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Boston University
Front & Center

Boston University Medical Center / School of Medicine / University Hospital / School of Graduate Dentistry

January, 1977

Liberty Mutual wins UH award for help to Spinal Cord Center

By Owen J. McNamara

A long-standing relationship between two major Boston institutions that has provided a second chance at life for hundreds of victims of spinal-cord injury was reaffirmed Monday night, Dec. 13, as University Hospital honored Liberty Mutual Insurance Companies with its first distinguished-service award.

A national model

The award, presented by Hospital President John F. Cogan, Jr., to Melvin B. Bradshaw, president of Liberty Mutual, honors the insurance company for its role in helping to establish what has become the New England Regional Spinal Cord Injury Center, a model followed by others developed across the nation.

Presentations of the award was the highlight of the Hospital's 122nd annual meeting and dinner at Boston's Museum of Science, attended by 250 trustees, corporators and medical staff of the Hospital.

Liberty Mutual, which more than 60 years ago committed itself to involvement in the care and rehabilitation of policyholders disabled by serious injury, began working in 1955 with the late Donald Munro, M.D., at Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals (now University Hospital) to provide a centralized unit for the concentration of services needed by spinal-cord injured persons. The unit, which opened that year facilities provided by a gift from Liberty Mutual, was the first of its kind in the nation outside a military installation.

Vision, faith, support cited

In making the award, Cogan praised Liberty Mutual for its "early vision, steadfast faith and extensive support of the Spinal Cord Center."

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Upfront

• George Gifford, M.D., assistant professor of socio-medical sciences at BUMC, this fall delivered the first Richard H. Shryock Memorial Lecture at the College of Physicians in Philadelphia. Gifford's address was "The Role of the Naturalist-Physician in 19th Century Scientific Medicine."

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PEOPLE TALK

For many Americans, the New Year means a clean slate, a fresh start. We think of all the good intentions we had in the past 12 months and wonder how the year slipped by so quickly, before we lost those 10 extra pounds or cut back on the nicotine. And we say, 'It isn't going to happen again this year; I really am going to save that extra $50 a month.'

But whether we carry out our resolutions or not, most of us take a few moments to establish a goal or two for the new year.

In the spirit of the New Year, People Talk asked several people at the Medical Center to share their resolutions for 1977. Their intentions can be found on inside pages.

Front & Center role to be filled by new publication

This is the final issue of Front & Center.

Beginning this winter, each member institution of the Medical Center will communicate with its employees, faculty and staff through newly developed publications. The School of Graduate Dentistry and the School of Medicine will distribute their own versions of a newsletter, News & Notes, to their faculty, staff and students. Employees of University Hospital will receive a publication that is still in the planning stage, but that will bring them vital information in a more timely way than has been possible with Front & Center.

In explaining the reorganization of internal communications at the Medical Center, Donald R. Giller, director of Informational Services, said that the new publications program will keep employees better informed about need-to-know matters. "Our aim is to communicate to our internal audiences in a more targeted way, one that will meet the
Liberty Mutual wins UH award for help to Spinal Cord Center

New instructor to direct Hospital’s JESI program

57 SGD students, staffers to participate in dental congress

Major to direct materials service

New trustees, named to University board

UH board names new trustees, corporators
Kapala succeeds Frank as pedodontics chairman

Dr. Feldman's artist father exhibits charcoal drawings at UH

Sandra cites medical school financial bind

What is your New Year's resolution?

People Talk

Kapala head to lead pedodontics

Colmenares study gains wide attention

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Holiday sights and sounds give Medical Center a special feeling

The sights and sounds of the holiday season were abundant and colorful over the recent fortnight, with BUMC employees gathering for parties in groups large and small, decorating offices and work areas, singing carols in the UH Interfaith Chapel and in patient areas, while members of the UH Aid Association carried plants to each patient.

Undoubtedly, the largest of all the holiday functions was the huge party sponsored by University Hospital, the School of Medicine and the School of Graduate Dentistry in the Instructional Building's Hebert Lounge. Employees who rarely see one another from one end of the year to the next period to punch and mixer, danced to music played by a disk jockey, while department heads, decked out in tall chefs' hats and aprons, carved huge rounds of roast beef and served heaping platters to employees at eight different serving stations.

Services held in the chapel were televised over the Hospital's closed-circuit system as were instrumental and choral concerts.

The pictures below mark some of the holiday festivities at the Medical Center.
Seven chosen at BUSM for state subsidy of tuition cost

Seven first-year medical students who are Massachusetts residents have been chosen to be recipients of a state subsidy for education to the tune of $6,450 per student this year under terms of a milestone contract between BUSM and the New England Board of High Education, signed by Dean John J. Sandson in November.

The seven names were drawn at random, Dec. 7 by James Morgan, student member of the School's Loans and Scholarships Committee. Twenty-three students had applied for the subsidy, nine of the 23 meet the requirements of certifiable residency, individual merit, and a demonstrated need of at least $3,300 in the academic year 1976-77.

Service within state

Students selected for the subsidy will pay only $2,000 in tuition this year instead of $3,500. In return, they agreed to serve in a medical capacity within the state for a period of six months for every one year of support received. The agreement places no restrictions on the nature of the medical service to be rendered, or the location, other than in Massachusetts. The service period would begin after completion of residency training.

