

**JUNO CONNECTION**



**CHARMAINE TEODORO**

LET me ask you some questions. Do you want to become an above-average nurse? Do you want to be more productive in your workplace? Do you want to derive greater fulfillment from what you do? Or even have a higher salary?

If you're thinking my column has officially turned into one big ad, you're wrong. No, I'm not mentioning any educational brands here, not even my own company. But one thing I'll highlight this week is the immense value of continuing education for nurses, the often overlooked part of a nurse's career that could keep him/her in the valley of mediocrity.

The fact that you've taken a course, whether it's an associate degree or a Bachelor's in Nursing, proves that you want to be in this field. It shows that you have what it takes and, at the very least, have an interest in a nursing career. After taking your program, you may have visited an agency or walked-in at a hospital that gave you the chance

to work where you are right now. By this time, you could be earning a decent salary, much higher than an average American worker and have some really good benefits. In short, you have a good life. The real question is: Do you want to increase your ability to make a positive impact in people's life?

That's the question we hope you will answer positively. As a professional who gives care, your focus when enhancing your skill set or increasing your knowledge on your specialty, whatever they may be, is to better serve your patients, the ultimate recipient of the care you give.

Continuing education assists you in improving the skills and adding onto the wisdom you already have as a nurse. Taking up these classes will help you learn new techniques and update your knowledge on your current specialization, or guide you in identifying the skills you need to develop if you want to specialize on a particular unit in your facility (e.g., neonatal or pediatric care). Also, as technological advances transpire

in the industry, continuing education gives you the insights on how to operate in this hi-tech environment. Understanding and applying new treatments, especially on healthcare fields that develop at a fast pace, can also be learned through these types of training programs. Overall, these continuing education courses keep you ahead of the curve and enable you to improve your clinical skillset.

Aside from giving you valuable training in the field, continuing education programs are flexible and can be done from the comfort of your own home. Courses can be finished in a few hours with comprehensive ones requiring weeks to complete, but they can all be done online and at your own time. Courses have instructors that teach you the program—some in real time online, and you can communicate with your fellow students through discussion boards, chatrooms and other messaging systems. Today's educational environment allows you to experience a virtual classroom conveniently, giving you

the chance to learn new things, whether it be techniques, terms or treatments. Add to this the fact that some continuing education courses are prerequisites in many nursing professions. Note that when taking such courses, you have to check if they are approved by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Taking up continuing education courses and understanding the knowledge you gain by heart makes you more effective and highly promotable. Because taking these classes makes you stand out from the crowd of 2.5 million nurses. A number of these are advanced training and not required, making you a better nurse from the rest of the pack. You gain new skills you can readily use on the job or when applying for another specialization.

Skills are important and what you have as a nurse is highly regarded and in demand. But don't let the comfort of multiple opportunities keep you from increasing the value of your applied knowledge. Look at this,

if you're already gaining a lot from what you already know about nursing, imagine how much more you will get if you enhance it.

A famous author stated that good is the enemy of great. Most nurses today have a good life. They love what they do and they know what they're doing. There's nothing wrong with the picture, except if you want to become a great nurse and make a greater impact in people's lives.

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Charmaine Teodoro is the Senior

Vice President of JUNO Healthcare Staffing, a group of companies that recruits RNs, LPNs, CNAs and allied healthcare professionals and deploys them to healthcare facilities on a full-time, part-time, per diem or travel assignment. It also sponsors foreign-trained RNs for immigration to the US. JUNO has offices in New York, and in New Jersey where it offers homecare services.

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# Taking your nursing career to the next level

## 'Chokwang!!! —An evening of laughter and songs'

Text and Photos by RICHARD M. REYES

MIDDLE VILLAGE—Just about 1,000 fans were in attendance for music and comedy in *Chokwang!!!—An evening of laughter and songs* held at Christ the King Regional High School on July 25, 2009. The show was produced by

MPG Global Productions, LLC. *Chokwang* features the performances of of Chokoleit, Pokwang, and Yeng Constantino.

Archie D. took the stage to introduce three female vocalists who warmed up the crowd in song. Kirby, Mari and Charisse Trinidad. Charisse has appeared previously at the Philippine Independence Day Parade back on June 9 in New York City.

Archie D. followed with the title track from his new album called *Built to Sound Good*. Afterwards, the crowd was ready for the main show; they started chanting, "*Chokwang, Chokwang*." The trio greeted the crowd with a loosely scripted comedy script mixed with bits of what seemed to be unscripted dialogue. It was followed with a musical round by Yeng Constantino with tracks from her new album. The crowd sang along when she sang tracks by the Eraserheads. She then surprised her fans by jumping down from the stage and right into the audience. Adoring fans had their cameras ready.

Chokoleit and Pokwang presented some routines similar to previous scripts that have appeared on television shows

such as *Wowowee*. Chokoleit picked a willing male from the crowd to join him in a skit. Afterwards, he did a piece where contestants from different countries are showcased in a beauty pageant. The crowd

loved the expressions, accents and presentation. The only prop he used was a hoodie and a handbag borrowed from an audience member. He declined the first two saying one was like a "space ship" and the other had "two blackberries" and he was afraid he would not know what to do when they rang. He

really liked the third one (Chanel) and remarked that it was his brand and that he, "may not return it." Chokoleit included the photographers in a joke when

he said, "*Kuha kayo ng kuha ng litrato ko*," he continued by saying that he didn't get to be on this show because of his looks and remarked, "*Bukas pag nakita ninyo si Chokoleit delete naman kayo ng delete*."

Pokwang presented a more elaborate and well-orchestrated skit by inviting two audience members: a male and a female to take part in a love story. Without giving too much away,

the male would play the son, she played the son's interest, and the female played a very strict mother.

The trio concluded the show with a musical number. Afterwards, they walked off stage. But after just about three hours, the show was over, as the fans yelled, "*More... more!*" The audience left satisfied and very pleased. ■



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MPG Productions producer, Bing Pechangco Gabriel poses with her celebrity guests at her dinner birthday celebration last July 24. Photo by Ziggy Martin