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IN THE COMPUTER ROOM—Drs. Ramm (left) and Gianturco outlined ways by which modern computer technology may aid the aged in a recent issue of THE GERONTOLOGIST. (Photo by David Williamson)

Drs. Ramm and Gianturco Suggest Ways By Which Computers May Aid the Aged

"It's the Pepsi generation. Coming at 'cha. Going strong. You've got a lot to live, and while you're living, you belong."

So runs the television soft drink commercial. Brief scenes of young people riding bicycles in the rain, shooting rapids on the Colorado River, scaling mountains in the Rockies or racing downhill on skis.

Today in the media the emphasis is on youth, and the aged are largely ignored. Advertisements which feature the senior citizen usually highlight the merits of a particular brand of laxative, dye to darken silver hair or a hemorrhoid-shrinking ointment.

The grandmother who used to give us cookies from her kitchen is now portrayed as a smuggler of toilet paper.

There's little wonder then that the aged in the age of the computer and the moonwalk feel neglected when the company has asked them to retire, their grandchildren are bearing young of their own and the rest home looms as an ever-increasing possibility.

Two Duke scientists, one a computer expert and the other a psychiatrist, have joined forces to make professionals in aging research aware of advances in technology which may give tomorrow's senior citizen a new lease on life.

In a recent issue of THE GERONTOLOGIST, a scholarly publication for professionals who specialize in problems of aging, Dr. Dietolf Ramm, assistant professor of computer sciences and information sciences in psychiatry, and Dr. Daniel T. Gianturco, associate professor of psychiatry and assistant professor of community health sciences, outlined ways by which the computer may keep the elderly out of institutions and also keep them independent.

"Overcoming some, or most, of their problems will help the senior members of society feel that they are still viable because, even more than death, the aged fear dependency and infirmity. Ultimately, they want to retain their

feeling of usefulness in this world," the two wrote.

Ramm and Gianturco cited the needs of the aged as safe transportation, easily accessible housing with minimal maintenance and cost, protection from rising crime, good nutrition and health care and economical communication with family and friends.

Now that computers and their components can be made at a fraction of their original cost, their increasing use may bring to reality projects which presently seem far fetched.

Consider these possibilities—

—An automated, self-propelled personal vehicle in which all one needs to do is designate the destination, sit back

Med Center Advisory Body Board Meeting Today

The Board of Visitors—the medical center's major outside advisory body on ongoing programs and new ideas—is meeting here for a full-day session today.

The annual meeting brings together nationally recognized specialists in fields including government, finance, philanthropy, medicine, nursing and education for a review and preview of medical center activities.

Henry Rauch of Greensboro, vice chairman of the University Board of Trustees, is chairman of the Board of Visitors.

Today's morning session began with a report on plans for a graduate program in nursing education by Dr. Ruby Wilson, dean of the School of

Nursing, and a report on medical and allied health education by Dr. Thomas D. Kinney, director of medical and allied health education.

Also on the morning program was Dr. Ewald Busse, chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, who reviewed developments in his department from 1953 to the present.

Other medical center programs reviewed this morning were the Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development by Dr. Eric Pfeiffer, professor of psychiatry, and Dr. Walter Obrist, professor of medical psychology; outreach projects in the community and the state by Dr. Stephen Mahaley, associate professor of neurosurgery and associate director for graduate medical education; and the Medi-Data system by Robert Winfree, assistant hospital director.

On the afternoon program were progress reports on the new Duke Hospital project by Dr. Jane Elchlepp, assistant vice president of health affairs for planning, and the Comprehensive Cancer Center by Dr. W. K. Joklik, chairman of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

The session was to conclude with tours of the Eye Center and the Alex H. Sands Building, both of which have opened since the board's last visit here.

For three new members this will be their first board meeting at Duke. They are:

—Karl D. Bays, president and chief executive officer of American Hospital Supply Corp.

—Dr. Earl W. Brian, a native of Raleigh who received both his undergraduate and medical educations here and who is now California's Secretary of Health and Welfare.

—Dr. C. Henry Kempe, professor and former chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado.

Other members of the board are:

—Edward H. Benenson, president of the Benenson Management Co., Inc., of New York City.

—Dr. John A. D. Cooper, president of the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington.

—Dr. Kenneth R. Crispell, vice president for health sciences at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

—Dr. Harry Eagle, associate dean of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University in New York City.

—James R. Felts Jr., executive director of the Hospital and Child Care Sections of the Duke Endowment in Charlotte.

—Dr. Loretta Ford, dean of the School of Nursing at the University of Rochester.

—Dr. John H. Knowles, president of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York City and a university trustee.

—Dr. Alexander Leaf, chairman of the Department of Medicine at Harvard.

—Raymond D. Nasher of the

and enjoy the ride. While development of such a vehicle remains for the future, horizontal elevators and moving sidewalks are already in use.

—A telephone which includes a picture screen. The Bell Telephone System is presently experimenting with two-way video phones on a small scale, and their experience will be helpful when mass marketing is begun. The availability of more personal communication would help senior citizens fight the attendant loneliness after their children have left home.

—Medical monitoring in the home. An electro-mechanical device which dispenses medications at the proper time and

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Dr. Vernon Weckwerth To Deliver Annual Harriet Cook Carter Lecture

The coordinator of the Office of Continuing Hospital and Health Care Education at the University of Minnesota will deliver the annual Harriet Cook Carter Lecture here Thursday, April 4.

Dr. Vernon E. Weckwerth will speak on "Quality Assurance in Patient Care."

The lecture will be in the Ann M. Jacobansky Auditorium in the School of Nursing beginning at 4:30 p.m., and will be part of the three-day Spring Nursing Program beginning that day.

The Carter Lectureship was established in 1969 to honor Harriet Cook Carter, who was a nurse, a co-founder of the Duke Hospital Auxiliary and an active



Weckwerth

Durham civic leader. Mrs. Carter, who was wife of Dr. F. Bayard Carter, retired chairman of obstetrics-gynecology, died in 1968.

Dr. Weckwerth, who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, also holds a professorship in the Program in Hospital and Health Care Administration at the School of Public Health there.

Presiding at the Thursday session will be Dr. Ruby Wilson, dean of the School of Nursing. Weckwerth will be introduced by Miss Wilma Minniear, director of nursing service in Duke Hospital and a professor in the School of Nursing.

On Friday morning, from 8:30-noon, Weckwerth will be available for informal discussion in the Administrative Conference Room off the Hospital Director's Office.

The afternoon program, beginning at 1:30 in the Jacobansky Auditorium, will center on presentation of the Thelma Ingles Scholarly Papers. Presiding will be

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