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Boston University
Perot urges graduates to roll up their sleeves for society

Challenging the 5,656 Boston University graduates to step into their lives with gusto and commitment, Ross Perot, entrepreneur, philanthropist and independent candidate for president in 1992, delivered Boston University's 121st Commencement address on May 22 on Nickerson Field.

Speaking under a brilliant blue sky, Perot challenged the graduates to be doers rather than talkers. "In our country," said Perot, "if we have potholes in the street, we have a press conference on potholes. Be a person who gets hot asphalt, a shovel and fills the potholes—and skips the conference," he urged.

He called on the "best and brightest" students, "the ones who finished at the top" of their class, to live up to their potential. "Don't be arrogant," he urged them. "Be humble. Since you have this gift, make sure you use it to the outer edges of its capabilities and you will make a huge difference."

To the students who had to struggle to graduate, he said, "I don't worry a bit about you because adversity breeds strength. You're going to do just fine. You've learned to persevere. You don't quit. You don't give up."

Perot urged the graduates to be givers, not takers. "We're coming out of the 'me generation,'" he said. "I hope as you come into the world out of school we're going into the 'we generation,' because, if people are selfish, society doesn't work."

Perot founded Electronic Data Systems, Inc. (EDS), a

BUMC's new 'green' spaces enrich, enliven the Campus

The Talbot Green is no longer the only "green space" on the Medical Center campus, thanks to a concerted effort by Medical Center leadership to provide more. The lushly landscaped green on the back side of the new Center for Advanced Biomedical Research is flourishing as a summer haven for picnickers and those just looking for a quiet, outdoor environment in which to read or talk. In addition, several smaller, less conspicuous spots around the Medical Center have been enriched with grass, trees and flowers. Stretches of grass with flowers and benches now line the area between BUMC Hospital and the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry, and tree-shaded benches now line each side of the entrance to the parking lots on Albany Street. Flower and tree beds have also been planted along the back side of the School of Public Health, off of East Concord Street.

"We've worked hard to enhance the landscape of the Medical Center area," said Bill Gasper, associate vice president, Medical Campus Office of Business Affairs. "Some of our efforts have been on a large scale, others have been more subtle. We wanted to make the green behind the new research building an appealing retreat for members of the Medical Center community, and it looks as though we've succeeded."

The landscaped lawn behind the new Center for Advanced Biomedical Research has become a popular midday haven.

For the word on what your colleagues did over Memorial Day weekend, see page 3.
World Class Commuting Day draws large crowd

World Class Commuting Day, held on the BUMC Hospital H-2 Bridge on May 13, drew a large crowd of people interested in learning about commuting options.

World Class Commuting Day, celebrated at BUMC on Friday, May 13, was "a smashing success," according to BUMC Transportation Coordinator Maureen Flaherty. More than 100 employees and visitors to the Medical Center turned out at the fourth annual event on the BUMC Hospital H-2 bridge, held to educate members of the Medical Center community about the alternatives to commuting by car.

Informational booths provided information on carpooling, vanpooling, public transportation and the many shuttle services available lined the bridge, and members and guests of the BUMC community responded. Several environmental and transportation specialists were on hand to promote alternatives to driving alone, including representatives of the MBTA, the Central Artery Project, the Conservation Law Foundation, the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition, CARAVAN for Commuters and Earthworks.

In keeping with the theme of the event, "The Less Stress Commute," attendees were offered "biodots," small, round pieces of material that, when applied to the hand, indicate a person's level of stress. Raffles were held for the Medical Center's "environment-friendly" commuters, who include MBTA riders, cyclists and carpoolers.

The many winners included a number from the Medical Campus:
- Kevin Dewey: lunch at Rebecca's for carpooling;
- Chris Paal: lunch at Rebecca's for carpooling;
- Michelle La Flame: Bicycling helmet and T-shirt;
- Susan Upham: Carfree in Boston (book);
- Kate Thomas: Carfree in Boston;
- Hui Yan Zeng: Movie passes for two;
- Denise St. John: Monthly T pass;
- Carl Peterson: Environmental T-shirt;
- Cynthia Spencer: Bike rental for two.

