From the Dean’s Desk ...

Ellen Durnin, Ph.D.
Dean, Graduate Studies and External Programs

As I leave WCSU to serve as dean of the school of business at Southern Connecticut State University, I’d like to reflect a bit on our history. Ten years ago, the State of Connecticut provided funding to the State University System to develop bachelor-completion programs in Criminology, Management, and Nursing, fields deemed to be shortage areas by the Connecticut Workforce Investment Board. WestConn and Central took the initiative, and WestConn and Central at Waterbury was born. Central provides upper-level Criminology courses for their students, while WestConn brings all courses and services to Founders Hall. On a hot day in July 2000, I surveyed our space - one office and two classrooms that had not been renovated since the ’50s, with no window screens or air conditioning. When the secretary called me requesting fly swatters and bug spray, I knew we had work to do. (Con’t. Pg. 4)

Special points of interest:
- Enrollment Grows 78%
- Admissions FAQs
- Benefits of CLEP tests
- Free WCSU courses
- NVCC to WCSU Scholarship
- Nursing Graduation gathering
- Guest speakers

Waterbury RN to BS Graduates, Recognition Gathering April 27, 2010

Barbara Piscopo, RN to BS Coordinator, Janet Ferrigon-Bigger, Patricia Ziske, Madeline Diaz, Jennifer Calo, Morgan Lacilla, Susanne Paulette, Dean Ellen Durnin
Transferring is easy. WestConn at Waterbury welcomes you!

Q: When should I apply?
A: It is best to submit your application and transcripts one semester in advance. For example, apply during the fall to be accepted for the upcoming spring semester. For fall admission, submit your application and transcripts during spring or early summer.

Q: When is the application period closed?
A: WestConn admits students based on a rolling admission basis. This means that you are welcome to apply for admission up until the first week of classes. However, certain programs will reach full capacity well before the end of summer. WestConn admits students on a first-come, first-served basis. Apply early.

Q: What do I need to be considered and where should I send my materials?
A: Send your application, $50 fee, proof of immunization, and official transcripts from every college or university you attended to WestConn at Waterbury, 750 Chase Parkway, Waterbury, CT 06708. (For RN to BS only: include a copy of your current RN license.)

Q: Where will I find the immunization form?
A: Request a form at Founders Hall 129 or see www.wcsu.edu/waterbury, click on forms. If you graduated after 1999 from a Connecticut high school, you may submit an official high school transcript for proof of immunization.

Q: What is the Minimum GPA Requirement?
A: A cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 for all previous college level study is required to transfer to WCSU. However, a 2.0 GPA does not guarantee admission to the University. Students seeking transfer to WestConn are encouraged to perform to the best of their abilities academically in order to enhance their transfer application. Some academic programs have special admission requirements beyond the general university admission requirements. Transfer applicants with 45 or more credits must meet special requirements. Ancell School of Business programs, including Justice and Law Administration require a 2.3 GPA. See AnnMarie for details of other programs.

Q: How many of my credits can be transferred to WestConn?
A: WestConn will accept a maximum of 75 credits from a two-year institution or program and up to 90 credits from a four-year school. All academic courses from Central, Eastern, or Southern Connecticut State Universities with a grade of D minus or higher, will transfer to WestConn. Some vocational or technical institution credits may not be transferable to WCSU. WestConn’s Admission Counselors will always try to apply the best selection of credits to your undergraduate program.

Q: What can I do if I am dissatisfied with the way my credits are transferred?
A: You may appeal to have your transfer credit evaluation reviewed by the Director of Undergraduate Admissions by calling (203) 837-9000. Act promptly. You have one semester after your acceptance to appeal the transfer credit evaluation.

Q: How many credits must I earn at WestConn?
A: In order to earn a degree from WCSU, a minimum of one-half of the credits required in any major must be completed at WestConn. All transfer students must complete a minimum of 30 credits at WestConn in order to be eligible for graduation.

