A garden for contemplation

What started out as a large patch of dirt at the northwest corner of Edwards Hall has been transformed into a beautiful garden for Mennonite College of Nursing students, faculty, and visitors to enjoy. Included in the garden are medicinal plants and flowers, benches donated by the Classes of 91 and 97, a brick pathway, and a tree that provides shade in the late afternoon. It is a beautiful sight. The bench given by the Class of 97 has written on it “What Small Comfort Might I Give Up For Today In Order For A Dream To Come True?” It is a beautiful spot in which one might stop to contemplate the beauty of nursing, how far we have come, and how far we will go.

Call for third-party comments

Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University is preparing its self-study report for accreditation. The site visit is scheduled for Wednesday, April 3 through Friday, April 5, 2002. The college invites students, alumni, faculty, and the practice community to provide written input into the deliberation of the evaluation team. Written and signed comments concerning the nursing programs will be accepted by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education until March 2, 2002. Please mail your comments to:

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
Attention: Mark Jenkins, Accreditation Coordinator
One Dupont Circle, NW
Suite 530
Washington, DC 20036-1120
Happy holidays! As all of us reflect upon the challenges facing us this year, may we continue to celebrate our numerous blessings. Now more than ever, it is important for us to cherish our family and friends and to understand the significance of nursing to our community, the nation, and the world. I am so proud of our alumni, faculty, and students. All of you are making significant contributions to make this world a better place.

This fall Mennonite has hosted and sponsored several events. In September Pinya Supparin, a faculty member from Burapha University in Thailand, was here to attend various classes and clinicals. She also had the opportunity to meet out on one with several faculty members to discuss our programs. We are in the process of establishing an exchange program with Thailand and hope to have more many faculty and student exchanges.

On September 20 Mennonite cosponsored “Near- and Long-Term Changes in the Nursing Workforce: A Regional Nursing Conference” in Bloomington. Peter Buenhans, Ph.D, R.N. FAAN, Director of the National Institute of Nursing Research and senior associate dean of research at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing was the speaker, and more than 500 people attended this event.

Mennonite College of Nursing is also very active in the technology sector leading Edge, sponsored by Illinois State University. Experts on tele-health and Web-based technology provide a glimpse of the future of nursing. I hope that many of you have the opportunity to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities this series provides the community. You can find the full schedule at www.diu.edu/leadingedge.

You may recall reading an article in the last issue of The Flame about Mennonite College of Nursing adopting a grade school in Bloomingon. The project with Irving School is off to a great start. Mennonite College of Nursing students assisted with giving backpacks to the elementary students, and several faculty are providing health-related classes for the elementary classes. In addition, several nursing students are working with the school nurse, Holly Boeletto ’98, to form the role of the school nurse.

The faculty at Mennonite College of Nursing has achieved many milestones. Dr. Brenda Jeffers will have an article related to the ethics of biotechnology published in Advances in Nursing Science. The Teaching Nursing Home is also in full swing. Two of our faculty, Camille Lucke and Dianne Clemens, are collecting data on attitudes related to aging. Dr. Sara Campbell and Dr. Brenda Jeffers are incorporating the John A. Hartford Foundation’s Best Practices in Geriatric Nursing content in the curriculum.

We are also very proud of our student achievement at Mennonite College of Nursing. The President’s list of the Illinois Student Nurses Association, Carole Eaton, is a Mennonite College of Nursing student.

I wish you a happy and safe holiday!

Nancy Pederson
Mennonite College of Nursing
Carole Eatock president of student nurses group

Mennonite College of Nursing is proud to be the home of the Student Nurses Association of Illinois (SNA) president, Carole Eatock. Carole enrolled in the R.N. to B.S.N. program at Mennonite and has served on the SNA board for three years. She received a diploma of nursing at Methodist Medical Center in May 2001 and currently works in the cardiovascular intensive care unit. She first served as the director of marketing, then as secretary-treasurer, and currently as president of the Student Nurses Association of Illinois.

Her term as president started in October 2000, and since that time she has worked together with other board members to organize two statewide conventions. Last March the group held a leadership workshop with 90 attendees and different speakers, including Ann O’Sullivan, Illinois Nurses Association. The Student Nurses Association of Illinois hosted a statewide convention October 13 and 14, highlighting international nursing. Elizabeth Swanson was the keynote speaker and discussed her experience in Russia. When asked what she feels is the most beneficial aspect of being in SNA, she responded, “Being with people, meeting new people, and learning to network.” She has also enjoyed working as part of a team to accomplish a goal.