Solomon Carter displays work of local black artists

As part of the 20th anniversary celebration of the Dr. Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center (SCFMHC), located here at the Medical Center, there will be an exhibit of the work of several local black artists in the building's lobby for the rest of the year. The exhibition, entitled "Art Speaks," will feature the work of a different artist each month.

SCFMHC is located at 85 East Newton St., across the street from BUMC Hospital. The center is named after Solomon Carter Fuller, MD, the first black psychiatrist in the United States. Fuller received his medical degree from Boston University School of Medicine in 1897 and maintained an academic relationship with the School for 34 years. SCFMHC was officially named after Fuller in 1974.

The oil paintings, sculptures and photographs of local artists Ralph Beach, Eugene Bussey, Carol Carter, Judith Owens, Larry Pierce, Gary Rickson, Leon Robinson, Betty Winston and Richard Waters will be displayed through Dec. 30, beginning with Waters' oil painting exhibition of portraits of black celebrities and athletes this month. The "Art Speaks" exhibition can be viewed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week. For more information, contact Eugene Bussey at 266-8800, ext. 443.

Bio-analysis facility includes DNA sequencer

The School of Medicine's first bio-analysis core facility is up and running in the new Center for Advanced Biomedical Research (CABR), and researchers are encouraged to take advantage of the state-of-the-art equipment it contains.

The heart of the facility is an automated DNA sequencer that provides computer-generated output. The facility also includes a Molecular Dynamics PhosphorImager:SF, a DNA synthesizer and a protein sequencer.

"Our new ABI 373 Sequencer is the only automated sequencer on the Medical Campus," said Ned Rich, the manager of the new facility. "We expect to be of service to many laboratories here."

The PhosphorImager is used to measure the level of activity of isotopes in a sample up to 20cm by 23cm. Any sample typically analyzed by use of standard X-ray film can be handled by the PhosphorImager. An imaging screen replaces the X-ray film, which drastically shortens exposure times.

The core facility is located in room 436 of the CABR building. For more information, or to set up a trial run, contact Ned Rich, the manager of the Bio-Analysis Core facility.
What did you do over Memorial Day weekend?

The warm, sunny days of summer are upon us, as signalled by Memorial Day weekend. Campus Update asked some members of the Medical Center community what they did during the weekend.

Alvaro Gracia, DDS, DMD
GSGD, Prosthodontics

"I studied for my oral pathology final exam. I had no time for anything else! Ask me the same question next week when I'll be done with everything."

Blanche "Connie" Lopes
Office of the Dean Emeritus

"I barbecued over the weekend. On Saturday my family and I went to a barbecue, and on Sunday we went to church and then to the Cape to a barbecue. On Monday we had a barbecue at home."

Mark Alpert
Medical Campus, Buildings and Grounds

"I spent the weekend up in Maine with my girlfriend, opening my house."

Alicia Kertesz, MD
Oncology Fellow, BVAMC, BCH, BUMC

"I moonlighted, went shopping and on Monday went to the airport to pick up my mother who came from Argentina to visit for two months."

David Felson, MD
Associate Professor, BUSM, SPH

"I went to a retreat on the Cape. I had a wonderful time."

Tips for using the BUMC telephone, voice mail systems

Helpful hints for voice-mail users

A. The * Key
  Press * when you want to cancel a previous entry or exit from a menu. When you exit from a menu, you "back up" to a previous menu. For example, * in the Administrative Options menu takes you back to the Personal Options menu; one more * returns you to the Main Menu, where you can start all over again! Pressing * while at the Main Menu disconnects you from the system.

