

Western Connecticut State University
Department of Nursing
Alumni Club

May, 2005

Message from the Chair

Hello and Welcome Nursing Alumni! My name is Monica Perry, Class of 2004. Along with Dr. Karen Daley, we have organized the first ever Nursing Alumni organization, which is called The Nursing Alumni Club. We are a chapter of the WCSU Alumni Association. WCSU has produced many great nurses throughout its many years. The Nursing Alumni Club hopes to be an organization that will help past alumni connect with new alumni, and help alumni connect with the nursing program. We hope to organize educational seminars, have meetings throughout the year and be involved in fundraising to develop the nursing program at WCSU and to offer scholarships to nursing students. The Nursing Alumni Club hopes to provide the nursing lab with state of the art equipment that will provide the great learning opportunities to students. We greatly encourage anyone who is interested in helping us develop this alumni organization email me at Monissa28@aol.com. We want to hear from the alumni. We want to know your accomplishments have been and what you plan to do in the future. And finally what you want to see from the Nursing Alumni Club. This is our first newsletter and we hope that our future newsletter gives you information of alumni accomplishments. We have two upcoming events. We will be meeting in mid July at Danbury Hospital to let alumni know about this organization. We will have our first official alumni meeting in the end of September. More information about these dates to come. I strongly believe the Nursing Alumni Club will develop into a great organization. I look forward in meeting you all soon. Thank you very much!

Chair
Monica Perry, RN, BSN

Congratulations to the Class of 2004

The Class of 2004 was the first class to pass the NCLEX exam 100%. All sixteen students from WCSU Class of 2004 passed the exam on their first attempt. This was the 5th class of the WCSU nursing department to take the Senior Nursing Practicum. The Nursing Practicum has made students better prepared for their nursing careers and prepare them to pass the NCLEX exam. The Senior Practicum gives student the opportunity to work with a preceptor on a unit and take on the role of the nurse. Students perform different skills. They perform patient assessments, work on documentation, work on time management skills, and learn how to work with different people in the clinical setting. Students use the Nursing Process to take care of their patients as well as handle situation that come up. The nursing Practicum also prepares student to take the NCLEX exam. Students learn test taking skills and take biweekly exams that are very similar to the NCLEX exam. With these exams student find their strengths and weakness. The Students of Class of 2004 have been employed to some of the country's best hospitals. The majority of students are employed in Connecticut hospitals, but some have traveled as far as Maryland and Rhode Island. Eight students are employed in different units at Danbury Hospital. The WCSU Nursing Alumni Association Congratulates the Class of 2004 for their great achievement in passing the NCLEX with 100%!

Submitted by Monica Perry RN, BSN

What does WCSU look like today?

The Class of 2005 has 27 students who will be graduating in May 22, 2005. This class was the first class to have the passing grade increase from 70% to 74%. The curriculum has been developed to produce the most educated and safest nurses to enter the workforce. The acuity of patient is increasing and WCSU is dedicated to produce nurse well capable to take care of these patients with the best care possible. WCSU has recently hired five faculty members to accommodate the increasing number of students in the nursing department. There are now nineteen nursing faculty. 200 students are enrolled in the nursing program and there is addition 200 on the waiting list to enter the program. Kathy Barber is still behind the desk as secretary of the nursing department. She is a vital person in the program. She is a wonderful resource to new and old students. Kathy has seen students come and go, but one thing is for sure it's wonderful to have such a kind and caring person that students can turn too. The WCSU Nursing Alumni Association wished the best to luck to Class of 2005 and thanks everyone in the nursing department for all their hard work and dedication to the nursing profession!

Submitted by Monica Perry RN, BSN

Human Patient Simulator: Not Just Any Body

This January, the WCSU Department of Nursing was able to acquire a Human Patient Simulator for training and testing nursing students. The SimMan breathes, has a heartbeat, and speaks. He also has normal and abnormal lung, heart and bowel sounds. Because hospitals are or will soon be requiring nurses to prove their level of competency on this type of technology, our students must be prepared to use the simulator. Drs Karen Daley and Karen Crouse have been training on the simulator and the students were introduced to him. A group of seniors were able to diagnose and treat his pneumonia on their first try! By fall of 2005, all faculty will have had the opportunity to be trained and subsequently be able to use him in their Medical Surgical and Assessment classes. Come by the nursing lab in White Hall and meet him!! Rumor has it he will be attending our first Alumni Association Nursing Club meeting!

Submitted by Dr. Karen Daley

New Lab Space for Fall 2005!!!!

Due to increasing enrollment and shortage of space, the Department of Nursing is now the proud owners of additional lab space to supplement the area in White Hall. The Higgins suite 218/220 will be our new Assessment Lab and a Maternal Child Health Lab. In future plans we hope to also have a medication room and a community health kitchen. Faculty will be busy ordering, packing and moving the needed equipment to the newly painted space. We have bassinets and babies on the way already! Hopefully this space will be ready to be shown off for the first Nursing Alumni Club meeting in September. Watch for further details.

Submitted by Dr. Karen Daley

Membership Information

Name _____ Year/Degrees _____

Home Address _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Employed By _____

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