

CGFNS launches new web application system

The Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) launched a new, interactive portion of the CGFNS web site, www.cgfns.org, on February 3, 2003. Applicants now have the ease and convenience of the internet at their fingertips as they apply for CGFNS services

(such as the Certification Program, Credentials Evaluation Service, VisaScreen Program, and Credentials Verification Service for New York State), simply by logging onto the CGFNS web site anytime, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The new web application system allows applicants to apply to CGFNS services on-line, check the status of their applications, make changes and updates to their information, pay for services, pick exam locations and dates, find out whether they have been rostered for a particular exam and purchase study aides. Applicants will find many benefits to using the web application system, such as shortened communication response time, faster application processing time and increased access to information about the status of their application.

The new web application system has been running very smoothly in the few weeks since it

became operational. On the first day of operation, 159 user IDs were created and 31 orders for CGFNS services and products were successfully completed. In the first two weeks, over 3,000 user IDs have been created on-line (allowing applicants to complete and submit an application for one of CGFNS' services, check the status of an existing application or change information in their application), and over 200 orders have been successfully submitted.

CGFNS is working diligently to address and fix any problems or "bugs" within the system as they arise, and asks new users to contact us if they run into any problems while using the system.

In addition to the new web application system, applicants will find just about anything they need on the CGFNS web site. The web site contains in-depth program descriptions of all CGFNS services; Qualifying Exam locations and dates; answers to the most frequently asked questions about CGFNS programs and services; the latest news and updates about CGFNS exams, programs and services; links to state nursing boards, INS and other organizations applicants may find useful; and an entire career center offering information and tips on writing resumes and cover letters, job searching and interviewing, and much more.



In this issue

1 **CGFNS launches new web application system**

2 **CGFNS opens new exam center in Beijing, China**

Special Administration of Qualifying Exam

Amelia Maglacas receives 2002 CGFNS award

3 **CGFNS begins accepting TOEIC and IELTS scores**

MELAB no longer option for VisaScreen applicants

4 **continued: Amelia Maglacas receives 2002 CGFNS award**

CGFNS opens new exam center in Beijing, China

CGFNS is opening a new exam center in Beijing, China, beginning with the July 9, 2003 CGFNS Qualifying Exam.

The new exam center will be open for the July 9, 2003 exam and all exams thereafter. The application deadline for the July 9 exam is April 9, 2003 (applicants must have ALL of their documentation to CGFNS by the application deadline). The exam center number for the Beijing location is 801. Applicants interested in taking the Qualifying Exam in Beijing need to indicate the exam center number 801 as their choice of exam center on their Certification Program application.

2003 Qualifying Exam Dates

March 12, 2003
(Deadline: Dec. 11, 2002)

July 9, 2003
(Deadline: April 9, 2003)

November 12, 2003
(Deadline: August 13, 2003)

CGFNS announces Special Administration of Qualifying Exam

CGFNS will offer a Special Administration of the CGFNS Qualifying Exam at a limited number of exam centers in 2003. The Qualifying Exam will be held September 10, 2003 at the following exam centers:

Center No.	Exam Locations
501	Chicago, USA
510	Houston, USA
540	New York City, USA
823	Manila, Philippines
907	Cebu City, Philippines
850	Bangalore, India
851	Cochin, India

The application deadline for the September 10, 2003, Special Administration of the Qualifying Exam is June 11, 2003. Anyone wishing to take the September 10th exam at one of the locations listed above must have ALL of their documentation to CGFNS by the application deadline. Remember to choose September 10, 2003, as your exam date choice on your Certification Program application, along with one of the seven locations listed above.

About this newsletter

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Anna Halewski
Director, Communications Specialist

Barbara Nichols, DHL, MS, RN, FAAN
Chief Executive Officer & Executive Editor

William Kritek, PhD, RN, FAAN
President, Board of Trustees

Amelia Maglacas receives the 2002 CGFNS International Distinguished Leadership Award

CGFNS has awarded the 2002 CGFNS International Distinguished Leadership Award to Amelia Mangay-Maglacas, DrPH, RN, FRCN (U.K.), ScD (Hon.), a Consultant in International Health and Nursing; Adjunct Professor at the Department of Public Health, Mental Health and Administrative Nursing, University of Illinois at Chicago; and Visiting Professor, University of Asia and the Pacific, Pasig City, Philippines.

The CGFNS International Distinguished Leadership Award was established to recognize organizations or individuals who have demonstrated outstanding international, professional and personal achievement who serve as a model for success in the global healthcare community. The award, which is bestowed annually, consists of a commemorative plaque, a sponsored symposium in the leadership area of the recipient and a

reception and tribute dinner the evening of the symposium.

This year's symposium and tribute dinner, which honored Dr. Maglacas, was held December 17, 2002, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Philadelphia.

The symposium, Global Leadership in Health Development: An Agenda for the Future, acknowledged Dr. Maglacas' advocacy and dedication to vital nursing and health development programs throughout the world, especially her role in conceptualizing, designing and facilitating the establishment of a "Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centers for Nursing/Midwifery Development," which today has grown to be a crucial information network within and between countries where collaborating centers exist.

See page 4 / AWARD

CGFNS begins accepting TOEIC and IELTS scores

The Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) will begin accepting test scores from both the Test of English in International Communication (TOEIC) and the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) effective on February 24, 2003, for foreign healthcare workers applying for the CGFNS Certification Program and/or the VisaScreen™: Visa Credentials Assessment program.