This is Carole’s first year at Mennonite College of Nursing as an R.N. to B.S.N. student. Although the campus is much larger than Methodist, the atmosphere at Mennonite has proved to be a small-school feel. Being in the R.N. to B.S.N. program has allowed her to experience two Web-based classes. Carole has completed her B.S.N., she plans to continue in a master’s program’s request to receive a degree as a family nurse practitioner.

Carole has worked with the Student Nurses Association at Mennonite to help make statewide connections with other students and medical organizations. One of Carole’s major jobs as president is to help other students see the benefits of joining Student Nurses Association. The benefits seem endless and include networking, finding different types of employment, organizational and communication skills, and, of course, enjoying friendships.

Maxwell family supports college

The Maxwell family has long been a supporter of Mennonite College of Nursing, most recently with the establishment of the Lena Maxwell Endowed Scholarship. Established in 1998 as a living memorial in her honor, it promotes caring and compassionate nursing care. Her brother Glenn Maxwell noted, “Nursing was her life; I can remember Lena saying, ‘I’ll die helping somebody.’”

This past June 24 the family got together for its annual gathering at Maxwell Park in Bloomington. Ten family members took this opportunity to visit Mennonite College of Nursing for a tour of the new facilities. It is an honor for Mennonite College of Nursing to have a relationship with this family that shares the vision and sees the importance of Mennonite College of Nursing’s mission to provide premier graduating nurses.
The Illinois State University Graduate Research Symposium was held April 27, 2001. Three Mennonite College of Nursing graduate students participated in this event. The Graduate Research Symposium provides students an opportunity to engage in a culminating experience of the research process, displaying, presenting, exhibiting, and demonstrating the results of the research. The symposium is an institutional celebration of the merger of academic learning and faculty mentorship.

Dr. Jane McCray served as the faculty advisor for Sandra Elliott and Karen Helfer. Sandra presented a poster presentation on “Access to Health Care for the Working Poor. A Qualitative Study to Describe the Experience.” Karen presented on “The Hemodialysis Patient: A Qualitative Study of the Live Experience.” Dr. Eileen Fowles served as the faculty advisor for Ann Garey, who presented “A Non-Experimental Descriptive Study of Pregnant Adolescent’s Knowledge of Perterm Birth.” Sandra Elliott’s study was to help understand the lived experience of people who are employed in low-paying jobs but do not have health insurance. Van Manen’s methodology was used to analyze the data and identify essential themes. “The phenomenon of Feeling Abandoned and Disillusioned: Living Without Health Insurance” was revealed from the data. Themes that supported this phenomenon were: being dropped and gaining caught; trying to make sense of the situation; being judged, singled out, put on display, and moving beyond. The best implication of this study is for health care providers to work toward a more equitable distribution of health care resources regardless of ability to pay.

Karen Helfer’s students focused on patients diagnosed with end-stage renal disease who choose hemodialysis as treatment and “enter into a medical system of care that is not designed for them.” The implications for nursing are “as more people are diagnosed with renal failure, the need for health care personnel increases. Nurses play an essential role in providing for the needs of hemodialysis patients. They have the education and the ability to recognize and identify potential or emerging health problems. Karen dealt with preterm birth in adolescents who are at an increased risk for preterm birth “Findings indicate that history of preterm birth does not equate a pregnant adolescent with knowledge of self-care or that staff perceive symptoms of preterm birth. The study also identifies the factors related to preterm birth, such as gestational age, that are least understood by pregnant adolescents and thus may hamper detection and effective treatment of preterm birth.” Implications for nurses include health promotion and primary prevention to observe the health of infant birth to adolescent mothers. “This includes planning and implementing strategies to meet the pregnant adolescent’s educational and communication needs surrounding preterm birth.”

As faculty, staff, students, and alumni we are proud of the diversity and excellence of scholarship at Illinois State University and of our graduate students at Mennonite College of Nursing for participating in events both on and off campus demonstrating our wealth of research and faculty mentorship.

