

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

International Nursing Student Exchange Continues with Norway

International nursing student experiences continue to develop at Augustana. Student exchanges, faculty collaboration, presentations, and meeting with the US ambassador were highlights of the year. In August 2008, ten Norwegian senior nursing students and one graduate nursing student arrived at the Sioux Falls airport from two Universities in Norway, Bodø University College and Høgskolen Diakonova in Oslo. They were welcomed by faculty, staff and senior nursing student mentors, Johanna Gronewold and Heather Weiszhaar.

Norwegian students participated in an orientation course, coordinated by



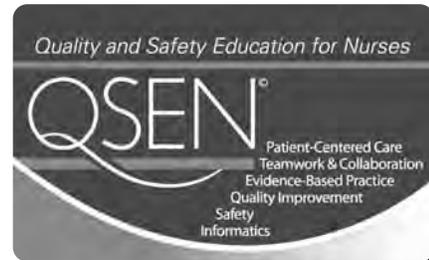
Professor Pamela Schroeder, prior to the beginning of the fall semester. They visited clinical agencies to introduce them to similarities and differences between US and Norwegian health care, and professional nursing roles. They were oriented to the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN—see earlier discussion) competencies of patient-centered care, teamwork and collaboration, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, safety, and informatics. Students were especially intrigued with the differences between privatized and universal healthcare benefits. Professor Vickie Reiff provided a comprehensive health assessment seminar focused on refining the students' health assessment skills, since in-depth physical assessment is not included in the Norwegian nursing scope of practice.

Upon successful completion of a clinical simulation for skill validation, each student received a QSEN card to serve as a "passport into clinical practice." A seminar focusing on the American Indian population provided opportunities for comparing Norway's Sami people with American Indians. Several students then traveled with Nursing Professor Karla Abbott to the Cheyenne River Reservation where they experienced a Pow Wow, traditional foods, music and a Peace Pipe Ceremony.

A highlight of the fall semester was a visit by Professors Wenche Sørfonden, Lars Westvig and Helga Finstad from Bodø University College. They attended classes, visited their students in clinical areas, and gave presentations on chronic illness and nursing research for nursing students and faculty. They left Augustana feeling very positively about their students' experiences at Augustana and were

particularly impressed with the students' involvement in clinical simulation. Conversations between Augustana and Bodø faculty will continue regarding visiting professor opportunities and collaborative research projects.

A trip to Norway in January allowed Pamela Schroeder and other college colleagues to evaluate the nursing student exchange experiences and to discuss future opportunities for students. Pam, along with Michael Nitz, Coordinator of Norwegian Studies and Donn Grinager, International Director, made presentations to faculty and students at Telemark University College in Porsgrunn; Høgskolen Diakonova in Oslo; Bodø University College, University of Stavanger, and Stord/Haugesund University College in Stord. The international students who attended Augustana during the fall



semester and the Augustana senior nursing students who completed nursing leadership experiences in Norway during January 2009 reflected that they "had trips of a lifetime that changed our lives and provided us with a better understanding of nursing and health care. We encourage other students to be involved in this immersion experience." We welcomed four students from Bodø and Hedmark, Norway in August.



Professors Wenche Sørfonden & Lars Westvig