

## **Nomination of Peter Muthinji '83**

It is an honor and pleasure to recommend Peter Muthinji, 1983 graduate, for the Alumni Hall of Fame.

After graduating Labouré College with an associate degree and major in NDT Technology, Peter returned to his native country of Kenya, Africa. Working as a technologist at a local hospital in Kenya, Peter helped develop a neurodiagnostic technology program, training many desperately needed technologists for the area. Peter worked collaboratively to bring quality education to the people of Kenya prior to the advent of online education.

Peter & his family later moved to England where he worked as a technologist with some of the most prestigious neurologists in the world. He credits much of his ongoing success to the reputation and education gained at Labouré and through the NDT program. Peter has actively been involved with the training of technologists, presenting lectures at local, national and international NDT conferences and with teaching several courses in higher education. Peter ultimately went on to earn a doctorate in health sciences.

Peter has published several peer reviewed articles. His doctorate research is not only very impressive but has contributed to the current day practices in home video telemetry and polysomnography.

The following quote from Peter summarizes his research: "The project was Titled: Feasibility of Home Video Telemetry Polysomnography (HVTP) and was part of Professional Doctorate program at Portsmouth University, UK Parasomnias, such as REM Sleep Behavior Disorder (RBD) must be a significant biomarker in development of Parkinson's disease. The clinical manifestation of RBD, namely dream enacting behavior (DEB) are discrete events that occur sporadically. It is often not possible to capture this event during one night of recording obtained in sleep laboratory. My research was looking at developing methods of studying parasomnias, such as RBD, where the recording could be carried out for several days in the patients' home. The aim of the project was to assess whether it was feasible to conduct such types of sleep studies in patient homes. A mixed methodology research was adopted to look at the quality of data obtained, cost implication of and acceptability of such home sleep studies by patients."

Peter and his wife Winnie (who is a psychiatric nurse) recently took an early retirement to return to their native country with the goal of making a difference in the lives of young girls. Peter tells the story of pervasive abuse of young girls around age 11 – 14 years. Custom has it that men (usually financially well off), often a relative or close friend, offer to take a young girl from her home (in the country and in poverty) to the city promising a good home and education. These girls, not able to distinguish between the love and affection of a loving uncle or friend and sexual abuse, end up pregnant and are sent back to their homes. Men are not held accountable for abusing a child, let alone held responsible for support of their child. This is a very pervasive custom that Peter and his wife are passionate about helping to stop! Some 35 years later, Peter's journey as a compassionate healthcare professional continues!

Peter has already reached out to businesses, lawyers, educators, healthcare providers, politicians, and other professionals, in the Nairobi area, to work side by side helping put a stop to this extreme abuse. His goal is to start programs that will empower young girls, through educate, about sexual abuse; fighting for their justice and holding men accountable for their actions and bring a cultural change to the community. Peter and Winnie recognize the danger of such a venture, but their commitment and passion about not allowing this abuse to continue prevails. They are willing to take the risk to help stop such abuse and make a difference. Peter's return to Kenya has been stalled due to political unrest. They hope to return by the end of October after the election of the new President.

On a recent visit to my home, Peter told me the following story; I asked him to write this down so I could share it with the college community:

*LABOURE ETHOS: ONE END MARKS THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER*

*"Although I was enrolled in electroneurodiagnostic technology, life at Labouré became pivotal not only in shaping my career but also personal growth. What comes in mind for example was a minor course in ethics in which we used a book by Michael Novak: "The ascent of the mountain, the flight of a dove". In describing the book, the author says that " The story we choose for our lives, the story we live can sacralize or secularize our lives and our world by the way in which choose to relate to it". This got me thinking about the direction and choices in life both professionally and personally and the impact these have in the world I live. In the book, the author discusses religious growth as a series of conversions; a series of successive standpoints from which one may assimilate fresh horizon. Whilst at Labouré, I was fixated on completing the course successfully, that was my*

*standpoint at that time. However, on completing the course, there was a fresh horizon, the desire for the registration by the ABRET and was certain that the registration credential is all I needed to be established in the profession. That was over 34 years ago, and still, I continue the ascent of the professional as well as life mountain; with every achievement or standpoint providing a fresh horizon, a new challenge. I'm grateful that Labouré provided for me the right attitude and challenge for a lifelong learning enabling me to make personal and professional choices that have a positive impact to me and those around me; be it those I serve, those I serve with or those who serve me”.*

It is my opinion that Peter exemplifies a Labouré graduate! He has demonstrated many great professional accomplishments, is committed to serving others, dedicated to healthcare while upholding the highest values and ethical standards. He has extraordinary compassion, and supports lifelong learning. He is most deserving to be in the Alumni Hall of Fame.

*Nomination by Jean Farley, former Chair of the Neurodiagnostic Technology program at Labouré College*