

what's happening

Maine Medical Center
Portland, Maine 04102

Vol. 15, No. 404

May 30, 1984

MMC captures laurels at UVM's graduation

Maine Medical Center has walked away with two of the most coveted, highly competitive awards traditionally given by the University of Vermont College of Medicine's graduating class.

By vote of the 86 members of the Class of 1984, MMC has:

- The Department of the Year in its Department of Medicine, and
- The Resident of the Year in Bruce Churchill, M.D., Senior Resident in Obstetrics/Gynecology.

The awards signify the graduates' measure of and respect for the teachers they have encountered during their four years of medical school -- on the Vermont campus, and during rotations through affiliated teaching hospitals. They are not lightly given, nor are they lightly received. Around Maine Medical Center last week following UVM's graduation exercises, the pride and pleasure was visible, audible, and highly contagious. And those most closely involved were characteristically quick to share the honors:

Said a beaming Robert F. Hillman, M.D., Chief of the Department of the Year: "This is a singular honor for the entire Department of Medicine. It shows how very hard the members of the department have worked to make the (Vermont) affiliation work. And there has to be special mention for the House Staff who've put their hearts and souls into their work."

Costas T. Lambrew, M.D., Vice President for Health Affairs, adds; "These have traditionally been highly valued awards; the competition is friendly but none the less serious. Both awards are significant, and they point to the quality of education the MMC campus offers.

"The Resident of the Year award reflects the student's perception of a fine resident, in his person, in his

UVM, page 3



CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR, Robert F. Hillman, M.D., shows the silvered shovel, symbol of the award voted MMC's Department of Medicine by UVM College of Medicine's Class of 1984. Third-year Vermont Students (left to right) are: Terence Morgan, Evan Taber, Darrell White, David McDermott, Paul Laprise, and Marianne Gardy. (A/V Photo).

Hospital cost law due for impact in October

The hospital cost containment bill passed last June by the Maine Legislature (L.D. 1353) will take effect on October 1 of this year. Maine Medical Center will be one of the first Maine hospitals to begin operating under the regulations of the Maine Health Care Finance Commission created by the law.

MMC's Executive Vice President and Treasurer Don McDowell has been serving on the six-member Hospital Advisory Committee to the Health Care Finance Commission. He says the law has created "a whole new way of setting hospital budgets." McDowell

says that "in the past hospital Boards of Trustees have determined the size of their budgets based on patient needs and financial requirements to meet them. Now, we will have to make what we and our patients need fit within the revenue cap the state allows us."

Basically, here is how the very complicated law works: the Health Care Finance Commission, using its own methods, takes a hospital's 1983 budget and adjusts it for such factors as inflation, approved expansion projects, etc. Using these methods, it comes up with a 1985 budget figure. MMC must submit extensive financial information to the state by June 8, and will receive its revenue cap figure July 1. If the

COSTS, page 2

COSTS, from page one

figure is too low, MMC will have the right to appeal; if the appeal fails, MMC will have to trim its expenditures.

The revenue cap set by the Health Care Finance Commission is the maximum amount of money the hospital is allowed to take in during the fiscal year. The Commission deals only with that figure -- it is up to the hospital to determine how to do everything it needs to do within the limit. "The bottom line under this system is that we can't generate additional revenue to cover increased costs," McDowell says. "If we want to do something new, we have to give up something old. There's going to be just so much money available each year, and the amount will be determined in August."

Throughout the cost containment debate in Maine, the overriding concern of hospitals was that they be able to continue delivering quality care under whatever system emerged. The law as passed was a compromise, consisting of the original bill submitted by Governor Joseph Brennan modified by 88 separate amendments negotiated with Maine hospitals. As the Health Care Finance Commission has recently been adopting rules under which the law will be administered, hospitals are continuing efforts to ensure that attempts to cut costs do not cut care.

Here's an example of the rulemaking process, and the effect of hospital involvement in it: the Commission staff originally wanted to use the New England Non-Farm Wage Index as a guide for setting the wage portion of the formula for determining revenue caps. Hospitals argued that tying Maine hospital workers' wages to non-farm wages instead of health care wages would make it difficult for them to recruit and retain qualified staff. As a result, the Commission agreed to use a 75% - 25% mix of non-farm and health care indices for at least the first two years.

