



### WHO WE ARE

Since 2003, volunteers from the Mid-Main Community Health Centre in Vancouver have been working with Dhaka's International University of Business Agriculture and Technology to launch a nursing school.

[BangladeshHealthProject.com](http://BangladeshHealthProject.com)

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## WHAT'S NEW WITH IUBAT & THE COLLEGE OF NURSING?

As always, lack of resources does not drag activity in Bangladesh. Despite late monsoon rains, the global recession slowed growth only briefly. Meanwhile the new government elected January 2009 strengthens its grip on national affairs. Importantly for us, the Prime Minister announced her aim of expanding nurse education with new degree-granting programs in public and private universities. Overall IUBAT enrolment grows rapidly, especially in Engineering and Business; Nursing enrolment increases more slowly but steadily. An additional storey on the campus building now provides much-needed extra classroom space. Another addition has already been started to house an expanded nursing skills lab and more lecture halls.

Our big news (detailed below) is that the first BSN students recently completed the program. This means we have developed all the course materials and resources for the program. Following on the "scaling-up" strategy outlined in the last newsletter, Dr. Karen Lund has arranged meetings with representatives from donor groups, World Health Organization, Bangladesh Nursing Council, and clinical sites to how our approach can benefit more students. The need for more and better nurse education is discussed in the media frequently. IUBAT's founder Dr. Alimullah Miyan has been urging stronger accreditation for universities in Bangladesh. We see a role for the IUBAT College of Nursing to support this initiative.



ADDITIONAL STOREY ON THE IUBAT BUILDING, SURROUNDED BY BLOSSOMING KRISHNACHURA TREES.



AFTER MEETING KAREN LUND (L) AND ALEX BERLAND AT IUBAT, WHO REPRESENTATIVE FOR NURSING, DR. LIISA HALLILA DISCUSSED NURSING RESEARCH WITH STUDENTS IN A PROFESSIONAL ISSUES CLASS.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP FROM HOME

Some of our wonderful supporters work from home to help with

IT support,  
marking assignments,  
communications,  
course development,  
fund-raising  
& grant-writing.

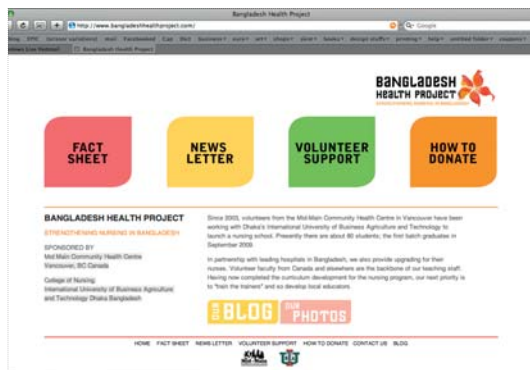
Their commitment has improved our impact tremendously. Thank you! We still need additional help in course development, communications, fund-raising and event organizing.

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS NOW UP!! CHECK IT OUT, AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BANGLADESH HEALTH PROJECT! DON'T FORGET TO PASS THE LINK ON TO YOUR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES.



### VISIT HERE:

<http://www.bangladeshhealthproject.com/>



### VISIT HERE:

<http://bangladeshhealthproject.blogspot.com/>

## THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

The Bangladesh Health Project that is developing the College of Nursing at IUBAT is entirely self-funded. All financial support comes from donors; we receive no government funding. We do not spend any cash donations on administration; almost all is spent in Bangladesh to maintain the guest house, pay local faculty and buy teaching materials.

Each year donors give us well over \$50,000 towards project expenses. Three families contribute about \$20,000. Volunteers paying their own travel costs contribute another \$20,000 in-kind. The remainder comes from kind individuals and families around the world.

We are especially grateful to all the hosts and guests at our first fund-raising dinner held in May 2009. This event raised nearly \$3000. A few months later, when founding supporter Deirdre Evans retired, her going-away party raised another \$2000.

With so much to do, we have been remiss in sending thank-you letters but will be correcting that shortly. Next February our terrific sponsor, Vancouver's Mid Main Community Health Centre will send a charitable donation receipt for tax reporting. In the meantime please be assured that your generous support is very much appreciated.

## WHAT IS THE HEALTH CARE SITUATION IN BANGLADESH?

"Even though approximately 10,000 trained nurses are unemployed at the moment, lack of proper government monitoring enables private clinics and hospitals to use unskilled, untrained and non-registered nurses, deteriorating the service."

Read more at: "[http://www.thedailystar.net/pf\\_story.php?nid=44622](http://www.thedailystar.net/pf_story.php?nid=44622)" [http://www.thedailystar.net/pf\\_story.php?nid=44622](http://www.thedailystar.net/pf_story.php?nid=44622)

"The country has a staggering shortage of 280,000 nurses, says a report of Bangladesh Health Watch in 2008. There are five doctors and two nurses for every 10,000 people... in terms of doctor-nurse ratio, there are 2.5 physicians per nurse, whereas there should be three nurses for each doctor."

Read more at: "<http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=95486>" <http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=95486>

"...unqualified healthcare providers manage patients ....The quality of care is often compromised further by prescribing unnecessary and expensive drugs to the poor and by switching to different drugs in the hope of curing diseases....The [study's] examination of the providers' use of drugs for pneumonia, fever, cold and diarrhoea revealed that 75 percent drugs were inappropriate, while 7 percent were harmful."

