- 1World Culture – An explosion of colour and sound
- First ever Asia Pacific Simulation in Nursing conference
- Future Leaders Camp promotes culture of volunteerism
This is one of the most hectic periods in Nilai University College’s calendar with various seminars, training camps and events. Internally we also had the Fun Run and the Career Day. The event which I want to highlight is the first ever Asia Pacific Simulation in Nursing conference which Nilai UC hosted. With industry professionals and students from all over the region attending, it is obvious that simulation teaching has become a very important aspect in nursing.

There are those who equate such teaching methods with mere gimmicks, and leave the training to the hospitals. Nilai UC administrators take a different view, and firmly believe that simulation teaching is hugely important towards producing quality and skilled nurses. A lot of money has been spent to equip Nilai UC’s nursing department with the necessary equipment, which includes a fully functioning simulated mannequin which can imitate any number of symptoms and human behavioural patterns.

Speaking to the students who were at this conference, I am fully convinced Nilai UC has made the right decision as they all say they have benefitted tremendously from using such aids. It is here I would like to urge school leavers (and their parents) who are looking to enter a nursing programme to ensure the institution they are joining has state-of-the-art facilities. It is imperative that nursing students are given the best theoretical and practical training possible because in their line of work, it can be a matter of life and death.

I would also like to congratulate all the participants, students and staff who made the Future Leaders Camp and the 1World Culture events a success. It is the third time in which Nilai UC is hosting these events. Internally we also had the Fun Run and the Career College’s calendar with various seminars, training camps and events. Apart from learning valuable soft skills, it is hoped students will have learned valuable lessons which will help turn them into positive, dynamic and useful members of society.

Prof. Emeritus Tengku Dato’ Shamsul Bahrain

President
“Most local graduates are unemployed simply because they are unemployable.”

The harsh assessment is from famed thespian and writer Mano Maniam who was giving an introduction to the Theatre and Acting module being offered at Nilai University College (Nilai UC). “They cannot find employment because they are unable to communicate or think properly, and therefore lack the confidence.”

In an effort to equip students with the necessary soft skills, administrators at Nilai UC make it compulsory for all degree students to do electives outside of their core fields. They can choose from subjects as varied as Anthropology, Psychology, and Professional Development alongside the two compulsory non-core subjects comprising Ethics and Entrepreneurship. Students must, also, put in the requisite hours pursuing extra-curricular activities to ensure they fulfil the credit requirements at Nilai UC. This may sound like quite a burden but the administrators believe these extra modules will instil in students the right values and work ethics to make them useful members of society.

Lessons without books
The Theatre and Acting module is the latest option being offered to Nilai UC students and Mano, who will be heading this module, explains that this component is perfect for those who are shy and have difficulties working with others in a group. The very nature of the programme will ensure students break out of their timidity and learn the true value of teamwork.

“Everything about this module is about teamwork. Nothing is done in isolation. Just like sports, everyone learns how to work in a team. Even solo sports players interact with opposing players, their coaches and spectators. Similarly students will learn a wide variety of skills such as, scripting, graphic art, stage management and even make up. This will highlight the importance of teamwork in setting up a production,” explains Mano.

Not lab rats
The course is open to all Nilai UC students irrespective of disciplines, and year of study. Mano also pointed out to the students that he has been teaching this module in a number of universities for the past two decades and what they will be receiving will be a distillation of the teaching throughout that period.

“Students are not being subjected to some ‘test’ programme. Theatre is the oldest human activity since man evolved from the animal state with values, attitudes, culture and civilisation. This is not a module for the ‘syik sendiri’ computer geek, but rather for the student who has been there, done that and knows he or she needs to experience something fresh and new,” says Mano.

The students who had assembled to listen to Mano’s pitch about this module seemed suitably impressed as it was certainly less text heavy and is designed to be fun. “This module is where students get to do and think what they want. It is designed to fuel creativity. Students in this module will start with fresh eyes, fresh ears and fresh senses,” enthuses Mano.

