



Mid-Main Friends of Bangladesh Newsletter – Autumn 2006



Why we think this is important

Our contacts in Bangladesh have encouraged us in this project. Many Bangladeshi nurses and doctors report that the delivery of health care is very poor in their country. They share our vision of more and better professional development opportunities, higher practice standards in public services and greater respect for the nursing profession.

IUBAT in Dhaka

Dhaka's International University of Business and Agriculture (IUBAT) is Bangladesh's first non-government university. It was established in 1991 as a non-profit institution <http://www.iubat.edu> Its newly built campus sits beside the Turag River with classrooms, offices, laboratories, a cafeteria, and a recreation hall. IUBAT programs currently lead to degrees in Business (BBA and MBA), Engineering, Computer Sciences, Hospitality Management and, now Nursing (BSN). Courses are taught entirely in English.

Progress with Nursing Program development

Program Coordinator Karen Lund reports that twenty-three students successfully completed Year 1 of IUBAT's Nursing Program and are now entering Term Four. We expect another twenty to thirty "freshers" (new students) for Term 1 in September 2006.

Part-time faculty member, Dr. Shahryar is now teaching physiology and pathophysiology.

The new Director of Nursing at Apollo Hospital has been very positive about offering clinical placements for IUBAT students. This hospital sets high standards for patient care, making it an excellent practice setting. We also have leads for two rural clinical settings.

Two Canadian nurses who live in Dhaka have volunteered to assist with clinical supervision and labs.

Vancouver supporters Audrey Campbell and Allan Hustad prepared lecture notes for the Nutrition and Physiology courses. Thank you!

We have rented an apartment in a modern building for visiting faculty.

We are exploring partnerships with Canadian universities.

Our friends at Mid-Main Community Health Centre sponsored our second Open House, leading to more volunteer interest.



First-year Nursing students at IUBAT – Spring 2006

Few Canadians know much about Bangladesh ...



Whole families work crushing brick to be used in Dhaka's building boom. Mostly squatters, they live in shanties, side-by-side with modern businesses. Shelter, sanitation and access to education are very poor for these families. This scene was five minutes from the IUBAT campus.

... a country of rivers, farms, and tropical forests. And many people! It counts 65,000 villages; a few regional cities; one commercial port; and a capital city, Dhaka. This is among the largest, fastest-growing, and most chaotic of the world's mega-cities. When the monsoon rains are just right, farmers make two or three annual rice harvests on the fertile delta lands to feed the country's densely packed population of 140 million. However economic opportunity is attracting thousands of villagers to the cities where most live in unhealthy conditions.

Volunteering

Here in Canada, we gather educational materials; also clinical supplies for student practice or to pass along to non-profit clinics. Scholarship support for students is welcome.

Program Coordinator Karen Lund can use help with course development such as writing lesson plans, sourcing pictures or teaching aids, and creating exams.

If you are able to work at IUBAT, we need teachers of Nursing and Conversational English. Courses are taught entirely in English.

Though we cannot pay air fare for volunteers, we can provide local travel, room and board while you stay in Dhaka. We also welcome donations of cash or air miles for travel costs for volunteers. We can issue tax-deductible receipts for donations.

Who We Are

The Mid-Main Community Health Centre Association is a non-profit society operating a multi-discipline health centre in Vancouver, Canada.
<http://www.midmaincommunityhealth.net/>

Mid-Main sponsors health-related activities linked to the International University of Business, Agriculture and Technology.

For further information

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IUBAT Bachelor of Science in Nursing - Program Structure					
Term 1	ENG 101 Basic English	CSC 103 Computer Science	ART 201 Career Planning	MA 107	PSY 105 Psychology
2	ENG 102 Tech. Writing	NUR 101 Prof. Practice	BIO 201/202 Biology	CHM 115/116 Gen Chemistry	PHI 114 Philosophy
3	ENG 203 Adv. Composition	NUR 114 Intro to Nrs - 1	NUR 115 lab	NUR 201/202 Anatomy	STA 240 Statistics
4	ENG 250 Communications	NUR 116 Intro to Nrs - 2	NUR 117 lab	NUR 203/04 Physiology	ECO 101 Microeconomics
5	NUR 301 Nutrition	NUR 219 Med/Surg - I	NUR 220 lab	NUR 306 Pathophysiology	MAT 147 Pharm. Math
6	NUR 205 Pharmacology	NUR 221 Med/Surg - II	NUR 222 lab	BIO 220/221 Microbiology	NUR 415 Administration
7	elective	NUR 223 Med/Surg - III	NUR 224 lab	NUR 401 Comm. Health - I	NUR 402 Comm Health lab
8	NUR 340/341 Mental Health	NUR 225 Maternal/ Child	NUR 226 lab	NUR 403 Comm. Health - II (Global)	NUR 404 Comm Health lab
9	NUR 342/343 Mental Health	NUR 335 Maternal/ Child	NUR 336 lab	NUR 451 Nrs Research	NUR 423 Professional Issues
10	NUR 421 Family Nursing	NUR 337 Maternal/ Child	NUR 338 lab	NUR 431 Independ Study	elective
11	NUR 422 Family lab	elective	NUR 490/416 PRACTICUM and NURSING ADMINISTRATION LAB		

A modern curriculum with a focus on PHC

As shown in the draft program structure above, the IUBAT Nursing program is based on four years mostly of three terms each. Students progress through classroom lectures, clinical labs, workshops from visiting faculty and practica in teaching hospitals.

Alongside students from other programs, junior Nursing students study English, Computing, and Sciences. As their studies progress, the Nursing focus increases: mostly care of acutely ill adults in second year, followed by mental health, family nursing and community health. Because of the strong primary health care emphasis in Bangladesh, third and fourth-year courses provide extensive exposure to these topics.

This program structure was approved in 2004 by the Bangladesh Council of Nursing, the equivalent of the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia. This program structure is evolving. We continue to improve the organization of course-work as the approved structure provides some flexibility. Feedback on program development is welcome.



Shamsun Nahar, RN MSN is a full-time faculty member at IUBAT. Shamsun was formerly Principal of a government-run nursing school.

Program Goals

1. Provide a baccalaureate program in nursing that reflects public health priorities in Bangladesh and meets international competence standards.
2. Support a cadre of nursing professionals to assume leadership roles in practice, education and research within Bangladesh.
3. Develop resources for ESL-based health sciences education, including partnerships with academic institutions and clinical practice settings.
4. Help improve public perceptions about the status of the nursing profession in Bangladesh.