

Professional News

Dr. Redford B. Williams Jr., associate professor of psychiatry, presented a paper on cardiovascular effects of vigilance behavior and participated in a symposium at a meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research in San Diego, Calif., Oct. 20-24. He spoke on behavioral approaches to cardiovascular disease at the American Heart Association meeting in Miami, Fla., Nov. 15-18.

Dr. H. Keith H. Brodie, professor and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry, spoke on "Psychiatric Research: Past Directors, New Frontiers" as guest speaker at the Southern Medical Association's Section on Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry in New Orleans, La., Nov. 10. He also gave the banquet address that day at the Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation in New Orleans, where his topic was "Recent Developments in the Biology of Depression."

Dr. Kenneth A. Schneider, director of Hospital Laboratories, presented a talk entitled "Hormonal and Enzyme Imbalances Associated with Dyslexia" at the Dyslexia Seminar in Chicago recently.

Three faculty members in the Department of Surgery have become fellows in the American College of Surgeons. They are **Dr. Robert W. Anderson**, associate professor, general and thoracic; **Dr. Donald Serafin**, assistant professor, plastic and maxillofacial; and **Dr. Samuel A. Wells Jr.**, associate professor, general and thoracic, and assistant professor of microbiology.

As members of the college, the doctors may use the designation "F.A.C.S." — Fellow, American College of Surgeons, — after their names. It indicates that they have completed their medical education, have had advanced training in general surgery or a surgical specialty recognized by the college, and have shown ethical practice and good character.

Founded in 1913, the American College of Surgeons is the world's largest organization of surgeons.

Dr. David Davis, professor of anesthesiology, was guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Association of Operating Room Technicians at N.C. Memorial Hospital, Chapel Hill, Oct. 25. The lecture on "Reading the EKG" was given as a continuing education opportunity for ORT's.

Wayne MacKintosh, American Registered Respiratory Therapist (ARRT), clinical coordinator for the Division of Respiratory Therapy, was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Association for Respiratory Therapy at the annual convention in Miami, Nov. 3-10. He will serve a three-year term.

Also attending the meeting were **Houston R. Anderson**, ARRT, technical director; **Gerald Rayborn** and **Robert Silver**, supervisors; and **Elaine Uca** and **Robert Silver**, ARRTs.

Anderson is immediate past president of the national organization.



TREATIES AFFECT HER JOB—Cathy Cotten is the person to see for information on "anything international." Her office is in Room 120, Davison Building. Her extension is 684-6347. (Photo by John Becton)

It's A World of Stamps, Visas and People

By John Becton

How much does it cost to mail a letter to Uruguay?

What are the opportunities for postgraduate study in Europe?

What do I have to do to be able to practice my profession abroad?

Cathy Cotten, the medical center's international advisor, says if she doesn't know the answer, she can find out.

When she is not answering questions such as these, she might be translating regulations and handling paperwork involved in various visas.

Or she might be advising any of the 250-300 internationals in the medical center on a variety of problems.

Information Source

"I am an information source on anything international," Ms. Cotten said.

In this role, she is the liaison with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Department of Labor, the Social Security Administration and the State Department Bureau of Cultural Affairs.

Also, she is a member of the National Association of Foreign Student Advisors.

Regulations

Constantly Changing

Keeping up with regulations is an on-going process, because they are affected by politics throughout the world.

Every time treaties or boundaries change and whenever Congress passes a bill having any implications for the status of international visitors, Ms. Cotten's job is altered.

"They have passed a bill which will become effective Jan. 1 and will change many people's lives tremendously," she said. "It will change all the immigration regulations for the Western Hemisphere to the system which exists for the Eastern Hemisphere. It will make things easier in the long run, but there will be a lot of extra work for the first couple of years or so."

Even Taxes Are Uncertain

Ms. Cotten determines the status of international employees prior to their being put on the payroll.

"This is important because some are not allowed to work at all under their special visas," she said. "Also, we have tax treaties with some countries, which mean their citizens are exempt from taxes here, and ours are exempt in their country."

And the task she says is the "most complicated" is helping file petitions for citizenship.

Office Established in 1974

It was decided just over two years ago that it would be more convenient for the medical center to have a separate international office.

It was established in June, 1974, with Mary C. Fendt serving as advisor.

Ms. Cotten was an undergraduate in the university at the time, and became Ms. Fendt's assistant.

She completed her degree in cultural anthropology in 1975 and, in addition to part-time work with the medical alumni office, assumed the position of international advisor this past July.

'Prime Group'

"I like the internationals," Ms. Cotten said. "Most are eager to tell you about where they are from. It's a good way to learn a lot about your world from the people who live in it."

She further pointed out that many international visitors are "some of the top medical people in the world."

Her predecessor agreed.

"They are by nature a 'prime group,' well educated and individuals with a lot to contribute to the medical center, as well as to Durham as people, apart from their technical skills," Ms. Fendt said.

See Ms. Cotten First

One thing that makes it simpler for everyone involved in bringing an international visitor to the medical center, is getting in touch with Ms. Cotten first.

This way necessary forms can be in order before the guest arrives, and potentially insurmountable problems can be avoided.

Once they are here, she is available to help in the adjustment to differing lifestyle, culture and language.

A Matter of Interpretation

Ms. Cotten pointed out that many international visitors may know "the King's English" fluently, but find

our highly idiomatic American dialect rather hard to comprehend at first.

Since she has a complete listing, she can put internationals in touch with others from the same country who faced similar problems when they first arrived.

These files also help when the international office is called on by other departments.

For example, Ms. Cotten was able to recruit most of the new interpreters when the Language Bank was updated this fall (see *Intercom*, 10/29/76).

Cathy Cotten is a sort of combination travel agent, counselor, reference source and authorizing official for all international activities.

You can find her in Room 120, Davison Building (Dr. Jay Arena's office). The phone number is 684-6347.



DON'T FORGET YOUR PARTY!

Mark your calendar now for the annual Christmas Party for the Duke Medical Center.

It will be Wednesday, Dec. 15, in the Courtyard Cafeteria. The hours will be from 2-4 p.m. for people who work during the day and from 10 p.m.-midnight for the night people.

Santa Claus will be there. He hopes you will be, too.