The law will have a unique impact on MMC's new wing. Because the Certificate of Need for the new wing was approved before the law was passed but the wing was not in operation during the 1983 base year, MMC must now negotiate with the state to have the operating costs of the new wing -- everything from utilities to staff -- added to the revenue cap.

"No one can really say yet what impact this law will have on health care in Maine," McDowell says. "MMC, Eastern Maine Medical Center, and six other hospitals will be the first to

come under the law. By this time next year, we'll have a better idea what the impact is. We do know there's no danger of a state-imposed budget reduction until 1986, but there are interesting times ahead. Hospitals will have to continue working with the regulators to make sure patient care isn't compromised by budget limitations.

"As always," McDowell says, "issues like revenue caps are in reality issues about how much we as a society are willing to spend on health care and how we are willing to spend it. We in Maine are entering an era in which we'll know the qualitative price to be paid for cost reductions. If we are skillful, perhaps we can preserve the present level of quality and continue to improve -- but improvement will be slower."



Continuing Education

Nursing Staff Development

- *Critical Care Seminar: Intravenous Streptokinase*, John Love, M.D.
Wednesday, June 6 2-3 PM
Conference Room R9
(1 CERP requested)

Thursday, June 7 8-9 AM
Conference Room R9
(1 CERP requested)



THE XI KAPPA CHAPTER OF BETA SIGMA PHI recently made a \$600 contribution to the Pediatric Unit at MMC. Chapter President Deborah Hubbard presented the check to MMC President Edward C. Andrews, Jr., M.D. Beta Sigma Phi is a 250,000-member international sorority for promoting friendship and sisterhood among women of all social and cultural classes. (A/V Photo)

Al-Anon group sets meeting at MMC

Al-Anon's new MMC group will have its second meeting Thursday, May 31, at 3:45 PM in Classroom 4. Al-Anon's purpose is to help families and friends of alcoholics by offering hope and friendship and by sharing experiences in coping with the disease of alcoholism in a family member.

For more information about Al-Anon, call Elizabeth at 846-3011 (evenings) or x2891 (days), or Al in Social Services, x2261. All are invited to attend. Al-Anon respects anonymity, and all calls will be held in strictest confidence.

EAC News

A new shipment of McDonald's coupon books has arrived. They're available in Security at any hour:

- Coupons for a regular cheeseburger, regular fries, a Quarterpounder, a Filet-O-Fish, and a Big Mac. A retail value of \$5.00, available for \$2.75.
- Coupons for a large breakfast, Egg McMuffin, Hotcakes, Eggs and English, and Danish. A retail value of \$5.10, available for \$2.75.
- Coupons for a 9-pack Chicken McNuggets, regular hamburger, dessert, Big Mac, Quarterpounder, large fries, and Filet-O-Fish. A retail value of \$7.75, available for \$4.25.



RESIDENT OF THE YEAR, by vote of UVM College of Medicine's Class of 1984, Bruce Churchill, M.D., (left) Senior Resident in Obstetrics/Gynecology, shows the symbol of his award to C. Irving Meeker, M.D., Chief of the Department. (A/V Photo)

UVM, from page one

practice and ability, and in his gift as a teacher," Dr. Lambrew said.

C. Irving Meeker, M.D., Chief of Obstetrics/Gynecology, was "delighted" at the award given Dr. Churchill who is completing his residency this year. "The students have recognized his talents as a physician and as a teacher; I know he'll continue to function as an excellent teacher of physicians in all his activities."

Dr. Churchill himself confessed to being "really surprised, but definitely delighted." He was asked why he thought he was singled out, and after much thought, said: "They must have realized I was really interested that they learn absolutely everything possible; I have a great respect for the huge investment they are making. I wanted their learning experience in Maine to be the best possible. Plus, it was wonderful for me to be able to work with young students who have such enthusiasm about good patient care; I was always willing to give the extra time they needed of me."

As delighted as anyone was MMC President Edward C. Andrews, Jr., M.D. (Dean of UVM's Medical School for three years and President of the University for five years before coming to MMC in 1975). "The awards are taken very seriously by the faculty and students. This is a very good indication of the quality of the education and the people doing the teaching here.

"I, frankly, was not surprised at the news," Dr. Andrews said. "I've said on

numerous occasions that the medical staff of Maine Medical Center is at least the equivalent of the faculty at major medical schools and -- in many instances -- better. It should be understood that great physicians may not always be great teachers, but I have never known a great teacher who was not also a great physician.

