

Nursing dean got firsthand look at Chinese medical care

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"China appeared to me to be a classless, unisex society," she said. "Men and women share the home tasks and child rearing responsibilities. Men and women even looked very much alike because of the way they dressed; both wore slacks and blouses. But dresses on adult women are making their appearance since Peking approved such change in June. Neutral colors are worn by adults, but children are frequently in bright colors."

Nurseries in work places free the Chinese from child care worries, and liberal maternity benefits are intended to do the same. Women are allowed 54 days off work after the birth of each child, many of whom are born at home, and time off during the day is granted to allow for breastfeeding.

Marry later than Americans

Wilson said family planning programs in China are very effective and the average age Chinese marry is older than in this country.

"The average age males marry is around 28," she said. "And the average age for Chinese women to marry is 26."

Wilson and other members of the health study group saw routine physical exams and observed abdominal surgery.

She also saw open heart surgery performed using acupuncture as a form of anesthesia.

"The surgeon who performed the acupuncture said surgery by acupuncture

took a longer time and greater technical skill was necessitated than when using general anesthesia. He stressed that not everyone was a candidate for acupuncture," she said. "Acupuncture decreases the complications of general anesthesia."

'Barefoot doctors'

Wilson also saw many "barefoot doctors" at work in the fields and in commune health stations. Barefoot

doctors are individuals trained by the Chinese government to work in rural areas and handle common illnesses, minor traumatic injuries and deliveries.

Members of the study group visited the famous #6 Hospital in Shanghai that is devoted solely to replacing severed fingers, arms and legs. The hospital's services have been in great demand because of accidents resulting from the increasing industrialization of the mainland.

The Institute of Cardiovascular Research of the University of Peking was a highlight of the trip.

The chief nursing and medical administrators had had some Western education and were surprisingly up to date with professional knowledge from the United States, Wilson said.

Exchange program planned

Dean Wilson observed that medical and nursing education programs that exist now in China are "not of high quality," as they received low priority during Mao's reign.

"Medical schools were closed shortly after the Liberation," Wilson said, "and professional journals were not allowed to publish. Changes are occurring rapidly to reverse these situations, and this year students are being selected for advanced study through competitive testing rather than political assignment. Mr. Hua (Chairman Hua Kuo-feng) is most instrumental in opening up the country for learning technology from other countries, including the United States."

There are plans to set up an exchange program so that health care professionals who are already practicing now in China can come to the United States to receive additional training.

Results will be interesting

Wilson was the only health professional from Duke on the China trip. Having lived and traveled extensively in the Far East, she found herself constantly making comparisons between China and other underdeveloped countries.

"There is much to be learned from China, but the nature and philosophy of our country would mitigate against the implementation of many Chinese practices regardless of their value," she said. "It will be interesting to watch the unsettling results in China of the program permitting its people to travel and be educated in other countries."

Clinical director named at Highland

Dr. Leo J. Potts, assistant professor of psychiatry, has been named clinical director of Highland Hospital in Asheville.

The appointment was announced by Dr. Jack W. Bonner III, medical director of the hospital, a division of the Department of Psychiatry.

A native of South Australia, Potts holds degrees from the University of Adelaide Medical School there, and from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in London.

He became a staff psychiatrist at Highland in 1969, and was appointed to the Duke faculty as an assistant professor in 1972.

Professional news

Dr. James F. Glenn, professor and chief of the Division of Urologic Surgery, has been elected vice president of Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA), national medical honor society.

His selection came at AOA's annual meeting, held recently in New Orleans.

AOA was founded in 1902 at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. The society includes undergraduates, alumni, faculty and honorary members.

Membership is by peer and society election. Most members rank in the top 25 percent of their medical class.

Dr. James J. Morris Jr., professor of cardiology, was one of 10 delegates representing the N.C. Heart Association at the Delegates' Assembly during the annual assembly and scientific sessions of the American Heart Association, Nov. 13-17 in Dallas. A number of medical center faculty and staff members attended the meeting.

Dr. David W. Scott, associate professor of immunology, was an invited speaker at an international symposium on "B Lymphocytes in the Immune Response," Oct. 14-18 in Scottsdale, Ariz. Scott also was a symposium speaker at the Southeastern Immunology Conference held in Atlanta Nov. 2-3.

Nutrition course for professionals

The Department of Nutrition, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is offering a spring semester course for health professionals called Applied Nutrition for Health Professions (NUTR 110).

Prerequisites for this course are previous or concurrent courses in chemistry, biochemistry and physiology/anatomy at undergraduate or graduate level; knowledge and understanding of nutrition and application to preventive and therapeutic care in a health-team approach; and some clinical and



SOUVENIRS — Dr. Ruby Wilson, dean of the School of Nursing, brought back souvenirs of the oriental culture she recently visited. Wilson was one of 22 health professionals who toured the People's Republic of China. (Photo by Parker Herring)

Go under, not over

During the coming week the temporary wooden walkway over the PRT tracks near the Mudd and Bell buildings will be removed, according to Larry Nelson, director of the Duke Hospital North Design and Construction Control Office. Pedestrians traveling east to west may follow the walkway in front of the Bell Building down newly constructed concrete steps, under the PRT guideway and back up more concrete steps to the walkway in front of the Mudd Building.

Neurosurgeons choose Wilkins

Dr. Robert H. Wilkins, professor and chief of the Division of Neurosurgery, has been named president-elect of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons.



DR. WILKINS

His election came at the group's annual meeting recently in Washington.

The organization, composed of neurosurgeons from the United States and 34 other countries, has the largest number of active members of any neurosurgical society.

Wilkins has been a member of the executive committee of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons since 1973 and is editor of its journal, Neurosurgery.

Wilkins earned undergraduate and medical degrees at the University of Pittsburgh in 1955 and 1959, respectively.

He served as an intern and resident at Duke from 1959-61 and 1963-68, and was a clinical associate in the surgery branch of the National Cancer Institute from 1961-63.

He was appointed to the faculty as an assistant professor in 1968. He left in 1972 and served on the medical faculties of the universities of Texas at Galveston and Dallas and at the University of Pittsburgh before returning in 1976 as professor and chief of neurosurgery.

Memorial service set for Cleland

A memorial service for the Rev. James T. Cleland will be conducted Sunday at 2 p.m. in Duke University Chapel.

Dr. Cleland, dean emeritus of the chapel and James B. Duke professor emeritus of preaching in the Divinity School, died of a heart attack at his home Nov. 14. He was an honorary alumnus of the medical school and an honorary member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the medical honor society.

A private family service was conducted shortly after his death, and the public memorial service was postponed until the university's Founder's Day Weekend.