  (NOTE: It is critical that users do not hang up the phone when disconnecting from voice mail without pressing * and hearing Jane say "Goodbye." Users can cause problems with their personal mailboxes by disconnecting from the voice mail system without pressing *. Some of the problems are as follows:
  1. Users cannot access their personal mailboxes again for a few minutes. The users would hear Jane say "I'm sorry, someone has already entered that mailbox using your password. Please try again later." This occurs because the voice mail system has not yet disconnected the link and this can take a couple of minutes.
  2. Messages users erased in their voice mailboxes could possibly reappear in the mailbox.

Helpful hints for telephone users

A. How to use the CALL PICKUP feature
  Call pickup lets you answer a call for another extension

Tips
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company that grew from a $1,000 investment into a multi-billion dollar operation employing more than 70,000 people before it was sold to General Motors in 1984. In 1988, Perot started a new computer service company, Perot Systems, that today operates in the United States and Europe.

At the request of one Texas governor, Perot worked to reduce illegal drug use and trade in that state, and, at the request of another Texas governor, helped reform the state's public school system. His efforts to improve the treatment of POWs in Southeast Asia earned him the Medal of Distinguished Public Service, the highest civilian award presented by the Department of Defense.

When two EDS employees were taken hostage by Iranian revolutionaries in 1979, Perot launched a successful rescue team made up of EDS employees.

As an independent candidate for president in 1992, Perot drew attention to the treatment of POWs in Southeast Asia earned him the Medal of Distinguished Public Service, the highest civilian award presented by the Department of Defense.

Tips

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1. How to pick up a call when your telephone is idle: Pick up the handset and press the (CALL PICKUP) button or dial the CALL PICKUP code (*7). You are connected to the calling party.
2. How to pick up a call while you are active on another call (Using an 8110, 8102, and 2500 model single line telephone): Press FLASH or the switch hook. Hear recall dial tone. Dial the HOLD code #1. Hear dial tone. The first call is put on hold. Dial the CALL PICKUP code *7. You are connected to the ringing call.
3a. How to return to the held call: Complete the pickup call and hang up. Hear 3-burst priority ring. Lift the handset. You are connected to the held call.
3b. How to return to the held call: Press the (CALL PICKUP) button or dial the CALL PICKUP code *7. You are connected to the ringing call.
3a. How to return to the held call: Press the (CALL PICKUP) button or dial the CALL PICKUP code *7. You are connected to the ringing call.

Medical Campus graduates listen to inspiring words

The access into patients' lives that a medical degree gives new physicians is perhaps the most significant aspect of achieving the degree, said School of Medicine commencement speaker Perri Klass, MD, a pediatrician and an author, to the 142 graduates of BUSM on May 22, at the Westin Hotel, Copley Place.

The transition from medical student to physician signals a quantum jump in this degree of access, said Klass. "Don't ever lose sight of the fact that this access is a privilege to be earned over and over and to be handled always with honor," she said.

Klass stressed the importance of new physicians pursuing paths of medicine about which they will be passionate. "Choose the ones that call to you and move you and excite your interest and your imagination," she said. "Then accept the suspense and uncertainty along with the satisfactions and the victories."

Klass, who is an assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at the School of Medicine, writes regularly for the magazines American Health and Redbook, among others, and also frequently contributes to The New York Times. In addition, she has published a number of books, the most recent being Baby Doctor: A Pediatrician's Training, which is the account of her residency at Boston City Hospital.

The Class of 1994 included five students who received MD/PhD degrees and two who received MD/MPH degrees. Sixteen students graduated cum laude; five students graduated magna cum laude, and two students, Nancy Hunter Corliss and Joseph Michael Garasic, graduated summa cum laude.

The 102 graduates of the School of Public Health listened to the words of commencement speaker Mary Jane England (BUSM '64), president of the Washington Business Group on Health. Of the 102 master of public health degrees awarded, 14 were dual degrees. Two doctors of science degrees in epidemiology were also awarded.

Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry speaker Herbert Schilder, DDS, urged the 116 graduating students to recognize "the need for lifelong learning in order to reach [their] full potential as dentists."

"The changes that are occurring so rapidly in our profession today make it imperative that you engage in lifelong education and change, or risk becoming obsolete in very few years," he said.