"From what I've said, it should be clear that we are attracting excellent resident physicians," Dr. Andrews continued. "Therefore it should come as no surprise that one of ours, Bruce Churchill, won the Resident of the Year award for his excellence in teaching.

"When we started this affiliation with the University of Vermont (in 1980), the Dean, Dr. William Luginbuhl, told me he hoped for some healthy competition. . . he sure got it," Dr. Andrews said.

The Department of the Year award, by the way, is symbolized by a silvered shovel, initially used at ground-breaking ceremonies for UVM's Given Building. Since 1966 it has been presented annually to the winning department, and now takes up residence in MMC's Department of Medicine office. It's not always there, however, since Dr. Hillman is apt to carry it off to show to someone or some group. As one student was heard to remark last week: "You know, Dr. Hillman, for a while there we thought we might have to surgically remove that shovel from your hand."

New restaurants join EAC dinner club offer

Four restaurants have joined the Executive Dinner Club program offered at MMC by the Employee Activity Committee. The Club card costs \$18.00 (\$20.00 value), and offers the lower of two entrees free at a combination of area restaurants over a year's time.

The new additions are: Alberta's, Portland; Press Room, Biddeford; Marco's, Lewiston; and The Homestead, Lewiston.

Other participating restaurants are: Barnhouse Tavern, North Windham; Marshview, Scarborough; The Galley, Falmouth; Berliner Bear, Falmouth; Season's, South Portland; Tortilla Flat, Portland; J.R. Maxwell's, Bath; The Country Way, South Paris; Rozzi's Old Fire Barn, North Windham; Harpswell Inn, North Harpswell; and Steckino's, Lewiston.

The Dinner Club memberships are good for one year from date of purchase. The restaurants are grouped in pairs; the card may be used once at each of the two restaurants. Some restaurants have placed conditions on the card; i.e., not valid on certain days, or for certain times, etc. Call Joyce Decesere, Payroll, for information.

EAC plans a night at sea 20 miles inland

In preparation for a Mexibbean cruise planned for March 1985, the Employee Activity Committee is having a Cruise Night Monday, June 11, 7:00 PM, at the Towne-Lyne Restaurant in Windham on the Gray line (Route 202). The evening will consist of a cash bar, film and discussion by a representative of Norwegian Caribbean Lines, questions and answers, a \$100 door prize drawing, a mini-midnight buffet, and other nautical delights. The "purser's office" will be open for deposits for the March 1985 cruise (deposit is \$200 per person).

Call Joyce Decesere, x2672 for information.

About People

Kim Beaulieu, RN, a staff nurse in Special Care, competed in the women's marathon running event at the Olympic Trials in Olympia, Washington earlier this month. A notable long-distance runner in Maine, Kim placed 28th in the women's division of the 1984 Boston Marathon.

Marketplace

FOR RENT: Room with KT privileges. No smoking. Parking. Avail. June 1. \$50/wk. Call 799-1951.

FOR RENT: Avail. June 1. Attractive 5 room recently renovated apt. Refs. and sec. dep. \$315/mo., unheated. Call 774-0505 eves.

FOR RENT: Room in attractive home in Pleasant Hill, Scarboro. Laundry, KT, and family room facilities avail. Call 883-6000 after 6 PM or on weekends.

FOR RENT: MMC area, 3 rooms and bath, appliances, all util., parking. Refs. and sec. dep. No pets. Call 657-4715 eves. or anytime Fri., Sat. or Sun.

FOR RENT: Luxury Apt. 188 Pleasant Ave. Grand entrance foyer; elegant fire-placed LR; formal DR; efficient, applianced KT, including dishwasher; cozy, fire-placed study/den (could be 2nd BR); master BR suite with full bath; plenty of storage, full basement with W/D hook-up; garage, parking. No pets. \$575/mo. plus util. Call Ron McClinton at 772-1748 and leave message.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Beautiful, spacious apt. with privacy. Non-smoker, no pets. Walk-in closet, sundeck, excellent neighborhood. Parking included. \$275/mo. plus 1/3 util. Avail. July or now. Call anytime at 774-1662 or 799-5084.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Female to share 2 BR apt. on Eastern Prom. Heat included. 1/2 util., sec. dep. required. Avail. July 1. \$165/mo. Call 774-6338.

