



WCSU Alumni Nursing Society

News

Western Connecticut State University

Alumni Nursing Society Issue Fall 2008

Nursing Graduate Program at WCSU

The graduate nursing program continues to offer both the NP track and the CNS track. In conjunction with Southern Connecticut State University, we are also continuing to offer Nurse Educator courses. Fall 2008 courses include Advanced Pathophysiology and Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice. Nursing Research, Advanced Assessment, Theoretical Basis for Nursing Practice and Contemporary Issues in Nursing will be offered this spring 2009. There are also plans to expand the graduate program.

Did you know...

You can take graduate courses as a non-matriculated student? Students may take up to 6 credits of graduate courses prior to being fully matriculated in the MS program. These credits are fully applicable to degree requirements. Please see our website www.wcsu.edu/graduate for all program offerings and requirements or contact Dr. Daley at daleyk@wcsu.edu.

Message from the Dean

by Lynne W. Clark, Ph. D.

Welcome to the beginning of the fall season. I hope you had an enjoyable summer. It has been a busy summer here at WestConn. All is well with the School of Professional Studies and its Nursing Department. Our Nursing faculty have been actively preparing for our CCN site visit in early October for re-accreditation of our undergraduate and graduate programs. I anticipate the visit will go well with full re-accreditation as the positive outcome.

April 18, 2008, was proclaimed by Governor M. Jodi Rell as WestConn's Nursing Faculty Day confirming that our department continues to prepare highly qualified clinical nurses, practitioners, and nurse educators and leaders. During the summer, under the leadership of Dr. Karen Crouse, Dr. Karen Daley, Provost Linda Rinker, Dean Ellen Durnin and myself, WestConn has been exploring with Southern Connecticut State University, the feasibility of offering a joint Ed. D. in Nursing. Through the efforts of Dr. Daley and Professor Deb Lajoie, WestConn's Nursing Department received substantial funding through a CSU-wide FIPSE Initiative to cover the purchase of clinical and technology equipment for the new Critical Care Unit Laboratory and to assist our nursing students with their education costs. On your next visit to campus, make sure you stop by to see this new Lab, which should be up and running this fall.

While the Nursing Department received this funding, CSU and WestConn have already felt the impact of the state's annual reduction in funding to the four CSU institutions. WestConn's Nursing Department wants to remain as one of the premier and leading Conn. higher education institutions in providing exceptional professional nursing programs. Any financial support towards student scholarships or the creation of a state of the art clinical advanced technology student training lab, or even volunteering to mentor a student or calling other nursing alumni during WestConn's Annual Phonathon, would be most helpful.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the Nursing Alumni Society Reception last spring, and hope that those alumni who could not attend will attend at least one of the events planned this year. Until we meet again, enjoy the remaining lazy days of summer and the beginnings of the Fall season

Alumni Nursing Society Annual Membership Dues

Annual membership dues for the Alumni Nursing Society (ANS) are being accepted. Enclosed is a membership and pledge form. Please support us so we can continue to grow and provide you with special events and news.

Currently we hold two events

each year and produce two newsletters keeping you informed on the exciting events that are happening in the Nursing Department and on campus. Your dues also help with expenses such as materials, mailings, scholarships and events. And remember, when you join the ANS, you also

activate your membership in the Alumni Association, our parent organization. Active membership entitles you to a membership card and many special benefits and privileges only available to WestConn alumni. Activate your membership today and support your alma mater!

Nursing Alumni Participate in Homecoming 2008

Homecoming Day at WestConn will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2008 on the university's Westside campus. Nursing Alumni Society members are encouraged to attend this year's homecoming festivities.

A tailgate party and continental breakfast will take place at 10 a.m. in the tailgating area adjacent to the O'Neill Center. During half-time of the football game, the Alumni Association will sponsor their traditional Alumni Hospitality Tent located across the street from the Athletic Stadium. The Nursing Alumni Society will again have a designated area inside the tent. The cost to enter is \$5/person where beer, wine refreshments and snacks will be served.

Students representing numerous

clubs and activities participate in the Street Fair and offer an array food items and products for sale. There are activities for children and, this year, spectators will be entertained with live music throughout the afternoon by Latanya Farrell and The Bookman Styles Band.

If you haven't already joined the Nursing Alumni Society, this would be the perfect opportunity to do so. Network with alumni and reconnect with your alma mater. You can pick up an application at the Nursing Alumni Society's table and also purchase a an alumni nursing decal to display proudly on your car. The WCSU Student Nurses Association will also be displaying various nursing items for purchase. Proceeds will benefit future events sponsored by the Nursing Alumni Society.

Stop by and join in the fun at Homecoming 2008!

Nursing Window Decals

The Alumni Nursing Society is selling window decals as our fundraiser. The black and white decal measures four by six inches and costs \$5 each.



You can purchase one through Kathy Barber in the nursing department, by visiting the WCSU Middtown Bookstore, or by contacting Monica Perry at Monissa28@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for your support!

How can we help you?

We want you to get the most of out of your membership to the WCSU Alumni Nursing Society. Please let us know if you have any ideas or concerns. You can email Monica Perry at Monissa28@sbcglobal.net.

Nursing Department and Faculty News

by Dr. Karen Crouse

- ◆ Dr. Karen Daley has been elected our new MS coordinator for 2008-2010. Dr Daley has a background in adult nursing and nursing education. She holds a BS in Nursing from Villanova University, her MS in Nursing from Troy State University, and her PhD in Nursing from Rutgers.
- ◆ Accreditation visit, October 1-3, 2008: The Department has been preparing a self study report to submit to the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education (CCNE) for program re-accreditation. A team of four faculty from programs outside the state of Connecticut will be on campus in October 2008, for a site visit related to the accreditation. They will visit classes, clinical sites, and meet with students, faculty, administrators, and nursing leaders in our community. Faculty are already working on the

self study report and are gathering materials for exhibits for this visit. The nursing department is looking for community leaders and alumni to attend a meeting on October 2 at 4 p.m. The location is yet to be determined. Please contact Dr. Crouse at crousek@wcsu.edu

- ◆ The Nursing Department has new faculty joining us this fall. Dr. Mary Ellen Doherty and Professor Robin Goodrich are joining us. We are thrilled to have one of our own graduates who is a wonderful educator joining us formally!
- ◆ Scholarship money will be available for the fall 2008 and spring 2009 semester through the federally funded CSU Initiative to Improve the Capacity and Preparation of the Nursing Workforce. In addition, this initiative will fund a new ICU and

Advanced Nursing lab with a state of the art SimMan 3G in Higgins Annex 201A. With this initiative, we will be working on retention and remediation through simulation. The co-project directors are Dr. Karen Daley and Professor Deb Lajoie.

- ◆ With the help of Sukhi Bajwa '08, Dr. Halloran, Dr. Daley and Professor Moreland opened the new pediatric lab.
- ◆ Dr. Patricia Lund retired from the Nursing Department. We all wish her well and thank her for her many accomplishments and service.
- ◆ Dr. Karen Crouse received promotion to Associate Professor and was granted tenure.

www.wcsu.edu/nursingalumni