



WCSU Alumni Nursing Society

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

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WCSU Alumni
Nursing Society



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Annual membership dues for the Alumni Nursing Society are due each year on **May 1**. Please continue to support the Society. 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.



Change of name
and address?

For name and address changes, Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (203) 837-8298 or email to alumni@wcsu.edu

Spring Event

April 27, 2016 at 4pm

Location: Warner Hall, Midtown campus

Guest Speaker: Linda Barile, Ph.D., APRN

“Stress in nursing practice, the importance of nurses taking care of themselves, and the role of HAVEN in support of nurses”

Dr. Barile received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Connecticut, a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of California, a Ph.D. in Education, Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Connecticut, as well as graduating from Wesley College Command General Staff College U.S. Army. She has more than 35 years of experience as an educator in diverse settings and in key positions. Currently, she is a professor at Central Connecticut State University and has been a Professional Director at HAVEN since 2000. Barile is certified as a Nurse Clinical Specialist and an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse.

As a new graduate, Barile joined the U.S. Air Force and served as a flight nurse during the Vietnam War. Currently, she holds the rank of Reserve Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. She is known and loved by many as the developer and presenter of board reviews that have supported many nurses in achieving licensure and certification.

Barile has received countless awards from peers and employers, the ANA, CNA, CT Department of Education, Department of the U.S. Army and NATO, to name a few. Barile has written prolifically on topics including addiction, nursing education, NCLEX Review, psychiatric mental health nursing and nursing standards. Her research encompasses studies of milieu and patient outcome for inpatient psychiatric units. She has also provided direction to countless nursing students in research design.



For more information on what is going on at WCSU go to www.wcsu.edu/alumni



Please consider donating equipment or funds to help furnish the Nursing Labs and provide services and scholarships to 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
Chris Beaudoin '91
Michelle DiMauro '09
Cecilia Abreu '10
Kristen Lamanna '10
Harriet Tax, Faculty Emeritus

**2016 Senior Class will be presenting Senior Projects at the event.
We hope you can join us!!!**

NEWS FROM THE WCSU NURSING DEPARTMENT

This fall, the Nursing Department welcomed back 69 sophomores, 45 juniors, 47 seniors, 134 RN/BS students, 53 Master's students and 10 Doctoral students. The following WCSU Doctoral students in the first cohort successfully defended their dissertations: Dr. Monica Sousa, Dr. Christine Berté, and Dr. Rhonda Bishop.

There are 18 students progressing through the second year of the cohort program. The Ed.D. students will be taking their comprehensive exam in August prior to beginning work on their doctoral thesis next fall. The residency will be held on the WCSU campus and provides an opportunity for continued professional development for the Ed.D. students, as well as time for the cohort to connect socially with its peers and faculty.

The Ed.D. program is currently accepting applications for its third Ed.D. Doctoral cohort, which will begin its program of study this fall. Applications are due by March 31. The cohort will hopefully admit 25 students.

The department also welcomed Professor Emeritus, Dr. Andrea O'Connor, former chairperson of WCSU nursing's program. She brings much experience to doctoral education as a former professor at Teacher's College, Columbia University, and has shared her expertise while serving on doctoral committees and in teaching several doctoral level courses.

The department graduated 20 Master of Science students in December, 18 Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioners and two Adult –Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialists.

The graduates of the Class of 2015 had an NCLEX pass rate of 97.7%

Dr. Mary Ellen Doherty, along with her sister Dr. Elizabeth Scannell-Desch, completed their second, "Nurses After War: The Reintegration Experience of Nurses Returning from Iraq and Afghanistan". It is being published by Springer Publishing Company and will be available late spring or summer 2016. Their first book, "Nurses in War: Voices from Iraq and Afghanistan," was published in 2012.

In October 2015 the RN/BS students attended the Distressed Children's conference at Yale University. They were able to meet U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal.

Professor Mary Durand's RN/BS community class in Norwalk held a health fair in December 2015 that was well attended.

Dr. Joan Palladino was awarded the Josephine A. Dolan award for excellence in education by the Connecticut Nurses' Association.



**Hope to see
you at the
Annual Spring
Event
April 27, 2016
4 p.m. at
Warner Hall**

American Association of Colleges for Nursing named Dr. Joan Palladino as a grass roots liaison representing Connecticut for the government relations committee. She will serve with Dr. Meredith Kazer from Fairfield University.

