



WCSU Alumni Nursing Society

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

FALL 2009 NEWSLETTER

**COME MEET US
AT THE ALUMNI
HOSPITALITY
TENT ON
OCTOBER 24TH
DURING THE
HOMECOMING
CELEBRATIONS**

Go to
[www.wcsu.edu/alumni/
events.asp](http://www.wcsu.edu/alumni/events.asp) for more
information.



**CHECK OUT
OUR WEB SITE**

Please visit the WCSU Alumni Nursing Society web site at www.wcsu.edu/nursing/alumni/ for lots of great information! You can view past and current newsletters, get information on upcoming events, see the photo gallery of past events and get nursing window decal information. Alumni membership applications are also available online. Thank you for your support!

Notes from the WCSU Nursing Department Chair, Dr. Karen Crouse

Hard to believe another fall semester is here so soon! We've been busy over the summer working on projects and curricular changes. I am now in my third year as chair of the department. It is hard to believe that the years pass so quickly! The last three years have seen many changes in our department. We have had faculty come and go. We have weathered challenges as well and yet we continue to do good work everyday. The challenges last year included the never ending budget saga, the faculty search process stopping midstream as we were increasing our enrollments and adding locations.

In April we were notified that we received 10 years of full accreditation from the Commission of Colleges of Nursing (CCNE). Not a small feat! We have reason to be proud!

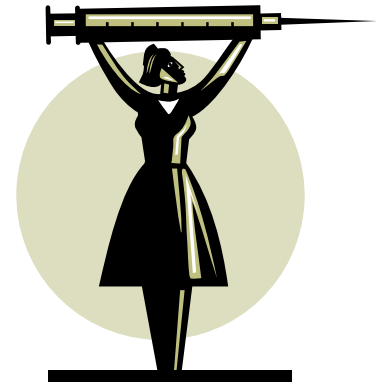
GROWING NURSING PROGRAMS

Today, we have 150 students in our undergraduate program, 81 RN-BS students and 36 students in our MS program. The requirements for our undergraduate program were changed several years ago and this year's sophomore class enters with a Grade Point Average of 3.0 and higher. It has become a highly competitive process. Our Student Committee works diligently on the process throughout the academic year.

Right now we know that we have a **97% NCLEX pass rate**. We're waiting to hear from the one to two students! We're very proud of our graduates. There are several students who are still job seeking at the moment. Not a big surprise given the economy and the state of health care! Hopefully, all who are looking will find nursing jobs soon.

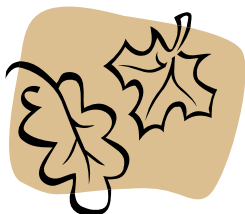
NURSING FACULTY NEWS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We welcome three one year special appointments this year. **Sandy Lami-Jahr** graciously agreed to stay on for a second year. Her clinical expertise is in critical care. She is currently teaching Clinical Nursing Practice III. **Linda Warren**, a recent graduate of the University of Hartford's MS in Nursing Education, is also teaching Clinical Nursing Practice III. Her clinical expertise is in critical care. **Christine Berte**, a



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 Sousa, RN BSN at Monissa28@sbcglobal.net



Annual Membership Dues

Annual membership dues for the Alumni Nursing Society are due **each year on May 1st**. Please continue to support your Society. We need your help. We hold about two events and produce two newsletters each year, keeping you informed on the exciting events that are happening in the Nursing Department and at WCSU. 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.



graduate of Pace University and Fairfield University, joins us after years of teaching as an adjunct at Fairfield teaching advanced health assessment. WCSU will be conducting a search for three faculty this year for the next academic year.

We're proud of our seasoned, and not so seasoned, faculty who have presented at local, national and international conferences. **Dr. Joseph Aina** was in Jerusalem, Israel, from June 30 to July 3, 2008, attending the International Nursing Research Conference where he presented the results of his research on "Career choices of children of Nigerian Nurses in the USA." During his sabbatical leave at Babcock, he helped the university revamp the nursing curriculum by developing it anew and also helped get them ready for the accreditation of the program coming up later in the year. He attended the conference of Heads of Nursing Departments in Nigerian universities. Dr. Aina also helped the organization to change its focus by changing the name to the Association of University Nursing Programs in Nigeria so that all faculty members in Nigerian universities can be members and not just heads of departments. He introduced Sigma Theta Tau International to Babcock University and inducted 33 new members comprising students and faculty of the nursing department into the Tau Lambda at-large chapter. He also served on the Senate of Babcock University and made useful contributions to the proper management of curriculum at the university.

