KAPPA has scored a major coup: it’s gained the support of one of Ghana’s most influential leaders, King Osmufu Osei Tutu II, the monarch of Ghana’s largest ethnic group, the Ashanti.

“KAPPA is truly a breakthrough, since it’s the first time a foreign study team has collaborated with the kingdom of Ashanti to conduct a study on MSM,” Poku says. The involvement of King Tutu II made it “easier to recruit MSM, because their fear of persecution was reduced.”

After his 2011 award from the Canadian government, Nelson has continued to rack up honors for his work. In 2012, after accepting a position as assistant dean for global and community affairs at the University of South Florida College of Nursing, he was one of 12 recipients of the Impact HIV/AIDS Champion of Change award presented at the International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C. Orlando Harris ‘10N (MS), a doctoral candidate at the School of Nursing and a former classmate of Nelson’s, was also among the winners.

Dianne Morrison-Beedy ’93N (PhD), who mentored Nelson at Rochester, recruited him last year to the University of South Florida, where she’s dean of the College of Nursing. “He’s a phenomenal young scientist,” she says.

As a National Institute of Nursing Research predoctoral fellow, Nelson honed his specialty, which he describes as the health of African and African-descendant communities, the latter often at the social and economic margins of the societies in which they live. As a doctoral candidate, and as associate director of the Monroe County Department of Public Health, Nelson worked to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases in the Rochester area.

Nelson credits the philosophy of nursing care he encountered at the School of Nursing as a guide in his research. It involves delivering care in ways compatible with the values and experiences of patients and their social networks.

“Health promotion at the community level is really about understanding that individuals don’t exist in isolation,” he says. “If we can move communities in terms of a shift in attitudes, or in terms of a shift in health status, then I think we’ll have a more lasting impact than we do with individual level care alone.”

If it sounds more complicated than treating each patient as an individual, it’s because it is. As Nelson often says: “Human lives aren’t simple. So the answers to problems are not going to be either.”

Is There an Alumnus App for That?

It’s a book … It’s a recording … No, it’s an app! Short for “application software,” the small programs designed for smartphones, tablets, and other mobile devices are multimedia creations. A combination of text, visual elements, and often, sound, they’re the creations of a new type of author.

OUR JOURNEY IN THE HOSPITAL

Fran Panzella London ’86N, ’91N (MS), a health care education specialist at Phoenix Children’s Hospital in Arizona, designed the app to help parents with children in the hospital communicate with their health care team and identify what they need to know before taking their child home. For iPad, iPhone, and Android phone.

THOUGHTCLOUD

Novall Khan ’09, a researcher at Harvard’s Schacter Memory Lab, has developed the stress-reduction app based on the principles of cognitive behavioral therapy and mindfulness meditation. The app aids users in the observation and awareness of negative thoughts and in letting negative thoughts go. For iPhone.