Goldman School offers screening at Special Olympics

In an effort to bring attention to the high prevalence of dental problems among people with disabilities, Boston University’s Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry joined the Massachusetts Special Olympics and the Massachusetts Dental Association in hosting the first dental screening at a Special Olympics, during the 25th annual Special Olympic Games, on Saturday, June 26, and Sunday, June 27.

The free screenings, held at the site of the Olympic Games, at Harvard University, were a tremendous success, with more than 700 Special Olympians receiving free oral evaluations. Several athletes screened had not received medical or dental care in more than 10 years. This precedent setting screening was being evaluated as a national model for future Special Olympics nationwide.

The event was organized by Steven Perlman, D.D.S., M.Sc.D., an assistant clinical professor of pediatric dentistry at the Goldman School, and representatives of the Massachusetts Special Olympics. Perlman is an advocate for people with disabilities.

The screenings were conducted by faculty and post-doctoral residents from the Goldman School, who evaluated the oral health of each participant in the Games and then provided the caregivers with the results of the screenings. They also provided information on dental care and a referral list of people who deliver care to patients with special needs.

The screening signified a step in improving access to oral care for the handicapped. Representatives from other Special Olympics organizations in the United States and Canada were present to evaluate the screening as a model for such programs at Special Olympics in their areas.

New shuttle bus receives rave reviews from BUMC commuters

The new Boston University Medical Center shuttle bus wheeled onto the road last month, offering employees, students and visitors a new level of comfort in their ride to and from the Broadway T station. Those riders spoken with expressed delight with the new bus.

Cynthia Gallant, Biophysics, BUSM
"It definitely has good shocks. I’m glad we have it!"

Tim Penberthy, graduate student, GSGD
"I like coming to school now! This bus is much nicer—it’s even kind of luxurious."

Mary Alba, Anatomy, BUSM
"I think this new bus is wonderful. I’ve been riding the old one for too long."

Voice mail to be included in new BUMC system

One of the many enhancements that will be offered by the new BUMC telephone system, scheduled for installation over Labor Day weekend, is voice mail. This computer-based system allows callers to leave private messages for the individuals they are trying to reach.

The voice mail system, a large computer system, records and transmits voice messages. This computer proc-

Voice mail continued on page 2

For the scoop on the Ice Cream Social...
See page 3.
Anatomy of a Building

New research building nears completion

Nineteen months of work on the new Center for Advanced Biomedical Research is nearing conclusion, with an official dedication of the building set for Thursday, Oct. 14. The process of moving departments into the building will begin on Monday, Sept. 27, and is expected to be completed in three months.

The 180,000-square-foot research building will house School of Medicine and Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry biomedical laboratories and offices. Part of the first floor will have retail shops.

Some 671 construction workers and tradesmen, as well as site supervisors, managers, architects and engineers, have been involved in the development of the building. Their efforts can be traced from the digging of the foundation of the structure during the early winter months of 1992, through the erection of the structural steel during that spring and the construction of the exterior skin and inner elements of the building during the last year.

"I think the occupants will be extremely happy with the functionality and reliability of the facility," said Fred Barrett, the project manager for the Boston University Medical Campus, who coordinates the day-to-day construction operations of the building.

Voice mail to allow employees to hear messages directly from callers

Voice mail

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...which is improved clarity of the messages themselves. The system also gives callers the option not only to leave messages, but to play them back to ensure accuracy. In addition, callers have the option to reach an alternative answering point—a secretary or administrative assistant—should they need to talk to a person immediately.

Once messages are deposited in a "voice mailbox," the mailbox owner can retrieve these messages by calling the system and using a touch tone phone and a password. Messages can be retrieved at any time of day from any touch tone phone. They can be deleted, stored for later use, or forwarded to other persons.

There are many additional features that can be added to the voice mail system, two of which will be offered in the future at the Medical Center: Informational Mailboxes and Automated Attendant. Informational Mailboxes would provide recorded information that the Medical Center needs to give out repeatedly, such as directions from various locations. The Automated Attendant, the term referring to the digitally recorded operator voice (e.g., "Dial '1' to reach admissions"), controls these functions. The Telecommunications Department will be working to develop these applications in the coming months.

Training sessions for all employees will be held from late August through early September. These classes will provide instruction on the operation of both voice mail and the new telephone system.

