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Boston University Medical Center

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Boston University
U.S. Health Chief Sullivan visits Medical Center

Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan, M.D., a graduate of the School of Medicine and a former hematologist at both BCH and the University Hospital, returned to the Medical Center in mid-December to speak to students and staff about the nation's growing health-care crisis.

Addressing more than 200 people in the Keefer Auditorium as this year's William Castle Visiting Professor, Sullivan urged health-care professionals in the audience to become "engaged in the coming debate on the health-care system."

Sullivan also expressed his opinion that issues involving AIDS, care for the elderly, homelessness and poverty cannot be solved by the federal government alone. He urged all levels of government, the private sector, insurers and industry to become part of the solution to these problems. Sullivan also encouraged veteran, as well as new and aspiring, physicians in the audience to adopt what he characterized as "a greater commitment to service and personal responsibility."

Sullivan graduated from the School of Medicine in 1958 and completed his training in medicine and hematology at BCH. He joined the faculty at BUSM in 1966 as an assistant professor of medicine and went on to become the first project director of BCH's Sickle Cell Anemia Center and codirector of the Hematology Service at BCH.

He remained at Boston University Medical Center until 1975, when he left to become founding dean and director of the medical program at Atlanta's Morehouse College.

Sullivan remained at Morehouse until March of 1989, when President Bush tapped him as Health and Human Services secretary. Upon his appointment, Sullivan assumed responsibility for all aspects of the nation's health care system, from community medical care to the formulation of the nation's expansive health policy.

One component of that Sullivan continued on page 4

Kids Fund is a can-do operation

As a member of the pediatric Emergency Room staff at Boston City Hospital, Robert Vinci, M.D., is confronted daily with the problems plaguing the Boston area's poverty-stricken families-problems that medical science alone can't solve. Chief among them: malnutrition and a lack of proper medical and child-rearing supplies.

Frustrated with their inability to address non-emergency care issues, Vinci, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the School of Medicine, and several of his colleagues established the Kids Fund, a non-profit organization benefiting Boston City Hospital's underprivileged pediatric patients and their families. In the roughly four years since its inception, the Kids Fund has raised more than $100,000 and has helped what Vinci estimates to be hundreds of Boston-area families.

Recently, the Kids Fund was given a shot in the arm by the Medical Campus Office of Business Affairs. At an award ceremony in December, William J. Casper, assistant vice president of Business Affairs, and Jim Monroe, director of Custodial Services, presented Vinci with a check for $500, the fruits of a year-long fund-raising effort at the Medical Campus.

What began as an effort to organize a formal collection of soda cans, which had become an increasing problem for Custodial Services, evolved into a boon for BCH's Kids Fund when John O'Connor, M.D., associate dean of admissions at the School of Medicine, suggested that the money collected from returnable cans be set aside for the Kids Fund. Specially designated receptacles were promptly set up in key locations

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Willock leads drive to help Panama's homeless

Marcelle Willock, M.D., chairman and professor of anesthesiology at the School of Medicine, is raising funds and gathering medical supplies and clothing to aid Panamanians left homeless by the U.S. invasion of Panama in late December. According to Willock, an estimated 25,000 people may have lost their homes as a result of the invasion. A native of Panama who

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around the Medical Campus, including the Dental School's Rite Bite Cafe, the School of Medicine's Chequers Cafe and the Instructional Building's 14th floor elevator lobby. After locating a vendor to pick up and exchange the cans, the Office of Business Affairs began to see a rapid accumulation in its contribution toward the Kids Fund, culminating in the December donation.

While Custodial Services cautions employees, students and staff against bringing cans from home and asks them to refrain from depositing bottles or trash in the receptacles, they encourage everyone to participate in the continuing fund drive.

Vinci observes that the Kids Fund has been used for such charitable causes as donating a refrigerator to a family suffering from malnutrition, and purchasing a high chair for a child whose wheelchair-bound mother could not feed the child safely without one. In addition, the funds have been used for improvements to BCH's Pediatrics Ward. Vinci points out that recent cutbacks in programs that fund the poor have made contributions by citizen-based and neighborhood organizations more important than ever.