ROOMMATE WANTED: 33 yr. old male (smoker) looking for apt. and roommate to share expenses with in Portland area. Call 773-4216 after 5 PM.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Professional to share lake home in Windham. Garage, garden, laundry, yard, etc. Non-smoker, 23-35 yrs. old. \$235/mo. Pets are o.k. Call Jean at 892-5480 or 775-3491.

ROOMMATE WANTED: Small efficiency or room, or roommate. Call 773-1372.

FOR SALE: 1979 Plymouth Horizon TC3 in excellent cond. Orange and black, AM/FM radio, new tires. Asking \$2,490. Can be seen at Peary's Gulf Station, Route 1 in Scarborough.

FOR SALE: 1982 Scirocco, gold, 5 spd., AM/FM stereo/cassette, 28,000 miles. Asking \$6,800. Call 761-0584 or 774-7124.

FOR SALE: 1976 Chevette 2-dr. hatchback, standard, 40,000 mi., one owner. \$1,900. Call 767-3678.

FOR SALE: 1974 AMC Gremlin. 6-cyl., uses reg. gas, PS, air, excellent running cond., needs some body work. \$850. Call 688-4888.

FOR SALE: Liberty 14'x60' trailer. Stove and refrig. included. Skirted, shed, in park. \$9,500. Call 883-4024.

FOR SALE: Huffy 10-spd. bike in good condition, \$100 or best offer. Call 773-5838.

FOR SALE: Two tires, Sears radial P215/75R14, mounted on rims. Call 799-1951 and keep trying.

FOR SALE: Lovely jewelry: 1 1/4K Solitaire diamond ring, gold chain (22" box chain), and ruby ring. Call 799-2530.

FOR SALE: Brand new Hearthstone II woodstove, used girl's bike, air conditioner, self-propelled lawnmower, hearth extenders, Schwinn exercise bicycle. Call Dr. Bitterman at x2571 or 799-1885.

FOR SALE: Full length, black man-made fur coat, size 14, excellent cond. \$35. Other assorted winter coats in size 10. All in excellent cond. Call 772-5103.

FOR SALE: 1970 Holiday Rambler 28' travel trailer. Sleeps 4, complete kitchen, heater, bath, full awning. Low mileage. Currently on year-round site at Moat View Campground in No. Conway (off Westside Road), site M19. Needs some repairs, but in fine overall condition. Would make a great "second home," and has been used as a ski hut (10 minutes to Cranmore, 30 to Wildcat). Worth approximately \$3,000; make an offer. Call 871-2261.

what's happening

WHAT'S HAPPENING is published every Wednesday at Maine Medical Center, Portland, Maine for members of the Hospital community and for friends of the institution throughout Maine and northern New England. Comments, questions and suggestions may be addressed to Public Information Office, MMC, Portland, ME 04102. Barbara Burns, Editor.

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FOR SALE: 1979 GMC pick-up truck, Sierra 15. 48,000 mi., automatic transmission. Excellent running cond., \$4,200 negotiable. Call 799-6647.

FOR SALE: 1981 Yamaha moped in excellent condition. Asking \$375. Call 773-2300 eves.

FOR SALE: 9 ft. AMF Minifish sailboat, \$750. Call 799-3892.

FREE to a good home: 6 yr. old Siberian Husky/Norwegian Elkhound cross male. Lovable, good with children, and an excellent watchdog. Call 767-2889.

FREE to a good home: Three 6 yr. old spayed cats. Good house pets, but would make great barn cats. Call 767-2889.

LOST: 1 3/4" video cassette tape, not in case, on childbirth. If found please contact Pam Tozier immediately at 797-8155.

WANTED: Have 22' truck leaving for Seattle late May and returning mid-June. Accepting freight either direction, and will consider deviations from main route. Call 775-3856 early AM or late eves.

WANTED: Babysitter 3-4 days per week for 2 mo. old. Starting in mid-July. Call 767-2489. So. Portland area.

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM: Gorham Coop preschool is offering an early Kindergarten to give "young" 5 yr. olds an extra year to grow. Call 839-6273 or 839-4739.

New Employees

FOOD SERVICES: Melissa L. Cobb, Teresa A. Dyer

HOUSEKEEPING: Vicki L. Jackson, Todd R. Pierce

PATIENT ACCOUNTS: Joan M. Labrecque

CAFETERIA: Patricia S. Levesque

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