Attendance is important for understanding the many enhancements and changes in these new systems. Employees are urged to watch for details regarding training classes later this summer.

#10 bus service to increase

Service on the #10 bus, which travels between Copley Place and City Point, will increase in frequency beginning Saturday, Sept. 11. On weekdays, the bus will arrive at the Medical Center every 15 minutes during the peak morning period, and every 16 minutes during the afternoon peak period, as opposed to every 25 minutes.
The 1993 Ice Cream Social a "scream"-ing success

Sunny skies, the sounds of a Dixieland band called "Last Gasp", the festive colors of neon BUMC sunglasses—and all the ice cream and fixings a person could ever want—sparked an afternoon of gaiety on the Talbot Green on Thursday, July 22, the occasion of the 1993 Ice Cream Social.

The event drew some 3,500 faculty, staff and students. While creating spectacular ice cream sundaes was the major preoccupation for most attendees, a group of BUMC employees actually rolled up their sleeves for the more rigorous job of scooping the ice cream for the hungry crowd. All enjoyed the "Last Gasp" band’s jazzy, New Orleans style tunes.

Nearby, in the parking lot adjacent to the green, the new BUMC shuttle bus was displayed for all to see.
BUSM team travels to Armenia to observe emergency medical system

Several Boston University Medical Center faculty members traveled to Armenia recently to observe the republic's emergency medical system (EMS) and to find ways to reduce response times and upgrade the skills of its labor force, which includes drivers, nurses and physicians. This effort is part of the health care partnership recently forged between the School of Medicine and two hospitals in Yerevan, the capital of the Republic of Armenia.

The BUMC team included Peter Moyer, M.D., an associate professor of medicine and chief of emergency medicine at Boston City Hospital; Erwin Hirsch, M.D., a professor of surgery and director of the Boston University Medical Center Hospital/Boston City Hospital Trauma Center; David Gillespie, M.D., a fellow at the School, and Jonathan Woodson, M.D., an assistant professor of surgery at the School and a surgeon at Boston University Medical Center Hospital.

The plan that the BUMC team is designing will involve the use of existing resources and will not change the nature of the existing Armenian organization.

"In Armenia, the emergency room essentially is an area from which the patient is admitted directly to the ward," said Moyer. "Our plan does not replace the Armenian system by the American model of 'scoop and run' to the emergency room; this would imply a receiving facility similar to what we have here in Boston.

Also included in the plan is the creation of an Emergency Medical Services Institute of the Republic of Armenia. The institute would certify ambulance personnel in basic and intermediate training and offer supplemental training to emergency physicians.

The BUMC agreement is one of 10 U.S. health care partnerships funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The $13.5-million partnership program utilizes the expertise of American health care professionals to address specific health care problems facing the newly independent nations in what was once the Soviet Union. The program is coordinated by the American International Health Alliance.

SPH pact reflects its central mission to address all aspects of health care

Peace Corps

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abuse and training in family self-sufficiency and violence reduction. In return, the volunteers will be granted fellowships to pursue master of public health degrees at the School of Public Health. The Plymouth Housing Authority is just one of several housing authorities throughout the Commonwealth that the School will work with.

"We hope that this program will be a model for the rest of the country," said Henry Fernandez, director of the Peace Corps Fellows/USA Program.

SPH director Robert Meenan, M.D., M.P.H., said the program reflects the School's commitment to addressing health conditions in the broad sense—including such factors as education, income and housing. "Boston University School of Public Health, in particular, recognized as part of its mission to work with populations at high risk," Meenan said. "This program speaks directly to that issue."

Jonathan Howland, M.P.H., an assistant professor of public health, who played a key role in the program's development, pointed to the multiple interests served by the program. "From the perspective of the Peace Corps, it brings the investment in overseas experience home to contribute to situations here; it allows the housing authority to begin to address the health and social needs of its residents, and it begins to build linkages between the community and the School of Public Health," he said.

Joan C. Pimental, executive director of the Plymouth Housing Authority, one of 13 housing authorities involved in the program, expressed gratitude for the program and the expectation that it will have a positive impact.

"The goal of housing authorities is to move families through public housing...and to enable them to become self-sufficient," she said. "The use of returning Peace Corps volunteers will help us in this mission."