The contract not only provides a tuition reduction of $3,500, for participating students, but it also allows the School to control approximately the net cost of educating these students. The subsidy, when added to the $2,000 tuition and federal fellowship funds equals nearly $12,000, the estimated cost of educating a medical student.

While terms of the contract commit the Commonwealth to only one year of participation in the program, it is expected that support for the first-year students will continue for the next three academic years. As Sandson said there is also a reasonable probability that additional first-year students may participate each year over the next three years, bringing the total 1979-80 to 29.

The contract also required that the School's entering class include at least 25 Massachusetts residents each year that the program is in effect. Sandson pointed out that this requirement poses no difficulty to BUSM, which had 47 Massachusetts residents in its entering class this year.

A similar agreement with the New England Board of Higher Education is currently in effect at Tufts University School of Medicine.

Newsmaker

Dr. Jefferson's pro-life work draws honors

Mildred F. Jefferson, M.D., U.H. surgeon and president of the National Right to Life Committee, was recently presented her tenth honorary degree, primarily for the contributions she has made toward the pro-life movement.

Dr. Jefferson, also an assistant clinical professor of surgery at BUSM, received seven of those honorary degrees in the past year.

The colleges and the degree they conferred are:

- Marist College, Indianapolis, Ind., doctor of humane letters.
- St. Mary's College, South Bend, Ind., doctor of humanities.
- S. Joseph's College, North Windham, Maine, doctor of humane letters.
- University of Scranton, Scranton, Pa., doctor of humane letters.
- Boston College, Boston, doctor of science.
- College of Our Lady of the Elms, Washington, Conn., doctor of humane letters.

Pennsylvania plaque

While in Scranton to receive her honorary degree, she was also honored by the Northeast region of Pennsylvanians for Human Life, who presented her with a plaque citing her "inspiring efforts in arousing the national conscience to the plight of defenseless unborn children." She was also presented the key to the city by William P. Fendick, city treasurer, for her work with Dr. Jefferson. A native of Pittsburgh, Texas, is a summa cum laude graduate of Texas College in Tyler. The first black woman graduate of Harvard Medical School, she received her surgical training at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The School of Medicine has been in receipt of almost $500,000 in state subsidies over the past year. It is estimated that support for the seven additional first-year students may be approximately $650,000 in the academic year 1977-78.

Where rooms are available for meetings, how to get them

When you want to reserve a spot in the Medical Center for a meeting or other things, there are some things to keep in mind: the location, the size of the room, and the time available.

For a meeting, you should try to reserve a room at least a week in advance. If you need to reserve a room for a longer period of time, you should check with the Secretary's Office to see if the room is available. If the room is available, you should then contact the Secretary's Office to make the reservation.

If you are looking for a meeting room for a smaller group, you should check with the Secretary's Office to see if a smaller room is available. If a smaller room is available, you should then contact the Secretary's Office to make the reservation.

For more information, please contact the Secretary's Office at (617) 585-1234.
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BU Credit Union offers savings, low-cost loans

The Boston University Employees Credit Union continues to
offer savings and loan benefits to its members.

The bulk of the members are employees of Boston University, including graduate students, medical students, and dental students. The credit union is a non-profit organization that provides financial services to its members.

Several other area institutions are Union Affiliates. They include Bentley College, Berklee College of Music, Boston College, New England School of Law and Suffolk University. These membership agreements mean that all are available to members of these institutions.

The credit union offers savings and loan benefits to its members. It is managed by an elected board of directors, which includes representatives from each institution.

For more information on how to join, contact the BU Credit Union at 436-6000.

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BUSM students organize blood drive for Jan. 19

BUSM Blood Drive Application Form

Yes, I am interested in participating in the Boston University School of Medicine-Red Cross Blood Drive to be held Wednesday, Jan. 19, 1977, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Hepert Lounge on the 14th floor of the BUSM Instructional Building. I understand that my participation should take only about 20 minutes.

Name

Department

[ ] University Hospital [ ] School of Medicine [ ] School of Graduate Dentistry

BUMC Mailing Address

BUMC Telephone Number

Time Preference for Donation (Please list three one-hour periods, in order of preference, during which you could be scheduled for your 20-minute donation.)

Prefer _____ Prefer _____ Prefer _____

Please return this application form to Blood Drive, BUSM Box 461. You will be notified by mail of your appointment time. Thank you for being a volunteer.

More than 50 students, faculty and staff members at the School of Graduate Dentistry attended an evening wine-and-cheese reception for the first-year predoctoral students, Friday, Dec. 3. The reception, the first formal gathering of faculty with the entire first-year class, gave students and instructors the opportunity to meet informally and exchange views.

HOW LOVELY ARE THY BRANCHES—Kindergarten children and first graders from the Oak Hill School in Newton decorated a Christmas tree in the lobby of New Evans with ornaments they made. The tree decorating was sponsored by the UH Aid Association and supervised by Association member Helene Bailen, mother of one of the students, Mark, a first grader. David Bailen, M.D., gave the students a tour of the Hospital.