

# shifting dullness

Year-End News

June 23, 1982

## Busse Retires as Dean

Dr. Ewald Busse will be stepping away from his duties as Dean of Medical and Allied Health Education on September 1. This completes a term that stretched back to 1974. Dr. Busse has been at Duke since 1953, and besides serving as Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Dean, he has served on MedSAC for 29 years.

Dr. Busse has been admired by medical students, all of whom remember the gracious party given for incoming students. Indeed, Dr. Busse said that the most enjoyable part of his job has been the "contact with medical students which permits a more free relationship without authority over academic performance." Among his accomplishments as Dean, Dr. Busse views the significant increase in scholarship funds for medical students, totaling over half a million dollars, as the most important. Dr. Busse is not leaving Duke but is returning to the Department of Psychiatry to continue his research in geriatrics and teaching.

## Christakos Takes the Helm

Dr. Arthur Christakos, Associate Dean of Medical Education, will succeed Dr. Busse as Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education next September 1. As the new Dean, Dr. Christakos will retain most of his present responsibilities, including the writing of Dean's letters for students. As Dean, Christakos hopes to remain as accessible as he has in his present duties as Associate Dean of Medical Education.

Dr. Christakos, a Sandlapper (South Carolina native) of Greek heritage is a Duke graduate who studied Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Medical College of South Carolina and as a fellow at Columbia University before coming to Duke. Here, Dr. Christakos has become a familiar fact to Duke students in his present position, where he listens to the concerns of students and helps to work out their problems.

## Three New Department Heads Sought

The faces at the top are changing with the departure of three department chairmen this year. Dr. Keith Brodie of the Department of Psychiatry was appointed the new Chancellor of Duke University. Dr. Merel Harmel of Anesthesiology is stepping down as chairman and will continue his work here at Duke. Finally, Dr. James Wyngaarden was appointed by President Reagan as the Director of the National Institutes of Health. The vacancies left will hopefully be filled by this winter.

### Controversial Proposals Settled

In the major student uproar of the year, Med SAC considered proposals to implement a grading system with additional tiers and to eliminate National Board requirements at Duke. Although students through the Davison Council had urged dropping the National Board requirement for several years, the addition of several levels to the present Pass/Fail/Honors system was not viewed as a fair trade-off. In the March MedSAC meeting the National Boards requirement was dropped and the present grading system was left intact. This solution pleased the majority of medical students even though it meant that the Medical School would no longer pay for the National Board Examinations. The decision leaves students free to pursue whichever route of licensure best fits into their educational plans.

Although the grade proposals are dead for the moment, the issue is not gone for good. Some faculty members are still dissatisfied with the present grading system, and history shows that this issue pops up every few years. The National Boards decision may be the more stable of the two at the moment, since the examination itself does not tie in well with the Duke curriculum.

### No Curriculum Changes Made This Year

The dropping of both a tiered grading system proposal and the National Board Examination as a requirement for Duke Medical School graduation has helped to restore students' beliefs that the administration is sincerely interested in the betterment of medical education. Concern still remains however, over possible changes in the medical school curriculum.

Early in the year, there were rampant rumors of a major curriculum change, with no one member of a medical education committee even calling an informal meeting of year one students to discuss various proposals.

The Medical Education Committee met the week before graduation to hear the results of the four student curriculum committees. These recommendations have just been tabulated and given to Dr. Christakos who plans to present a report of the Medical Education Conference to MedSAC members. MedSAC has had no discussion of curriculum change at this time. Dr. Christakos is interested in curriculum evaluation and MEPAC (his advisory committee) will have the four curriculum committee chairmen on it. He plans to look into course content, which has previously been ignored, but has no definite ideas as to the method he will use to do so. Budget restrictions negate bringing in external guidance at this time. Dr. Christakos has hopes of discussing our curriculum with the deans of other schools at the AAMC meeting in November. Thus, review is proceeding, but curriculum change should not be expected in the near future.

### Paucity of Parking Worsens

In a move that will affect many medical center employees and students, the University has reassigned the parking lot at the corner of Science Drive and NC 751 to the Fuqua School of Business, effective January, 1983. This lot which has been open to cars with all parking decals has 425 spaces, about 200 of which are usually used by persons affiliated with the medical center according to Harry Gentry, director of the Medical Center Traffic Control Office. Gentry said there has been an understanding for several years that the University might rezone the lot at any time, and that the new business school's 500 students, faculty and staff would more than fill the lot. He added that his office is currently looking for alternative parking space.

This is the second instance of rezoning since September, 1981, when 350 Zone H spaces on and near Research Drive were assigned to Sone RX. Gentry said that the move was necessary after the opening of Duke Hospital North in order to provide more convenient parking spaces for research workers, most of whom come to work later than hospital employees. Because of the potential inconvenience to medical students, Gentry said, "We offered Zone N decals to second year medical students, but only about 10 came in to switch from H to N."

### Grand Prize Announced

Shifting Dullness is proud to announce the winner of our long-awaited Grand Prize Drawing. All those who turned in correct answers to Shifting Dullness puzzles during the year were eligible for the drawing which took place in the Duke South Amphitheater on June 17. The winner will receive a dinner for two at Mannella's Restaurant. And the winner is . . . Bill Gottesman!TT

Congratulations and enjoy your dinner at Mannella's!

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