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BUMC names seven employees as 1994 Black Achievers

Four Hospital employees and three Medical Campus employees have been named Black Achievers for 1994. The Black Achievers Program, sponsored by the Greater Boston YMCA, has been recognizing the accomplishments of outstanding minority employees from businesses and corporations throughout Greater Boston for 18 years. The institutions of the Medical Center—the Hospital, the Medical Campus and the Evans Medical Group—have participated in the program for the last eight years.

The Hospital's 1994 Black Achievers are: Anna Farrow, RN, a senior staff respiratory therapist; Florence Hagins, a surgical practice coordinator in the Department of Surgery; Georgia Jones, a telephone console attendant in the Department of Telecommunications, and Bradley Turner, chief research technician in the Section of Gastroenterology.

The Black Achievers selected from the

>*See* Black Achievers, page 3

South End interests represented on Menino public safety task force

The appointment of a Boston University Medical Center Hospital representative to Mayor Thomas Menino's Transition Committee task force on public safety ensures that the South End will have a voice in the effort to make the community safer.

Joannie Jaxtimer, the Hospital's director of marketing, communications, and public relations, was named to the public safety task force of the Mayor's Transition Committee last November. The committee was established to review and evaluate the work of city departments and agencies—in essence, according to Menino, to "shake the cobwebs out of City Hall."

The specific responsibility of the task force is to recommend improvements to the internal management of the city's two arms of public safety—the police and fire departments, says Karen Gray, task force manager and city employee. "Our responsibility has been to flag areas of concern within the operation and management structures of each department," Gray says.

The job of the public safety task force is crucial to the success of the mayor's overall plan for action against crime, violence, drug abuse and domestic strife, Gray says.

"I take this appointment very seriously, and I am representing the interests of the Hospital and the community at large to the best of my ability," Jaxtimer says. "It's exciting to be a member of a task force that is really going to affect change in the city."

A large component of the task force's work involves assessing the effectiveness of the communication lines between the several branches of the city's public safety division. For example, the Boston Police Department,

>*See* Task Force, page 4

In This Issue

First BioSquare building brings promise of economic development, jobs

The recent opening of Boston University's new Center for Advanced Biomedical Research (CABR), located at 700 Albany St., marks the birth of BioSquare, the $350 million biomedical/biotechnology complex being developed by BUMCH and Boston University. When complete, the "scientific village" will be the largest and most comprehensive health care and biotechnology development in Boston.

BioSquare ultimately is intended to include medical office and ambulatory care facilities, two additional medical/research/office facilities totaling approximately 470,000 square feet, a 1,000-space parking garage with a child-care center and retail space on the ground level, and a 240-room hotel and conference center.

"Albany Street and the South Bay area will undergo a wonderful transformation during this decade," said Aram Chobanian, MD, dean of the School of Medicine, during the opening ceremony held late last year. Mayor Thomas Menino, who also spoke during the ceremony, agreed, saying the BioSquare development "represents economic hope for Boston, because it will generate jobs for Boston residents and attract vital new business." The full development of BioSquare will benefit Boston with 2,000 construction jobs and 2,000 permanent jobs, he said. "I fully recognize that attracting employment in biotech research centers and high tech companies is a path that Boston must follow to secure its future," Menino said.

This transformation has begun with the opening of CABR, a building designed to meet the research needs of School of Medicine and Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry investigators. The building itself is designed to provide an environment conducive to integrated inquiry between basic and clinical research. Physically, CABR has nine floors of laboratory and office space, 180,000 square feet of space and state-of-the-art equipment to support leading-edge research.

>*See* BioSquare, page 2

Program proves many elders can live at home

It's only a meager studio apartment on the ninth floor.

A twin-size, steel-frame bed, an inexpensive desk, a small dining table, a couple of wooden chairs, a throw rug—nothing fancy. Certainly not what Carlos Valentine had in mind when he left Puerto Rico 40 years ago, but today, he is happy to call this place home.

The "American dream" lured Valentine, a 71-year-old bachelor, to this country in the 1950s. An American recession left him jobless, and then homeless, in the late 1980s. Recently, the workers at the Elders Living at Home Program (ELAHP) provided him with transitional housing on West Dedham Street, and Valentine is now on the waiting list for an apartment of his own in the same building.

"I'm old now," says Valentine through his translator, social worker, and friend Juan Tetzaguic, who works for ELAHP. "I only live day to day. But I like it here; I'm very happy in my apartment.