Symposia set for April 2002

Each spring the Graduate School at Illinois State University—along with the Graduate Student Association and Research and Sponsored Programs—holds Undergraduate and Graduate Research Symposia. The Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held Friday, April 5, 2002, and the Graduate Research Symposium will be held Friday, April 26, 2002. Mennonite College of Nursing encourages students to participate in research in the form of poster presentation, oral presentation, media, or reading and performances. Students interested in participating can obtain guidelines and application materials from their research faculty advisor in the Graduate School office (Hovey Hall 305) or on the Graduate School Web site at www.grad.ilstu.edu. The symposia are open to all students enrolled at Illinois State University and engaged in research under the direction of a faculty advisor. In addition to recognizing and encouraging research at the undergraduate and graduate levels, these events provide professional advancement experience.
College, honorary society sponsor conference

Memorial College of Nursing at Illinois State University and Xi Pi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International were among the nine cosponsors of a one-day nursing leadership conference titled “Near-and Long-Term Changes in the Nursing Workforce: A Regional Nursing Conference” on September 20 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center. Approximately 450 student nurses, nurses, and administrators participated in the conference that addressed the growing nursing shortage.

Peter Buhrman, senior associate dean of research at Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, was the featured speaker. He discussed the nursing shortage in America and what the future may hold. As society’s demand for health care increases the number of registered nurses will increase. It is projected that by the year 2008 there will be 794,000 RN job openings. Education costs, nursing wages, age and supply of faculty, and a rapidly aging RN workforce are all factors in the shortage of registered nurses. Suggested courses of action include improving the image of nursing, reducing the cost of nursing education, eliminating stigmas and barriers for men and minorities, and increasing the supply of faculty. Ergonomic changes in the workplace are also needed to support the current workforce.

It is important for those in the growing nursing shortage to address ergonomic changes on the workforces. Research on how the workforce and its impact on the quality of care, make officials in government aware of the problems a nursing shortage would create, and promote positive public opinion of nurses. Buhrman’s final thought “What do we do today to deal with existing shortages and problems in the workforce will go a long way in determining the timing and severity of the projected shortage still to come.”

Numerous vendors and displays from local hospitals, nursing homes, and nursing programs added to the day. This is the third annual nursing leadership conference with which Memorial College of Nursing has been involved.

Faculty news
Accomplishments
Dr. Sara Campbell’s poster “Academic and Practice Partnerships: Use of a Empowerment Model to Meet the Demand of Professional Nurse Leaders” was accepted for a poster presentation at the annual National Conference on Nursing Administration Research in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dr. Brenda Jeffers will have an article related to the ethics of biotechnology published in Advancements in Nursing Science. The journal has a 90 percent rejection rate. Memorial College of Nursing is very proud of Dr. Jeffers’ accomplishment.

Dr. Donna Kondrat’s grant application to the Department of Health and Human Services’ Advanced Education Nursing Trainership Program was funded for more than $37,000 to support the Memorial College of Nursing family nurse practitioner (FNP) program and FNP students.

Pamela Lindsey received an advance practice nurse licensure as certified clinical nurse specialist.

Dr. Caroline Mallory had a manuscript based on her postdoctoral work accepted for publication.

Dr. Nancy Ridenour and Dr. Denise Wilson received an advance practice nurse license as certified nurse practitioners.

Presentations


Publications


Mennonite College of Nursing welcomes

Mary Bailey began as a tenure-track faculty member at Mennonite College of Nursing this fall. She has a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Iowa and a master’s degree in family nursing from Northern Illinois University.

She has a doctorate in clinical psychology from South- ern California University for Professional Studies. She has been a nurse and nurse educator, and loves what she does. “The students keep me on my toes, and I always learn from them.”

She has had clinical practice experience in orthopedics, medical/surgical, and community health. She started and administered a family planning clinic for the Rock Island County Health Department and is finishing up a post-master’s certifi- cation in holistic nursing from Bethel College of Nursing, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. She is a nurse master trainer/practitioner and is also certified as level II-B in healing touch. In her spare time she practices in holistic nursing skills, designs outdoor healing spaces for clients, and has done presentations on holistic nursing for Michigan State University and other organizations.

She is now beginning a new project with Heritage Manor, where she hopes to teach some of Heritage’s staff the techniques of reiki for themselves. “I am more than excited for both Mennonite College of Nursing and Heritage Enterprises.”

Kathleen Burger started working as the associate dean at Mennonite College of Nursing on August 27, 2011. She is a graduate of Normal Community High School and has worked on special projects at Mennonite in the past.

Mary Ryan Bailey has been working as the director of academic affairs at Mennonite College of Nursing. She is a reiki master teacher/practitioner and is very excited about this new role. “I’m very looking forward to working with students and faculty to bring about new opportunities for both the college and the community.”

