

InterCom

VOL. 11, NO. 3

JUNE, 1964

DURHAM, N. C.

The Degree Program in Hospital Administration

by RAY E. BROWN*

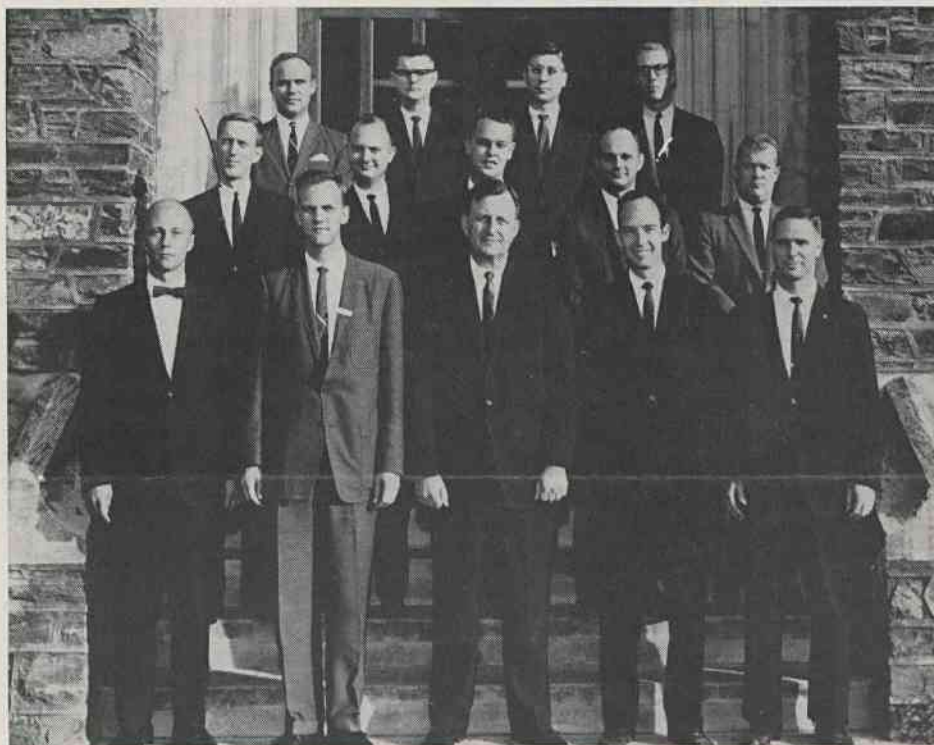
The story of Duke University's pioneering move in the establishment of the first organized program for the training of hospital administrators is well-known throughout the health and hospital fields. From that program has flowed some of the nation's outstanding hospital administrators. The Southeast, in particular, is sprinkled with Duke-trained hospital administrators and they have contributed sizeably to the dramatic advances in hospital development in this region.

Since the first regular students entered the Duke program in 1932, some two score other universities have established formal programs for the training of hospital administrators. Like Duke's, these have been at the post-baccalaureate level. Not all have survived, but today there are 15 nationally recognized graduate programs in the United States and two in Canada. Two additional programs are scheduled to open in the fall of 1964. Approximately 300 graduates will be produced by these programs this year, and the total number of graduates over the years is nearing 3,500.

The Duke story added new dimensions with the June convocation. At that time nine graduates received the Master of Hospital Administration degree. This class, admitted in 1962, were the first Duke graduates in hospital administration to receive a formal degree. All prior graduates were awarded a certificate.

The growing complexity of hospital

* Mr. Brown was appointed director of the graduate degree Program in Hospital Administration at Duke University on March 1, 1964.



A milestone was reached when the nine students, pictured here with their faculty, received the Master of Hospital Administration degree during the Commencement exercises. Heretofore, training in this field at Duke had been limited to a certificate program. It was expanded to a degree program in 1962. First row, left to right, the faculty of the program: Donald Smith, Ralph Jennings, Charles Frenzel, Charles Boone, Louis Swanson; graduates: second row, left to right, Francis F. Manning, Carl V. Strayhorn, Jr., Kenneth J. Schoonhagen, Ralph H. Holthouser, Jr., Richard A. Byrnes; third row, left to right, William L. Yates, Christopher Johnston, VI, Boi Jon Jaejer, David R. Page.

management that Dean Davison foresaw in the late twenties has become more than full-grown, and the pattern of education for hospital administrators is now recognized as an interdisciplinary arrangement involving formal courses at the graduate level. Effective with the decision of Duke University to offer a degree program, all nationally recognized programs now confer a master's degree upon their graduates. The several programs

are similar in that they all require two years of combined study and administrative residency. But, there are sharp dissimilarities. Some are located in Schools of Public Health, others in Schools of Business; some in schools of Medicine and some in Graduate Schools. Those in the professional schools have a heavy orientation of their courses in the subject matter related to the particular professional school. The program at Duke