



Capping Ceremony, the First Step to Clinical Nursing

Article: Hisu-Pin Yeh, Chia-Yi Li



Vow to be a good nurse



Teachers wear the caps for students

“Apply nursing expertise to serve others, promote the empathetic spirit of Tzu Chi.”

A group of young students, disciplined and orderly, participated in a oath-taking ceremony with determination in their eyes.

For Tzu Chi, there are four festivals in May: Buddha’s Birthday, Tzu-Chi Day, Mother’s Day, and the day that has a special meaning for all nurses - International Nurse Day. For nursing students who are about to start clinical training, their once in a lifetime capping ceremony also takes place in May. After capping, they will begin their hands-on clinical nursing practice.



The 15th capping ceremony for nursing department of Tzu Chi University took place on May 3rd. Forty-six students were capped with the symbol of responsibility and mission under blessings from their teachers.

Tzu Chi Medical CEO Chin-Lon Lin, Tzu Chi Hospital Superintendent Ruey-Ho Kao, and the executives of Mennonite Hospital and Military Hospital also attended the ceremony and gave their best wishes to this new group of nurses-to-be.

The capping ceremony marks the monumental moment in the students' nursing studies. Parents came from all over Taiwan and even from overseas to attend this event. They were deeply moved by the scene of graduating students, who were beaming with confidence by their display of discipline and identical uniforms.

Student Chiao Hsiao burst into tears when the teacher put the nurse cap on her. "My parents came specifically to attend this ceremony for me. I am so excited to know that I now have the expertise to help others." She said. Student Yu-Hsien Chiang said, "I think that nursing is a very rewarding career;



Students kneel down to present tea for teachers



not only can it generate income to earn a living, but also can comfort patients.” The Jung family came all the way from Macao to attend their brother Jung-Chi Jung’s capping ceremony. When Jung-Chi decided to come to Taiwan to pursue nursing, the whole family was supportive. According to his sisters, “ He used to be very shy and not good at interacting with others, but after being in Tzu Chi for a year, he was transformed.”

The nursing department thoughtfully arranged a parent forum after the ceremony for students to serve tea to their parents, thus providing students with an opportunity to thank their teachers and parents.



Families feel joy for the nursing students



Tzu Chi University nursing students chanting the oath



Tzu Chi College of Technology

The Nursing Department of Tzu Chi College of Technology held its 22nd capping ceremony on May 10th. Teachers put the nurse's cap onto 250 sophomores of the five-year college. After capping, Principal Wen-Jui Lo,



The light of lotus reflects the light of the heart

deputy CEO Shao-Ming Chen personally passed the torch to the students, to pass on the spirit of nursing.

This time there are sixteen male nurses in the capping ceremony. Student representative Ti-Chien Hsueh had a fear of needles and blood, but now he overcame that fear. He even developed a special interest in



Each capping shows a teacher's expectation toward his/her students



anatomy and medical procedure curriculum. He took the initiative to volunteer in the hospital to experience the importance of teamwork.

In order to stay in Hualien to take care of her father whom suffered from lung cancer and was undergoing chemotherapy, and to reduce the economic burden of the family, the tribal Amis aboriginal Chung-Hsuan Fan decided to apply for Tzu Chi nursing special classes for the native aboriginals. Throughout this program she received free tuition, books, board and lodging. Chung-Hsuan even send her mother her monthly allowance of NTD5,000 from school.

Chung-Hsuan Fan stated that she was spoiled since she was a child, pampered and rebellious. But after attending Tzu Chi, Chung-Hsuan has learned to smooth out her temperament.

Many parents made a special effort to attend this event. After all, they knew that the capping ceremony happens only once in a child's lifetime. After they observed the capping ceremony, which resembles an aboriginal rite of passage, the parents were gratified to knowing how much the school and the society honor their children with dignity and respect.



Nursing students perform a sign language musical