Applicants applying to the Certification or VisaScreen programs must pass an English language proficiency examination as part of their requirements to receive their certificate(s). Currently, there is only one organization, the Educational Testing Service (ETS), that is approved to meet this requirement. ETS administers the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the Test of Written English (TWE) and the Test of Spoken English (TSE).

CGFNS believes that expanding the English testing options would increase access and availability to English proficiency tests for foreign healthcare professionals, and in turn, expedite the certification and screening processes for applicants. CGFNS began searching for other “nationally recognized, commercially available, standardized assessments” of the English language skills of foreign healthcare professionals in order to facilitate the Certification and VisaScreen processes.

As a result of that search, CGFNS has concluded that both the TOEIC and IELTS examinations meet statutory, as well as CGFNS’ high standards, for English language proficiency assessments set forth in section

343 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA).

Beginning February 24, 2003, foreign nurses applying to the Certification Program will have the option to take either the TOEFL (administered by ETS), the TOEIC (administered by the Chauncey Group) or the IELTS (administered by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate). Foreign healthcare professionals applying to the VisaScreen program will have the option to take either the TOEFL, TWE and TSE; the TOEIC, TWE and TSE; or the IELTS exam. (Please note that applicants wishing to take the TOEIC exam offered by the Chauncey Group will still need to take the TWE and TSE offered by ETS.)

Applicants can contact these organizations at the following addresses:

TOEFL, TWE and TSE
Educational Testing Service
P.O. Box 6151
Princeton, NJ 08541-6151 USA
Telephone: (609) 771-7100
Email: toefl@ets.org

The Chauncey Group
International, Ltd.
664 Rosedale Road
Princeton, NJ 08540-2218 USA
Telephone: (609) 734-1550
Website: www.toEIC-usa.com

IELTS Administrator
Cambridge Examinations and
IELTS International
100 E. Corson Street, Suite 200
Pasadena, CA 91103
Telephone: (626) 564-2954
Fax: (626) 564-2981
Email: ielts@ceii.org

MELAB no longer option for Visa-Screen applicants

The Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB), offered by the English Language Institute, is no longer available for healthcare professionals to meet English language proficiency requirements of the VisaScreen program.

On November 27, 2002, the University of Michigan English Language Institute announced that it would no longer report MELAB scores to ICHP/CGFNS for visa screening purposes.

Foreign healthcare professionals applying to the VisaScreen program will have the option, beginning February 24, 2003, of taking any of the following to meet the English language assessment requirement:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), Test of Written English (TWE) and Test of Spoken English (TSE) - all administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS)
- Test of English in International Communication (TOEIC) - administered by the Chauncey Group, along with the TWE and TSE - administered by ETS
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) - administered by the University of Cambridge (U.K.) Local Examinations Syndicate



AWARD / from page 2

Speakers at the symposium were designated as Adele Herwitz Distinguished Scholars and received a commemorative plaque. CGFNS created the Adele Herwitz Distinguished Scholars distinction in honor of CGFNS' founding Executive Director.

This year's speakers and Adele Herwitz Distinguished Scholars were: Ginette Lemire Rodger, PhD, RN, Chief of Nursing, The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa University Heart Institute, Rehabilitation Center, and President, Lemire Rodger & Associates; Halfdan T. Mahler, MD, Director-General Emeritus, World Health Organization; and Gloria R. Smith, PhD, RN, FAAN, former Vice President for Programs-Health, W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Dr. Rodger began the symposium with a presentation on new leadership challenges for nursing in global health development. Following Dr. Rodger's speech, Dr. Mahler spoke about the relationship between health and politics, and how local and global political action for



Left to right:
Barbara L. Nichols,
DHL, MS, RN, FAAN,
CGFNS Chief Executive
Officer,
**Amelia Mangay-
Maglacas**, DrPh, RN,
FRCN (U.K.), ScD
(Hon.), 2002 IDLA
award recipient, and
Phyllis B. Kritek, PhD,
RN, FAAN, CGFNS
President.

health requires constant moral and intellectual stimulation. Dr. Smith addressed the nursing profession's pivotal role in the development of primary healthcare programs worldwide, and Dr. Maglacas concluded the symposium with reflections on her professional journey.

Following the symposium, the evening kicked off with a reception, featuring the music of the renowned Richard Rome Trio and a chance to meet the award recipient.

Then, CGFNS hosted a tribute dinner toasting Dr. Maglacas. Tribute speakers

such as: Syringa Marshall Burnett, President of the Jamaican Senate and last year's award recipient; Rita Carty, representing WHO Collaborating Centers; Jo Eleanor Elliott, former CGFNS Board of Trustees member and Chief of the Division of Nursing, DHHS; Constance Hollaran, former Executive Director of the International Council of Nurses; Afaf Meleis, Dean of the School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania; and Suny Lipat, President of the Philippine Nurses Association of America, honored the award recipient.

**Mark
your calendar**

CGFNS will be exhibiting at the following conferences. If you will be attending any of these conferences, please stop by the CGFNS booth. We would love to see you there.

June 27-29
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES: BUILDING EXCELLENCE THROUGH EVIDENCE CONFERENCE
Marrakech, MOROCCO

July 16-17
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH CARE RECRUITMENT
AGE 2003 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Las Vegas, NV

July 22-24
2003 CLINICAL LAB EXPO
sponsored by AACC and ASCLS)
Philadelphia, PA

July 22-25
2003 ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPOSITION: NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES
San Francisco, CA

**Commission on Graduates
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3600 Market Street, Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2651 USA
www.cgfns.org