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Boston University



**Boston
University
Medical
Campus**

Campus UPDATE



June 1993 Vol. 5 No. 5

Boston University graduates urged to help the world

Social activist and pastor Johnny Ray Youngblood told the more than 5,200 graduates at Boston University's 120th Commencement Day exercises on May 16 that he is a "recruiter from the world as it is," and he urged them "to become a partner in making the world what it should be."

"The world family needs you," said Youngblood, the senior pastor of St. Paul Community Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Speaking of the world of "pit-bull reality" the graduates were entering, he urged them to play a part in the effort to rectify such problems as urban blight.

"We need people who can figure out how to lift a young man up out of poverty by getting him to stretch and do as much for himself as possible," he said. "We have to get families and whole communities to stretch and do as much for themselves as possible."

Youngblood's words set the stage for a day of speeches at the individual Medical Campus ceremonies that addressed some of the weightiest challenges currently facing American society.

Former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop told the 142 graduates of the School of Medicine at their individual graduation program that the nation's vision for health care reform must extend beyond economic and political issues to society's basic values and ethics.

The Commissioner of the Department of Health and Hospitals, Judith Kurland, emphasized to the School of Public Health graduates that health care in Boston must shift from high tech, hospital-based care to community-based disease prevention, education and health promotion. (See story, page 4.)

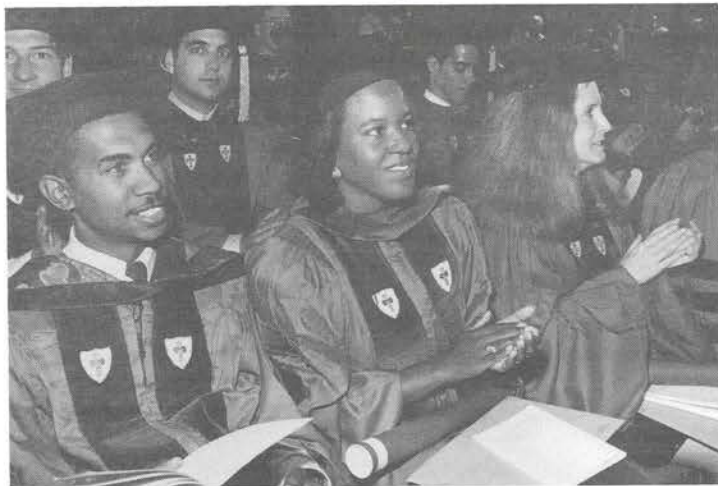
And the Goldman School of

Graduate Dentistry speaker, Marshall Sloane, the president and chairperson of Century Bancorp Inc., urged the class of '93 to take on the challenges facing society today. "As you establish your practice in communities big and small across the world, look at your community and ask, 'What good might I do for it?'" he said. (See story, page 4.)

Sloane is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Boston University and the chairperson of the Goldman School's Board of Visitors.

Koop told the medical school

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BUSM graduates ponder the assessment made by speaker C. Everett Koop, the former U.S. Surgeon General, that the nation must reach an ethical consensus on the right to health care.

World Class Commuting Day draws interested crowd

For the third straight year, members of the Medical Center community were asked last month to take a moment to consider the alternatives to the solo commute to work by car. The event was World Class Commuting Day, held on May 13, and the interest shown by members of the medical community was encouraging.



Many Medical Center employees and students signed up for the raffle held as part of World Class Commuting Day.

Whether reading the literature displayed at booths on the BUMC Hospital H-2 bridge, where the event was held, or signing up for involvement in a car or van pool program, many people participated, according to BUMC transportation coordinator Maureen Flaherty. "The event was very successful," she said. "We were

busy straight through the two hour program."

In what Flaherty called a "clear signal" of a market for car poolers, all 38 Medical Center/BCH parking spaces set aside for car poolers on World Class Commuting Day were filled by early on that morning of May 13.

"We were thrilled about that," said Flaherty. Now, ITMA (the Interinstitutional Transportation Management Association) is investigating the possibility of permanently allotting car pooling parking space in the fall, she said. (ITMA is a consortium of representatives from the Medical Center and Boston City Hospital that is working to improve public transportation services to, and decrease the use of automobiles in, the medical area.)

