



WCSU Alumni Nursing Society

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

Ed.D. in Nursing Education will be offered at WCSU starting in fall 2012!!!!

See page 2 for details

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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 have held about two events and two newsletters each year, keeping you informed about 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.



ANNUAL WCSU ALUMNI NURSING SOCIETY SPRING EVENT

Date/Time: April 18, 2012 at 4 p.m.

Location: Warner Hall, WCSU Midtown Campus

Guest Speaker: Cheryl Edwards RN, MSN, CCRN, CPTC

“Working Together to Donate Life”

Cheryl Edwards' expertise has always been in critical care. She worked at St Mary's Hospital after graduating from their diploma program, obtaining her BSN from the University of Hartford. After 15 years at St Mary's, she graduated from WCSU with her MSN in Nursing. This led to her position as the clinical nurse specialist for Neurosurgery and Trauma at Bridgeport Hospital. During the redesign process there, she also worked as a critical care educator and case manager. Fifteen years ago, she left to take a position as a donation coordinator for New England Organ Bank where she now holds the position of senior coordinator as well as team leader for Connecticut.

Cheryl's work is primarily to provide support to grieving families, and if their loved one is going to be an organ donor, she coordinates their care, organ allocation and the recovery of organs for transplant. When she is not working on a clinical case, she teaches, writes and presents. Through her work at NEOB, she has published articles and book chapters, co-authored the Clinical Pathway for the Organ Donor and has been a member of the National Transplant Coordinators committee for which she has served as chair for two years. She currently is on the Board of Directors for Donate Life Connecticut and a member of the Connecticut Advisory Council for Organ and Tissue Donation.

The WCSU 2012 Senior Nursing Class will present their Senior Projects at the event. We hope you can join us!!!



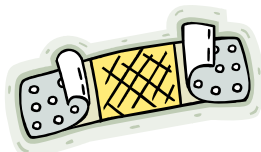
How can we help you?

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



Changed Your Name or Address Changed Since Graduating WestConn???

Please let us know if you have changed your name, address, etc. Contact the WCSU Alumni Office at <https://www.wcsu.edu/ia/update.asp>. We would love to get everyone's information updated.



Announcing the Ed.D. in Nursing Education at WCSU!!!

It is with great excitement that we announce a new degree at Western Connecticut State University — the Ed.D. in Nursing Education.

To address the nursing shortage, one must address the nursing faculty shortage. We are happy to announce that our first cohort of students will be admitted to start in fall 2012. Applications and the application checklist are now available on our nursing department website.

It is important that we continue to promote academic progression and the creation of new educational models that move graduates to advanced degrees more efficiently. It is vital that we work to attract nurses to careers in nursing education; otherwise we will continue to have challenges in the nursing workforces of the future. Multiple points of entry into the nursing profession and innovative educational programs provide opportunities for lifelong learning and academic progress. This will result in a more educated and diverse workforce and an increase in nurse educators.

A group of creative faculty from Western Connecticut State University and Southern Connecticut State University envisioned a program to address this need. It is the only one of its kind in the state of Connecticut and one of few across the country uniquely designed to prepare nurses for academic faculty roles.

The program, which builds on the Connecticut State University System's long-standing tradition of excellence in preparing educators and nurses, offers individuals with clinical expertise and a master's degree in nursing a cutting-edge doctoral program focused on the necessary content and skills required to be effective faculty members, advance the science of nursing education and transform the education of future nurses.

To meet the needs of busy professionals, this program will be delivered primarily online through the use of synchronous and asynchronous learning modalities. Three on-campus three-day residencies will be required and are scheduled to take place before the start of the program and during each summer following year one and year two.

The overall purpose of this program is to prepare individuals for the faculty role in nursing education. Consistent with both universities' missions, this program will educate students within a diverse, caring and scholarly learning community dedicated to excellence.

Welcome and let your adventure begin.

Laurel Halloran, PhD, APRN
Graduate and Ed.D. Coordinator

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 a decal is \$5. See Kathy Barber, nursing department secretary, to purchase a window decal or go to the WCSU bookstore located in the Student Center on the Middtown campus. You can also purchase them by contacting Monica Sousa at Monissa28@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for your support!!!





For more information about what is going on at WCSU go to www.wcsu.edu/alumni



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

If any master's level prepared alumni 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

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 in 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 Leah Turner at Lturner@snet.net. We hope to hear from you.

WCSU students help the community after fall storm

After the devastating snowstorm that hit Connecticut last October, many people were left with no electricity for a very long time. Some of these people were the community's most vulnerable population. People who were confined to their beds, in wheelchairs or who were oxygen dependent needed a place to go. Danbury Hospital and WCSU collaborated to help people with medical needs. A shelter was opened in the Bill Williams Gymnasium on campus.

Many WCSU staff, faculty and students volunteered at the shelter, helping patients in need. Dr. Laurel Halloran asked for volunteers from the nursing students. She had an immediate response and many students worked side-by-side with her. The students were: Olivia D'Azanzo, Andrea Carderas, Olga Grishenkova, Grant Schneider, Alison Dube, Taylor Iodice, Corrine Hatcher, Dorothy Sliwonik, Diana Bytiqui and Erin Fahey. The nursing department is so proud of our students and the professionalism and compassion they demonstrated during this time of need.

Below are photos of the shelter in the Bill Williams Gymnasium

