IUPUI Professor of Nursing Gives Lecture Series in Bangkok

Mary Fisher, associate professor in the School of Nursing (SON) at IUPUI, spent two weeks in November in Thailand, her second trip there under an Indiana University International Affiliation Exchange grant from the Office of International Programs. She presented a series of lectures on “International Topics for Nurse Executives” at the Nursing Redesign Conference held in Bangkok from November 16 to 18.

There were 110 nurse administrator participants from throughout Thailand, plus a dozen master’s in nursing students and faculty attending the three-day event. The first day of the conference featured Fisher’s keynote address, “Nursing Redesign: From Analysis to Action.” The second speaker, Tassana Boontong from the Thai Ministry of Health, who is also president of the Nursing Council, spoke about the national vision for nursing redesign as outlined in a recent government document. Fisher then gave two more lectures that were followed by panel discussions illustrating Thai applications of the concepts: “Mobilizing Nursing Care Redesign in an Era of Healthcare Reform” and “Family-Centered Redesign.”

On the second day, Fisher spoke about the implementation of redesign. Two panels responded to two more lectures by Fisher on “Redesigning Nursing Service to Improve Costs and Quality” and “Redesigning Nursing Education to Improve Costs and Quality” and presented their research/special projects related to those topics. The third day was a workshop with 14 participants and 6 faculty members on project management.

Participants developed project plans to redesign an aspect of nursing practice at their facility. It was a very successful workshop; participants were enthusiastic about the consultations they were receiving in support of their ideas. Future plans include securing a grant from the Thai Ministry of Health to assist the redesign of psychiatric services in clinical settings throughout Thailand.

In connection with the larger on-going collaborative efforts between the Schools of Nursing of IUPUI and Chulalongkorn University, three of their faculty, accompanied by 11 of their master’s students spent a week-long visit in October at IUPUI. Fisher hosted the delegation, assisted by other SON faculty and staff, who welcomed the delegation into their homes. The visitors heard lectures by numerous SON faculty and staff and visited clinical facilities on campus. For a field experience, they traveled off-campus in small groups to four clinical agencies and also took time to visit a popular state park. At the end of their stay, the students completed a large poster presentation of their experiences to present to the SON faculty.

—Mary Fisher
School of Nursing, IUPUI