

## THE BOROUGH



Wagner College nursing students listen to speakers during a pinning ceremony in 2011. (STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE /IRVING SILVERSTEIN)

## GRYMES HILL

# Wagner College adds doctorate in nursing

*An open house for prospective students is set for Tuesday*

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In a first for the school, Wagner College plans to offer a doctorate degree program in nursing starting this fall.

The college's Evelyn Spiro School of Nursing will enroll its first class of 20 students in August.

An open house for those interested in the program is set for Tuesday evening, from 6 to 8, in the Spiro Sports Center's VIP room.

The application deadline for the program is July 31.

According to the college, the program will focus especially on disaster-preparedness and

preventative health.

Admission to the program is limited to those who have already earned a master of science degree in nursing and have national board certification as a family nurse practitioner.

Students who enroll will be required to complete an additional 39 credits, on top of their master's credits, for the doctorate in nursing practice (DNP) degree.

According to the college, the program is designed for working professionals who would be expected to take two courses each semester, both of which will meet on the same evening each week. The schedule would allow students to complete their doctorate in just over two years.

"Many of our courses will in-

clude an extra focus on disaster-preparedness," explained Wagner nursing professor Kathleen Ahern, director of graduate nursing studies. "In biology, for example, we will study ways to handle bio-terrorism events, and our course on post-traumatic stress will emphasize recovering in the aftermath of a terrorist attack," she said.

A course on disaster preparedness systems "will give students an in-depth exposure to the Incident Command System for Healthcare and Hospitals," Professor Ahern continued.

Students will obtain a certificate of completion from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) when they complete the course.

Another feature of the

program will be its "global learning experience." Every doctoral student will participate in one of the college's clinical nursing partnerships situated within a different culture.

At the moment, Wagner's partners include clinics in Haiti, Mexico and a Native-American reservation in New Mexico.

Wagner's nursing program was created during World War II. The college graduated its first class of nursing students in 1946.

A spokesman for the school said there are no plans at the moment to offer doctorate programs in any other disciplines.

More details about the doctorate program in nursing are available on the college website or by calling 718-390-3411.