

Psychiatric Experience Gives Students An Insight Into Meeting The Nursing Needs Of Their Patients

DURHAM - "It's wonderful," says attractive blonde nursing student Kitty Garriss, bubbling enthusiasm, "so like other nursing, yet so different."

Speaking of psychiatric nursing experience as one of seven students in their third year of Chowan College's Associate in Arts Degree in Nursing programs, she is at Duke hospital completing part of her requirements.

"Our fears of psychiatric nursing were unreal, coming from preconceived ideas and, when we saw this, we helped patients and thought only of their welfare."

"You don't give pills, shots or thermometers," Kitty continued. "You give of yourself. It helps you think more about helping patients as people."

Julia Hayes, flaming red-head known to friends as Judy, explained, "We were very anxious, maybe even scared, a little, knowing we would work with these patients on a personal basis for four months, but this experience helps us become better over-all nurses, with broader understanding of how to meet patients' needs."

Driving the college bus during her second year at Chowan, Julia transported classmates from Chowan's campus to nearby Roanoke-Chowan Hospital in Ahoskie. "Working with patients whose needs vary in these hospitals," says she, "is helping us become better nurses."

Four girls, including Kitty and Julia, are locked in wards with their patients and three work in unlocked wards, something unheard of until recently in treating psychiatric patients. More humane treatment of psychiatric patients, including unlocked wards, has been among programs pioneered by Duke hospital. Each girl lives in the coastal area

and is preparing to spend her nursing career as an "angel of mercy" to people in Coastal Carolina.

Chowan's program arose to help meet increasing demands for more skilled nurses in Coastal Carolina. Facilities at Roanoke-Chowan and Duke hospitals are used, but the program is completely under the control and supervision of Chowan College. Other colleges are planning to begin programs similar to Chowan's in the near future.

Students in Chowan's program

who are now at Duke gaining four months of intensive psychiatric nursing experience, in addition to Kitty and Julia, are Betty Jean Crawford and Marsha Purvis of Ahoskie, Judy Grimm of Springfield, Va., Sandra Hare of Edenton and Judy Shearin of Roanoke Rapids. Julia is from Rocky Mount and Kitty calls Jackson home.

These girls gained supervised experience at Roanoke-Chowan during the second year of their enrollment in the program. Along with regular academic courses,

to meet requirements for degrees, they attended lectures and conferences in medical-surgical nursing and maternal-child care, and cared for patients under the supervision of their instructor in clinical nursing, Mrs. Sarah Bryant Tankard. Chowan's second class in the program is now gaining supervised experience at Roanoke-Chowan.

Miss Maryiva Carpenter, professor in Chowan's Department of Nursing and coordinator of the program at Duke, coordinates conferences and clinics

with direct care of patients. This combination is designed to help students gain better understanding of how to meet patient needs in medical-surgical nursing, maternal-child care and in psychiatric nursing.

Mrs. Almira Hoppe Hemstead Ockerman, chairman of Chowan's Department of Nursing, which is a member of the Department of Associate Degree Programs of the National League for Nursing, supervises the program at various hospitals and on the Chowan College campus.



WITH ONE OF THEIR PATIENTS are Judy Hayes, left, and Kitty Garriss, Chowan College nursing students at

Duke Hospital gaining four months of intensive psychiatric nursing experience.



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