



# WCSU Alumni Nursing Society

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER

## **Call to All MS Graduates Interested in Teaching**

The Nursing Department continues to try to address the nursing shortage by admitting as many qualified nursing students as possible. This has created a need to find MS prepared nurses to adjunct clinical groups on the undergraduate level. If you are interested in a one or two day assignment adjuncting and teaching a small group of nursing students, please contact Dr. Karen Crouse [crousek@wcsu.edu](mailto:crousek@wcsu.edu). We would need you to send in a resume and letter outlining your experience. Adjuncting is a great way to explore a career in teaching. And who is better to prepare our new nurses than our own wonderful graduates!!???

Also we are in need to qualified preceptors for the graduate program. If you or a friend of yours is an APRN and would like to precept a graduate student in your clinical setting please contact Dr. Karen Daley at [daleyk@wcsu.edu](mailto:daleyk@wcsu.edu).

## **Distinguished Alumni: Leah H. Turner '71, '91 Receives the Distinguished Alumni Award for Nursing**

Leah Turner was born and raised in Hartford, CT. In 1971, she earned a B.S. in Nursing, graduating in WCSU's second Nursing class. She worked as a staff nurse in Fairfield County until 1979, when she took a position in the Norwalk Public School system as a staff nurse for Head Start. In 1989 she became the Coordinator of School Health Services for the Norwalk Public School system.



In 1991, Turner earned an M.S. in Nursing from WCSU. Pursuing this degree was a goal she'd set for herself as an undergraduate. Turner chose WCSU because of the quality of the program and its affordability. Turner has been a NCSN, Nationally Certified School Nurse, since 1990. She was awarded the 2003 School Nurse Supervisor of the Year from Association of School Nurses of Connecticut. In September 2002, she received the WCSU Centennial Award for Excellence. Turner has also been recognized as the Carver Community Center Woman of the Year in 2007. She continues to serve the WCSU community as a member of the Board of the WCSU Nursing Alumni Society and is active in planning and advising on the society's events and programs.

## ***Come Join Us for Our Spring Event with Guest Speaker Terry Tavella Quell PhD, RN President of the Connecticut Nurses Association***

**May 6, 2009 at 4:00 in the  
Westside Campus Center Ballroom**

Terry Quell PhD, RN is the Director for Undergraduate Student Services in the School of Nursing at Fairfield University. A graduated of Fairfield University in 1979, she then completed her Masters degree at WCSU in 1994. She received her PhD (2005) in Education Leadership at UCONN. Her research areas include Nursing Image, Job Satisfaction and Health Policy and Leadership. She currently teaches Introduction to Nursing, Public Health Leadership and Transition to Professional Nursing at Fairfield University. She is President of the Connecticut Nurses Association, Vice Chair of South Western CT Area Health Education Committee, and member of Norwalk Board of Health. She is also a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society, American Nurses Association and CT League for Nurses. She has done numerous presentations and publications. Terry has also received many grants and awards throughout her nursing career. We are much honored to have Terry Quell back on campus to speak at our event.

## Annual Membership Dues

Annual membership dues for the Alumni Nursing Society are due each year on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please continue to support your Society. In the past we had asked members for one time membership due. However we would like to continue to provide you with, special events and newsletters. We need your help. We have had about 2 events per year, along with 2 newsletters each year, keeping you informed on the exciting events that are happening in the nursing department and WCSU. Membership dues help with expenses such as materials, mailings, scholarships and events. Please see Membership and Pledge form enclosed. We 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 Sousa, RN BSN at [Monissa28@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Monissa28@sbcglobal.net).

## Notes from the Chair, Dr. Karen Crouse

We are busy this academic year with 150 undergraduate, 50 RN-BS students and 35 graduate students. Our programs are growing! This is due to the success of our programs and the success of our alumni. Although the current job market is probably the tightest since the late 1970's or early 1990's our graduates continue to be offered positions.

It is evident that with this continued growth that we need new faculty. We are currently searching for three faculty lines. We hope to have the contracts signed before May 30, 2009.

Early this academic year, we had an accreditation visit from the CCNE. We had an excellent visit and we met all of the objectives. We are awaiting the decision of CCNE board regarding accreditation for 10 years. We will know by the end of March.

Our department received a federally funded Nursing Initiative Grant through the hard work of Dr. Karen Daley and Professor Debra Lajoie. This grant allowed us to award scholarships to qualified nursing students in each of our programs. The purpose of the grant was to improve retention and remediation of nursing students.

The faculty at WCSU's Department of Nursing continues to be active in many nursing organizations. Dr. Joseph Aina is a member of the Board of Directors of the Families Network of Western CT. Dr. Karen Crouse continues as the vice president of the CT Nurses Association. Dr. Daryle Brown serves on the Editorial Board of the CT Nurses Association while Professor Joan Palladino is the Chair of the Political Action Committee and active member of the Government Relations Committee. Professor Pat Geraci continues as an active member of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty.