On hand at the event to answer

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Bakst Auditorium renovation begins

Bakst Auditorium is being completely renovated this summer, into a state-of-the-art facility that will boast improved acoustics and lighting, new audiovisual equipment, full handicapped accessibility, new chairs, increased seating capacity and improved control of the heating and air conditioning systems.

Outside of the auditorium, a new lobby will be constructed. The offices formerly opposite the Bakst auditorium have been relocated to make room for the expanded auditorium and lobby.

The auditorium will have new carpeting and walls, as well as a new ceiling. The lighting system will be controlled via a computerized dimming system that will have preset modes that can be manipulated with a single button.

To improve the handicap access in the room, new floors will be poured to lessen the pitch and a lift will be installed to provide



The chairs are amongst the many materials being upgraded in the Bakst Auditorium renovation.

access to the stage. In addition, two doors, one on either side of the stage, will provide egress to ramps outside. One will connect to the ramp leading to the Instructional Building and the other will open to a ramp leading to the Talbot Green area. □

Goldman School teams up with Special Olympics for dental health

The Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry is teaming up with the Massachusetts Special Olympics to provide free dental screening to participants in the Massachusetts Special Olympics Games, which are set for the weekend of June 26 and 27. The screening is intended to serve as a model for other state's special olympics programs.

Boston University is providing housing for the athletes on the Charles River Campus.

The screening will be conducted by faculty and post-doctoral residents of the Goldman School on the grounds of the event, in an area called Olympic Town, at Harvard University, where the approximately 1,800 athletes congregate before and after individual competitions.

The majority of the evaluations will be non-invasive; however, some will be conducted using the new periodontal screening and recording system developed by the American Dental Association and the American Academy of Periodontology. Results of the screening will be given to care givers, along with information on general dental care and a referral list of private practitioners and institutions in Massachusetts who deliver care to special needs patients

Steven Perlman, D.D.S., M.Sc.D., an assistant clinical professor of pediatric dentistry at the GSGD, has organized the event. Perlman has long been involved in treating special needs

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BUMC hoopsters rally to fight Huntington's disease

Neuroanatomists, accountants, mechanics, students and many other members of the Medical Center community and local media shared a common focus on April 29—the basketball net—as they worked to shoot hoops, and thus earn money, for the New England chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America. They took their shot at the disease during the annual Hoopathon for Huntington's Disease, held in the Solomon Carter Fuller gymnasium.

The 170 hoopsters and their sponsors earned some \$37,000 for the New England chapter, which is based at BUMC Hospital. Amongst the crowd were many media personalities, including WHDH's (Channel 7) sports desk team and meteorologist Harvey Leonard, and several WCVB (Channel 5) figures—meteorologist Dick Albert, newscaster Jim Boyd, and commentator Avi Nelson. Members of WILD radio and WCGY radio also participated.

The money earned from the 24-hour hoopathon subsidizes half of the chapter's yearly



Members of the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology took a shot at Huntington's disease during the 24-hour hoopathon.

budget. Most of the money goes to patient services, including a weekend camp that is held once each summer at the Boston University camp in Peterborough, N.H.

The chapter's office at the Hospital is a bustling place these days, according to May Long, the executive director. "It's just wonderful," she said. "We have so many volunteers now, all patients themselves, and they've been such a help and brought such enthusiasm

to the office. The office has turned into something of a drop-in center."

Huntington's disease is an hereditary, degenerative, neurological disorder that causes physical abnormalities and mental deterioration. One of the disease's characteristics is involuntary movements of the face and limbs. Symptoms usually appear in people between the ages of 35 and 40 years, and the disease leads to death in about 10 to 15 years. □

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questions and provide information were a number of representatives of the MBTA, CARAVAN for Commuters and the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel project.

World Class Commuting Day was initiated three years ago to draw attention to the need to increase the use of public transportation and car pooling to the medical area. This need has been prompted by the grim statistics on automobile emissions in the Boston area and the traffic congestion projected as work proceeds on the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel project.

Six members of the Medical Center community commuted their way to victory as part of the event, by participating in a special raffle open to those who either car pooled, took public transportation or bicycled to the medical area. Another 32 employees and students won prizes in a raffle open to all who stopped by the event. Prizes ranged from free commuter line and subway passes to a free lunch at Rebecca's Cafe. □

What did you do during Memorial Day Weekend?