Students in Nilai UC’s Theatre and Acting module will go through 28 contact hours with Mano before culminating with a final end of session live performance that will determine the students’ grades. “Like cooks who must have someone taste their food, students in this module will be judged on their acting skills. It is my hope that this module will help students be more culturally receptive and open to the arts,” smiles Mano.
"These competitions are great for sharpening students’ skills and help to cope with pressure. Victory also whets their appetites for more and serves as an incentive for them to work harder. Of course, the fact that these competitions are fun makes the whole experience a great one for the participants and lecturers," says Cheng Mun Kid, senior lecturer at Nilai University College (Nilai UC) School of Hospitality and Tourism. He was referring to the Salón Culinaire Food and Hotel Malaysia competition 2011 (FHM 2011) in which Nilai UC students won two medals, while another four gained diplomas.

This four-day event is held once every two years, and the 2011 edition was held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, attracting participants from as far as Germany, Taiwan, Hong Kong as well as neighbouring countries, Thailand and Singapore. What made Nilai UC students’ achievements particularly satisfying is that they were not just competing against fellow students but also against industry professionals. Chefs, baristas, bartenders and various high-flying industry professionals were there to compete, share their knowledge, and judge the competitions, making it one of the most hotly contested events in the hospitality and tourism field.

Practice Makes Perfect

For Team Nilai UC, preparations began a whole two months before the event with students and lecturers convening after class for five to six hours a day. "Such events take a lot of preparation and many hours of hard work. There would be little point in entering this competition if the team went unprepared. Furthermore, many of the competitors are industry professionals and we were going to be judged by an international panel, so our students had to be at their very best if they wanted to stand out from the crowd," says Ailiya Marina Amirudin, senior lecturer in Nilai UC School of Hospitality and Tourism.

The lecturers’ dedication in helping prepare the students was central to the team’s success says Nadjiia Nasaruddin, a final year student in BA (Hons) in Business and Hospitality Management. The lecturers drilled us for many long hours after class. They also sacrificed their weekends to give us extra guidance. Their dedication is really the foundation of our success. I cannot thank them enough," says the demure lass from Terengganu, who captured sliver in the table setting category. Her compatriot Ruben Pillay, also, managed to earn a diploma in the same category.

Another Nilai UC student to win a medal was Lim Shu Min. The final year student in Business and Hospitality Management degree programme was determined to put on a good showing in the fruit flambé category before going on her internship.

“I spent many hours experimenting with the recipe. Through much trial and error, I came up with a dessert I called Sweet Summer Sensation which is a combination of local fruits flambéed in Pernod and Kirsch and then doused in strawberry liquor and vanilla ice cream,” smiles the Kluang lass. Though she admits to being slightly intimidated by some of the judges, she did her best and was pleasantly surprised when her efforts picked up second place. "It is a great achievement for us as students to be up against industry professionals with many years experience and come away with some prizes. It is certainly an incentive to work harder in preparation for the next event. It provides us with valuable hands-on experience and any success in such events surely enhances our résumés," says Nadjiia.

FHM 2011 was jointly organised by Malaysia Food and Beverage Executives Association (MRBEA), Chef Association (CAM) and Malaysian Association of Hotels (MAH). Nilai UC believes in giving its students the ‘Total Student Experience’ and exposure to such events is great preparation for the realities of the working world. Nilai UC’s School of Hospitality and Tourism is equipped with some of the finest facilities in the country and the programmes on offer include BA(Hons) in Business and Hospitality Management, Diploma in Culinary Arts, Diploma in Hotel Management, Diploma in Tourist Guide Operations and Diploma in Tourism Management.

Eco-friendly Theme

Nadjia went for an eco-friendly theme for her project and showed how hotels and restaurants could minimise costs and waste by using cost effective methods in table settings. "For instance, I chose a specific type of glass which could be used to serve various types of hot and cold drinks allowing an establishment to cut down on crockery. Also, I used recyclable items to fashion the centrepiece. A dark colour was chosen for the table cloth for a very logical reason – to lessen the amount of detergent needed to get inevitable stains off," she explains.

Though she admits to being slightly intimidated by some of the judges, she did her best and was pleasantly surprised when her efforts picked up second place. "It is a great achievement for us as students to be up against industry professionals with many years experience and come away with some prizes. It is certainly an incentive to work harder in preparation for the next event. It provides us with valuable hands-on experience and any success in such events surely enhances our résumés," says Nadjia.
Team Nilai UC with academics proudly showing off the fruits of their labour.

