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Boston University Medical Center

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Boston University
Centennial Convocation Honors Five

Culminating its year-long calendar of Centennial events, the School of Medicine conducts a special academic convocation Friday, Nov. 30, at 2 p.m. in the Keefer Auditorium.

The ceremony, probably the most colorful in the annals of the School and Medical Center, will feature the awarding of five honorary degrees, signifying the University's deep regard for the achievements of the recipients.

Adding pomp to the ceremony will be a formal processional and recessional, with the degree recipients, program participants and senior faculty garbed in the academic robes of their specialty and alma mater.

Four physicians (three of them alumni and a leader in the development of the School) will be honored.

Dr. Louis Weinstein will deliver a response on behalf of the alumni recipients and Dr. Franz Ingelfinger will present the major address of the convocation.

Also participating will be Dean Ephraim Friedman and University President John R. Silber.

A reception will follow in the Hiebert Lounge.

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BUMC Warned About Energy Crisis

There are warnings daily about the "energy crisis" and how it will affect the entire nation. At the Medical Center the Plant Department is responsible for use of energy and now more than ever is trying to avoid waste and over-utilization of both steam and electricity. Here are some suggestions to follow at work.

1. When you leave a room or lab that is unoccupied turn off the lights and any machinery (such as hoods) that are not required.

2. Keep the temperature in the area in which you are working between 68 and 70 and if the room is not to be occupied turn off the heat. If the temperature in the room is too cool at these settings, the suggestion is that you wear a sweater.

3. Do not attempt to cool an overheated room by leaving the heat on and the window open. If the room gets too warm turn off the heat.

4. Do not walk off and leave such items as cold water, hot water, or distilled water running when it is not performing a function.

5. Control Center is being instructed to keep temperatures in all areas, other than patient occupied areas, at 70 degrees F.

Employees Receive Holiday Meal

In keeping with a tradition that spans decades all Hospital employees on duty Thanksgiving and Christmas will be provided holiday meals at no charge.

Department heads are responsible for obtaining the number of tickets needed from the Dietary department in advance of the holiday. The luncheon meal will be served from noon to 1:30 p.m. and the dinner meal from 5 o'clock to 6:30.

Visitors of patients in the Hospital during these meal periods will be invited to eat in the cafeteria at the usual cost. Guest trays cannot be served on patient floors during the holidays.
Honorary Degrees Awarded Nov. 30

Editor's Note: The following are brief biographies of the five recipients of honorary degrees from the School of Medicine.

JEROME PRESTON has been an influential leader in the development of the modern Boston University School of Medicine. He recognized early that a first-quality medical school is essential for the existence of a top-flight teaching hospital, in this case University Hospital and its predecessor, Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals, which he has served continuously since 1927 as an officer of the Board of Trustees. He was hospital president from 1946 to 1965, then chairman and, since 1971, chairman emeritus.

FRANZ J. ENGELFINGER, M.D. is editor of The New England Journal of Medicine, one of the world's most influential medical publications. He was appointed to the School of Medicine faculty in 1940 as an instructor in medicine, and when he left the full-time staff to edit the Journal, he was Conrad Wesselhoeft Professor, director of the V and VI Medical Services at Boston City Hospital, chief of the Gastrointestinal Section at University Hospital, and an acknowledged leader in gastroenterology. He maintains a role on the faculty as clinical professor of medicine.

JUNE JACKSON CHRISTMAS, M.D. '49 is commissioner of New York City's Department of Mental-Health and Mental-Retardation Services, the largest mental-health organization of any city in the world. Under her leadership, the department has established an effective system for local planning that involves citizens, consumers, community organizations and human-services agencies. She previously conceived and established the Harlem Rehabilitation Center, a community-based facility that gained national recognition.

LOUIS WEINSTEIN, M.D. '43 acquired a Ph.D. in bacteriology and then reversed a common pathway when he decided to broaden his concerns to the clinical practice of medicine by acquiring a medical degree. A former member of the faculty of the School of Medicine and chief of the former Haynes unit of Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals, he is now a professor of medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine and chief of the Infectious Disease Service at New England Medical Center Hospital. He is known internationally for his expertise in infectious diseases, his quality of patient care and his excellence as a medical teacher.

