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Boston University
Gala raises record amount

Without ever setting foot outside Boston, more than 700 guests explored cultures from around the world at "International Avenue." BMC's third annual fund-raising gala. Held on May 1, the event and auctions raised a record $525,000 to help support various hospital programs.

After making their way through an Italian portico in the grand foyer of the Boston Marriott Copley Place, attendees were transported into a lush international garden. During the cocktail reception, guests bid on many extravagant and one-of-a-kind items at extensive live and silent auctions, including trips to London, San Francisco, Aruba and Cancun; tickets to the Ryder Cup; meals at many of Boston's finest restaurants; and a private viewing of a Red Sox batting practice.

The evening's events continued in the ballroom, where guests feasted on international cuisine and danced to the electric sounds of "Motown Express." The gala also featured an international fashion show.

Former radio talk-show host Marjorie Clapprood was emcee for the evening, and was joined on stage by Heather Kahn of WCVB-TV Channel 5 for the live auction. The gala was co-chaired by Patricia Barry, MD, MPH, president of the medical-dental staff and chief of the Geriatrics Section at BMC; Marshall Carter, chairman and CEO of State Street Corp., which was one of the evening's lead sponsors; and Angela Menino, wife of Mayor Thomas Menino. Mayor Menino was also the special guest.

Timothy Babineau, MD, chief, Section of Gastrointestinal and Minimally Invasive Surgery at BMC, relishes his moment as the top bidder for Ryder Cup tickets during the live auction. For more photos of the evening, please see page 5.

Graduations planned for May 23

As the first notes of "Pomp and Circumstance" by Sir Edward Elgar reverberate through the air, cramming for exams and lengthy research papers will become a distant memory for more than 500 graduating BU Medical Campus students. On Sunday, May 23, friends and family will gather to congratulate the 1999 graduates of BUSM, SPH and SDM on their tremendous accomplishment.

BUSM's graduation events will begin with a luncheon at 1:30 p.m. for 155 students and their invited guests at the World Trade Center. Commencement immediately follows at 3 p.m. Hunter "Patch" Adams, MD, who inspired the recent Universal Studios movie "Patch Adams" and founded the Gesundheit! Institute, will address the graduates.

The graduation ceremony for 170 SPH students will be held at BU Medical Center at BioSquare, across from the Talbot Building at 715 Albany St., at 3:30 p.m. A reception will immediately follow.

The Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond, head of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Jamaica Plain and an active community leader, will be the featured speaker.

Following a 1:30 p.m. luncheon in Melville Lounge on the Charles River Campus, SDM will hold its commencement exercises for 196 graduates at 3 p.m. in the Morse Auditorium on Commonwealth Avenue.

All graduating students are also expected to attend commencement exercises at Nickerson Field on the Charles River Campus at 11 a.m. on May 23.

Boston HealthNet expands to 13 community partners

Harbor Health Services Inc., which includes Neponset Health Center and Geiger-Gibson Community Health Center in Dorchester, recently became the newest member of the Boston HealthNet team.

"The addition of Harbor Health Services Inc. to Boston HealthNet broadens our network and our ability to provide top-quality medical and public health services to Boston's neighborhoods," said Frank Doyle, executive director of Boston HealthNet. "It's great to have them on board.

Boston HealthNet, a partnership of BMC, BUSM and 13 community health care providers in Boston's neighborhoods, provides outreach, prevention, primary care and dental services during more than 1 million patient visits each year. Boston HealthNet established its integrated health care network in 1995 to provide Boston's residents with convenient and comprehensive health care services.

As part of Boston HealthNet, Neponset Health Center and Geiger-Gibson Community Health Center will strengthen and expand the services they now offer their patients in cooperation with BMC and BUSM.
Towle appointed senior VP at BU

Richard Towle, vice president for Administrative Services at BU and chief business officer of BU Medical Campus, has been named senior vice president at BU. Towle, who has held a variety of senior administrative posts at the university for the past 19 years, has served as the principal liaison between the Charles River and medical center campuses, and will continue to have an active role in medical campus activities. As senior vice president, Towle will take on increased levels of responsibility in campus planning and in the oversight of major campus development projects for the university. Included among the projects is BioSquare, the $350 million research park being developed on Albany Street by BU and BMC to support innovation in science and business.

Towle will also play a major role in the development of a 1,000-car parking garage on the medical campus.

