



WCSU Alumni Nursing Society News

Western Connecticut State University

Nursing Society Issue Fall 2007

Events

On Tuesday, Sept. 25 the department will host a “Key Clinical People” breakfast on the WestConn campus. This event is to recognize all people — both front and center and behind the scenes — who make our student’s clinical experience so terrific. These professionals do the clinical placements, provide computer training and mentor and precept our students. We are most grateful for their continued assistance.

This spring the Kappa Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta International will sponsor Regional Research Day. It will be an important day to showcase the WCSU campus and the Nursing Department. The day will provide opportunity for networking while exploring research accomplished by nurses in the region. Please check WCSU’s Web site at www.wcsu.edu for further details. We hope you can attend. For more information, call the nursing department at (203) 837-8556.

This year also is the 30th Anniversary of the School of Professional Studies. Numerous events are planned throughout the academic year. We encourage you to check the University’s Web site at www.wcsu.edu.



WCSU Nursing Alumni working in the Cardiac Cath Recovery Room. L-R: Monica Perry '04, RN, “patient” Audrey Bertalovitz, Aaron Larkin '97, RN.

Letter from Dr. Karen Crouse, WCSU Nursing Department



Karen Crouse

Hello! I’m Karen Crouse, B.S.N., M.S.N., Ed.D., assistant professor of nursing and the new department chair. I’ve been at WCSU since 2002 and have taught in the undergraduate, RN to BS and graduate nursing programs at WestConn. I came here from the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, New York. Prior to that, I was on the faculty at Bridgeport Hospital School of Nursing. I received my BSN from St. Anselm’s College in 1978. In 1996, I received my MSN from Sacred Heart University. I have a post-masters professional certificate in Health Care Management from the University of New Haven. I graduated in 2003 from the University of Hartford with my Educational Doctorate in Educational Leadership. I am a late bloomer in the educational realm. And you can probably correctly guess my age!

I practiced nursing at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston for many years. I recently resigned my position as a staff nurse in the Adult Emergency Department at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Because I enjoy the clinical component, I am working per diem at the Minute Clinics located throughout the state.

Now my career has taken a new path as an administrator. Hopefully, I will be successful in my new role. I am hoping I can count on your continued support.

Our previous chair, Dr. Barbara Piscopo, decided she wanted to go back to teaching and give up the administrative role she has performed so well over the years. I would like to thank Dr. Piscopo for all she has done for the department. Under her tutelage, we received accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and have had 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX examination three years in a row. She has much to be proud of.

I would like to invite you back to campus to tour our simulation laboratories. We have one in White Hall, one in Higgins Hall and another at WestConn at Waterbury. We are hoping to make our simulation laboratory in Higgins Hall a mini-intensive care unit. Also, the department recently acquired a ventilator for student use, a purchase that was made possible through our generous donors.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. If there is anything I can do please do not hesitate to contact me at crousek@wcsu.edu. You are always welcome to stop by and visit with the Department of Nursing!



Homecoming 2007

Homecoming is an exciting and special time at WestConn. This year there will be many events scheduled during Homecoming week, Oct. 1-7. Visit <http://www.wcsu.edu/homecoming/> for the complete list of events.

On Oct. 6 (Homecoming Day), at 10 a.m., all alumni are invited to an alumni breakfast in the Westside Campus Grand Ballroom. The Alumni Nursing Society has reserved a table for our alumni. The cost of the breakfast buffet is \$5 per person and children under TWO eat free. Please join us!

Then join us at noon as WestConn's Colonials play William Patterson in the traditional football game of homecoming. The game will be held in the Westside Athletic Complex at the WCSU Westside Campus. Admission is \$6 for adults; \$4 for seniors age 55 and over and children 12 and under. Prior to the game, at 10 a.m., alumni are welcome to tailgate in the O'Neill Center Parking Lot, WCSU Westside Campus, with friends and family.

Following the game alumni are welcome to the Alumni Hospitality Tent. Come and meet up with fellow alumni and old friends. You might see someone from your class. Cost is \$5 per person.

The Alumni Nursing Society booth will be in the Alumni Hospitality tent, located outside the stadium. We will be handing out information regarding the society, membership application and information and we will be selling WCSU nursing static stickers as well. They are a great way to show support for WCSU and for nursing! The static sticker is four by six inches, blue and white. The price is sticker is \$5. If you would like to purchase one, please call the nursing department at (203) 837-8556.

Faculty News

- WestConn's Department of Nursing is growing once again. Please welcome our new faculty: Assistant Professor of Nursing Jeannette Lupinacci, B.S., M.S.; Associate Professor of Nursing Ellen Abate, B.S., M.A.; Robin Goodrich, M.S. RNC; and Assistant Professor of Nursing Carolyn Bruno, B.S., M.S. Please join me in welcoming them to the WCSU Community!
- Assistant Professor of Nursing Debra Lajoie, B.S., M.S., is the new coordinator for WestConn's undergraduate nursing program.
- Professor of Nursing Pat Geraci, B.S., M.A., has been promoted to full professor. She also is an alumna of WestConn's nurse practitioner program.
- Assistant Professor of Nursing Karen Daley, RN, Ph.D., was recently awarded tenure.
- Professor of Nursing Barbara Piscopo RN, Ed.D., was awarded a Nightingale Award.
- Assistant Professor of Nursing Karen Daley, RN, Ph.D., and Assistant Professor of Nursing Joan Palladino, B.S.N., M.S.N., were VNA Nightingale Honorees for Nurse's Week by the Stamford Advocate.
- Assistant Professor of Nursing Karen Crouse was elected the new chair of the nursing department.
- Assistant Professor of Nursing Deborah Lajoie, B.S., M.S., was elected B.S. Coordinator
- Professor of Nursing Barbara Piscopo, RN, PhD, is acting RN-BSN coordinator at Western at Waterbury.
- Assistant Professor of Nursing Patricia Moreland, A.S., B.S., M.S., passed her qualifying exams in her Ph.D. program at Columbia University!
- Emeritus Professor of Nursing Harriette Tax, RN, Ph.D, received the Visiting Nurse Service of NY Distinguished Service Award at the annual VNSNY volunteer luncheon in May 2007. Dr Tax volunteers with the Manhattan Hospice Team, is involved with the VNS Holiday Toy Drive and assists with the Mental Health Patients' Holiday Luncheon.



Harriette Tax



A nursing alumni gathering at the Science Building on the Middtown campus in October 2006