Memorial Day Weekend signals the start of the months of warmth and sunshine. It also serves as a reminder that the Ice Cream Social is just a month away (July 22)! Campus Update asked some members of the Medical Center community what they did over Memorial Day Weekend.



Johnny Mejia
Trades helper, maintenance

"I went to Atlantic City. It was really fun, but I'm still broke. A lot of things were free though—free bar games, free drinks. You have to go to the casino to get free parking."



Eve Beer
Research technician, Surgery

"I worked on Saturday, and then took my daughter and my new granddaughter to the Red Sox game on Sunday. It was really wonderful. I took a tour through Boston with a friend on Monday."



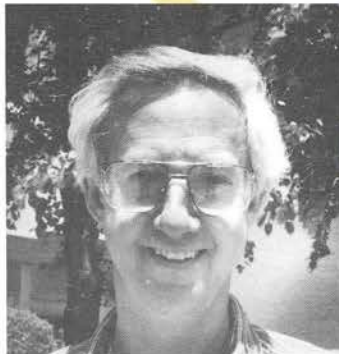
Tom Fitzgerald
Clinical instructor, Surgery

"I worked on an apartment in Connecticut on Saturday, and went to my sister's wedding on Sunday, which was great. We had a family picnic on Monday. I had a very nice weekend."



Jerie McGrath Cerqua
Administrative manager,
Biochemistry/Urology

"I visited family in the hospital, worked in the yard and visited friends. It was gorgeous weather."



David Beller
Associate research professor,
Medicine

"I worked on a grant and then watched my son play in the NCCL soccer tournament the rest of the weekend—his team won!"



Elizabeth Simons
Professor, Biochemistry

"I attended a meeting in San Diego. At least the weather was nice."

Work under way on new phone system

Preparations are well under way at the Medical Center for the installation of a new AT&T voice telecommunications system, set to be operational after Labor Day weekend. To effectively implement the new system, members of the BUMC telecommunications team will be meeting with all department representatives during June and July for briefing sessions and floor-plan reviews. All representatives were notified by mail about the need to set up such meetings. Those representatives who have not scheduled meeting times with the telecommunications team should contact the group, at x6890 (638-6890).

The new AT&T Definity G3r system will replace the soon-to-be-obsolete AT&T Dimension 2000 PBX system, used throughout most of the Medical Center, as well as two other systems used here. It will support more than 10,000 telephone lines and ensure stable, yet flexible, telecommunications services. New features will include better call routing, faster call completion, improved telephone sets, last-number redial, speed dial, and access to voice mail, which will enhance productivity and ease of operation.

The telecommunications team, made up of BUMC employees and outside vendors, is currently installing new phones, laying down new copper and fiber-optic cables, and writing extensive data base software. Over Labor Day weekend, the old systems will be turned off and the new AT&T system will become operational.

Under the new system, the current four-digit extension numbers will be changed to five-digit numbers by the addition of an "8" in front of the present numbers. This change needs to be made to accommodate the more than 4,200 extensions on the new system.

Training sessions will be held for all employees from late August through early September. These

Telecommunications

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Parking repermitting to take place during June



Medical Campus commuters who park in the Medical Center's Lots A, C, D and T or the Star Brush and Harrison Court parking areas must renew their parking permits by the end of June. Current permits expire on June 30. Those people who use the lots should complete and return the parking confirmation data sheets that were mailed to them this month. The information is required in order for permits to be processed. The new permits may be picked up at the parking services office, located in the School of Medicine (R-102), behind the mail room, or they can be mailed to employees upon request. □

Former U.S. Surgeon General speaks to BUSM grads

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graduates that "too much of the intensifying debate about health care reform focuses...on the economic and political dimensions.

"Before we can enact the sweeping reform that I think we need, we must agree on the basic values and ethics upon which our health care system, and indeed our society, is based," he said. "I do believe that if we can reach an ethical consensus, many of the economic and political problems of health care reform would fall into place rather easily."

Among the ethical issues that health care reform raises, said Koop, is the degree to which health care is part of the basic rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. "Most Ameri-

cans would agree that the right to life brings with it the basic right of all people to lifesaving medical intervention," he said. "But what about health care as a right to liberty: Should an 85-year-old be entitled to a knee replacement with Medicare?" he asked. "What about health care as part of our right to pursue happiness: If dieting and exercise makes us too unhappy, should our basic health care package include, say, liposuction?"