Dr. Ellen Abate and **Dr. Barbara Piscopo** presented at a Public Health Nurses Conference in Chicago this past spring. I delivered the keynote address at the CT Public Health Nurses meeting last spring. **Dr. Joan Palladino** received her doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Hartford in May and was elected to the position of Undergraduate Coordinator for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. **Dr. Laurel Halloran** is on the Editorial Board of *Advance for Nurse Practitioners* and writes a monthly column. She has been chosen to present at the American College of Nurse Practitioners National Clinical Conference in October. Dr. Halloran's article will be in this month's *Journal of Nursing Education* on teaching transcultural education through the use of popular novels.

Dr. Karen Daley co-wrote the book, *Simulation Scenarios for Nurse Educators: Making it Real* with Sue Campbell. This book is available from Springer and has been recently placed on the Springer's Best Seller List.

NURSING EVENTS

I hope that all of you will join us at a **book signing** in honor of **Dr. Avery's** daughter, Rebecca. Dr. Richard Frank will be discussing his book "Fighting Cancer with Knowledge and Hope." The event is scheduled for Wednesday **October 7, 2009 at 5 pm** in Warner Hall.

The **Kappa Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International** will hold their Annual Fall Dinner on **October 29th at 5 pm** in Warner Hall. I look forward to seeing you at our events this year!

For more information contact the Nursing Department at (203) 837-8556.

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Changed your name or address since graduating from WestConn???

Please update us with your new contact information.
E-mail: alumni@wcsu.edu
or visit us online: www.wcsu.edu/ia/update.asp.

We do not want to lose touch with you.



For more information on alumni events and programs visit:

www.wcsu.edu/alumni



OTHER NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT

News on Programs: We began a section of RN-BS at Danbury Hospital this semester. We are very pleased to be collaborating with Danbury Hospital on this endeavor.

Simulation News: We welcomed the newest state of the art wireless SimMan 3G and are one of the only local universities to have this new Human Patient Simulator. He is housed in the New ICU lab opened last year. Funding was provided by last years FIPSE initiative. He has seizures, cries, sweats, froths at the mouth, blinks and has reactive pupils!!

We have been awarded a second FIPSE initiative from the federal government. This initiative provided \$220,000 for use in faculty hiring, lab assistant/graduate assistant positions and further development of the simulation technology within the department.

We were able to award five Mesi Scholarships to worthy graduate students. We are very grateful to Mr. Mesi for his continued support of the Nursing Department.

Please consider donating equipment or funds to help us furnish our labs and provide services and scholarships to all our students. If any master's prepared alumni are interested in teaching as a adjunct or helping us here in the department, we'd love to hear from you!!!!

Recap of Spring Event 2009

We had such a great turn out for our spring event on May 6, 2009. Seventy-six people attended the event and we received a few new memberships! Terry Tavella Quell PhD, RN, President of the Connecticut Nurses Association gave a wonderful presentation. Thank you to all who attended. Our next 2010 spring event is in its planning stages. It will take place in the beginning of May. We will keep you posted on date, time and guest speaker.

**Have a
Wonderful
Holiday
Season!**



NURSING WINDOW DECALS

The Alumni Nursing Society is selling nursing window decals as our fundraiser. The size of the sticker is four by six inches. The colors are black and white. The cost of the bumper sticker is \$5.00. Below is a sample. See Kathy Barber, nursing department secretary, to purchase these window decals or go to the WCSU bookstore located in the Student Center on the Midtown campus. You can also purchase them by contacting Monica Sousa at Monissa28@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for your support!!!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for people to help with the Alumni Nursing Society. It does not require a lot of time. We meet about three times a year for no more than an hour each time. We plan two events each year and would appreciate any help anyone can give us. Some of the areas we need help with are recruiting members, developing the newsletter, planning and setting up for events and providing ideas for activities. If you would like to help, please contact Monica Sousa at Monissa28@sbcglobal.net. Hope to hear from you soon!!!

