

Dietetics Honors Employees

Valentines Day was a very special, red-letter-sort-of-day in the Department of Dietetics.

On that day a tea was given by that department honoring nine employees who were nominated as recipients of the Dietetics Employee of the Year awards.

An important occasion for the Dietetics Department, the tea was "on the drawing board" for months, and over one hundred man hours went into the preparations.

A nominating committee of ten persons, including a cook, a payroll clerk, a food service worker, four supervisors and three servers met from September through January deciding on the selection of the nominees.

The nominating committee carefully considered the following in selecting the nominees: attitude, judgment, knowledge, experience, physical characteristics (health and appearance), personality, integrity, leadership, vision and creativity (self-development, insight, imagination, ideals, etc.), communal and professional responsibility (professional growth and responsibility in dietetics).

Out of the 210 employees considered by the committee, nine were nominated for the awards: Vira Barefoot, Lillian Crabtree, Mildred Rigsbee, Evelyn Upchurch, David Currie, Christine Hines, Frances Rogers, Lugenia Stubbs, and Ruth Suitt. They were selected from two categories: "employees" and "supervisory-office personnel."

On February 1 each of the full-time employees of the department had an opportunity to vote for one nominee in each category.

The outcome of the voting was not announced until the tea, at which time the winners were presented cups engraved with their names and "Duke University Medical Center Dietetics Department, Employee of the Year, 1966."

The winners of the 1966 awards were David Currie and gram; and Mrs. Barbara El-Vira Barefoot.

The department wrote short
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Patient Care Assistants Mary Ruth Tilley, Ruby Griffis, Anita Westbrook, and Andra Gihon were taught during their training program to make out their own work sheets from the patients' Kardex (information taken from patients' charts and put on cards for more convenient referral).

Patient Care Is Their Concern

The Patient Care Assistant Program, created here at Duke to help meet existing needs at Duke, is the first such program of its kind in the country, and offers invaluable training and experience toward furthering a career in the health field.

The program was planned by Miss Jane Bailey, Director of Inservice Education and coordinator of the training program, and is designed to so train assistants that they will be qualified to assist the professional nursing staff in providing care and treatment for patients. The title, "Patient Care Assistant," was chosen after careful deliberation and in itself is a description of the position.

The training program includes a concentrated course of instruction and on-the-job training.

At the present time, the four wards used in the clinical training of the assistants are: Rankin, the Clinical Research Unit; Long, a medical ward; Reed, a surgical ward; and McDowell, also a surgical ward. The supervision of the assistants' clinical experience is the responsibility of Miss Eleanor Kay, Head Nurse on Rankin; Mrs. Inez James, Instructor in the Postgraduate L.P.N. Program; and Mrs. Inez James, Instructor in Inservice Education.

Blue and white uniforms with special sleeve insignias are

worn by the Patient Care Assistants during their training period and after graduation. The trainee, however, must also wear a "Trainee" badge underneath the sleeve insignia. The women wear blue pinafore dresses and white blouses, and the men wear white trousers and blue shirts.

When they begin their twelve-week course, the Patient Care Assistant trainees are considered employees of Duke Hospital and are paid a monthly stipend of \$180.00. Medical center employees whose present salary is higher than \$180.00 per month will be authorized to work up to sixteen hours per week on their present job to supplement this training period stipend.

If they satisfactorily complete the training program, the assistants are assured full-time employment at Duke Hospital at a starting salary of \$235.00 per month.

Qualified applicants within the medical center will be accepted for training, as well as qualified applicants outside the medical center. To be accepted for the training program, applicants must meet the following qualifications:

Be between 18 and 55 years of age

High school graduate (if under 35 years of age)

Completion of two years of

LONG

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the tumor was shown him. He gave no evidence of suffering during the operation, and assured me after it was over that he did not experience the slightest degree of pain from its performance. This operation was performed on March 30, 1842."

Dr. Long continued his study of ether anesthesia and is reported to have used it "in at least five operations before it was so used by anyone else."

Although he had made a major discovery, Dr. Long's work with ether anesthesia was not well known for several years. In fact, it was not until after a Boston dentist, William Morton, made spectacular demonstrations of ether anesthesia in 1846 that the Georgia surgeon's work became generally known. And it became known at that time when a heated controversy arose over who deserved the laurels for the "discovery of anesthesia." In 1849 Dr. Long reported his operations in the *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal*.

Finally, in 1877, Dr. J. Marion Sims, who was convinced of the merit of Dr. Long's claims, demanded recognition of them by the medical profession, Dr. Long especially desiring the endorsement of the American Medical Association.

high school (if over 35 years of age)

Satisfactory evaluation in present position

Recommendation of immediate supervisor or department head

Acceptable aptitude test scores and interviews.

There were thirteen Patient Care Assistants graduated from the first training program, which began in January and ended April 1. The trainees, twelve of whom were women, ranged in age from 18 to 49 years.

The next training program will begin in the late spring. All persons interested in applying for the program or obtaining further information about it, should contact Mrs. Lee Fritz in the Medical Center Personnel Office as soon as possible.