

Nurses take to the field

By KAREN MCLEOD

To gain first-hand clinical experience in their field, student nurses have been observing health organizations since the nursing program was first developed, according to Chair of the Nursing Department Cindy Archie.

She said observation of experienced nurses helps prepare students for the work force.

Nursing students are required to take a sequence of nursing classes, one each quarter, including summer, all of which demand clinical experience: Basic Nursing, Adult/Child I, Adult/Child II, Psychiatric Nursing, Adult/Child III, Maternity and Gynecological Nursing and Adult/Child IV.

Basic Nursing requires that students volunteer their time at Wayne Memorial Hospital (WMH) as nursing assistants.

In Adult/Child I the students work on the third, fourth, sixth, and seventh floors of the hospital.

During Adult/Child II, students begin giving medications under supervision of LPN's and RN's at the hospital and working as assistants.

Prior to their clinical assignments in psychiatric nursing, students go through orientation at the Wayne County Mental Health Center.

Then they work on the fifth floor of WMH, where they are allowed to give patients injections.

Students also observe at Cherry Hospital and Howell's as part of their assignment in Psychiatric Nursing.

For Maternity and Gynecological Nursing, students use the Health Department, Wayne and Lenoir Memorial Hospitals, and doctors' offices for prenatal and post-partum experience.

In Adult/Child Nursing III, students observe patients at the Health Department, Goldsboro Pediatrics, and Home Health and Hospice Care Inc. for patient care outside of the hospital.

In Adult/Child Nursing IV, students go to the emergency room and Intensive Care Unit for critical care observation.

These classes are required for an associate degree, and students must write an extensive case study about some of their observational experiences.

Archie pointed out that clinical experience helps



Hospice supervisor Deon Keen welcomes WCC nursing student Michelle Lewis.

prepare future nurses for the varied environments they will encounter in the work force.



Aides fill health care needs

By BRENDA ANNAL

Along with the growing importance of nurses comes a greater need for nursing assistants, and Wayne Community College's Continuing Education program is doing its best to meet the need.

Although WCC has had a nursing assistants program for the past 10 years, the program has been revised in the past 3 years to meet the growing needs of the community.

With 3 different levels of classes, WCC offers students the chance to become nursing assistants, according to Roy White, Director of Campus and Occupational Programs.

Interest in the program and the success rate remain high, White said.

All of the slots are usually filled on the first day of registration, with a graduation rate of over 90 percent.

He said the 3 courses strive to keep pace with the drastic changes that have affected the nursing field in the past two years.

Nursing Assistant I, the first level of the program, is open to any student interested in the course.

Nursing Assistant II is open only to students who have already graduated from the first level.

The final level, Nursing Assistant III, is a refresher course for individuals already employed as assistants.

In the past 2 years, 500 to 600 students have graduated from the WCC Nurse Aide program.

Ceremonies are held each quarter for levels I and II.

Only a small percentage of graduates go on to a degree program; the rest seek employ-

ment in hospitals and retirement homes.

On Saturday, October 19, a class of thirty Nursing Assistant I students graduated in a ceremony dedicated to "those who overcome their obstacles."

Ramona Jones provided a sign language interpretation for the audience.

The signed ceremony White said symbolized the goal of the program: to create assistants whose knowledge and compassion last a lifetime.

Sunday, November 17, marked the first graduation for Nursing II students.

Farewell, Ritchie

By LIZ MEADOR

The Voice staff sends a reluctant farewell to Ritchie Cox, who for the past 2 years has made significant contributions of time, energy, and expertise to the production of the Voice.

Cox leaves WCC for the radiology program at Johnston Community College.

We will miss him sorely but wish him good fortune in his career.

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