Fun 'n games

BMC volunteers Jeanette Daley (left) and Anne O'Vary receive a grateful group hug from a few nice friends at the recent BMC Volunteer Appreciation Night. Held at the Horseshoe Lounge, the evening featured music, dinner and a performance by the Jeanette Liublinskaie Choral Groups.

Make a difference in people's lives

Eleven-year-old Marisol was heavier than almost all other children her age. After participating in FillIt!, Marisol has lost weight and now serves as an example to other overweight children in the program.

Swiss Tyree and twins Tyrone and Terrance are not a mixed-race family of two weeks of school a month because of their chronic asthma. Thanks to the Asthma Swiss Tyree, program, though, the twins' health has dramatically improved, and they are learning how to manage their diseases.

A recent immigrant from Haiti, Jean had difficulty providing for his family. Students staffing the Family Help Desk helped him navigate the bureaucracy of the Department of Transitional Assistance, and today his family is thriving.

The objective of the Division of Pediatrics at BUSM, with an idea to empower co undergraduates and fueled by the passion of many faculty members, is to educate urban families.

Today, the Project HEALTH team consists of 150 culturally diverse undergraduate students, all of whom have completed a rigorous application process. Program ideas come from both the students (who are planning a variety of majors) and medical center staff. With the guidance of physicians, nurses, educators, lawyers, and social workers, the students work out the logistics of each program, from procuring funding to finding a meeting space.

At the end of each week, volunteers gathered around the social issues of the families they've seen and weighed the impact of the programs through reflection sessions. Speakers, including community members and hospital staff, address a range of topics, from trends in public policy to the challenges of providing services for the city's poor.

The students have not only empowered and educated families to help them meet their own health and social needs, but they have also developed critical leadership skills," said Zuckerman.

All of Project HEALTH's programs are free of charge. Of the more than 50 programs included, the program has produced some remarkable results. In the past several years, volunteers have logged more than 20,000 hours designing, developing and implementing programs, and served more than 1,100 families.

As Onii and her family look to the future, they hope to bring the programs into neighborhood health centers and other Boston-area hospitals. In the meantime, Project HEALTH is being implemented through collaborative relationships between pediatric hospital programs and universities in other states.

Richard Towle

Towle garage on the medical campus.

"Richard has played an important role in nearly all the major projects on the medical campus," said Richard Towle, the first vice president of BMC.

Since his appointment in 1977, Towle has been involved in campus planning and in the oversight of major campus development projects for the university. Included among the projects is BioSquare, the $350 million research park being developed on Albany Street by BU and BMC to support innovation in science and business.

Towle will also play a major role in the development of a 1,000-car parking garage on the medical campus.

Patients say "Thanks"

Since the start of the WE CARE initiative last fall, staff and employers at BMC are placing an increased emphasis on patient and customer satisfaction every day.

The initiative (With Exceptional Care And Respect for Everyone), an ongoing service-improvement process that empowers employees to establish high levels of service, is having an impact.

Today, the WE CARE initiative will feature two events: Volunteer Day at BMC and a Medical Center appreciation night. The Volunteer Day at BMC will focus on recognizing the contributions of volunteers at BMC, while the Medical Center appreciation night will focus on recognizing the contributions of all employees at BMC.

In addition, the WE CARE initiative will also feature a series of events throughout the year, including a volunteer appreciation day, a medical center appreciation day, and an employee appreciation day.

Programs are free of charge. Offerings include BMC, Harvard University, and international partners. Other sponsors include BMC, Harvard University, MIT, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, staples Inc., Medicine in the Public Interest, and the Stride Rite Foundation.

"The initiative is designed to demonstrate the leadership abilities and administrative acumen to handle the largest of tasks. It is not to be denied the merit of this new position.

We care

"I was seen in the E.R. department Sunday night. I needed a heparin injection because my doctor had been out of town for a week. He was prompt, professional, and had a bedside manner. When I told him I had private insurance, he immediately said, "I'll give you a shot."

"I'm a patient at the VA hospital in Boston. I have diabetes, and I was seeing a VA doctor. He noticed my toes were turning blue and said, "I think you have an infection."

"A second patient, who had a heart attack, said, "I was in the hospital and I was given the wrong medications. I was able to get the correct ones through the VA hospital.""

"Many thanks to you for my experience at Boston Medical Center. I am 89 years old now back to my normal state of health. My 82-year-old wife is happy and proud to see the beautiful, thin, pink line (not really a scar) which denotes the skill of my surgeon, Dr. Kevorkian."

