



Intercom

duke university medical center

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 18

MAY 14, 1971

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Takes Post July 1

Dr. Wilson Appointed Dean of Nurses

In meetings with the School of Nursing faculty and student officers last week, Duke President Terry Sanford announced the appointment of Dr. Ruby Wilson as dean of the school.

The appointment, subject to confirmation by the University Board of Trustees, will be effective July 1.

Dr. Wilson, a professor of nursing, returned to Duke in February after a two-year assignment in Thailand with the Rockefeller Foundation.

She will succeed Dr. Myrtle Irene Brown, who resigned from the deanship last year. Miss Ann Jacobansky, professor of nursing, has been acting dean while a student-faculty search committee was selecting Dr. Brown's successor.

Dr. Wilson's affiliation with Duke began in 1955 when she became an instructor in medical and surgical nursing. She was promoted to assistant professor in 1959. From 1963 to 1966 she was also an associate in medicine, assistant to the director of nursing services at Duke Hospital, and clinical specialist in nephrology.

Beginning in 1966, she took an educational leave to work on her doctorate in higher education, a degree she received in 1968.

From that time until her return to Duke earlier this year, Dr. Wilson served as visiting professor and consultant for the Rockefeller Foundation in establishing a department and school of nursing and assisting with other health related programs at the Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand.

In a recent Intercom interview about her experience in Thailand, Dr. Wilson commented, "It was a challenging but enjoyable experience and I was still learning as I left the land of temples and smiles."



ANNOUNCEMENT DAY—Duke President Terry Sanford, left, posed for this photograph after his announcement last week that Dr. Ruby Wilson, center, had been selected as the new dean of the Duke School of Nursing. At right is Dr. John Blackburn, University provost who was recently named chancellor of the University. (staff photo)

Dr. Wilson rejoined the Duke nursing faculty as a full professor on February 1.

A native of Punxsutawney, Pa., Miss Wilson received a diploma from the Allegheny General Hospital School of Nursing in Pittsburgh in 1951.

From 1951-55 she worked at Allegheny as a staff nurse, assistant head nurse, night clinical instructor and supervisor. At the same time she was attending the University of Pittsburgh on a part-time basis and earned a B.S. in nursing education, with a major in surgical nursing, in 1954.

Following graduate work at San Francisco State College, she completed work for a master's degree in nursing school administration at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland in 1959.

The Search Committee which

recommended Dr. Wilson for the deanship was chaired by Dr. Frank DeVyver, professor of economics. Other members included Dr. Frederick C. Joerg, assistant provost for academic administration; Miss Gwendolyn Fortune, professor of nursing; Dr. Mary E. Shaughnessy, Dr. Willamay Whitner, and Miss A. Sue Norville, all associate professors of nursing; Dr. Juanita Kreps, dean of the Women's College; Dr. E. Harvey Estes, chairman of the Department of Community Health Sciences; Miss Wendy Hagstrom, representing undergraduate student nurses; Miss Eleanor Helmann, representing graduate nursing students; and Mrs. Frank Dalton and Mrs. Francis A. Neelon, both representing Duke nursing alumnae.