



WCSU Alumni Nursing Society

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

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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 have had about two events per year, along with two newsletters each year, keeping you informed on 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 Membership and Pledge form enclosed. We thank you for your support.



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, RN BSN at Monissa28@sbcglobal.net



SPRING EVENT **MAY 12TH AT 4:30PM** **WARNER HALL, WCSU** **MIDTOWN CAMPUS**

GUEST SPEAKER: **TERESA VANDER** **VENNET BSN, JD, CPHQ**

We are please to have Theresa Vander Vennet speak at our Spring Event. She is a nurse-attorney currently working in the field of hospital quality and patient safety. She has fifteen years clinical and managerial experience in obstetrics. Theresa also has an independent practice as legal-nurse consultant for medical malpractice casework. She obtained her BSN from Syracuse University and JD from Quinnipiac University. She is the director of Clinical Excellence, Quality and Safety at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Theresa's presentation will be on hospital acquired condition and significant adverse events and their impact on quality, risk, financial and legal aspects of care.

2010 Senior Class

The 2010 Senior Class will be presenting their senior projects at the spring event. Topics for their project are: a.) diversity in nursing care of vulnerable populations; b.) the impact of technology and informatics in the nursing profession; and c.) healthcare policy, regulation and finance in nursing. They have worked very hard on these projects all semester. You will be amazed at their results!

Please join us for this great event!!!



2010 Marks the 40th Anniversary of the WCSU Nursing Department!!!

For 40 years, the WCSU Nursing Department has been producing fantastic nurses! The WCSU Alumni Nursing Society will be holding a Nursing Reunion on Homecoming Day, **Saturday, October 23, 2010**. We are planning many activities and need your help! We would love to have someone from each class year help us plan this special event. If you are interested, please contact Leah Turner at lturner@snet.net. Please spread the word. We would love to have as many alumni and faculty attends as possible.

Changed Your Contac Info Since Graduating WestConn?

Please let us know if you have changed your name, address, phone, e-mail, etc. Contact the WCSU Alumni office at (203) 837-8298 or update your info online at <https://www.wcsu.edu/ia/update.asp>. We would love to get everyone's information updated.



For more information on what is going on at WCSU, visit www.wcsu.edu/alumni



Please consider donating equipment or funds to help us furnish the Nursing Labs and provide services and scholarships to all 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!

NEWS FROM THE NURSING DEPARTMENT CHAIR, **DR. KAREN CROUSE**

Even in these trying economic times, we are moving forward on a new program. The need for nursing faculty has never been greater and both SCSU and WCSU feel that now is the time to make a difference. Therefore, the Ed.D. in Nursing Education is going through the approval processes at SCSU and WCSU. The faculty committee on both campuses has worked diligently on the program. I believe we have something we can all be proud of.

We are past the first hurdle of a legislative change that would allow the CSU schools to award this type of doctoral degree. You may or may not be aware that there is some opposition to this program. Therefore, we may be asking all of you to send letters of support for this program and the required legislative change to the legislators as we move forward.

The three CSU nursing programs are working collaboratively to obtain federal monies to update technologies on our campuses. Technology upgrades would include smart boards, electronic medication dispensing machines, computers and hand-held devices for every student, electronic health records, etc. We are also asking for funding of IT personnel specifically hired to assist the students and faculty to become competent. I believe that this collaborative effort will help us remain competitive and one the best nursing programs in Connecticut.

The faculty remain busy and committed to our programs. We have been presenting at local, national and international conferences on such diverse topics as multigenerational students, developing a new program from the ground up, student retention in an undergraduate nursing program, and the lived experience of military personnel. The faculty continue to be among the most published in professional journals and I encourage all of you read them. Lastly, I hope to see all of you at the alumni nursing event in May.

NURSING WINDOW DECALS

The Alumni Nursing Society is selling nursing window decals as our fundraiser. The size of the sticker is four by six inches. The colors are black and white. The cost of the bumper sticker is \$5. See Kathy Barber, nursing department secretary, to purchase these window decals or go to the WCSU bookstore located in the Student Center on the Midtown campus. You can also purchase them by contacting Monica Sousa at Monissa28@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for your support!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for people to help with the Alumni Nursing Society. It does not require a lot of time. We meet about three times a year for no more than an hour each time. We plan two events each year and would appreciate any help anyone can give us. Some of the areas we need help in are recruiting members, developing the newsletter, planning and setting up for events and providing ideas for activities etc. If you would like to help, please contact Monica Sousa at Monissa28@sbcglobal.net. We hope to hear from you soon!