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1990-06

Connections: June 1990

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CONNECTIONS™

The monthly newspaper of The University Hospital • June 1990

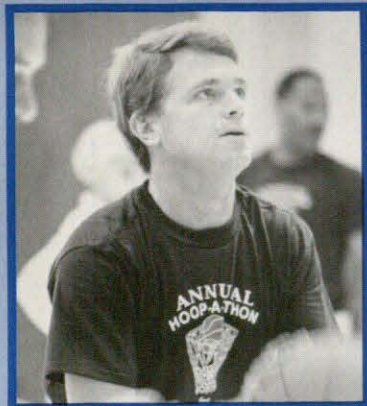


The University Hospital

- **Stone busters: UH opens unique center to treat painful gallstones and kidney stones**

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- **1990 Hoop-a-thon raises a record-breaking \$40,000**



WCVB-TV'S Brian Leary at this year's Hoop-a-thon.

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- **Are you at risk of having a stroke? UH M.D.s help establish profile to determine your chances**

PAGE 7

The University Hospital
88 East Newton Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Register to vote—right here at UH

The University Hospital this week becomes the first of more than 40 hospitals and health-care agencies in Massachusetts to hold voter-registration sessions in time for this fall's gubernatorial and legislative elections.

The pilot drive being held here on Wednesday and Thursday, June 6 and 7, is part of

Unique test of away-from-home registration is set

a major campaign by the Massachusetts Hospital Association (MHA) to register as many Massachusetts citizens as possible before the primary election on Tuesday, Sept. 18, and the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

The times and locations for the UH registration sessions—which are open to members of the general public, as well as to UH employees—are as follows:

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Happy 135th UH!



CELEBRATING 135 YEARS OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY—More than 200 staff, employees and members of the community helped the Hospital celebrate its 135th birthday on Friday, May 18, in the Atrium Pavilion Lobby. Special guests included members of UH's "founding families," who were introduced by UH President J. Scott Abercrombie Jr., M.D. (standing at podium). Seated from left to right are Mrs. Dianne Wesselhoeft and Robert Wesselhoeft, M.D., grandnephew of Conrad Wesselhoeft, M.D.; LeeAnn Wesselhoeft-Ablin and William Saltonstall, grandcousin and grandson of William Wesselhoeft, M.D.; Judge Bailey Aldrich, a former UH trustee and representative of three generations of founding families; Jerome Preston Sr., trustee emeritus; Jerome Preston Jr., longtime UH trustee; Rev. Leicester Potter, UH chaplain from 1944 to 1983; and Dorothy Keefer, School of Medicine registrar, and the widow of the late Chester Keefer, M.D. See page 3 for additional photos.

A 'Celebration of Service' after 'a year to remember'

The University Hospital community will pause to honor its long-term employees and retirees from June 11 to 15 during a week's worth of events organized in their honor.

The annual "Celebration of Service" is a way for the Hospital to thank its staffers for their dedication and commitment to the UH mission of providing quality, patient-focused care.

The staff's resiliency and teamwork over the past year have enabled the Hospital to weather turbulent times in the health-care industry. Those turbulent times have seen the state's hospitals suffer through drastic reductions in federal and state funding, hiring and spending freezes, layoffs, and the closings of smaller community hospitals across the state.

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Time to get new parking lot stickers

Re-stickering of all motor vehicles in the Medical Center parking lots will take place through the end of June.

Stickers for lots A/B, C and T/D are available now until the end of the month, and can be obtained at the Parking Office in the School of Medicine, R-102. The deadline for re-stickering is June 30.

For further information, call the Parking Office at 638-4915 (x4915).■

Register to vote

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- **Wednesday, June 6:** noon to 2 p.m., at the entrance to the SkyLight Dining Pavilion, and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., on the first floor of the Atrium Pavilion, and
- **Thursday, June 7:** 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., and 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the top of the Atrium 2 escalators.

Until recently, Massachusetts citizens have been required to register to vote in the city or town in which they reside; however, a new voter-registration law, signed last November by Governor Dukakis, enables citizens to sign up at any voter-



registration session, or with any city or town clerk, board of registrars of voters, or election commission.

