



WCSU ALUMNI NURSING SOCIETY

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

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Annual
Membership
Dues

Annual membership dues for the Alumni Nursing Society are due each year on **May 1**. Please continue to support your society. Membership dues help with expenses such as materials, mailings, scholarships and events. Please see the Membership and Pledge form enclosed. We thank you for your support.



Changed your name, address and/or email since graduating from WCSU?

Please update us with your contact information. Contact the WCSU Alumni Office at (203) 837-8298 or visit www.wcsu.edu/ia/update.asp.



April 30, 2014
4 p.m.

Warner Hall, Midtown Campus

Guest Speaker: Harriette Tax, RN, Ph.D.
“Notes on Aging: Implications for Nursing”

We are very pleased to have Professor Emeritus of Nursing Harriette Tax at our spring event. She has been a wonderful supporter of the WCSU Alumni Nursing Society. She is a graduate of Adelphi University and received her Ph.D. from New York University. From 1971 through 1998, Dr. Tax taught at WCSU in both the undergraduate and graduate nursing programs. She taught psychiatric nursing, community health and nursing research in the undergraduate program and nursing research in the graduate program. She received the Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY) Distinguished Service Award at the annual VNSNY Volunteer Luncheon in 2007. Dr. Tax volunteers with several environmental groups including Hospice and VNSNY. We look forward to seeing you at the Spring Event!

Members of the 2014 Senior Nursing Class will present their senior projects at the event. We hope you can join us.

News from the WCSU Nursing Department

From Dr. Joan Palladino, department chair

The fall semester was very successful. Our retention rate was high and our students were very successful in the clinical areas. Professor Riley took the NUR 227 students to the Tenement Museum in NYC. This was an insightful educational experience.

We welcomed two new tenure-track faculty to the nursing department: Jennifer Ort and Mary Nielson. Ort will be teaching in the RN/B.S. program and NUR 325, and Nielson will teach in NUR 335 and the M.S. program.



For more information about what is going on at WCSU, visit: www.wcsu.edu/alumni.



Please consider donating equipment or funds to help us furnish the nursing labs and provide services and scholarships to our students.

If any alumni with master's degrees are interested in teaching as an adjunct or helping the nursing department, we'd love to hear from you.

Alumni Nursing Society Board Members:

Monica Sousa '04, '10
Lois Crucitti '71, '97
Leah Turner '71, '91
Chris Beaudoin '91
Michelle DiMauro '09
Cecilia Abreu '10
Kristen Lamanna '10
Harriet Tax, Faculty Emeritus

We also have a new department secretary, Terri-Ann Tilquist, who started on December 13. Kathy Barber retired last September and is enjoying time with her grandchildren. I want to thank all the faculty and staff for making the fall semester successful and encourage alumni to stop by the nursing department if they have the opportunity to visit campus.

From Dr. Laurel Halloran, M.S. program coordinator:

Change is all around us, defining not only what we teach, but also how we teach our students.

The master's program completed its curricular revision this fall. This was an opportunity for us to revisit all of the courses and update them with required elements reflecting the newest developments in health care. Among the changes that were made was an increased emphasis on the threads of ethics content throughout the curriculum. Leadership and political action threads were evaluated and strengthened from the onset in foundational courses through the role support courses. Finally, the new content related to genomics/genetics was integrated throughout the curriculum. You may also note that the tracks now bear different names. In keeping with the Licensure-Accreditation-Certification-Education (LACE) Agreement, the WCSU program now offers tracks in Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist. The Adult NP and CNS programs are no longer offered as the exams for these specializations are being retired as of December 2014.

Thank you to all of those alumni who have acted as preceptors for the current students in the program this year. This is a wonderful way to both give back to your alma mater and profession. We are always interested in growing our network of preceptors. Please contact me if you would be willing to share your expertise with a student for some time during the fall or spring semesters at halloranl@wcsu.edu or 203-426-3290.

We also are looking to recruit alumni as an advisory group for the master's program. If you are willing to share your thoughts and ideas on how to better meet the needs of graduate students and advanced practice nurses, we would welcome your input. Our plan is to hold videoconferences so that alumni can participate from home. Please contact me if you can spare one hour a semester to help us to improve the program.

From Dr. Ellen Abate, program coordinator for the Ed.D. in Nursing Education program:

I am pleased to report that the doctoral students have reached another milestone in their educational journey. They were successful in passing their comprehensive examination, which attests to their mastery and synthesis of knowledge related to the doctoral courses. Students will now progress with the research and dissertation phase of their program of study.

The Department of Nursing is happy to announce that the second doctoral cohort for the online Ed.D. program will start in fall 2014. We are currently accepting applications with a deadline of March 1, 2014. Applications and an application checklist are now available on our nursing website.