"You have some of the most wonderful, efficient and caring nurses in the world. I say this not only because of my husband, but I saw how they took care of my wife as well at the Medical Center."

"The staff at Boston Medical Center gave more than 100 percent effort, attention and medical care to my husband... As far as I am concerned, a miracle happened that night."
Glucose solution improves coronary bypass outcomes in diabetic patients

Cardiologists at BUMC have recently designed an investigation into the usage of glucose-insulin-potassium (GIK) solution to improve the outcomes of patients with diabetes mellitus who undergo coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery.

Harold Lane, MD, professor of cardiology, surgery at BUMC, and cardiologist-in-chief, BUMC, presented the results of the study at the annual meeting of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, held in April.

According to Lane, using GIK solution benefits diabetic patients. "Our previous studies have shown that GIK solution improves clinical outcomes in non-diabetic patients following urgent CABG surgery. However, we wanted to determine whether the same would be true for diabetic patients," said Lane.

The results of the study were clear. "Use of GIK solution does improve myocardial performance, limits weight gain, and reduces the need for remini­steries and immediate support following CABG surgery," said Lane. Other results showed a decrease in the incidence of arial fibillation, as well as lower overall recovery time following CABG surgery.

"Chronicle" devotes episode to BMC

With seven months remaining until the world узнаers in a new millennium, the BU Medical Campus is readying for whatever the Y2K transition may bring. As the buildings, heating, air conditioning, and transportation systems "at the medical campus - namely, those systems that may be dealing with the Y2K problem," said Kerry Mahal, executive director of the Office of Information Technology.

In its report, "Chronicle" focused on many of the issues that have been, or will be, dealt with. "The third area to which the ITMA has devoted the most attention is its members' willingness to remain excited and enthusiastic about the goals of improving accessibility to the medical area, encouraging use of public transportation, and promoting and maintaining the quality of life in the city," said MacArthur.

"Chronicle" also devoted an article to the BU Medical Campus, profiling its various aspects and programs and mission of BMC.

"Our efforts are directed at making the campus more livable for the people who work and live here," said MacArthur.

BU Medical Campus continues Y2K preparations

"We have been working on protecting our systems and campuses for many years," said MacArthur. "We have dedicated a significant amount of resources to ensuring that our systems are ready for the new millennium."
ON Track

BMC departments move to new locations
Several BMC departments have moved to new locations.

The following offices have relocated to 400 Harrison Ave.
- Research and Grants Administration
- Managed Care
- Physician Network Development
- Physician and Allied Services
- Boston HealthNet, Legal Services

In addition, the Boston HealthNet Plan moved to the Nurses Education Building at 35 Northampton St., and the Elders Living at Home program is now located on the mezzanine of the Ambulatory Care Center.

A new drug database available on the intranet
A new drug database, accessible through the intranet, is now available at BMC and to hospital affiliates. The Micronedex system contains the following databases:

- Drugfile — a drug information system
- P forniton — a poison identification and treatment system
- Identikit — a drug identification system that uses the markings on tablets/capsules
- ReproLink — a system for identifying the reproductive risks and hazards of drugs and other agents
- DrugReactions — a system that identifies drug-drug, drug-food, drug-disease, drug-environmental and drug-laboratory interactions.

BMC plans week-long celebration of nurses
May 6 - 14 is designated the 1999 National Nurses Week. With a theme of “Nurses Make It Happen,” numerous events, ranging from workshops and lectures to two evenings of humor, are planned. The first-ever Nurses Week Grand Rounds, titled “Ethical Issues in the Operating Room,” will be held on Friday, May 12; and commencement at the World Trade Center on Sunday, May 23. For more information, call 638-6767.

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SDM holds Clinic and Research Day
SDM's annual Clinic and Research Day was recently held at 400 East Newton St. Twenty-three dental education vendors displayed their products and were available throughout the day to speak with students.

In the afternoon, guest speaker Vicky Rosen, PhD, senior scientist and director of Tissue Growth and Repair at the Genetics Institute in Cambridge, spoke about potential therapeutic benefits for tissue growth and repair. She was followed by Sadra Ebrahimi, DDS, MS, professor of diagnostic sciences and patient services and director of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology at SDM, who gave a lecture titled "Know Thy Tongue"

May 18 Bike to Work/School Day
San Francisco, CA - A bike to work/school day and corporate challenge takes place on Tuesday, May 18.