The MHA campaign, entitled "Caring to Vote/Voting to Care," is designed to "encourage the hospital family to become actively involved in this year's gubernatorial and legislative elections," says Kenneth Leary, director of Emergency Medical Services for the MHA.

"In recent years, increasingly fewer voters have decided more and more elections. Essentially, this means that a minority of the electorate are able to determine major policy that affects our lives by electing candidates into office."

According to Leary, who has been working closely with the Boston Election Commission, the registration process takes only two to three minutes and individuals need no special identification to register.

Citizens who have been registered to vote in the past, he notes, must re-register to vote if they have moved to a new city or town, or have undergone a name change. ■

UH opens multidisciplinary center to treat painful gallstones, kidney stones

As the treatment of gallstones and kidney stones becomes increasingly more sophisticated, patients and physicians now can virtually choose their "weapons" from an arsenal of techniques currently available.

New England's first comprehensive, multidisciplinary Stone Center—recently opened at the University Hospital—provides patients with a wide range of treatments for stones that are less painful and less invasive than those that have been used in the past.

At the Center, a multidisciplinary team of specialists—including gastroenterologists, gastrointestinal surgeons, urologists, nephrologists and radiologists—combine their talents with state-of-the-art technologies to provide individualized care to each patient.

Streamlined process

The Stone Center will streamline the treatment process for patients, according to Desmond Birkett, M.D., the chief of gastroenterologic surgery at UH. "The team will be able to evaluate the individual's entire disease process and more quickly decide the most appropriate treatment."

Both gallstones, which form in the gallbladder or in the ducts draining the liver, and urinary stones, lodged in the kidney or ureter, can cause mild to extreme pain. While pain is the most common symptom of stone disease, infections that result when stones cause obstructions can be dangerous.

Among the range of options for gallstone removal are two innovative techniques offered at only a handful of hospitals in the nation. One is percutaneous lithotripsy, which involves insertion of an electrical wire and a saline solution into the gallbladder through an endoscope. The electrical wire combined with the solution causes a spark that smashes the stone into small pieces, which are then extracted with tiny baskets or are passed.

Another technique—called laparoscopic cholecystectomy—allows physicians to remove the entire gallbladder through tubes inserted into the navel.

In addition to being less painful and less invasive, these in-



Richard Babayan

novative procedures require less anesthesia and recovery time than traditional techniques. Until recently, the only effective treatment for gallstones has been the surgical removal of the gallbladder.

A myriad of techniques are available at the UH Stone Center for the treatment of urinary, or kidney, stones, among them: Extracorporeal shockwave lithotripsy (ESWL), a technique performed on the Sonolith 3000—a second generation lithotripter—which requires only intravenous sedation and is done mostly on an outpatient basis. The Center also has a variety of newer, smaller

and more flexible ureteroscopes. These instruments can be used to treat ureteral stones with either electrohydraulic lithotripsy or laser lithotripsy, which produce intense bursts of energy to pulverize stones.

"We continue to remain the only hospital in the area that treats staghorn stones (large stones in the kidney)," says Richard K. Babayan, M.D., a UH urologist. "Beyond providing the least invasive treatment alternative to patients, the Stone Center is investigating the causes of stone formation and methods for prevention." ■

Over 150 to tee off at annual Semler golf/tennis tournament on July 23

The second annual Marty Semler Memorial Golf/Tennis Tournament to benefit UH's Cancer Research Unit will take place on Monday, July 23, at the South Shore Country Club in Hingham. Semler, a former manufacturing executive with the Gillette Company, was treated for cancer at UH, and died in 1989.

Over 150 people are expected to tee off between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. In addition, this year's tournament will include round-robins of doubles tennis.

According to Semler's widow,

Anne, the goal of the tournament is to keep the memory of her husband alive through the activity he loved most—golf. "While participating in this event we will also help provide funds to further the research into the causes and treatment of cancers," she says.

The funds raised will, over time, provide for the establishment of a new research laboratory in the Section of Medical Oncology.

