

DeCapita retires

Implements, advances
YSU nursing program

Clem Marion

The growth and achievements of the nursing programs at YSU have been remarkable, mostly through the guidance and supervision of Gilda M. DeCapita.

But on the eve of her retirement, DeCapita, long-term chairman of YSU's Nursing Department, views all these attainments as just a good beginning.

"What we have here now is what we need to move ahead," says the former chairman.

DeCapita, former director of nursing at Salem City Hospital and Youngstown Hospital Association's School of Nursing, is retiring at the end of August. She joined the YSU faculty in 1967 as chairman of nursing and has been responsible for the planning and implementation of its nursing programs.

When she took over leadership of the Nursing Department in the YSU College of Applied Science and Technology, there was no collegiate nursing program in the Youngstown area.

Now more than 25 percent of our RNs have basic post-graduate educations or
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college degrees, and about 10 percent have continued in graduate education.

"I think YSU today has the human and physical resources to expand its post-graduate nursing education for the generic Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master's degree program in nursing," she says, adding, "Toward this goal, YSU needs

to give priority to the preparation of nurses at the baccalaureate and graduate levels. This will strengthen nursing's contribution to the health care needs of the community.

"I firmly believe in collegiate education for nurses to provide leadership. There is a growing demand for leaders in nursing services in our health care agencies," DeCapita pointed out.