With sympathy

52 Darlene (Oyler) Brooks lost her husband of 48½ years, Herbert, to lung cancer on April 19, 2001. She has moved to 1 West Buchanan Avenue, Apartment 1, Charleston, Illinois 61920-2521, but will continue to spend mid-October to mid-April in Bradenton, Florida.

57 Jerald “Jerry” Reis, 56, of Lone Wolf, Oklahoma, died February 5, 2001, at his residence. He was born December 1, 1944, in Mendon, Michigan, to Eugene and Eva Reis. He was married to Jeanette Reis in 1970.

51 Jeanette was employed as a registered nurse at BroMenn Regional Medical Center for 20 years, first in the medical unit and then as a charge nurse in the obstetrics unit. Jeanette was also employed at Carle Clinic, Bloomington, where she was nurse practitioner. In addition, Jeanette was a clinical instructor in obstetrics and pediatrics at Mennonite College of Nursing.

Education

Mennonite College of Nursing is a leader in nursing education, and through the service commitments of faculty and students, we will become a leader in public service and wellness promotion for communities surrounding Illinois State University. The Illinois State University Educating Illinois action plan encourages connections between faculty and students outside of the classroom in order to better educate students. Several projects have been created by students and faculty with service activities, includ- ing participation in the Wellness program for faculty and staff at Illinois State, and the “adoption” of a local public grade school.

Several faculty members formed a team headed by Eileen Wolfe to participate in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. This event raises money to fight cancer. It also increases community awareness of cancer and stimulates a real sense of relationship among the participants.

As part of the “adoption” of the elementary students from the Wellness program, students participated in blood pressure screenings for Illinois State faculty and staff andouthrough the year. Students take blood pressure and discuss preventive care. In the past, the students have also participated in the short clinics and cholesterol screenings. This not only benefits the students, it helps the Illinois State University Wellness program provide service to faculty, staff, and students.

Faculty and students are continuing their work at Irving School, a public school in Bloomington District 87. Irving has been noted for its high percentage of disadvantaged students and works to meet the health care needs of the children with one nurse working at two schools. Holly Reillett, school nurse and Mennonite alumna, is working with nursing students to educate them on the role of the school nurse. Last year Mennonite College of Nursing began working with Principal Mary Kate Schaff to start a program with students on wellness promotion and illness prevention. In August Bailey was with school supply spon- sored by Mennonite College of Nursing by distributing to all elementary students. On September 21 students and faculty host- ed an assembly and were able to visit with students in the classrooms. This promises to be a positive experience for all involved. This experience will benefit Mennonite College of Nursing students through out-of-class experiences that connect and comple- ment in-class curriculum. Irving students will benefit through wellness events and possible health career ideals.

Extenstion program initiated

Mennonite College of Nursing initiated an extension program this year to provide academic credit to students working full time in health-related jobs during the summer. This program is designed to provide nursing students the opportunity to become socialized into the professional nursing role and to observe and participate in the full continuum of patient care during daily clinical duties. It is offered in collaboration with a nurse preceptor in a health care setting. The student, the preceptor, and the College of Nursing professional practice coordinator develop an individualized writ- ten learning contract. Students took advantage of the opportunities at several sites this summer.

Students spent eight weeks during the summer working 32 hours a week in different units at BroMenn. Five students were assigned to preceptors in a specific area of the hospital as well as a chance to experience nursing care that may not have the opportunity to experience during their clinical rotations.