For more information or for tickets, call Kathy MacArthur in the UH Development Office at 638-8990 (x8990). ■

More than 200 gather to salute UH's 135th birthday



A GRAND OCCASION—The UH community came together on Friday, May 18, to commemorate the Hospital's May 1855 founding by the Commonwealth. Pictured clockwise beginning at lower left: Staff, employees, trustees, corporators and friends of the Hospital gather in the Atrium Pavilion Lobby for festivities; UH President J. Scott Abercrombie Jr., M.D. gives opening remarks; Executive Vice President Jacqueline Dart serves up a slice of birthday cake; staffers visit a permanent historical display on Atrium 2, which was unveiled as part of the celebration.



**OUT OF THE HISTORY FILE:
Mural depicts a history of caring**

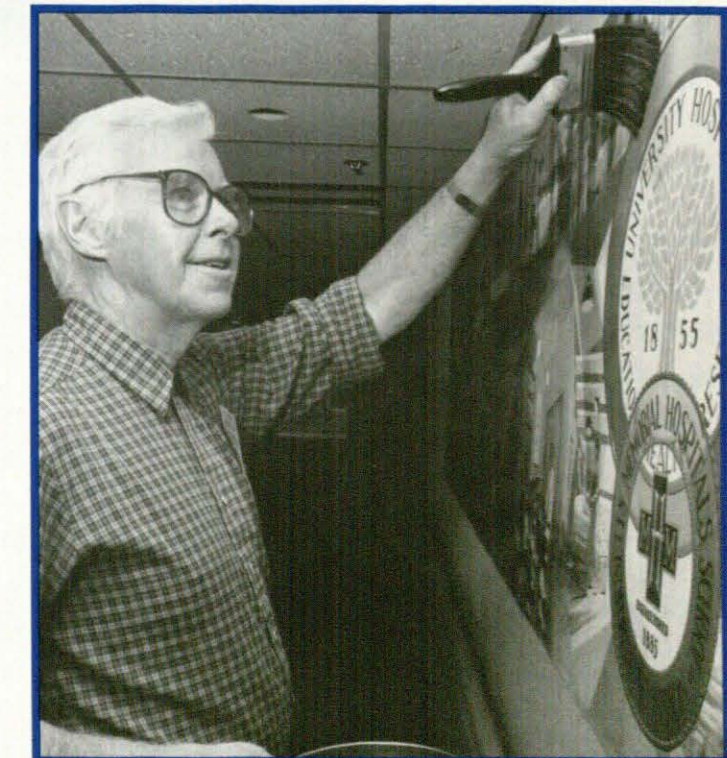
Local artist Jim McGurl of Quincy recently paid a visit to UH to restore and remount a Hospital mural he painted in 1971-72.

The mural—a tribute to the University Hospital's long history of service to the community—was remounted last month on H-2. Its original home, however, was in the Interfaith Chapel, formerly located on the first floor of the Preston Family (F) Building.

"The mural tells the whole story of the Hospital from its founding in 1855 right up until the early 1970s. It depicts what

we considered at the time to be our highlights," says UH's first chaplain, Rev. Leicester Potter. Some of the scenes portrayed are Vose Hall—a former residence for nursing students—the first mobile ambulance, a classroom of nurses, and various scenes depicting employees who worked in different areas of the Hospital.

McGurl—a muralist who has painted in cathedrals, churches, restaurants, hotels and nursing homes across the country—used old photographs and employees as models to help him paint various panels of the UH mural. ■



Muralist Jim McGurl

A 'Celebration of Service' salutes

continued from page 1

Largely because of the efforts of its dedicated employees, managers and physicians, UH has emerged from this turbulent year stronger than it entered it.

"The University Hospital has had a remarkable year," said UH President J. Scott Abercrombie Jr., M.D. "Last year at this time, we had a \$6.6-million operating loss that was growing. Today, one year and a lot of hard work later, our feet are firmly planted and we are once again financially sound—an amazing accomplishment by anyone's standards.

"More pleasing than watching these dollar figures turn around, however, was seeing our employees work with one another to turn a crisis into an achievement: Asking the smart questions and seeking the right answers, remaining cool under pressure, and working with the dedicated skill, pride and loyalty that make UH a special place," he continued. "We should be even more proud that we've achieved all of this amidst a state economy and a health-care system that are severely troubled. Thank you for your part in what truly was a year to remember."