Read more at: "<http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=40960>" <http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=40960>



## VISITING FACULTY NEEDED FOR UPCOMING SEMESTERS

The IUBAT Nursing program runs year-round. We rely on international volunteers to assist with teaching and clinical supervision in all areas of nursing practice.

### WE NEED FACULTY FOR

SPRING SEMESTER	January - April 2010
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We need faculty to teach maternal child nursing.

Nutrition and medical-surgical nursing (March and April).

SUMMER SEMESTER	May - August 2010
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Maternal child, Mental health, Community health and medical-surgical nursing.

As well as professional issues.

Lesson plans for most courses are already prepared and all teaching is in English. Previous experience in teaching nursing is not essential. Social workers, dietitians, rehab professionals, pharmacists and physicians also teach in our program. The most important qualities for visiting faculty are openness to other cultures, enthusiasm about developing novice nurses, and flexibility.

You can learn more about this from our website...

[www.bangladeshhealthproject.com](http://www.bangladeshhealthproject.com)

"The achievements of Bangladesh in reducing child mortality are very encouraging... The caveat, however, is that the improvements are based on overall trends at the national level. Things would look quite different if we put on our "equity" lens....Consistently, we see that it is the children in the poorest households and in the poorest communities who are dying."

READ MORE AT: "<http://www.thedailystar.net/forum/2009/october/life.htm>" <http://www.thedailystar.net/forum/2009/october/life.htm>

## THANKS TO OUR VISITING FACULTY

Melodie Hull, a nurse educator from College of the Rockies in Cranbrook BC, visited IUBAT in summer 2009. Her mission was to help the College of Nursing develop a plan to improve English skills of nursing students. During her needs assessment, Melodie attended classes, met with faculty of IUBAT's English department and reviewed course texts. As her specialty is mental health nursing she also taught and visited our practicum sites in Dhaka.

YOU CAN READ MORE ABOUT HER VISIT AT: HYPERLINK "<http://www.cotr.bc.ca/press/fullhdLine.asp?IDnumber=462>" <http://www.cotr.bc.ca/press/fullhdLine.asp?IDnumber=462>

In her day job Lynn Buhler manages community health programs in Vancouver. This past summer she taught our senior students community health, including a practicum in middle-class and shanty communities near the university. She also supervised nursing students while they worked with physicians conducting health assessments at a school for poor children. (In this photo the children are holding their new personal health records.)

Afterwards she received this note from the school's head: "Thanks to you we were able to save a child's eyesight! One of the girls at the School of Hope was discovered to have an eye disorder as a result of the medical check up. [We] arranged for her to visit the Institute of Ophthalmology, where she was found to have a rare 1 in 100,000 disease. With two courses of antibiotics the disease was treated. [Untreated] her eyesight would have deteriorated rapidly, and she may have lost her sight."



CHILDREN AT SCHOOL OF HOPE DURING IUBAT SUPPORTED HEALTH CHECK-UPS.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST GRADUATES

In late August, five College of Nursing students completed all the requirements to receive the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from IUBAT.

In addition to their course work, each one defended a research project before a cross-university and external audience, wrote a comprehensive exam and passed an oral examination, again with a cross-faculty panel. Congratulations to Saphalata Chaudhary, Bimala Rai, Poonam Shah, Sweta Sharma and Sushila Shrestha! They are now eligible to apply for registration with the Bangladesh Nursing Council and begin their professional careers. We wish them well and look forward to reports of their achievements.

## FEEDBACK ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

"I have an experienced American nurse and a Canadian medical student rotating with our team.... They both expressed intense surprise and admiration of the IUBAT students. I find that they have a very sound fund of basic knowledge, a keen interest in learning, and they immediately pick up new knowledge and apply it with impressive logic and judgment.

The Canadian student says they are smarter than half of her medical school class. I use simulation to teach care of complex patients, and their abilities far exceed any doctor, let alone nurse, I have encountered in Bangladesh. You can and should be very proud of them; your program is a resounding success."

Prof. Brian Cobb, BSc, MD

Emergency, Internal and Critical Care Medicine  
Consultant

ICDDR,B Dhaka

## TWO NEW ARTICLES ABOUT IUBAT COLLEGE OF NURSING

Two of our intrepid volunteers have published accounts of their recent experiences in Dhaka. During summer 2008, Robin Scobie, a faculty member at University of Victoria, developed and taught one of the community health nursing courses. Her report is in the June issue of X-Claim! the newsletter from the Xi Eta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International <http://www.xieta.nursing.ubc.ca/XClaimJune2009.pdf>. Katie Scott, an Emergency Room nurse from Alberta, has made two trips to IUBAT to teach medical-surgical nursing.

YOU CAN READ HER ACCOUNT IN THE JOURNAL OF EMERGENCY NURSING JULY 2009:35 (4): 277-398: "<http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0099-1767%2809%2900147-0>" <http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0099-1767%2809%2900147-0>

## DISTANCE EDUCATION TRIALS

Last summer fifteen distance tutors supported students studying Professional Issues. The tutors, all experienced nurses and educators helped the students to develop research papers and class presentations exploring topics such as workplace safety, ethics and regulation. With tutors in Canada, Singapore, Abu Dhabi and Afghanistan the students benefited from a global perspective.

We also connected with nursing students at Langara College. During last semester and this fall semester, Langara educator Pat Woods has created an on-line discussion forum. The students explore topics like stress and social factors affecting nursing as part of their Professional Issues class. It was a benefit for both groups of students to learn about the differences in respect for and valuing of nurses' work in other parts of the world. We now need to improve our educational technology for more of these virtual exchanges.