Lim Shu Min (Nilai UC BA (Hons) in Business and Hospitality Management) won a bronze medal in the fruit flambe category.

Nadjiaa Nasaruddin (Nilai UC BA (Hons) in Business and Hospitality Management) took silver in the table setting category.

Lim Shu Min said it took many hours of experimentation to get her concoction right.
In the age of American Idol, You Think You Can Dance and a host of other talent competitions, capturing the imaginations of the young, it seemed logical that a similar competition would get Nilai University College’s (Nilai UC) student populace excited. For the third year running, the best singers and dancers from both public and private higher education institutes converged at Nilai UC’s President Hall to battle it out in the 1World Culture event.

The battle was extra fierce this year as winners were given cash prizes and a chance to appear in another talent show (which offers an even bigger purse). But as the organisers and judges were keen to stress, this international students cultural festival is to promote inter-cultural understanding among the cosmopolitan student populace in the country’s hallowed halls of learning.

“Nilai UC initially proposed the idea of 1World Culture to the Ministry of Higher Education as a means to foster better ties between students from different nationalities. These songs and dance performances also allows us a window into their culture and way of life. Every year sees participants putting a huge amount of time and effort into perfecting their routines. The costumes also seem to get more colourful and elaborate, so it is no surprise that a competitive element is present,” says Michael Yei, Nilai UC Director of Department of Student Affairs and Sports.

Indeed, competition proved to be fierce as each contestant upped the ante during the male and female vocal categories as singers sought to reach the high notes and make a memorable impact with the judges with a few choice dance moves. This year’s vocal competition was slightly different from previous editions of the 1World Culture as the international contestants were encouraged to know their host country better by singing Malay songs composed by Malaysians.

Given the ease the international participants sang the local songs, observers were hard pressed to tell that this was the first time for many singing in Malay. The home crowd had extra reason to cheer in this category as Kim Anastassiya (Kazakhstan), a student from Nilai UC’s School of Hospitality and Tourism, bagged the top prize in the female vocal category with her rendition of ‘Asmaradana’. Isora Khonef (Thailand), a student from Nilai UC’s Accounting and Finance degree programme, managed a first runner-up spot in the male category with his rendition of ‘Kau Ilhamiku’.

The pressure and tension moved up a notch in the dance category as many of the teams had put in a lot of effort into their routines. From the complex choreography to the elaborate traditional costumes, the teams were here to win. There were several categories up for grabs and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia won for best choreography while Universiti Teknologi Malaysia won for best traditional dance performance. Universiti Teknologi Petronas got the best costume award to go with second runners-up spot in the overall category. Ultimately, it was the contestants from Universiti Malaysia Perlis who walked away with the top prize with their unique fusion of Central Asian dances and the many facets of Malaysian culture. Their spirited rendition of traditional dikir barat got the crowd on their feet during the encore performance and deservedly so.

“Another great set of performances giving the judges a tough time. In the end, though some were disappointed not to have won, I still believe the 1World Culture is a great event with positive messages. It definitely plays an important part in broadening horizons of the students and is very much part of Nilai UC’s philosophy of producing well-rounded graduates,” surmised Michael Yei. “There are no losers, everyone here is a winner.”

Nilai UC administrators believe in providing students with the ‘Total Student Experience’ which is to make students’ varsity years their most memorable period of their young adult lives. Hosting and organising events such as 1World Culture is part of that concept. It gives students plenty of activities outside the classroom to indulge in.
Performers making all those hours of practice count on stage.

Universiti Teknologi Petronas were second runner up in the dance category.

Universiti Malaysia Perlis team combined central Asian dances with elements of dikir barat to win the top prize in the dance category.

Nilai UC’s Kim Anastasiya (Kazakhstan) won the female vocalist category.

Many participating teams celebrated the cultural diversity of Malaysia in their performances.

Performers making all those hours of practice count on stage.

The dance performances during the 1World Culture event brought much pomp and splendour to Nilai UC President Hall.
Volunteers Wanted!

Participants at the Future Leaders Camp were urged to instil a sense of volunteerism within them and among the community they lead.