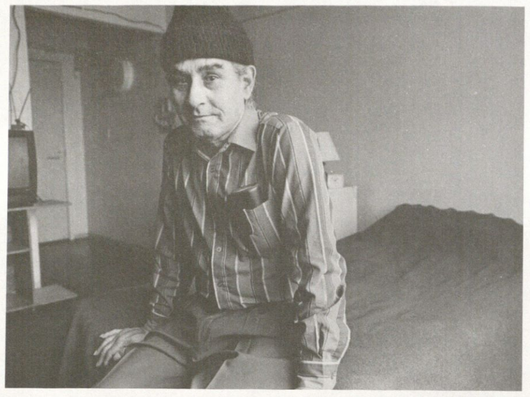
"I worked for many years, and lived in other states," Valentine recalls. "I moved to Boston [in 1985] and was washing dishes at a restaurant. I lost my job, and I couldn't pay rent." He said he was evicted, and found nowhere else to go except the shelters.

"Carlos had been spending a lot of time at Fort Point [a branch of the Pine Street Inn], which had been rumored to close last April," says Eileen O'Brien, an ELAHP administrator. "One of the counselors there was very concerned about what would happen to Carlos, and referred him to us."

ELAHP is run by a group of collaborating city and non-profit agencies to provide Boston's homeless or potentially homeless elders, age 60 and older, with access to safe, affordable housing, and to services that enable these elders to live independently at home. This non-profit program is based at Boston University Medical Center Hospital. Many clients are referred to the program from shelters.

With help from ELAHP, Valentine now cooks his own meals, watches his own television, shaves in his own bathroom, and sleeps in his own bed. Tetzaguic sees him almost every day, reminding him to take his medication, helping him to do his laundry, and keeping him company.

"When he was staying in shelters, Carlos was often ignored," says Tetzaguic. "He doesn't look his age, for one, and people left him alone because they thought he was able to take care of himself. For the most part, he can, but there are some things he needs help with. Now that he's living here, he can call me, or some of the other friends he has made here, when he needs help with anything."



Carlos Valentine sits in his new home.

A larger problem is that many Spanish-speaking minorities, like Valentine, have trouble applying for financial aid: It is difficult when English is a person's second language.

"Much of the Hispanic population doesn't know there is help for them," says Tetzaguic. "There are many able-bodied elders who are wasting away in shelters, when they could be in their own homes leading decent lives, or receiving needed medical care."

O'Brien says that, indeed, "Spanish-speaking resources are few." ELAHP is working to find other agency services in the city that will provide Valentine with the follow-up care he needs, and that he can understand.

"Sometimes, finding housing and future care for our clients is pretty straightforward," O'Brien says. "And when it is not, we work twice as hard so that we can find a home for our clients as quickly as possible."

After spending seven years in one shelter after another, Valentine is glad the ELAHP has been able to help him, and is appreciative of the staff. He is especially grateful for Tetzaguic. In their three months together, the two have become good friends.

"Juan, he's a good guy," Valentine says, in perfect English.

Since it's inception in 1986, ELAHP has successfully served more than 1,000 Boston-area elders referred to the program from hospitals, shelters, social workers, and other public and private agencies. The program is funded by gifts from corporations, foundations and individuals. For further information about the organization, call O'Brien at 638-6139.

BioSquare opening continued from page 1

Some of the research to be conducted at CABR include studies on the underlying causes of heart attack, heart failure and stroke; the causes and treatment of high blood pressure; the causes of sexual dysfunction and new treatments; the treatment of prostate and kidney cancer; and oral cavity diseases and their prevention. These studies "will undoubtedly have major clinical applications in the future," Chobanian said. "Mankind should be well-served by the efforts of our scientists."

Campus bookshop's new location more accessible to the public

The Charlesbank Health Sciences Bookshop, located on the first floor of the Center for Advanced Biomedical Research, offers something for everyone—not just medical students and health care professionals.

The new 700 Albany St. site, which now serves as the Medical Campus bookstore (previously located in the School of Medicine basement), is one of the most complete medical bookstores in New England and one of the largest college medical bookstores in the country. It offers an array of public and consumer health book and magazine titles, as well as medical, nursing, and dental book titles, spanning all available publishers in the field.

In addition to its book selection, the new store carries a wide assortment of greeting cards. The store also has a selection of best selling novels, popular magazines and children's literature, but on a smaller scale than a general bookstore. Boston University and BUMCH sweatshirts, candy, and gum are among the many other general items the store carries.

For health care professionals and medical students, the Charlesbank Health Sciences Bookshop carries an array of medical diagnostic instruments, several types of equipment and replacement parts, school and office supplies, lab coats, gloves and goggles.

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Medical Campus are Cecilia Dawkins, PhD, deputy director of the Join Together Program at the School of Public Health; Ava Hurd, a secretary in the Department of Oral Diagnosis at the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry, and Raia Warfield, community health coordinator for the Center for Educational Development in Health at the Medical Campus.

Under the YMCA program, the honorees are matched with students from the Greater Boston Area as a means of providing the youths with positive role models and mentors. During the ensuing year, the achievers agree to perform a minimum of 40 hours of volunteer community service on behalf of youth.