Dr. Ellen Abate is working on "Parental Perceptions of Nursing Services for at Risk Infants and Children: An Outcome Analysis". Dr. Joseph Aina is investigating homelessness and mental illness. At the Association for the Advancement of Educational Research Conference, Dr. Carol Avery, Dr. Ellen Abate and Dr. Karen Crouse presented "Shared governance in higher education: Fact or fiction", Dr. Karen Crouse, Professor Mary Ann Riley and Dr. Ellen Abate presented "Cheating in academe: not just for students". Dr. Karen Daley and Professor Jeanette Lupinacci presented "Mentoring new nursing faculty- current trends" while Dr. Daryle Brown and Professor Joan Palladino presented "Mentoring new nursing faculty". Dr. Mary Ellen Doherty continues her research examining the lived experience of widowhood in pregnancy. She is actively interviewing participants this spring for this research study.

Dr. Laurel Halloran recently published two articles, "Wrestling injuries in high school athletes" and "Connecting to your tribe: Professional peer groups". Dr. Catherine Rice's work on "Supporting faculty needs in an age of transformation" has been accepted for publication in the near future.

Prof. 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 was published December 2009.



## **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 main campus. You can also purchase them by contacting Monica Sousa at [Monissa28@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Monissa28@sbcglobal.net). Thank you for your support!!!



### **Check out our Web site**

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



### **UPDATE: Funding for Nursing Education Secured in the Stimulus Package**

From Laura Guettner at the AACN February 2009: "American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) is thrilled to report that \$500 million of the original \$600 million for nursing and health professions training was included in the final stimulus package, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 1). Of that \$500 million, \$300 million will be awarded to the National Health Service Corps and the remaining \$200 million will be divided between the Title VII Health Professions Training Programs and the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs. The conference report further noted that the funding for Titles VII and VIII should focus on such programs as primary care and dentistry, public health and preventive medicine, loan repayment and scholarships, as well as grants for training program equipment.

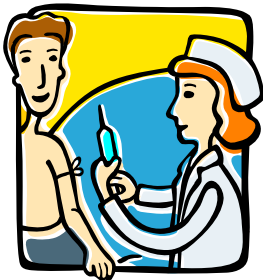
In November 2008, AACN's Board of Directors approved a special expenditure to specifically secure funding for nursing education in the stimulus package. In this difficult economic time for schools of nursing, the Board recognized this unique opportunity to potentially infuse additional funding into Title VIII. However, this important investment in nursing education would not have been possible without your significant efforts as well as the Nursing Community at large. According to our current data, you, your faculty, and students sent over 1,000 messages to Congress explaining the importance of supporting nursing education and imploring them to include funding for our Title VIII programs. Congratulations, it worked!

Securing this funding is a tremendous feat for nursing education. AACN is grateful that our membership acted quickly to encourage Members of Congress to include the House provision for nursing and health professions training in the final bill." For more detail on AACN advocacy effort on behalf of nursing education and research, see <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Government/index.htm>.

## Changed Your Name or Address 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.



For more information on what is going on at WestConn go to [www.wcsu.edu/alumni](http://www.wcsu.edu/alumni)



## Here they are!! Look who Dr. Daley found working hard at Danbury Hospital:

- ★ Andrew Hull ' 04 (Andy) is has been Assistant Nurse Manager on 8West for 2 years.
- ★ Working with Andy on 8 West you will also find: Lynne Seng '08, Monica Perry '04, Sadhvi Mehta '07, Monica Hill '05 among several other alumni grads!!
- ★ Tammy Higgins graduated with her BS in 1986 and MS in '01. She is now the APRN in the Interventional Cardiology Cath Lab coordinating the pre- and post care of cardiac catheterization patients.
- ★ John Semenetz '07 is working on 12 West. He has 2 kids in college now and is precepting one of our Senior Nursing students in Practicum!
- ★ Matthew Regan is working on 10 Tower. In addition to being a staff RN, he helps with admission, teaching and discharge as the "flex" nurse. He is excited to be buying a house and happy to be working as an RN and not worrying about unemployment!!
- ★ Carol Norieka (Yakacki) 1980 is working also on 12 West. She lives New Fairfield and is married with 3 daughters.
- ★ Helen McKenna graduated from our MS program in '01. She is Nurse Manager of 12 West. She has also worked with WCSU for the last 2 springs and is currently an adjunct in the BS program teaching a clinical group for the seniors in practicum.
- ★ MIA: Mody Varghese '05 and Ailie Montague '05: Last seen at homecoming. We hear they did some time as travel nurses and have settled somewhere in the Chicago area!????
- ★ Monica Perry '04 is now Monica Sousa. She got married in October, 2008.

Please let us know where you work and anything going on with you so we can include your information here!!

## 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 3 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 etc. If you would like to help please contact Monica Sousa [Monissa28@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Monissa28@sbcglobal.net). Hope to hear from you soon!!!