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Students were assigned to preceptors in a specific area of the hospital as well as a chance to experience nursing care that may not have the opportunity to experience during their clinical rotations.
Memonite College of Nursing’s transcultural program is growing and providing students a way to do in-depth inspection of patients. “Nurses do not use stethoscopes or contribute to patient assessments. Doctors are the ones who do basic assessments.” One of Lisa’s biggest surprises was the fact that nurses do not test to work in the nursing field, instead they write papers. Students are paid to go to nursing school and work in a clinical setting while they are in school. “Students are not required to attend classes that do not pertain to the type of nursing they will do. For instance, a nursing student who will work in cardiac is not required to attend classes about pediatric care.” Lisa pointed out, “The nurses know the information, but they are not tested. You are a nurse if you graduate from school.” Nurses in England are content to be traditional in their nursing role. Lisa questioned her preceptor about this. “The nurses in Eastborne feel their most important job is basic care and comfort measures.” Lisa came back from England appreciating the level of education she is exposed to and the opportunities nurses in the United States are given. “There really is no fair way to compare the hospitals in Russia to the hospitals here in the United States.” Amy Crawford’s first thought when asked to compare the health care system in Russia and the United States. The constant need for supplies and dated equipment make health care delivery in Russia very difficult. Amy talked about her experience. “I worked in a wounded ward and was given one pair of disposable gloves to wear for that day. Masks for surgery are made from bandage material and reused. Needles are sharpened and reused. Syringes are all glass and are reused. In Russian society, working in health care is not necessarily a high-status position as it is here in the United States. The doctors at Sotnitsa make about $30 to $50 a month. A person can make a lot more money as a taxi driver than they can as a doctor.” After arriving in Russia, Amy quickly realized that the most important thing to do is to build relationships. If you know people, things can get done. Although her trip to Russia was a “heartbreaking” one, Amy was pleased with her experiences and comes back to Mennonite with a new perspective. She came back with the different outlook “I think that the most valuable lesson for me was to learn to be patient and to be flexible. Life is very different in Russia.”

Mennonite College of Nursing continues to challenge and enlighten students through its transcultural program. It is important for students to experience other cultures and health care systems. Students study cultural care diversity at Mennonite, experience other cultures and health care systems. It is important for students to challenge and enlighten students through its transcultural program. It is important for students to experience other cultures and health care systems. Students study cultural care diversity at Mennonite, experience other cultures and health care systems. It is important for students to challenge and enlighten students through its transcultural program. It is important for students to experience other cultures and health care systems. Students study cultural care diversity at Mennonite, experience other cultures and health care systems. It is important for students to challenge and enlighten students through its transcultural program. It is important for students to experience other cultures and health care systems. Students study cultural care diversity at Mennonite, experience other cultures and health care systems. It is important for students to challenge and enlighten students through its transcultural program. It is important for students to experience other cultures and health care systems. Students study cultural care diversity at Mennonite, experience other cultures and health care systems.

Oyer retires after almost half a century

Romney Oyer, Class of 1951, retired after 47 years in nursing. Romney always now she wanted to help people. She started school at Illinois State Normal University to become a teacher but decided to switch gears and go to Mennonite School of Nursing. She graduated in 1951 and went to work as an assistant nursing arts instructor at Mennonite School of Nursing in Bloomington in 1956 as a clinical instructor. After three years, she decided she needed more hands-on experience. She thought she would be a staff nurse instead was appointed to head nurse. “That’s my favorite job” Oyer said. “Talk and comfort measures are no surprise. I still like feeding patients,” she said. “It’s so rewarding, if someone doesn’t feel like eating and you can provide some encouragement, it’s very important.” Nursing has changed through the years to include more technical jobs and assignments. “I enjoy nursing today. We still have contact with patients and families. And, we can do so much with them—the techniques, materials, and medications. We can get people out so much quicker.” Romney has been volunteering at the Community Health Care Clinic and her church. She noted that she would miss friends in BroMenn’s medical unit. She retired August 30. She has worked with students at Mennonite School of Nursing, at Mennonite Hospital in Bloomington, and then at BroMenn Regional Medical Center in Normal. She was recently recognized by district six of the Illinois Nurses Association for the work she had done with them as well as for being a role model for professional nursing behavior. Romney serves on the Board of Directors of the Mennonite College of Nursing Alumni Organization.

Student nurses group growing

Students who attend Mennonite College of Nursing are busy but have always managed to be active in student activities both at the college and in the community. The meeting attendance for the Student Nurses Association (SNA) has been between 50 and 70 students. SNA meetings are held twice monthly on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. in Moulton Hall 214 because the group has become too large to meet in Edwards Hall. From October 12 to 14, President Cheryl Coleman and twelve SNA members attended the Student Nurses Association of Illinois convention in Peoria. Arla Deavers, president of the Mennonite College of Nursing Alumni Board spoke at the October 9 meeting. SNA member Kate Jakowiak is SNA’s student director to the alumni board in hopes of fostering a stronger relationship with its members. The students have a busy schedule for the coming month, including speakers, recruitment activities, and service projects.