Q: What if I have an Associate Degree?
A: You must meet minimum GPA requirements for your selected program.
Students in Judith Dreyer’s course benefited from the professional experience of two guest lecturers. Lively presentations enhanced the course by giving a global view of alternative therapies, exploring pros and cons. Darlene Bruns discussed essential oils and aromatherapy: its history, method of distillation and practical uses. She brought several samples for experimental learning and provided web sites and other resources. Students became convinced of the ability of essential oils/ aromatherapy to be helpful. They learned to make lotions and found scents that enhance studying while others promote slumber. Many students plan to integrate these products into their daily lives and their practice of healing and wellness. Dr. Gazsi, a practicing Naturopath, discussed the history of Naturopathy, medical licensing requirements and a comparison with Western trained physicians. He presented realistic views of illness and treatment using case studies that demonstrate how he treats common disorders. Students gained new ideas for using homeopathic remedies and a clearer understanding of what the practice is and how it works. Students reported being inspired to live a healthier lifestyle and left with tools to keep themselves and their families and patients healthier.

Nursing in the Community NUR 330
Lois Mulhern from the Waterbury Health Dept. discussed school nursing. Students in Dr. Ellen Abate’s class work with families experiencing illness helping to identify and connect them with supportive resources in the community.

At the invitation of Mark Case, Theresa O’Brien helped students in MGT 340 Total Quality Management MGT 340 with a case study discussion pertaining to her time at Xerox during great change and initiative within Quality Management.

For her Nursing Practicum, NUR 375, RN student Madeline Diaz worked with a group of Hispanic diabetic patients, presenting six sessions on nutrition at CT Mental Health Center in New Haven. Given in Spanish, the lectures were followed by a “healthy lunch” prepared by Ms. Diaz and her preceptor.

Nursing Professors Ellen Abate and Barbara Piscopo presented “Promoting Community Health Role Competence in RN-BS Students Using a Nurse-Family Health Partnership” in Chicago on June 11-13, 2009. The Association of Community Health Nurse Educators 2009 Annual Institute is a conference for nurse educators who are teaching in the area of public and community health.

Students are finding convenience, value and academic excellence close to home. Compared to the previous academic year, as of June 30, 2010, Waterbury’s enrollment for BBA in Management was up 15%, RN to BS up 39%, and Waterbury-at-large (primarily general education courses) up 78%.

Ira Joe Fisher on air and in person. NPR Poet and CBS television personality Ira Joe Fisher adjunct professor of English at WestConn at Waterbury appeared Oct. 18, 2009 at Schine Auditorium, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield. He shared readings from his second book of poetry, Songs from an Earlier Century. A follow-up to his first poetry collection, Some Holy Weight in the Village Air, this new compilation takes the reader deeper into the New England landscape and ultimately deeper into the self as he explores that region between people and nature.
That fall, we renovated two classrooms and the F-129 office, providing the state of the art learning environments that students enjoy today. On each of our renovation projects I have been fortunate to work with Eric Lessne, who has brought in the work under budget, on time, and with high quality results. Lorraine Capobianco figured out how all our technology in Waterbury could be connected to the Danbury campus, providing a seamless environment for faculty, students and staff.

Over the years, the programs have grown, with over 300 students studying at the Waterbury location each semester. We have created a "one-stop" experience for our students, where they can apply, register, purchase textbooks, receive academic advisement and be connected with Danbury as needed. We have developed strong relationships with the academic departments, whose Chairs schedule general education courses in Waterbury to support students' schedules. The majority of Waterbury-based students are able to complete their bachelors' degrees without ever traveling to Danbury. Today we enjoy comfortable classrooms, a computer lab, a top-drawer nursing lab including SimWoman, and office space for faculty and staff.

My enduring thanks goes to Maureen Gamache who for many years kept Waterbury humming on a daily basis, always available to assist faculty, students and staff with a smile. We wish her well in her new role as Assistant Registrar in Danbury. In the same way Catherine Langellotti, our secretary, will continue to support all the people and activities here. AnnMarie Puleo, our admissions counselor, encourages our students to realize their abilities and to persevere with their decision to complete their bachelor degree. Thanks also to our computer support personnel and helpful student workers. We have created a true team where service excellence is paramount, and I am proud of all they do. Finally, I wish to thank the faculty members who have provided the high quality education that our students enjoy. They are the ones that make this program special. I'd particularly like to single out Dr. Barbara Piscopo of the Nursing department for recognition. Barbara has been there with me since the first day. Her advocacy for her students and the RN to BS program is remarkable. She has grown the program into the successful initiative it is today; we are addressing the demand for bachelor-prepared nurses that our health care organizations demand.

My best wishes to all for a very successful academic year. I am proud of what we have achieved, and I expect to hear great things about WestConn at Waterbury in the future.-Dr. Ellen Durnin