the record books of two churches in Sheffield. All the steel used in the Crimea, except the swords of the officers who chose to have theirs made elsewhere, was manufactured in the city. Many of the surgical instruments used in the military hospitals of the time were also manufactured in Sheffield.

There are many examples of the Sheffield connection, including the time when Miss Nightingale and her family donated money for a city monument in 1856, commemorating Sheffield soldiers who had died in the Crimean war and there is much more.

As a result of the exhibition the School has been approached by people in the community who are related to Miss Nightingale or have information about her life here in Sheffield. We are looking forward to discovering more about this remarkable woman.

STOP PRESS

Commonwealth nurses advancing nursing care: collaboration in Europe

The 6th European Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Nurses’ Federation will be held at the Chesford Grange Hotel, Chesford Bridge, Warwickshire, United Kingdom. Friday 10th –Sunday 11th March 2006.

The European Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Nurses’ Federation successfully brings together the best practitioners, researchers, teachers and managers to address current policy, practice development and cross border issues, enabling innovation through collaboration. The themes of the conference are, Management of human resources for health, leadership in nursing, violence and aggression in the workplace, training and education in healthcare, infection control, communicable diseases, extended nursing roles, and practice development. If you are interested in sharing your skills and knowledge with an European audience then this is the conference for you.

Contact: Jane Edey, Assistant Conference and Events Manager, RCN Events, Copse Walk, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff CF23 8XG. Tel: 029 2054 6491. Fax: 029 2054 6495.

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