With the help of Dr. Laurel Halloran and others, the Nursing Department was able to obtain new classroom space for a new physical assessment lab/smart classroom in White Hall 028. The new lab will feature exam areas that simulate both hospital rooms and exam rooms. It opened in Spring of 2016.

Four new faculty members were welcomed in the 2015-16 academic year: Susan Burger, Ph.D., RN, CNE; Diane Bennett MSN, RNC-OB, C-EFM; Patricia Cumella MS, RN; and Doreen Graham, RN, CCRN, MSN, APRN, FNP

The Kappa Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau will host the Collaborative Research Day on March 10th starting at 9 a.m. at the Westside campus. For information please go to

https://events.com/r/en_US/registration/connecticut-collaborative-research-day-danbury-march-7077.

The Kappa Alpha Fall Dinner, which was held on October 28, 2015, was a success. WCSU adjunct mental health clinical instructor David Depukat MSN, RN-BC, CNE, was the featured speaker and his topic was substance use and addiction across populations and settings.

NEW WINDOW DECALS AVAILABLE

New WCSU Alumni Nursing Society window decals are now available for \$5. Some of the previous window decals are also still available. Please see Terri-Ann Tilquist, Nursing Department secretary, to purchase one, or email Monica Sousa at Sousam@wcsu.edu.





PICTURES OF THE ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING FOR THE WCSU NURSING LAB



Classroom



View through control room window



View towards lounge chair

WCSU NURSING LAB CAMPAIGN

It is truly a testament to the faculty and staff of the WCSU Nursing Department that it has been able to maintain its top state ranking for years given the outdated equipment and laboratory facilities at the school's disposal. The department is using the same equipment today that it used many years ago. While it is fine to wax nostalgic about campus spaces, this does not eliminate the need to develop the next generation of nurses who are committed to long-term careers that advance the profession, strengthen education, and bring change to the field and health care itself.

The Nursing Alumni Society is proud to join with the Nursing Department and Western's Office of Institutional Advancement in launching a campaign to provide funding for new nursing laboratories in White Hall. New technology will provide WCSU faculty with state-of the-art interactivity and realism in a safe learning environment for students. Renovating these labs will be expensive: We had hoped to introduce a multi-million dollar bond initiative to the state legislature for this purpose. However, the state's budget crunch has prevented this. The most basic of simulation labs begin at well over \$100,000, and more advanced labs can cost millions.

The WCSU Nursing Department needs new facilities that will incorporate many care settings, such as patient exam rooms, a critical care unit, and operating rooms that will help faculty teach and students develop their skills. These labs would also include audio-visual technology and other advances available to Western students in other disciplines.

It is critical that alumni be involved in funding this new laboratories initiative. Please consider a gift to support the program, along with renewing your dues for the upcoming year. Every contribution will help us reach our long-term goal.

Thank you for your continuing support.

WCSU Nursing Department



WCSU Alumni Nursing Society Membership Form

Please print, complete and return this form, along with your donation by Sunday May 1 to:
WCSU Alumni Office, Attn: Alumni Nursing Society, 181 White St., Danbury, CT 06810.

Name _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____

E-Mail _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Yes, I want to join the WCSU Alumni Nursing Society. \$25 _____

Yes, I want to renew the WCSU Alumni Nursing Society Membership. \$25 _____

Yes, I want donate \$_____ to the **Nursing Labs Campaign**.

Enclosed is my membership payment of \$25 plus an additional for a total of \$_____.

Preferred Payment Options:

Check (payable to WCSU Foundation/ Alumni Nursing Society)

Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX

Credit Card # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

News Updates (for publication in The Cupola magazine):

Let us know what you have been up to professionally and personally (career moves, accomplishments, retirement, etc.)

For more information about the WCSU Alumni Nursing Society, visit www.wcsu.edu/nursingalumni.



Volunteer Nurses Needed



Our mission ~ to provide quality health care to low income, uninsured residents in a setting where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

Norwalk	Danbury (RN, LPN only)	Bridgeport	Stamford
98 South Main St. Norwalk, CT	76 West St. Danbury, CT	115 Highland Ave. Bridgeport, CT	Mobile Clinic Stops at 2 locations

Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses and EMTs are needed for our free clinics. Volunteer shifts can be three to four hours.

All medical volunteers are covered under AmeriCares Free Clinics malpractice insurance policy.

To volunteer please contact Lorraine Larkin
llarkin@americares.org or (203)658-9521