"We can probably argue convincingly that all persons should be entitled to any life-preserving health care, maybe a little less liberty-preserving health care, and even less happiness-preserving health care," he said.

Koop, who served as the U.S. Surgeon General under the Reagan and Bush administrations, is

currently the senior scholar at the C. Everett Koop Institute at Dartmouth Medical School, and is the Distinguished Scholar of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. He received an honorary degree, his 31st, from Boston University at the main commencement exercises.

Dean Aram V. Chobanian also addressed the BUSM graduates. "I hope that what is important to all of you is not the type of [health care] system that you are exposed to, but the values that I hope you are taking away with you from here," he said. "The important thing as you all know is the care of the patient. And that needs to govern everything else independent of what happens in the total health care system." □

Health care reform is focus of SPH speaker's address

Speaking to the 110 graduates of the School of Public Health on Commencement Day, Judith Kurland, commissioner of the Department of Health and Hospitals, said that health care in Boston must focus on community-based disease prevention, education and health promotion.

"Unless we can control our medical care spending and reallocate existing resources to unmet community needs, health care reform will leave Boston in the dust," Kurland said. "Our over-medicalized, overhospitalized, overcapitalized Boston approach to health care leaves us extraordinarily vulnerable."

Kurland outlined the objectives of a new city initiative called "Healthy Boston," which, she said, is designed to "improve the health of the city, its neighborhoods and its people by recognizing the power of communities and residents, by restructuring the delivery of services and by creating a multisectoral partnership for change."

In addition, Kurland urged the graduates to use what they have learned to address issues that affect

the community. "Some day your work may be acclaimed by the world," Kurland concluded. "Every day you and your work will be needed and appreciated by the community you serve."

In his opening remarks, SPH Director Robert F. Meenan, M.D., M.P.H., agreed that public health will play an increasingly important role in health care reform.

"Health promotion and disease

prevention, two cornerstones of the public health approach, are increasingly being seen as crucial to future improvements in the health status of our society," he said. "Major changes in our health care system will result from the ongoing discussions in Washington, and these changes will increase the need for trained professionals who can analyze and manage health care services." □

GSGD speaker advocates leadership

Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry commencement speaker Marshall Sloane challenged the 172 graduates of the School to take leadership roles in tackling the many struggles society currently faces. "Times have changed," he noted. "Young people today are faced with greater danger than ever before. They need role models. They need teachers. They need hope. They need you," he said.

"We are from different generations," he said, "but, together, we must do our best to preserve the values we have held so dearly

since the founding of our country. ... Preserving the moral fiber of our society is not your singular responsibility. [But] you can lead."

In the "big picture," he said, "you're not a dentist, you're a role model for thousands of youths whose lives you'll touch throughout their lifetimes."

"As you grow wise, share your wisdom. As you grow old, share your experience. Return what you can to your community. If the 80s was the "Me" decade, let's work together to make the 90s and beyond the "Us" generation." □

Olympics

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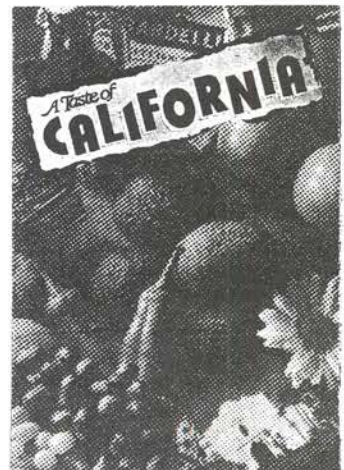
patients. He said that there is a clear need for more emphasis on dental treatment for special needs patients.

"It's been well documented that one of the areas often neglected with special needs patients is proper dental care," he said. "It's cited as one of the areas that needs the most attention. But when confronted with more compelling medical concerns, it's often placed at the bottom of the list." The screening, he said, is intended to bring more attention to the issue. □

Telecommunications

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classes will provide instruction on the operation of the new telephones and give an overview of the features and other capabilities of the Definity G3r. Attendance is important for learning the main enhancements and changes provided by the new system. Information regarding training classes will be communicated later this summer. □



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Coming to the Dining Room:

**Thursday,
June 24**

