



NEW HOUSE OFFICERS ON BOARD — This year's medical center house staff totals 473 residents and 147 fellows, of which 225 are new to Duke. Accounting clerks Sharon Powers (left) and Patricia Whitfield assist three of the house officers with some of the numerous forms they need to complete. Mary Fendt, administrative assistant in the House Staff Office, said that this year's Duke house officers come from throughout the United States and Australia, Belgium, Canada, Columbia, England, Finland, France, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Phillipines, Poland, Rhodesia, South Africa, Taiwan and Switzerland. (Photo by John Becton)

Duke sociologist says

Protestant work ethic shifting to executives

By Bob Wilson
Duke News Service

The once-hallowed Protestant work ethic that extolled hard labor and self-discipline for generations of Americans is migrating from the assembly line to the executive suite, a Duke sociologist says.

"Vestiges of the Protestant ethic are found in even the most modern of executives," says Dr. John Wilson, an associate professor of sociology.

Wilson notes in a new book that the Protestant ethic isn't faring well among blue-collar workers in America's post-industrial society, and for a variety of reasons.

Wilson's book, "Religion in American Society," has been published by Prentice-Hall. A college-level text, it is a sociological study of Americans and their religious life.

Little incentive

The researcher says workers are so strongly influenced by technological and economic changes that they often have little incentive any more to practice the Protestant ethic virtues of thrift, craftsmanship and self-reliance.

Thus, Wilson argues, a motivating force that did much to boost capitalism has given way to trade unions that bring economic benefits through collective bargaining rather than individual effort, and "the need for self-reliance has been diminished by the introduction of the welfare state."

Wilson says executives are now the ones who have flexibility to make individual decisions and take actions that might be reflected in the old-time Protestant ethic.

"They are," he says, "imbued with a rational drive for economic gain."

Belief more significant

In many ways, Wilson notes, the importance of the Protestant ethic today lies not in its actual relation to socioeconomic achievement, "but in the belief that this relation exists."

Although hard work doesn't guarantee success and chances of becoming a real-life Horatio Alger are few, the belief that these things can happen is widespread among the middle and upper classes, Wilson says.

The sociologist believes the Protestant ethic survives in easily recognizable form today in such injunctions as "Anything that is worth doing is worth doing well," and in a disdain for the "idle rich" who seem to produce little or nothing worthwhile.

Hard work may be obstacle

It's ironic, Wilson says, but the growing technological and organizational complexity of life means that virtues such as hard work and thrift may actually be obstacles rather than aids to economic well-being.

"The injunction to be thrifty is unwise when inflation is permanent and relatively cheap credit is available," he

Professional News

Dr. Everett H. Ellinwood Jr., professor of psychiatry, participated in three professional meetings in Europe this month.

He presented a paper on "Differential Clovazine Effects on Chronic Stimulant Induced Behaviors" during a Symposium on Receptors of Dopamine Agonists: New Biochemical Approaches, July 6-8 in Beerse, Belgium.

At the 11th Congress of the Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum July 9-14 in Vienna, Austria, Ellinwood presented two research papers and chaired a workshop on "Stimulants: Mechanisms of Actions."

This week, Ellinwood has been attending the 7th International Congress of Pharmacology in Paris.

Dr. James F. Gifford Jr., associate professor of community and family medicine, will present a paper July 24 on "The Influence on American Cultural and Intellectual History on Public Policy" to a U.S. Civil Service Commission Executive Training Seminar.

Gifford is the editor of "Medical Education and the Elective Principle," scheduled for publication this summer by Duke University Press.

Dr. Montague Brown, professor of health administration, presented a paper at the Invitational Conference on Multi-Hospital Systems and Shared Services in Washington, June 15-16. The paper was "Multi-Hospital Systems and Shared Services: Some Questions and Issues."

Dr. Stuart Handwerger, associate professor of pediatrics and assistant professor of physiology, has been appointed to a four-year term on the Human Embryology and Development Study Section of the National Institute of Child Health and Development, National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Blaine S. Nashold Jr., professor of neurosurgery, delivered a special lecture on the future prospects of neuroprosthesis in neurosurgery during the 30th annual meeting of the Scandinavian Neurosurgical Society June 14-17 in Bergen, Norway. He also was made a corresponding member of the society.



DR. NASHOLD
Bergen, Norway. He also was made a corresponding member of the society.

Following the meeting, Nashold was visiting professor at the University of Umea, Sweden, and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.



writes. "Thriftiness also makes less sense when savings are imposed on the typical wage-earner by the reinvestment policies of major corporations and the tax programs of the state."

Wilson says farmers who conform most closely to the Protestant ethic tend to make "less rational decisions" concerning the use of machinery and

ultimately make less profit.

He also notes that there is no difference between Protestants and Catholics in regard to work and consumption.

"Attitudes toward work and leisure are becoming increasingly secularized. Members of different faiths can share these attitudes without violating their religious principles."

Student in tourney

Fourth-year medical student Douglas Reintgen was the runner-up in the Championship Flight of the recent Herald-Sun Papers Golf Tournament.

The championship match at the Hillandale Golf Course was close all the way, with Reintgen eventually losing by two strokes to defending champion Thad Daber of Raleigh.

NCME program

The summer schedule for the Network for Continuing Medical Education continues with a program on "The Five Phases of Acute Myocardial Infarction."

It can be viewed today and Wednesday (July 26) at 1 p.m. in Room M406 at Duke and Rooms D3008, C6002 and C7002 and Building 16 at the VA Hospital.

Correction

A special seminar sponsored by the Departments of Biochemistry and Anatomy will be held today. Last week's *Intercom* incorrectly stated that the seminar was to have been July 14.

Dr. Geof Wahl of Stanford University's Department of Biochemistry will speak on "Gene amplification as a mechanism of resistance to an anti-tumor agent," in Room 147, Nanaline H. Duke Building at 12:30 p.m. Coffee will be served at 12:15 in the lobby.



"Sorry I'm late. I cut myself shaving this morning."