Pix & article co-ordinated by Lo Chee Hoe

“You do not have to be a rock star or billionaire - be it Bono or Warren Buffett - to contribute. Almost everyone can - and everyone who can, should,” exhorted Tunku Ali Redhauddin ibni Tuanku Muhirz, (Tunku Besar Seri Menanti, Negeri Sembilan) who was speaking at the Nilai University College-Ministry of Higher Education Future Leaders Camp, which had the theme - "Volunteerism and the Future Leader". "Many young people think they can't do much, but actually they can. You have the energy and the passion to get out there; don't let youth, or inexperience, be a barrier.”

In his keynote address, Tunku Ali stressed to the participants that they were a privileged class as they were enjoying higher education and possess special skills and knowledge which could be used to help others in various situations. He also pointed out the many ways in which students can contribute to various causes and how not to let time and scheduling constraints get in the way of volunteerism. He cited a number of examples of his own university mates who volunteered their services despite being full-time students in demanding programmes.

In conclusion, Tunku Ali said, "I have a lot of faith in the youth of today; you are all incredibly socially aware - I suspect far more so than your predecessors. Now is the time to convert that awareness, and that interest, to action. Why not start today? Judging from the standing ovation his keynote address got, many of the participants were suitably inspired and it certainly set the tone for the rest of the three-day camp, held at Nilai Springs Resort Hotel."
Among the many speakers invited to speak at the Future leaders Camp was John Kultgen, content writer for the Dosomething.org, one of the largest youth volunteer organisations in the United States of America. By leveraging on the web, television, mobile, and pop culture, Dosomething.org mobilises under-25s to recognise their own ability to make a positive change in society.

In his presentation, Kultgen shared with students on how to identify causes and the best ways to market the ideas to potential funders. He gave many examples of people within Dosomething.org who have carried out successful projects. He also told participants to keep ideas simple, relevant, consistent and truthful for them to be strong. Other tips he shared touched on issues of branding and how best to utilise online media to connect with people.

Judging from the many questions the participants had for Kultgen, it appeared his talk had the desired impact.

Other speakers at the camp included trainers from Dale Carnegie Training and Chapter One Asia. Volunteer organisations Mercy Malaysia, Salam Malaysia and Save A Stray were also on hand to share their experiences and to encourage students to volunteer their time. All the sessions received positive feedback from the participants and many said they felt privileged to have been selected to attend the Future Leaders Camp. “This was definitely the most productive workshop I have attended. I got to network with students from different universities and countries. I learned many valuable lessons and got plenty of self-improvement tips. But most importantly, I realised I can make a difference through volunteerism. It is this realisation which I believe will make a real difference,” says Tan Ee Zhou, a student in Nilai UC School of Foundation.

The administrators at Nilai UC believe in giving the ‘Total Student Experience’. This means making the student varsity experience memorable and fulfilling both within and outside the classrooms. The Future Leaders Camp is part of this philosophy of enhancing the ‘Total Student Experience’ and is designed to produce well-rounded graduates who are academically qualified and socially confident.

Aims & Objectives

The Future Leaders Camp was initially conceived by senior academics at Nilai University College (Nilai UC) and received the support of the Ministry of Higher Education and the World Youth Foundation. The camp is open to students from all private and public universities in Malaysia, and this year’s edition again attracted the cream of the crop, with more than 100 students from all walks of life and different cultural backgrounds converging to discover, learn, and share from each other.

The purpose of the Future Leaders Camp is to provide a platform for student leaders to fully realise their potential. While they may have learned many lessons in running organisations, clubs and societies at their respective alma maters, the camp provides the opportunity for these student leaders to delve on a variety of subjects that are important such as intercultural understanding and gender issues, which were themes of the previous editions of the camps.

The key objectives of the Future Leaders Camp are to sharpen leadership skills, provide opportunities for self-development, to help initiate a global networks and to promote inter-cultural understanding.

The Future Leaders Camp programme was also designed to improve on areas which employers have found to be lacking in the modern graduate. Hence, participants are exposed to speakers such as Tunku Ali and professional trainers who can help mould these student leaders into captains of industry, government officials and citizens of note.

The enthusiasm of the participants at the end of the camp is a clear indication of the event’s success.

Round table discussions help students learn how to work in a group.

