



WCSU Alumni Nursing Society News

WCSU

Please join us for Homecoming 2005, the university's annual gathering of school spirit, which will be held from Tuesday, Oct. 11, through Saturday, Oct. 15. The Alumni Association will host a Tailgating Party from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Westside Athletic Complex parking lot on the Westside campus. A disc jockey will provide music for Colonials' football fans to enjoy before the 1 p.m. kickoff of the game against the College of New Jersey. All nursing alumni and their families are invited to attend!

11-16 Alumni Art Show

Meet-the-artists reception, 6:30, p.m. on Oct. 11, Ruth A. Haas Library, Midtown campus

15 Alumni & Friends Circle rededication ceremony

9:00 a.m., near Old Main Midtown campus

15 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

10 a.m., \$50 per person Warner Hall, Midtown campus

15 Alumni Tailgating party

10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Free Westside Athletic Complex Westside campus

15 Reunion classes: 6 p.m.

1955 - 50th WS218
1960 - 45th Alumni Hall
1975 - 30th Science Building
1990 - 15th Pinney Hall
1995 - 10th Warner Hall
For cost & info call (203) 837-8290.



Chair of Nursing Society speaks:

It's no secret that WCSU has produced many great nurses throughout the years. Along with Dr. Karen Daley, I have organized the WCSU Alumni Nursing Society. This organization will help alumni connect with their former classmates and with current students in the nursing program.

As a sub-chapter of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, our goal is to organize educational seminars, conduct chapter meetings and help establish scholarships for students in the nursing program. I also hope we can provide the nursing lab with state-of-the-art equipment that will provide new learning opportunities for students.

We greatly encourage alumni who may be interested in the development of the nursing chapter. Let us know how your career is going and what your future plans may be. E-mail me at Monissa28@aol.com.

I strongly believe the WCSU Nursing Society will develop into a great organization.

Monica Perry, RN, BSN



WestConn's nursing graduates maintain perfect passing grade on licensing exam

By Irene Sherlock

If it were being graded, WestConn's Department of Nursing would receive an A+. For two years in a row, all Bachelor of Science in Nursing graduates who have taken the National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN) have passed it successfully.

"That's pretty impressive," said Barbara Piscopo, chair of the department. "In Connecticut, we're required by The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing to maintain a minimum 80 percent passing rate. But to have all students pass the exam ...," she said, pausing for a moment. "Well, we take great pride in that."

According to 2004 graduate Monica Perry who now works as a cardiac nurse at Danbury Hospital, this "perfect" rate is not surprising.

"The training we got was fabulous. Everyone was so supportive. The faculty spend so much time making sure you understand the material. I don't know about anyone else, but I felt very prepared to take my boards."

Perry, who now is pursuing a master's in nursing at WestConn, said, "When I considered graduate school, I didn't think of going anywhere else."

Marla Deleppo, a 2005 alumna who works in emergency medicine at Hartford Hospital, gives high marks to WestConn's faculty as well.

"The test scores are a reflection of the program," she said. "You really get the training you need, particularly in senior year, during your capstone course, where you can choose your specialization. That's when I was introduced to emergency medicine."

Deleppo is referring to the two-day-per-week, 10-week course in which seniors become immersed in a hospital setting. "Students work with a nurse mentor and receive hands-on experience. Here's where they try on the role of registered nurse," Piscopo said.

"WestConn's nursing program is a progressive one," she continued. Our students receive a complimentary mix of academic and clinical preparation. By the time they complete their capstone course, they're well-acclimated to the program and prepared to enter the nursing profession."

Piscopo said the department would not be able to boast its NCLEX-RN success rate or maintain its high standards were it not for the support of WestConn's administration.

"There's a national shortage of nurses. The university recognizes that in order to prepare more students for the field, we need additional nurse educators. We're very lucky in that President (James W.) Schmotter and Dean (of the School of Professional Studies Dr. Lynne) Clark have been very supportive of hiring new faculty. With few adjunct positions but a number of full-time faculty who are well-qualified to teach what they do, students benefit greatly."

Piscopo explained how the NCLEX-RN represents a culmination of all aspects of the program. "Our goal is to teach the applications of nursing principals so that students can apply these findings in a variety of ways — both on the exam and then in the field."

Assistant Professor of Nursing Dr. Karen Daley said that among members of the nursing community throughout the region, WestConn's reputation for excellence is well known. "Many facilities want to hire our graduates," she said. "The quality of instruction is a great part of that, of course. But the nursing students themselves work very, very hard."

Daley said in the last two years, graduates have applied for and been hired in positions for which specialized training is required: emergency room and intensive care, to name just two. Many graduates from other programs do not have the opportunity to receive this type of specialized training, she said. But at WestConn, they do.

"Students can elect to train in a specialized area, as Marla and Monica did. This gives them a huge edge when applying for jobs."

Daley recounted the phone conversation she had with Deleppo. "She was excited because she and some other new hires were asked to diagnose SimMan."

A mannequin that simulates life, SimMan is a state-of-the-art human "patient" designed to teach critical thinking and decision-making skills to health-care providers. WestConn purchased the mannequin last year. "Marla had already used the mannequin in the lab and knew what to expect, but none of the other nurses did. She felt pretty good about that."

Nursing Department's Pinning Ceremony

WCSU 2206 Pinning Ceremony
Friday, April 28, 2006
Amber Room Colonnade
6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
\$50.00 per person

All nursing alumni are invited to attend.



Western Connecticut State
University Nursing Society
Newsletter