Transcultural experiences are real eye-openers for students

One way of making this happen is to experience difference. It is important for nurses to create an atmosphere in which patients feel comfortable and safe. One way of making this happen is to experience difference. It is important for nurses to create an atmosphere in which patients feel comfortable and safe. One way of making this happen is to experience difference. It is important for nurses to create an atmosphere in which patients feel comfortable and safe. One way of making this happen is to experience difference. It is important for nurses to create an atmosphere in which patients feel comfortable and safe.
A thoughtful gift is always meaningful, whatever the time of year. However, as the last days of 2001 "tick away," don't forget to take advantage of the opportunity to make a charitable contribution and perhaps reduce your taxable income at the same time. Your year-end gift to Mennonite College of Nursing may reduce your income tax, while providing meaningful support for us.

Giving is, of course, more than tax brackets and charitable deductions. It is a message of appreciation...a "thank-you" for past blessings...a means of sharing with others...a way to make a difference.

Whatever your motivation, current tax laws provide incentives for you to express your charitable spirit. Our federal government encourages charitable giving by providing significant tax benefits when a gift is made to a qualified organization. A gift may be made in a number of ways, including cash, securities, real estate, and personal property. Through careful planning, you can identify the option that best fits your situation.

Looking to the future...In addition to gifts made as part of a year-end review of finances, don't overlook the need to develop longrange estate and financial planning. Becoming a philanthropist, creating a lasting legacy for future generations, can be accomplished through your will, life insurance, and retirement plans. You have the power to make dreams come true.

Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University welcomes your charitable support

Based on your wishes, your contribution can be used for general support or applied to specific areas of need such as scholarship, research, equipment and technology, faculty support, etc. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yes! I want to give. I am including a cash gift of $__________________________

(Note: In order to qualify as a 2001 gift, make sure the mailing envelope is postmarked by December 31, 2001.

Mail your gift to Illinois State University, Dorothy Wite, Director of Development, Campus Box 3060, Normal, IL 61790-3060.)

Please designate my gift to the following:

☐ Mennonite College of Nursing Endowment Fund
☐ Mennonite College of Nursing Endowed Scholarship Fund
☐ Mennonite College of Nursing Endowed Professorship Award for Chronic Disease
☐ Dr. Kathleen A. Hogan Faculty Development Endowed Fund
☐ General Fund

Please make your check payable to Illinois State University Foundation and write "Mennonite College of Nursing" on the memo line to ensure correct deposit. Complete the form below and enclose it with your gift.

Looking for unrestricted bequest language for your will?

"I give, devise, and bequeath (the sum of $________/______ percentage, or the residue of my estate) to Illinois State University Foundation..."
Piriya Supparsi visited Mennonite College of Nursing this September. She is a faculty member in nursing in the maternal and child department at Burapha University in Chonburi, Thailand. Burapha offers a Bachelor of Nursing Science; a Master of Nursing Science with focuses in community nursing, adult nursing, family nursing, gerontological nursing, and nursing administration; and will have a Ph.D. program beginning in 2004. There are approximately 550 B.S.N. students, 150 B.R.N. to B.S.N. students, and 50 master’s students (10 in each focus). They also have a part-time program on Friday and Saturday in Jantaburi, Thailand, with 50 students. The Thai Nursing Council will be eliminating two-year programs of nursing and require all nursing degrees to be four year B.S.N. degrees.

The Nursing College in Thailand is divided into several departments, including community nursing, maternal and child nursing, medical and surgical nursing, mental health and psychiatric nursing, basic science in nursing, and research evaluation and nursing administration. The college mission is to provide its community and other regions of Thailand with high-quality care services by putting the emphasis on health promotion. They promote academic excellence in research both nationally and internationally, and distribute results through national and international media.

While at Illinois State University, Piriya participated in several college events, including community activities, clinical experiences, and classes. She attended the “Near- and Long-Term Changes in the Nursing Workforce: A Regional Nursing Conference.” She participated in an assembly and visited classes at Irving School, a local public school that Mennonite College of Nursing has “adopted.” She went to a mother/child clinical at BroMenn Regional Center and to a community health clinical in Livingston County among others. She also attended undergraduate and graduate classes, including “Patho Basis,” “Family Nurse Practitioner III,” and “Diagnostic Reasoning.” Although there are differences in culture and technology, the health care delivery system here is similar to that of Thailand.

A large part of Burapha University’s mission is to strengthen the abilities of nurses nationally and internationally through cooperation with international nursing institutes. Mennonite College of Nursing is developing a transcultural program with Burapha. This will involve faculty and student exchanges. Burapha has international collaborations in Australia, the United States, Canada, China, and Vietnam.