Here is a schedule of service-recognition ceremonies:

- **Monday, June 11:** Breakfast for employees who have served five years; from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the SkyLight Dining Pavilion, Function Rooms A/B.
- **Tuesday, June 12:** Luncheon for 10- and 15-year employees; from noon to 2 p.m.; also in the SkyLight Dining Pavilion, Function Rooms A/B.
- **Thursday, June 14:** Dinner for employees who have served 20 or more years of service, and new retirees; from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the St. Botolph Club on Commonwealth Avenue.
- **Friday, June 15:** Annual retirees' luncheon; from noon to 2 p.m. in the SkyLight Dining Pavilion, Function Rooms A/B.

The following is a list of employees who are being recognized for their years of service to the Hospital, which was prepared by the Human Resources Department:



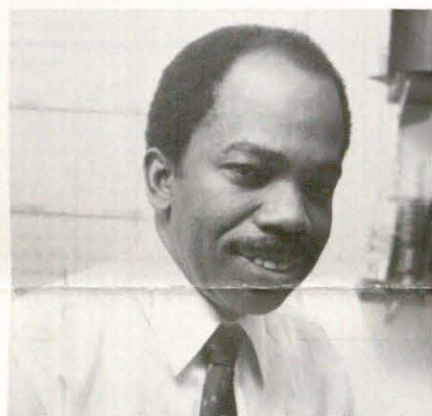
J. Scott Abercrombie Jr.
Administration
20 years of service



Jacqueline Dart
Administration
20 years of service



Clareta Edwards
Environmental Services
20 years of service



Charles Mitchell
Environmental Services
20 years of service



Gloria Tulloch
Environmental Services
20 years of service



Lawrence Liverpool
Plant Services
20 years of service



Ernest Gilman
General Accounting
20 years of service



Milda Pitter
Radiology
20 years of service



Wilma Julien
Radiology
20 years of service

Administration 20 years of service:

J. Scott Abercrombie
Jacqueline Dart

Ambulatory Services Gundersen Eye Center 5 years of service:

Wanda Freeman
Shellie Davis-Wheeler

Home Medical Service 5 years of service:

Margaret Polito

15 years of service: Kathleen Tavares

Development

10 years of service:
Deborah Heath-Maki

Diagnostic & Therapeutic Services

Neurology Services
10 years of service:
Jeanne Murphy

Respiratory Therapy
10 years of service:
William Rossi

Facilities Management

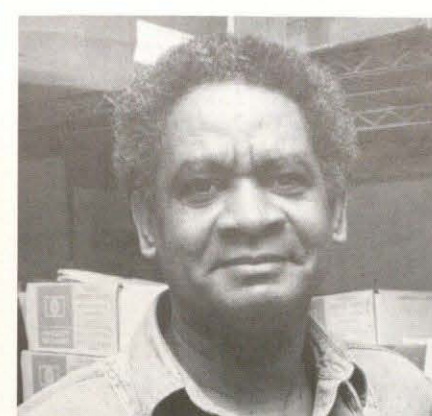
BUMC Safety
5 years of service:
John Clemons

Design Services
5 years of service:
Robert Burkhart

Environmental Services
5 years of service:
Eleanora Benjamin

10 years of service:
Mona Gentle
Pauline Hoge
Pearl Griffith

employees after 'a year to remember'



Norris Cornish
Materials Management
20 years of service



Lovel Perry
Nursing
20 years of service



Gloria Powell
Nursing
20 years of service



Diane Kadey-Choueiri
Nursing
20 years of service



Anita King
Nursing
20 years of service



Mary Sheehan
Nursing
20 years of service



Mary Ervin
Nursing
20 years of service



John Sapp
Nursing
20 years of service



Eris Smith
Nursing
20 years of service



Betty Luongo
Nursing
25 years of service



Shirley Teixeira
Nutrition Services
20 years of service



Mary DiCiaccio
Surgical Oncology
25 years of service

15 years of service:

Leon Gentle
James Dagastino
Eddie Cardwell
Vera Hope
Violetta LeBrun
Vivian Pitter
Thompson Rackley
Emilia Suazo