Bike check-up - In preparation for the BMC Bike to Work/School Day, the event will be held May 19, the International Transportation Management Association (ITMA) will hold a bike check-up on Talbot Green from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call ITMA at 638-7473.

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May 20 Cultural Focus - A talk titled "Providing Culturally Sensitive Health Care to the Brazilian Community," will be held in the Davies Auditorium on the Harrision Avenue Campus. These activities are encouraged to bring lunch refreshments will be served.

June 3 NCIU Reunion - A reunion of former NCIU patients and their families will be held from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Harrision Avenue Campus. For more information, call Karen Williams at 414-578 or e-mail kwilliams@bu.edu.

Comedy night - "Laughter is the Best Medicine," a night of comedy, will be held on Friday, June 4, to benefit the BMC Children's AIDS Program. The event will take place at Murphy's in Downtown. At the intersection of Routes 1 and 109, beginning at 8 p.m., Larry Clark and Steve Sweaney are among the comedians who will perform. For more information, call (617) 327-2777.

Celebrating diversity
Helping celebrate the diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds of BMC employees, students from the Boston Medical Center School of Irish Dance perform during the BMC International Cultural Diversity Week. In addition to offering more international events, including a Brazilian jazz guitarist and an African drum player, employees were invited to participate in a "cultural forum," "Providing Culturally Sensitive Health Care to the Chinese Community." Employees also had the opportunity to wear clothing and other symbols of their familial geographical origins as an interactive map. At the closing ceremony, a traditional Mexican folk dance to "El Sue de La Noche" at Callebrebre 1999. Sponsored by the American Medical Student Association and BUSM, the event featured music, dance, poetry and a kung-fu demonstration, as well as a selection of foods from around the world.

Tackling the warning signs of alcohol abuse
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Dinner honors long-time BU employees

The annual BU Service Recognition Dinner was held on April 22 to honor employees who have served the institution for 10 and 25 years. The evening, held at Metcalf Hall in the George Sherman Union on the Charles River Campus, also acknowledged those who are retiring from the university.

At this year's event, 47 medical campus employees were honored for 10 years of service, 17 were honored for 25 years of service, and seven were acknowledged upon their retirement from Boston University. Congratulations to the following employees on their 25 years of dedication:

- Charles M. Bliss, MD, Medicine, BUSM
- Manuel Brasil, Mail Center, BU Medical Campus
- Anthony Campbell, Facilities Management, BU Medical Campus
- Richard Carr, DMD, Pediatric Dentistry, SDM
- Elaine Connolly, Continuing Medical Education, BUSM
- Richard F. Hoyt Jr, PhD, Anatomy and Neurobiology, BUSM
- Margaret Kelly-Hayes, MS, EdD, Neurology, BUSM
- Thomas Kilgore, DMD, Associate Dean, SDM
- William J. Lehman, PhD, Physiology, BUSM
- Melvin Lester, Facilities Management, BU Medical Campus
- Jerie McGrath-Cerqua, Biochemistry, BUSM
- Lillian McMahon, MD, Pediatrics, BUSM
- Rozanne Richman, Ophthalmology, BUSM
- William W. Rogers, Security, BU Medical Campus
- Douglas L. Rosene, PhD, Anatomy and Neurobiology, BUSM
- George Rosenthal, MD, Medicine, BUSM
- Paul A. Toselli, MD, PhD, Biochemistry, BUSM

$3.5 million grant will establish genetic epidemiology center

UMC has received a $3.5 million grant from Glaxo-Wellcome Inc. to establish a genetic epidemiology center. "Glaxo-Wellcome has developed a global initiative for the discovery of genes associated with complex diseases," said Lindsay Farrer, PhD, professor of medicine, neurology and public health, and chief of the Program in Genetics at BUSM. "BUMC is proud to be one of the three genetic centers in the U.S. contributing to this work."

The other two centers will be located at Duke University in North Carolina and Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. Each center will be responsible for the design and development of multiple projects lasting approximately three years each.

To aid the study, a state-of-the-art software database designed to accommodate the influx of clinical, epidemiological, genealogical and genetic data will be established at BUMC. Farrer and his team will work with a global network of clinical centers on each project, the first of which will examine metabolic syndrome—a common disorder that comprises diabetes, obesity, hypertension and lipid abnormalities.

"Our immediate goal is to concentrate on building the infrastructure to handle this volume of critical data," Farrer said. "What we will have is an invaluable genetic footprint for many diseases with a complex genetic basis."