The Future Leaders Camp allows participants to build an international network of contacts.

The workshop on etiquette and grooming provided students with useful tips on dressing for success.

The workshop on etiquette and grooming provided students with useful tips on dressing for success.
FLC participants, organizers and speakers share their thoughts on the Nilai UC-MoHE Future Leaders Camp 2011.

“No! I know how to do this and I’m confident initiating conversations.”
Siti Syaley Fidzliana Rohisha (Malaysia)
Bachelor of Business (Finance)
Help University College

“Dale Carnegie’s session was an energy booster. I picked up a number of techniques on starting conversations. I am now more confident initiating conversations.”
Leong Sovannary (Cambodia)
American Degree Program
Nilai University College

“It is a great opportunity to meet up with people from different institutions and from all around the globe. I will take back plenty of positive lessons and memories.”
Mamednazar Nohurov (Turkmenistan)
Bachelor in Electrical and Electronics Engineering
Universiti Teknologi Petronas

“Having heard about teens as young as 16 actively getting involved in volunteerism from Dosomething speaker has compelled me to start acting now.”
Lee Yan Shan (Malaysia)
Foundation in Science
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“Prior to this camp, I had an idea for a community project but I didn’t know how to get it started. After attending the various workshops in this camp, I have a very clear idea on how to kick start my project.”
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“Volunteerism is the willingness to do something without expecting any reward in return. That’s why I made myself participate in this camp to learn how I can volunteer myself.”
Sumithra N. Mahendran (Malaysia)
Bachelor of Corporate Communication (Hons)
Universiti Tunu Abdul Rahman

“It’s a good camp because it creates awareness about the skills a graduate needs to have besides paper qualification.”
Rosli Hussein (Malaysia)
Dale Carnegie Training

“The Future Leaders Camp is a great way to make new friends from different walks of life and from different cultural backgrounds. I intend to build on this by developing a network of international contacts.”
Tan Ee Zhou (Malaysia)
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“FLC is Nilai UC’s commitment towards producing well-rounded graduates who are academically proficient and socially confident. We hope the theme will inspire participants to volunteer for useful causes.”
Shariffah Bahyah Syed Ahmad (Malaysia)
Programme Director of FLC and Dean of Nilai UC School of Humanities and Social Sciences

“Quotes”

Value Added Education

Nilai UC gives value added education to its nursing students through a conference on high-fidelity patient simulation.

“Before this, I’m a t-shirt and jeans girl. But joining this camp has made me realise the importance of proper dressing thereby changing my dress sense.”
Nurdina Iman Zulkifli (Malaysia)
MA Applied Linguistics
Universiti Putra Malaysia

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Value Added Education

Nilai UC gives value added education to its nursing students through a conference on high-fidelity patient simulation.

“In an emergency situation in a hospital, medical staff is busy attending to the patient while the nursing students on practical training are left to observe from a distance. There is very little chance for the student nurse to be directly involved in the process. There is a need for an alternative for them to learn critical lessons and this is where the use of simulation comes in,” says Gnaneswari Subramaniam, Head of Nilai University College’s (Nilai UC) nursing faculty. She was speaking at the launch of the first ever Asia Pacific Simulation in Nursing conference that was jointly organised by CAE Healthcare, METI Learning, Kinetic Edar and Nilai UC (which also acted as host for the event).

Nilai UC’s academics and administrators mooted this conference as they believed that simulation techniques are vital in the efforts to produce quality and skilled nurses. By hosting the event, it also ensured that Nilai UC’s nursing students got maximum exposure from this conference which featured keynote addresses from industry professionals and senior academics from nursing schools all over the world.

Integral Learning Process

“Simulation learning is not a substitute for actual experience. Although it is associated with gadgets and technology and is necessarily connected with working in labs, it does not mean nursing students aren’t gaining valuable experience,” says Prof Donna Mead, Dean of University of Glamorgan’s Faculty of Health, Sport and Science.