20 years of service:

Clareta Edwards
Charles Mitchell
Gloria Tulloch

Plant Services
5 years of service:
Venancio Quinones

10 years of service:

John TeDuits

15 years of service:

Roger Risoldi
Joseph Sullivan

20 years of service:

Lawrence Liverpool

Finance

General Accounting
20 years of service:
Ernest Gilman

Grants & Contracts
5 years of service:
Donald Hook

Patient Financial Services

5 years of service:
Dennis Noonan

10 years of service:
Leon Walker

Human Resources

5 years of service:
Pamela Prescod-Payne

10 years of service:

Frances Lawson

15 years of service:
Willard Folland

Image & Therapy Services

Nuclear Medicine
5 years of service:
John O'Brien

Radiation Medicine
5 years of service:
Alveta Haynes
Stacia Quinn

Radiology

5 years of service:
Charles Hausman
Russell Mulligan
Sally Pappa

continued on next page

A 'Celebration of Service'

continued from previous page

Radiology

10 years of service:

Elaine Sutton

15 years of service:

Edgar Dacosta

20 years of service:

Milda Pitter

Wilma Julien

Laboratory Medicine

5 years of service:

Kathleen Murphy

Susan Upham

Andrea McLain

10 years of service:

Leontyna McNally

Ritsuko Tsai

15 years of service:

Robert DiPierro

35 years of service:

Betty Holmes

Management Information Systems & Telecommunications

5 years of service:

Maxie Tomlinson

Lynn Crane

15 years of service:

Janette Boudreau

Telecommunications

10 years of service:

Rosalind Woodberry

Materials Management

5 years of service:

Walter Clayton

20 years of service:

Norris Cornish

William Irby

Medical Information Systems

5 years of service:

Kathleen Carey

Medical Staff Services

5 years of service:

Jenny Laughlin

Medicine

Cardiology

5 years of service:

David Larosa

Kelly Boudreau

10 years of service:

Carol Jane O'Malley

15 years of service:

Mary Mazur

Endocrinology

10 years of service:

Dorothy Fraser

20 years of service:

Jacqueline Foster

Hematology Research

5 years of service:

Donna Kolber

Surgical Oncology

5 years of service:

Deborah McDonald

25 years of service:

Mary DiCiaccio

Nursing

5 years of service:

Deborah Salvucci

Linda Rosevear

Katherine Cummings

Michelle Manning

Linda Enck

Debra Skalecki-Parisi

Gloria Walden

Margaret Harrington

Connie Harris

Maureen Richie

Betsy Chisholm

Cynthia Conners

Eileen Mullaney

Kathleen Gallagher

Patricia Butler

Grey Graham

Mary Regan

Kathleen Keefe

Noreen Leahy

Glen Blair

Linda Jones

Elisa Lafrenier

Cynthia Reynolds

Kim Polk

Joanne O'Brian-Hudson

Marilyn Walsh

Lynn Lafond

Mary Jo Brogna

Janet Eagen

Carolyn Herbert

Cynthia Maricle

Mary Duggan

Barbara Devorin

Elaine Hurley

Jane Makson

Leslie Carroll

Alison Nastari

Jennifer Roberts

Janet McDonald

Karen Fraher

Sara MacKenzie

Elizabeth Trites

Mary Bellistri

Diann Cusano

Dawn Young

Janet Behenna

Carolyn Delguercio

10 years of service:

Eva Dalton

Marci Larsen

Rebecca Brown

Cynthia Pope

Robert Dionne

Stephanie Braxton

Joanne Johnson

Henrietta Howze

Gloria Shapiro

Denise Buckley

Julie Green

Catherine Wiczajka

Joan Fitzpatrick

Janet Muzzioli

Marian Stoodley

Barbara Perron

Tina Marie Grimes

Francis Arthur

Alda Bourque

Erin O'Hara

Patty Ebanks

Robert Sweeny

15 years of service:

Mary Medlar

Janis Yarusso

Nancy McAward

Fannie Hardmon

Linda Campus

Karline Saddler

Susan Robinson

20 years of service:

Ann Ewing

Lovel Perry

Gloria Powell

Diane Kadey-Chouei

Sue Eldridge

Anita King

Edith Savastano

Mary Sheehan

Mary Ervin

John Sapp

Eris Smith

25 years of service:

Betty Luongo

30 years of service:

Phyllis Davis

Nutrition Services

10 years of service:

Catherine Campbell

Emma Sue Glover

15 years of service:

Barbara Adams

Michael Morson

20 years of service:

Shirley Teixeira

Patient Support Services

Admissions

5 years of service:

Tonya Grimes

Eleanor Clancy

Medical Records

15 years of service:

Shelvateen Baskerville

Pharmacy

5 years of service:

Carolyn Baker

Susan Lynch

Kimberly Mu-Chow

Psychiatry

ISEC School

5 years of service:

Josefina Campana

Rehabilitation Medicine

5 years of service:

Hazel Dreyer

Eula Gethers

Yvonne Sanders

Louise Joyce

10 years of service:

Dan Pollets

15 years of service:

Catherine Lane

Christa Czycholl

Retirees

Ed Stedman, Security

John Dellea, Plant Services

Helen O'Meara,

Rehabilitation Medicine

Louise Duncan, Nursing

Margaret Saunders, Nursing

Deletha Clarke,

Nutrition Services

Jean Marotte-Britney,

Telecommunications

Mary Wells, Nursing

Kenneth Hansen,

Nutrition Services

Yakov Gurevich,

Laboratory Medicine

Iona Evelyn,

Environmental Services

Gertrude Francis, Nursing

Stella Ashton,

Environmental Services

Guy Laiacona,

Environmental Services

The 21 photos on the previous two pages are of employees who have served UH for 20 years or more. Seven additional employees who have also served the Hospital for that period of time, but are not pictured, are:

Betty Holmes, Laboratory Medicine, 35 years; William Irby, Materials Management, 20 years; Jacqueline Foster, 20 years, Endocrinology; Ann Ewing, 20 years, Sue Eldridge, 20 years, Edith Savastano, 20 years and Phyllis Davis, 30 years, all of Nursing. ■

Enquiring minds should ASK IT!



In conjunction with events commemorating a "Celebration of Service" from June 11 to 15, UH President J. Scott Abercrombie Jr., M.D., will introduce a new employee communications program called "ASK IT!"

ASK IT! has been created to open up the lines of communication at the Hospital, according to Donald R. Giller, vice president for Marketing/Planning/Public Affairs. The ASK IT! Program invites employees to inquire about the University Hospital and to receive a personal reply from Dr. Abercrombie, Giller explains.

The ASK IT! Program is designed for staffers' ease and convenience: Three ASK IT! mailboxes—soon to be located at the entrance of the SkyLight Dining Pavilion, in the Nursing Staffing office on Collamore (C) 3 and in the Human Resources Department on Old Evans (D) 2—contain inquiry forms, as well as mail slots into which the forms can be deposited. Here are some general guidelines for ASK IT!

- Simply jot down your question or comment on an inquiry form, fold the form and deposit it at one of the three ASK IT! mailboxes—or, if you prefer, mail your inquiry directly to Dr. Abercrombie.
- Inquiries should focus on Hospital issues, not personal matters.
- ASK IT! inquiries should observe standards of good taste and reasoned discussion.
- If you would like a personal reply from Dr. Abercrombie, you must include your name and department on the inquiry form. Questions submitted anonymously will be considered for response in other forums, such as special "town meetings," or at employee meetings. ■

20,000 hoops produce 40,000 bucks



WHDH-TV's Peter Henderson, far left, and WCVB-TV's Brian Leary, second from left, were among the celebrity guests at the 11th Annual Hoop-a-thon for Huntington's Disease. May Long, executive director of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America, bottom row, left, crouches near Toni Richardson, this year's Huntington's disease poster person.

A record-breaking \$40,000 was raised during the 11th Annual Huntington's Hoop-a-thon held Thursday, April 26, in the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center Gymnasium.

