



WCSU Alumni Nursing Society News

Western Connecticut State University

Alumni Nursing Society Issue Spring 2008

Upcoming Alumni Nursing Society Event

The WCSU Alumni Nursing Society will host their Spring event on Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at 4 p.m. Senior nursing students and alumni are invited to attend. We will have a panel of four nurses who will discuss their areas of nursing. Senior nursing students will also be presenting their senior projects during this event. The location of this event is to be determined. Food and refreshments will be provided. We will keep you posted. Please visit our website at www.wcsu.edu/nursingalumni for updates. We would love you to join us for this event!

Become a Member

The WCSU Alumni Nursing Society wants to help veteran alumni connect with new alumni and help all alumni connect with the nursing program at WestConn. We hope to organize educational seminars, hold meetings throughout the year and be involved in fundraising to help develop the nursing program and offer nursing scholarships to students. We also want to provide the Nursing Lab with state-of-the-art equipment that will provide great learning opportunities to students. If you are interested in helping us grow, email Monica Perry at Monissa28@sbcglobal.net. Applications are also available online at www.wcsu.edu/nursingalumni.

Distinguished Alumni Award

The Western Connecticut State University Alumni Association and Nursing Department recognized nursing alumna Lieutenant Colonel Susan Jano at a distinguished alumni ceremony held in November.

Lt. Col. Jano is currently a student at the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Born in Yonkers, N.Y., and raised in New Fairfield, Conn., Lt. Col. Jano earned her nursing degree at Western Connecticut State University in 1987. She received a direct commission as a second lieutenant and entered active duty the same year as a Medical-Surgical Nurse Intern, assigned to Keesler AFB, MS. Subsequent assignments included flight nurse, AFIT graduate student, medical readiness fellow, MAJCOM action officer, and flight commander.

Lt. Col. Jano has served twenty years of military nursing and medical readiness experience, with a strong clinical focus on medical-surgical nursing and aeromedical evacuation. She has twice commanded large inpatient units in USAF medical centers.

A master nurse, she is certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center in Advanced Nursing Administration and Medical Surgical Nursing. In 1998, she was appointed Air Force SG Consultant for Medical Surgical Nursing and in 2005, she was named Air Force Field Grade Nurse of the Year. Her in-depth understanding of AF command and control and unique blend of clinical/operational skills enabled her to author Joint and AF level doctrine documents, concepts of operations, and briefings. As MAJCOM action officer, she led several cross-MAJCOM/Service working groups and was the lead action officer for the C-9A retirement.

We are very proud of all that she has accomplished and congratulate her on her well-deserved recognition as a distinguished alumnus of WestConn.



Lieutenant Colonel Susan Jano '87 earned a distinguished alumni award from the Nursing Department and Alumni Association.

Homecoming 2007

At the 2007 Homecoming Festivities held last October, the WCSU Alumni Nursing Society sold 13 nursing window decals for a total of \$65 dollars along with a \$20 dollar donation towards a nursing scholarship. We also signed on 3 new members to the Alumni Nursing Society. This was our first event of the year and it went great. Many people came to see SIM Man, during the pre-game breakfast. Everyone had a great time! Hope to see you at future alumni events!



Nursing Window Decals

The Alumni

Nursing

Society is sell-

ing nursing

window decals

at \$5 each. To

purchase a decal, visit Kathy Barber,

Nursing Department secretary, stop by

the WCSU bookstore, located in the

Student Center on the Midtown cam-

pus, or contact Monica Perry at

Monissa28@sbcglobal.net. Thanks for

your support.



Nursing Department and Faculty News

by Dr. Karen Crouse

We had a busy and eventful Fall semester. Dr. Daniel O'Hare gave a lecture titled, "What is 'right' in Healthcare?" about the many ethical and moral dilemmas in 'everyday' nursing practices. The stories he told were heartbreaking and thought provoking.

Professor Patricia Moreland was the guest speaker at the annual Kappa Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Fall Dinner Meeting. Her talk about her work in Africa was very powerful. It certainly opens our eyes to the care of those less fortunate in the world.

Our Student Nurses Association had speakers from the Women's Center of Danbury. There are problems of abuse right here in our own backyard. It is a difficult topic, yet as nurses we need to start the discussion with all our clients regardless of age and background.

Our faculty has been busy too! They have presented at international, national, regional and local conferences. Faculty members have also published this semester, so look for their work in your professional journals. Dr. Carol Avery has published a text book with three other faculty entitled, Quick Look Nursing, Obstetric and Pediatric Pathophysiology, Jones & Bartlett:

Boston, 2008. This text-book assists the learner in understanding complex physiology by "breaking-down" the difficult areas into easy understandable concepts.

We have been busy too educating our students! Our faculty continues to be committed to providing the best education in what I consider to be the best nursing program in the region. Last year we had a 95% pass rate on NCLEX, just one marker of our continued excellence. Also, I should note, the best pass rate among baccalaureate programs in Connecticut.

We have six MS nursing students who have met the requirements for graduation and will graduate this May. These students have been offered jobs in world class institutions. This April 4, 2008, the Kappa Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International will be hosting their regional research day. I hope many of you will be able to attend. We want to showcase our students, faculty and alumni.

The Department is growing and we hope to have twenty full-time faculty members on board by next Fall. We are committed to providing the best nursing education with the best faculty. One of the things I like best about WestConn is that we know our students. I think this is important as

we look to the future. I want the faculty to continue to serve our students and the nursing community as educators, clinicians and researchers. The Nursing Department welcomes new faculty members Robin Goodrich, Carolyn Bruno and Dr. Ellen Abate.

October 1 - 3, 2008, we will be hosting our accreditation visit by the CCNE. I am hoping that many of you will participate in our alumni events during this time. It is important for us to showcase our wonderful graduates. We would also appreciate your comments on your experiences in the WestConn nursing program and ways you think it could be improved.

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Joseph Aina will be on sabbatical leave in Spring of 2009. His work will assist a nursing program in his home country. Dr. Karen Daley and Dr. Laurel Halloran have been granted reassigned time for research in Spring 2009. They will be looking at the Goodwork Tool Kit and the perceptions of nursing students. These projects are important to WestConn's Nursing Department.

I hope that you will continue to stay in touch with the Nursing Department. We'd love to hear from you!

www.wcsu.edu/nursingalumni