If you are interested in making a contribution to the Kids Fund, please send your donations to: Kids Fund, c/o Dr. Robert Vinci, Department of Pediatrics, Children's 4, Boston City Hospital, 818 Harrison Ave., Boston, Mass. 02118.

Channel 4 personality Tanya Hart and Joan Wallace-Benjamin, the president of the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts, will discuss "Cultural Diversity in the 1990s" at a special program commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Wednesday, Jan. 17, from noon to 2 p.m., in the Keefer Auditorium.

In addition to honoring King's memory, the program will honor the Medical Center's 1990 Black Achievers. Opening remarks will be made by J. Scott Abercrombie Jr., M.D., president of the University Hospital; Spencer N. Frankl, D.D.S., M.S.D., dean of the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry; and John McCahan, M.D., associate dean of the School of Medicine. The honorees will be introduced by master of ceremonies Weldon S. Lloyd, D.Sc., M.S., GSGD's associate director of admissions.

This year's Medical Campus honorees are as follows: Maud Carty, BUMC Personnel; Larry Dunham, D.M.D., of the Goldman School; Van Dunn, M.D., BUSM Minority Affairs; Joseph Harris, BUMC Security; James Reed, M.D., BUSM Department of Neurosurgery; and Joyce Snowden, GSGD Finance Office.

The following UH employees also will be honored: Carolyn Baker, Pharmacy; Joanne Hall-Brinson, Anesthesiology; Sandra Wedgeworth, Patient Financial Services; Linus St. Louis, Plant Services; Deborah Lee, Environmental Services; Pamela Payne, Human Resources; Linda Wilson, Department of Nutrition Services; and Tina Lawson, Human Resources.

In addition, Gloria Johnson of Patient Financial Services at the Evans Medical Foundation will be honored.

That evening, BUMC Black Achievers will be honored along with other Boston-area Black Achievers at the Marriott Hotel at Copley Place.
Five members of the Medical Campus Security staff are among the recent graduates of the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Academy in Needham. As part of continuing efforts by Director of Security Dick Natoli to tighten security around the Medical Campus, the five officers were enrolled in the academy's four-week Campus Police Training Program, which included such courses as Criminal Law, Constitutional Law and Policing in a Campus Environment. Natoli says he noticed a marked improvement in the officers' motivation and enthusiasm just a short time after training commenced. Now that the program has concluded, he observes that "the program has helped to make them more confident in themselves and their profession, which in turn helps to inspire confidence in those they're protecting."

Natoli expects each of his 15 security officers and five sergeants to have graduated from various training and supervisory programs before his first year at the University comes to a close next fall. He also anticipates sending incoming officers through an intensive six-week training program at the Criminal Justice Training Academy in order to prepare them for the unusual responsibilities that come with campus policing.

Alumni Medical Library offers something for everyone
by Cynthia Paradis

A hefty collection of classics and some of the country's leading daily newspaper's keep company with research periodicals and medical journals at the School of Medicine's Alumni Medical Library. "The library is here for everyone," emphasizes Chief Librarian Irene Christopher, "and you don't have to be a physician or medical student to use it." The library also makes available to the BUMC public such equipment as a "fax" machine, copier, slide projectors and videocassette players.

The library occupies the 11th, 12th and 13th floors of the School of Medicine's Instructional Building and houses 102,000 volumes and 1,400 periodicals. It is one of the eight libraries of Boston University that help to comprise the Boston Library Consortium, a cooperative association of academic and research libraries in the Greater Boston area aimed at strengthening services to patrons of its member libraries.

Christopher has been chief librarian at the Alumni Medical Library for 19 years. From her office on the 12th floor, she directs a full-time staff of 15, and a part-time staff of 10 medical students. A browsing room containing approximately 1,000 non-medical volumes includes various biographies, fiction and a number of classics, which are available to loan. The library also subscribes to the Boston Globe, Wall Street Journal and New York Times, all of which, Christopher points out, "can be read at your leisure in a relaxing, stress-free atmosphere."