Approximately 170 people from across the city and state—includ-

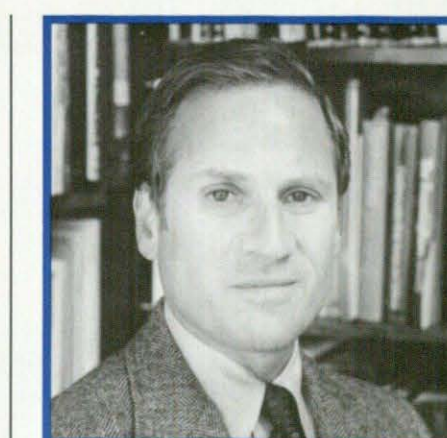
ing 20 local television and radio personalities—sunk nearly 20,000 basketballs in support of the fight against Huntington's disease.

"There was a lot of energy and excitement at this year's event," says May Long, executive director of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Huntington's Disease

UH physicians devise profile to predict strokes

A new stroke-risk profile established by UH physicians affiliated with the Framingham Heart Study can be used to determine an individual's risk of having a stroke within a certain number of years. Philip Wolf, M.D., a UH neurologist and a principal investigator of the Framingham Heart Study, presented the stroke-risk profile at a meeting of the American Academy of Neurology in Miami, Fla., on Tuesday, May 1. Wolf's study, which received national media attention, is based on data obtained on more than 500 stroke victims over a 34-year period.

Wolf, who is a professor of neurology and a research professor of medicine at the School of Medicine, said, "If you tell someone he has a three or four times increased risk of stroke or a 25-percent chance of having a stroke within five years, he'll be much more likely to stop smoking



Philip Wolf

cigarettes and take his high blood pressure medication than if you simply tell him he's at risk for stroke."

The profile assigns a numerical value to information on age, sex, cigarette smoking, cardiac abnormalities and other measures of health, based on its importance as a risk factor for stroke. "The sum total of these numerical values helps predict a person's chance of having a stroke within a given period," he noted.

According to Wolf, a stroke-risk profile may be easily obtained during a routine physical examination by asking a series of ques-

tions. Society of America, which is based at the Medical Center. "Over the years, there has been more and more involvement—it's wonderful."

UH participants included staff and employees from a wide range of departments including Finance, Transport, Pharmacy and Urology. Longtime Hoop-a-thon shooter Jeff Berman, M.D., Cardiology, was the high scorer that day, shooting 264 baskets. Raising the largest amount of money from UH was Michael D. Higgins, a vice president for Clinical Operations, who shot 74 baskets totalling more than \$700.

Media personalities who donned workout wear to shoot basketballs included WCVB-TV's Jim Boyd and Brian Leary; WHDH-TV's Harvey Leonard and Peter Henderson; WBZ's Gil Santos and Tom Kennedy, WXKS-FM's Jim Colony, and WBCN-FM's Paul "Tank" Sferruzza. ■

CLASSIFIED

• **Office services available:** The Typing Production, 8 Viola Street, Milton: Complete office support services; word processing; tape transcription; reports; fax service; pick-up and delivery. Call (617) 698-6129.

• **Summer house for rent:** In Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard. Three-bedrooms; convenient location; large sundeck; cable TV; washer and dryer. \$450/wk, June and September; \$900/wk, July and August. Call (617) 963-8252.

• **Apartments for rent:** Small one bedroom; modern kitchen and bath; d & d; laundry in building; good closets; separate entrance; roof deck; close to hospital; across from park. Available immediately; \$620 unheated; lease with option to buy possible. No fee. Call owner at (617) 267-7979.

Two bedrooms; on third floor of owner-occupied brownstone, convenient to hospitals. Fully equipped kitchen; washer/dryer. Dining/living rooms. First and last month's rent required. \$800/mo plus utilities. Call (617) 266-4472.

• **Stove for sale:** Like-new Corning countertop range. All white; will throw in set of Corning bakeware. \$200 or b/o. Call 638-8498 (x8498). ■

The University Hospital
June 1990



WALKING FOR HUNGER can require some tender loving care as given by UH nurse Richard Ridge, R.N., manager, Atrium 6 North, during Project Bread's Annual Walk for Hunger on Sunday, May 6. The event—in which UH staff participate annually—kicked off National Nurses Week at the Hospital. The week included nurse-recognition ceremonies on Wednesday, May 9, a book fair on Thursday, May 10, and culminated 10 days later on Wednesday, May 16, with a lecture given by noted health-care humorist Vera Robinson (see story this page).

