



WCSU Alumni Nursing Society

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER

Are you certified
in Adult Health
CNS or NP?
Check out page 2
for information
regarding changes
in certification

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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 plan about two events each year and send out our annual spring newsletter keeping you informed about 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 the Membership and Pledge Form on the last page. We thank you for your support!



It's that time of year again!

***Spring Event
May 1, 2013 at 4pm***

Location: Warner Hall, Midtown Campus

Guest Speaker: Tammy Higgins APRN

"Nursing Knows No Boundaries"

Tammy Higgins is a Nurse Practitioner with the Department of Interventional Cardiology at Western Connecticut Health Network. She has been a Danbury Hospital Employee for the past 22 years with experience in Emergency Nursing, Critical Care, Nursing Education and, most recently, Cardiology.

She is responsible for the clinical management of all patients undergoing Cardiac Catheterizations, Device Implants, Electrophysiology Studies and Ablations. In her role, she collaborates with Cardiologists, Interventionalists and Cardiac Surgeons to coordinate the plan of care for patients admitted for Valvular Disease, Heart Failure, Acute Coronary Syndrome, Arrhythmias and Acute Myocardial Infarction.

Tammy earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Western Connecticut State University. She has been a Registered Nurse for 26 years and an APRN for 11 years. Two years ago, Tammy joined a local non-profit organization called "Hearts Around The World." This organization was founded by one of the local cardiologists and his wife in Brookfield, Conn. Their mission is to support cardiovascular training



Ed.D. in Nursing
Education is
here!!!

Read page 3 for
information

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 ACNS-BC, APRN at sousam@wcsu.edu



Changed your
name or
address since
graduating from
Western?

Please let us know if you have changed your name, address etc. Updates can be made by visiting: <https://www.wcsu.edu/ia/update.asp>. We would love to get everyone's information updated.

programs in third world and emerging nations through hands-on education and demonstrations. Our ultimate goal is to provide physicians and nurses with modern medical information and the technology required to care for all their cardiac patients in need.

Thus far, Tammy has completed two medical missions with this foundation to Nairobi, Kenya. Her presentation will discuss her valuable role as a member on the medical team with her focus on nursing education. She will share her photos, personal experiences and insight on the African health care system as well as the great need for volunteers and support for future missions.

2013 Senior Class will be presenting their Senior Projects at the event. We hope you can join us!!!

News from the WCSU Nursing Department

Masters Program:

1. Two of the MSN students who will be graduating in May, Laura Giovannoli and Bernadene Lawrence-Phillip, presented their thesis research during the Poster Presentations at the CTAPRN's Clinical Conference on April 26, 2012. Bernadene was awarded the top prize for research.
2. Fifteen students completed the Master's Program this fall. They are in the process of studying for and taking certification examinations.
3. Both the Adult Nurse Practitioner and the Clinical Specialist in Adult Health Certification Examinations/Certifications are going to be retired by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (the group that most of our graduates take their Certification Examinations from) in 2014. They will be replaced by Adult – Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (expected in 2014) and Adult – Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist Examinations (expected in 2014). This is being done in response to the Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification, & Education (LACE). This is a collaborative effort among more than 40 nursing organizations that have an interest in making APRN practice more uniform. It anticipates that more consistency and clarity results from this.
 - a. The educational requirements of the new APRN Consensus Model include the following:
 - i. Courses must be graduate level.
 - ii. Programs must be nationally accredited.
 - iii. Programs must prepare graduates in one of the four roles (Nurse Anesthetist, Nurse Midwife, Clinical Nurse Specialist or Nurse Practitioner).
 - iv. Prepare graduates in one of the six populations recognized by the model (Family, Adult-Gerontology, Neonatal, Pediatrics, Women's Health/Gender Related and Psychiatric/Mental Health).
 - v. Include three separate broad-based graduate level courses in advanced physiology/pathophysiology, advanced health assessment and advanced pharmacology.
 - vi. Include a minimum of 500 faculty supervised clinical hours in the role and population.



For more information on 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 our students.

If any master's 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

The Master's Program at Western is responding to this by making the appropriate curricular changes to have our program move from solely "Adult" to "Adult-Gerontology." This reflects how students have always been educated in our program. It is a change in name but not in intent of the Program.

For graduates and alumni who presently are certified as either Adult Nurse Practitioners or Clinical Specialists in Adult Health, here are some FAQ's from ANCC:

For currently certified nurses, you will still be able to use your existing ANCC credential. The credential will not be retired (only the exam) and can be maintained through timely renewal using professional development activities and clinical practice hours. ANCC will accept applications using renewal eligibility option B or D — renewals using professional development activities plus testing — until December 31, 2014. At that time, renewal eligibility option A will allow for renewals using professional development activities and clinical practice hours only for the certifications listed below:

- Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Adult Nurse Practitioner

What would happen if I let my certification lapse and the exam is retired?

If your certification lapses and you meet the requirements, you may reactivate your certification using professional development activities and clinical practice hours for up to two years after your expiration date. The option to reactivate your certification with professional development activities and testing will not be available for certification with retired exams. The reactivation process and procedure is detailed in ANCC's renewal application.

If your certification lapses and you do not meet the requirements for reactivation, you will not be able to renew your existing certification. This means that you may not meet state licensing, institutional credentialing or third-party reimbursement requirements. Keeping your certification current through renewal will allow you to have the most flexibility as this process unfolds

Please go directly to the American Nurses Credentialing Web Site for further Information.

Ed.D. in Nursing Education Program:

The Collaborative (WCSU/SCSU) Doctoral Program in Nursing Education was launched this August and an enthusiastic cohort of 16 students is progressing through the program. This fully online program is uniquely designed to prepare nurses for academic faculty roles. To meet the needs of busy professionals, this program will be delivered primarily online through the use of synchronous and asynchronous learning modalities. The use of Vidyo conferencing technology has brought added dimension to group and relationship building activities.