This year's Black Achievers are, in above photo from left, Georgia Jones, Florence Hagins, Bradley Turner, Ava Hurd, and Cecilia Dawkins. Raia Warfield, left, and Anna Farrow, are pictured at top.

PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT

Dental implants made affordable through dental school clinical trial

If you have lost your natural teeth, there is an alternative to dentures. Fixed dental implants, which offer the look and feel of real teeth, are allowing many people to replace removable devices such as partials and dentures. For a limited number of individuals, this usually costly alternative will be much more affordable.

The Center for Implantology at Boston University Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry is seeking 100 participants for a clinical trial of the 3i Implant System, a brand-name product. Even if you have been wearing dentures for a long time, you can receive an implant. The only restricting factor for this trial is that each individual must have healthy gums. Those currently suffering from advanced gum disease, for example, would not qualify. Participants can be of any age or either gender, and can need one or all teeth replaced.

Dental implants are permanent tooth-root substitutes that provide an anchor for artificial replacement teeth, dentures or bridges. Traditionally, most people have resorted to dentures, crowns or bridgework to replace their missing teeth. Today, however, most people find dentures or prosthetic teeth that are supported by implants more comfortable and more convenient.

The approximately $1 million private grant received to perform this clinical trial is the largest ever awarded in Goldman School history, says Zhimon Jacobson, DMD, director of the School's Center for Implantology. The grant will finance the study and a five-year follow up of the 100 selected participants, he says.

The cost of participating in the dental implant trial is minimal: Participants pay a fraction of the standard school of dentistry fees that are already at a much reduced price compared to what private specialists would charge for implants, Jacobson says. Implant maintenance fees (such as for cleanings) for trial participants are free for the duration of the trial.

If you are interested in participating in this trial or would like more information about it, contact Joanne Reagan in the Center for Implantology at 638-5050.

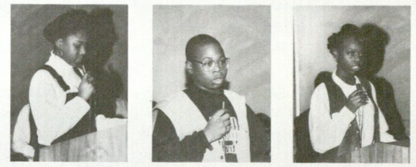
STUDENT ESSAYS

'I am judged by the size of my character, not the color of my skin'

In a program both inspiring and sobering, Boston University Medical Center's seventh annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr./Black Achievers celebration rekindled many a spirit on Thursday, Jan. 13.

Addressing the theme "Keeping the Spirit Alive," speakers representing various races and generations delivered a strong message of peace and hope in the spirit of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essays presented by three students from the Phillis Wheatley Middle School in Roxbury provided one of the highlights of the event.

As part of the Hospital's ongoing partnership with the middle school, all students (grades 6, 7 and 8) were asked to write compositions about what "Keeping the Spirit Alive," and King's legacy, meant to them. The three best essays were presented at the program by the authors, Melanie Adams, Richard Boston and Carla Lampkin, all age 13.



Phillis Wheatley Middle School students Melanie Adams, left, Richard Boston and Carla Lampkin read their essays on the theme "Keeping the Spirit Alive" during BUMC's Martin Luther King Jr./Black Achievers celebration.

"I have been trying to avoid the types of activities that Dr. King would not like me to do," read Adams. "I choose to be with the most positive people I know. ... My dream is to go on to college and from there go to law school. While I am making my dream come true, I will think of how Dr. Martin Luther King helped me get to where I am. I will always try to show other people that they can have their own dreams, too, and how they can make their dreams come true. Thus, we will always be honoring the memory of Dr. King, and the magnificent dreams he had for us all," she concluded.

"Dr. King was a powerful man, not in money, but in love," said Boston, quoting from his essay. "He was a great man at everything he did. ... He helped pave the road for young black people today. We sit in the same classes as whites, and are considered equal."

Lampkin recited, "The words of Dr. King have affected my life tremendously. I am judged by the size of my character, not the color of my skin. All men are created equal."

After reading their essays, all students were presented with a certificate and two tickets each to Walt Disney's "Aladdin on Ice" skating show, compliments of the Hospital.

The students' essays provided an appropriate segue to the theme of the keynote speech, given by Rev. Anthony Campbell, director of Community Outreach at Boston University School of Theology Administration.

"'Dangers, toils and snares' describes where we [blacks] are as a people," said Campbell, drawing the theme of his speech from lyrics of the hymn "Amazing Grace." "Those of you who are parents, and grandparents, and uncles and aunts, need to go home and take a hard look at that backwards-cap wearing, cigarette-smoking, down-in-the-butt pants-wearing kid and say, 'The fate you have picked for yourself is not the fate you need to have, because the dangers, toils and snares need not overwhelm.'"