'Thanks to all at BUMC'

To the Editor:

If it is possible, I would like to have this note of thanks published in **Connections** to show my appreciation and gratitude to all at Boston University Medical Center.

I would like to thank all the University Hospital, Boston University Medical Center and Evans Medical employees for their words of comfort and support during the recent loss of my mother, Hazel L. McCarthy. ■

Florence Hagins and Family
Transplant Services

UH to sponsor annual road race

The University Hospital is sponsoring runners in the 1990 Manufacturers Hanover Corporate Challenge road race, to be held in Boston, on Thursday, July 26, at 6:30 p.m.

The 3.5-mile race begins and

ends at Boston Common. Prospective runners should contact Mike Kelleher at 638-6253 (x6253) for applications. The application deadline is Tuesday, June 26; the race is limited to 9,000 runners. ■



A SPRING CELEBRATION—Richard Shemin, M.D., chief of cardiothoracic surgery, and his wife, Susan, enjoy a recent evening at the Harcus Gallery on South Street, where donors of \$1,000 or more were recognized for their generosity and support to the Hospital.

Lecture by noted health-care humorist caps Nurses Week

"The Healing Power of Humor: He Who Laughs Lasts," was the topic of a lecture delivered by Vera Robinson, R.N., Ed.D., professor emerita at California State University at Fullerton, in the Hospital's Keefer Auditorium on Wednesday, May 16. The lecture culminated more than a week's worth of events commemorating National Nurses Week.

Dr. Robinson, who is known as the "Fairy Godmother of Humor for Nurses," delivered the Second Annual Distinguished Nursing Lecture, sponsored by the Ross Nursing Resource Center. "Laughing is one of the most healthy, natural and therapeutic gifts we have," says Robinson, the author of several books on the topic of humor in health care. "Yet, humor has not been sanctioned by the health-care system."



Vera Robinson

Robinson related colorful stories that illustrated how humor can be used practically as a tool in otherwise stressful situations. The primary focus of Robinson's lecture was the five beneficial functions of humor in health care: it is a form of indirect communication between patients and caregivers; it can break down sociological barriers; it can relieve psychological distress; it can prompt biochemical reactions in the body that appear to boost the function of the immune system; and it can inspire creativity and enhance the ability to learn.

"We laugh at what we fear as a way of mastering that fear, and that is a natural reaction in a health-care environment," says Robinson. "And I believe that the person, group or organization that cannot laugh at itself is in trouble." ■

More for your money

The following discount offerings are available for UH employees and can be obtained from Diane Sprague, C-231, or call 638-8562 (x8562).

- **Boston Red Sox tickets:** Tickets are available at \$12 each for the



following four games: Saturday, July 14, 1:15 p.m., vs. Kansas City Royals; Friday, Aug. 3, 7:35 p.m., vs. Detroit Tigers; Friday, Aug. 17, 7:35 p.m., vs. California Angels, and Sunday, Sept. 9, 1:05 p.m., vs. Seattle Mariners.

- **Ferry coupons:** Fifteen-percent discount coupons are available for the ferry to Martha's Vineyard. ■

Connections, the monthly newspaper of the University Hospital, is published by the Office of Publication Services, Boston University Medical Center, Owen J. McNamara, director. Staff Editor, Cynthia Paradis; Designer, Deborah Brown; Staff Artist, Catherine LeBlanc; Staff Photographer, Lucy Milne, Educational Media. Additional photos by Brad Herzog.

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The deadline for the July **Connections** is at noon, Monday, June 11. Story and photo suggestions for **Connections** should be addressed to Cynthia Paradis in care of the Office of Publication Services, DOB 915, or call x8482. The Office of Publication Services is part of the Department of Marketing/Public Affairs, Boston University Medical Center, Donald R. Giller, director. Copyright © University Hospital, Inc. 1990 all rights reserved. Volume 3, Number 6.