LUIGI MASTROIANNI JR., M.D. '50 is one of the world's leading experts on female fertility. His research on the Fallopian tube and the transport of the ovum within the tube forms the basis of modern understanding of this important phase of reproduction. As William Goodell Professor and chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, he has established one of the outstanding research and clinical centers in reproductive biology.
From Near and Far

Centennial Has Enthusiastic Support

The School of Medicine, which had humble beginnings, obviously has arrived. This month, both Governor Sargent and Mayor White had acknowledged the Centennial Celebration with proclamations citing the School's accomplishments.

Meanwhile, a heavy calendar of events lured thousands of alumni, students, professional associates and friends to major symposia on community mental health, peer review, open-heart surgery and a gala dinner.

The stately Convocation, only the second held on the South End campus in modern times, was slated for Friday afternoon, Nov. 30, with faculty from the local medical schools in cap and gown honoring five degree recipients for their contributions to medical education and science.

The first program, an all-day symposium on "The Changing World of Psychiatry", a tribute to the late Solomon Carter Fuller, BUSM '97, attracted several hundred psychologists, psychiatrists, mental health workers and students to Keefer Auditorium for two panel discussions.

Two days later, a seminar on "Peer Review Components of the Health Care System" drew well-known individuals from various sectors of the health care field in Massachusetts. Representatives from private, governmental and institutional agencies presented various views of the impact of new procedures to monitor quality and cost of patient care.

The Centennial Dinner and Dance at the Copley Plaza Hotel the next night enabled the crowd of 725 alumni and friends of the School of Medicine to see four of the five honorary degree recipients who will be honored Nov. 30. (See story, page 1)

Most recently, a program in tribute to Dr. John W. Strieder, pioneer in open-heart surgery and professor emeritus of surgery at the School of Medicine was held at Keefer Auditorium. "Pioneers and Innovators in Cardiothoracic Surgery" included papers presented by eight internationally known authorities including Dr. Strieder himself. He is considered to have performed the first modern open-heart procedure at the hospital in 1937.

Moderator of the program was Dr. Robert Berger, chief of cardiothoracic surgery at the Medical Center and Boston City Hospital. Other participants included Dr. Helen B. Taussig, Johns Hopkins Medical School, Dr. Charles A. Haffnagel, Georgetown University Medical School, along with Dr. Norman Boyer and Dr. Edward Gaensler of the BU School of Medicine.
Patient Recovers From Bullet In Heart

A good samaritan had a bullet removed from his heart in a five hour operation performed by the Hospital’s open heart-trauma team recently.

William Armstrong, 55, was shot breaking up a holdup attempt in a Hyde Park variety store. He was rushed to Carney Hospital nearby but transferred to UH when extent of injuries were ascertained. Dr. Robert Berger, chief of cardiothoracic surgery, operated to remove the bullet from his left ventricle. Armstrong came through the operation well but remained on the critical list for a week. His doctors at UH have termed his quick recovery “nothing short of remarkable.”

Armstrong, a 250-pound machinist's helper, with seven children, had been visiting his oldest daughter in Hyde Park when he decided to go to the store. After the shooting, the robbers fled the store getting nothing. Policemen who arrived and a female customer started pounding on Armstrong’s chest to revive him.

Ten days after the shooting, Armstrong was strong enough to be going home and interviewed and photographed by newspapers. He praised the medical staff lavishly but his complaint about the Hospital was the food. A former chef, he was unhappy about the bland diet and had lost 20 pounds.

When asked why he turned on the young bandits, Armstrong answered, “I'm tired of all this...that's been going on. It's got so you can't even walk into a small store in the afternoon. There's too much of this in Boston.”

RCCHC Holds Dance

The Roxbury Comprehensive Community Health Center, Inc. is sponsoring its first annual benefit dance, Friday, Nov. 30 at the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, 24 Washington St., Dorchester.

Medical Center employees can help Santa because the proceeds from the affair will go towards providing needy families with food, clothing and toys for Christmas.

Tickets are $6 in advance and $7 at the door. They are available at the Roxbury Health Center, corner of Blue Hill avenue and Savin street; Boston Model Neighborhood Board offices; Roxbury Action Pharmacy, John Eliot Square; or Ted Green, assistant manager at Roxbury Little City Hall.

Next Month

A complete wrap-up of Centennial events along with photographs will appear in the December Front & Center.