Mead says in her experience in various nursing committees and advisory groups in the United Kingdom, she has come across plenty of scepticism surrounding simulation learning and many dismiss it saying there is...
no alternative to practical experience. Whilst not arguing with the importance of practical experience, Mead contends that there is no guarantee that practical learning will ensure nursing students learn all the relevant lessons. Echoing Gnaneswaris sentiments, Mead says all too often nursing students do not get any chance to learn as staff nurses and doctors are too busy to talk them through the unfolding scenario in a hospital ward, and that is only to be expected when a patient is in a critical situation.

“There is also no guarantee that a student will be faced with certain scenarios during their practical training. A student nurse may not come across a single cardiac arrest during practical training. These are very necessary lessons that must be taught to student nurses,” she emphasised.

Mead asserts that simulated learning using mannequins should not be squeezed into the syllabus but rather be made an integral part of it. “Simulators allow nursing students to encounter scenarios or experiences that lecturers feel are important,” she adds. “These simulators can accurately imitate human responses to a variety of scenarios. It has 72,000 different physiological responses and even responds in real time to medication. It can sweat, has hair follicles, bi-lateral chest movements and skin texture which is exactly like a human being’s.”

Scrum of an analogy
To illustrate her point, Mead used a brief video during the conference to illustrate her point. In the video, the world famous All Blacks rugby team were practising scrums with the aid of a machine. “I am sure no one is going to question the All Blacks and say they are not improving their rugby techniques even though they are using a machine. It is the same with simulators as it allows student nurses as it allows them to learn and improve their skills in a controlled and safe environment.”

Gnaneswari agrees and says that the simulators also help lecturers focus on students unlike in a ward where staff nurses are busy looking after patients and dealing with life-and-death situations. It is also confidence building which is very important to student nurses who are entering a high pressure working environment.

“Findings are overwhelming positive and suggest strongly that learning in a simulated environment helps students to achieve clinical learning outcomes,” says Mead. Nilai UC is one of the few institutions to have equipped the nursing department with simulation wards and the relevant equipment such as mannequins.

“Although this equipment is very expensive, Nilai UC has invested in the belief that they will help produce a higher grade of nurses. Simulators are also the only way they can achieve this. There is nothing but gimmicks as they choose to not invest and pass the responsibility of training to hospitals. Nilai UC administrators think differently and believes students gain plenty of invaluable experience in these simulation wards. I invite parents and students who are interested in nursing to come visit our facilities and judge for themselves,” states Gnaneswari.

Practice Makes Perfect
The two-day conference was open to delegates from all over the region and attracted many industry professionals and academics. A third day was added for the benefit of Nilai UC nursing students to learn from experts in simulated learning. Workshops were held in Nilai UC’s brand new Science and Technology block which housed the simulation wards and students were tutored on a variety of topics ranging from bedside manner to correct administering of drugs.

“I gained plenty of knowledge from these sessions and was privileged to learn from experts in this field. I fully agree that simulated learning should be an integral part of nursing,” says Lim Li Yee, a student in Nilai UC’s BSc (Hons) in Nursing programme. Carrying the thread, her course mate Amy Lee also voiced her disappointment at those who are opposed to having simulated learning as part of nursing education. “It is really beneficial and from experience, I have really learned a lot in the simulation wards. I am very glad Nilai UC has these facilities.”

Loh Mun Yee, also a student in Nilai UC’s nursing degree programme, summed it perfectly when she said, “How can anyone argue with nursing students learning how to deal with life-and-death situations in a controlled and safe environment. Practice really does make perfect and I would like to think that patients would like to be cared for by nurses who have all the right skills and knowledge.”

Nilai UC’s School of Allied Health Sciences was established in 2004 and offers three programmes – Diploma in Nursing, BSc (Hons) in Nursing and Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology. The degree in nursing programme is validated by Nilai UC’s long time academic partner, Oxford Brookes University, UK.
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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ENRICHMENT FOR LIFE AWARD

For students who are active in extra-curricular activities:
- 30% tuition fee waiver for Foundation AND 10-25% tuition fee waiver for Degree.
- 20% tuition fee waiver for Diploma

PATHWAY & DURATION

FOUNDATION (1 YEAR)

DIPLOMA (2.5 YEARS)

DEGREE (3 YEARS)

MBA (1 YEAR)

Future Leaders Camp promotes culture of volunteerism
1World Culture – An explosion of colour and sound
First ever Asia Pacific Simulation in Nursing conference