Michael Anderson, principal of the Phillis Wheatley Middle School, also spoke of the fate of children, saying, "We need to continue to build self-esteem, not jails, for our children. We need to work diligently to ensure the future, which is our children, as these Black Achievers have done, and will continue to do. ... Who will answer to the generation of tomorrow if we fail today? We cannot allow ourselves to fail our children."

TASK FORCE continued from page 1

the housing authority police, municipal police and school police are all independent policing entities within the city. The task force is examining ways these branches can be better integrated to provide the most efficient and effective police services to Boston's residents and visitors.

The task force has discovered some underutilized police officer positions, Gray says, that are doing administrative work when they could possibly be better used on the streets. In the case of the fire department, Gray says a more comprehensive examination may be needed, because an extensive management and organizational audit has not been performed for over 25 years. Equity in the deployment of resources throughout the city is also being examined in both departments, Jaxtimer says.

Gray says the final report of the task force is due soon. Though the report will contain some suggestions for improvement, Gray stresses the fact that the job of the task force is to identify problems. "We are not police and fire experts," she says.

Menino will most likely appoint an outside auditor to recommend resolutions to identified problems, Gray says.

Survey sheds light on plight of homeless elders

A survey conducted last April shows that shelters and medical facilities are providing temporary housing for at least 460 elder individuals, many of them suffering from chronic illnesses. The results of the survey, sponsored by the Committee to End Elder Homelessness and other public and private agencies, were announced at a recent press conference held at the Saltonstall Building, 100 Cambridge St. Pictured above at the conference are Elsie Frank, president of the Massachusetts Association of Older Americans, and mother of U.S. Rep. Barney Frank; Anna Bissonnette, RN, president of the Committee to End Elder Homelessness and community coordinator for elder health and housing services at BUMCH, and Kamal Hijjazi, RN, a doctoral student at the University of Massachusetts who co-conducted the survey. The three decryed the results of the survey and called for quick community action to reduce the problem of elder homelessness.

Fill your prescription at Boston Pharmacy

Through recent negotiations with such health plan organizations as Pilgrim Health Care and Harvard Community Health Plan, the Boston Pharmacy, located on the first floor of the Doctors Office Building at 720 Harrison Ave., is now able to meet the prescription needs of the majority of BUMCH outpatients.

"Filling a prescription here is much easier than finding the closest CVS," says pharmacy director John Bertolami. In fact, Boston Pharmacy and CVS are part of the same Harvard Community Health Plan and Pilgrim Health Plan network, says Bertolami, so prescription drug prices through these networks are the same at both stores.

The Boston Pharmacy will fill prescriptions under the following health care plans:

- All Massachusetts Blue Cross plans
- Pilgrim Health Care
- Harvard Community Health Plan (network only)
- Medex
- Neighborhood Health Plan
- US Health Care and US Health Care Injectable Plan
- Mass Health
- Tufts Health Plan
- Metropolitan Life
- PCS
- PAID

Negotiations with Bay State Health Care plan are currently under way, Bertolami says.

The Boston Pharmacy is open from 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call the pharmacy at 638-8130.

Watch for BUMC docs on WBZ-TV

Eleven Boston University Medical Center physicians are appearing as expert guests on a new WBZ-TV channel 4 program, "Health Matters," being sponsored by BUMC Hospital in collaboration with a network of other local hospitals. The program is a series of 30-minute, consumer-oriented health and medical news shows that began airing in January and will continue to be aired through July.

The following is a list of the topics and BUMC physicians who will be featured on future "Health Matters" programs:

March 20

"Cancer: Easing the Pain," with Thomas DeLaney, MD, the Hospital's chief of radiation oncology and an associate professor of radiology at the School of Medicine.

April 23

"Women and Healthy Hearts," with Alice Jacobs, MD, BUMCH director of cardiac catheterization, an associate professor of medicine at the School of Medicine.

June 12

"Cancer and Women," with surgical oncologist Marianne Prout, MD, MPH, co-director of the BUMCH Breast Health Center and an assistant professor of surgery at the School of Medicine.

June 19

"New Choices in Heart Surgery," with Richard Shemin, MD, BUMCH chief of cardiothoracic surgery and chairperson and professor of the BUSM Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, and Thomas Ryan, MD, BUMCH's former chief of cardiology and a professor of medicine at the School of Medicine.

June 26

"Band Aid Surgery," with Thomas LaMont, MD, the Hospital's chief of gastrointestinal medicine and a professor of medicine at the School of Medicine.

July 17

"Alzheimer's: The Family in Crisis," with Janice Knoefel, MD, chief of the Geriatric Evaluation Unit at the Boston VA Medical Center.

July 24

"Saving Your Skin," with dermatologists Howard Koh, MD, FACP, and Gary Rogers, MD, both co-directors of the Hospital's Skin Oncology Program. Koh is also an associate professor of dermatology, public health and medicine at the School of Medicine and Rogers is a School of Medicine associate professor of dermatology.

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