A BUMC employee's identification card serves as his or her library card. Most books can be checked out; periodicals are not circulated.

For more information, contact the BUMC Alumni Medical Library at 638-4230 (x4230).
policy that has garnered increasing national attention is the issue of medical care for the nation's burgeoning elderly population. Statistics indicate that, in the next three decades, the percentage of Americans age 65 and older is expected to outstrip the nation's general population growth by more than two to one. Furthermore, the percentage of those persons 85 years of age and older is expected to outpace the national growth rate by nearly three to one.

In an exclusive interview with Michael Paskavitz, editor of Progress, the University Hospital magazine, Sullivan expressed his concern over what he describes as "a major challenge in figuring out the best ways to prepare for the financial demands of our aging population."

Sullivan suggests that, "one of those ways is to encourage people to save, to invest in their own care needs for their later years. "We need to emphasize much more the ways in which to keep our elderly citizens independent: at home, self-sufficient, and meeting their own needs. Because, first of all, that would be the preference of most older citizens—to live in surroundings that they are familiar with. In doing this, we need to stress, to a greater degree, health promotion strategies for our older citizens, preventive care and better diagnosis of problems as they develop; catch them early and correct them." Sullivan reiterates his opinion that the federal government alone cannot address the aging issue, aside from shaping policy and allocating resources:

"I see the role of the federal government as one to really help focus attention on the problem," he says, "to provide leadership in suggesting solutions and strategies to address the needs of the elderly, but also to constantly emphasize the fact that this is a broad social responsibility that is certainly not just a federal responsibility. In other words, we believe that the appropriate strategy is one that involves a mix of approaches and a mix of resources, a pluralistic approach from all sectors. "In the same way that we are used to thinking of planning our children's education—in terms of setting aside money for tuition, etc.—our citizens and our businesses, as well as our governing bodies, need to plan on establishing, saving and investing resources for the needs of our population as we age."  

Goldman School to broadcast live clinical demonstrations

The Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry will play host to New England's first live clinical demonstrations of dental techniques during the 15th annual Yankee Dental Congress, Jan. 18-21, at Boston's Sheraton Hotel.

Each of four demonstrations is expected to draw 700 viewers to wide-screen televisions at the Sheraton, where the transmission will be broadcast live, via satellite, from an operatory at the Goldman School. A $3-million, 48-foot-long TV remote equipment vehicle will serve as the control center for the broadcast and will allow for interaction between clinicians at the Goldman School and viewers at the Sheraton. This live, two-way broadcast will allow observers to view treatment techniques in real time, with questions asked and answered instantaneously.

Herbert Schilder, D.D.S., professor and chairman of Endodontics at GSGD, will perform a clinical demonstration on "Surgical Endodontics," while other clinicians will demonstrate techniques in periodontology, computer-aided ceramic restorations and cosmetic bonding.

The Goldman School will also participate in the convention exhibition area, with displays on the Applied Professional E-Experience program (APEX), the Dental Placement Program and Continuing Education.

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immigrated to the United States in 1954, Willock has remained committed to helping her fellow Panamanians. Her family's foundation, Foundation Deveaux, provides clothing, food and other assistance to Panama's poor throughout the year. The foundation was preparing to make its annual Christmas donations when the invasion occurred. "Now the need is enormous, and we want to give anyone interested the opportunity to contribute," says Willock.

"We know that many of the acute needs for medical care and food are being met," she says, "but there will be a long-term need for medical supplies of all kinds, as well as clothing and money. Thousands have lost everything."

Those interested in making a contribution can send donations to: Foundation Deveaux, c/o Dr. Willlock, The University Hospital, 88 E. Newton Street, Boston, Mass. 02118.

Former Celtics star M.L. Carr visits BCH Pediatrics Ward

Former Boston Celtics basketball great M.L. Carr (right) visits with BCH Director of Community Affairs Marilyn Rollins and infant Travis Brown during a holiday party at BCH's Pediatrics Ward. The party is an annual event, sponsored by the City of Boston's Emergency Medical Services unit.

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