



Gospelrama

2004



Naomi Barksdale of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Last Friday, Medical Alumni Hall was, once again, alive with the sound of music. From song to poetry to dancing, Gospelrama 2004 proved to be a showcase for many of HUP's talented employees. As mistress of ceremonies, the Honorable Reverend Louise Williams Bishop, PA State Representative, kept the program moving along, talking about her own experiences and leading the audience in song.

"I'm delighted to see so many people here and to feel so much energy," said COO Al Black. "It speaks to the spirit and caring of HUP employees."

Liturgical dance ensemble from St. Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Church



The Honorable Reverend Louise Williams Bishop, PA State Representative

Congratulations and many thanks to Chaplain Madeline Dawson, who chaired the Gospelrama committee and produced such a wonderful show. And thanks also to Aramark Catering for generously contributing platters of food and drink, and to Atlas Pizza & Steaks for the pizzas.

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Seeking Study Participants

If you have adult-onset diabetes, you may be eligible to participate in a research study investigating the causes of heart disease. Participants will receive a free, non-invasive heart scan, blood work, and other tests that may determine if you are at risk for a future heart attack. For more information, call the Penn Diabetes Heart Study at 615-3423.

Smoking Cessation Study

Researchers at Penn's Abramson Cancer Center are comparing the effectiveness of two leading, FDA-approved smoking cessation medications in combination with different types of counseling. Study participants should be at least 18 years old, in good health, smoke less than one pack a day, and be motivated to stop smoking. Participants will receive nine weeks of medication plus up to 10 weeks of individual counseling. Study participation is expected to last for nearly one year. For more information, call 215-243-9959.

Dash for Organ Donor Awareness

Join the Penn team for the Ninth Annual Dash for Organ Donor Awareness on Sunday, April 18. The event helps raise awareness about the need for organ and tissue donation, and highlights the success of transplantation. According to team captain **Denise DuPont**, "Last year our team raised nearly \$7,700. This year we'd like to reach the \$10,000 mark. The funds we raise go to patient education and to help fund the Transplant Olympics."

The PENN Transplant Center and Gift of Life will have a table outside the HUP cafeteria on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 30 and 31, for employees and patients who wish to join the Penn team. For more information, contact DuPont at 615-3706 or e-mail denise.dupont@uphs.upenn.edu.



Choral Group

HUP's choral group will hold an informational meeting on Monday, March 29, in the Penn Tower Conference Room, on the Bridge Level, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. For additional information, call 615-3623.



Referral Bonus

Do you know a technologist or therapist who might be interested in working in radiology or radiation oncology at HUP? Refer us their names between now and May 31, and you may be eligible to receive a bonus of up to \$2,500. The bonus will be distributed (through payroll with applicable taxes) as follows:

- \$500 when your referred candidate completes 30 days of service.
- \$500 when your referred candidate completes six months of service.
- \$1,500 when your referred candidate completes 12 months of service.

Program details and referral forms are available at <http://uphsxnet.uphs.upenn.edu/hr/>, from the HRIC on Ground Gates or the Staffing Department at 3930 Chestnut Street, or via email at: Margie_Delaney@uphs.upenn.edu.

Submit the referral form to **Marge Delaney** in Staffing, making sure to include the candidate's résumé and/or employment application. If you have any questions, call Marge at 215-615-2656.



Cuisine Cook-Off Postponed

There's still time to submit a favorite recipe for HUP's annual Cuisine Cook-Off on Friday, March 26. The categories are: desserts/hors d'oeuvres, meat dishes, starches/rice/pasta, and vegetable dishes. The first five entrants in each category will be accepted and will compete in the Cook-Off, which will take place in the cafeteria starting at 1 pm. Prizes this year are:

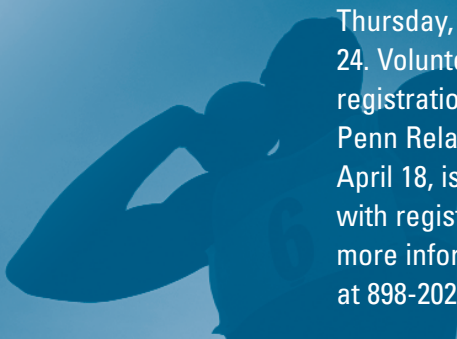
- First prize – An overnight escape**
- Second prize – Brunch or dinner for two.**
- Third prize – A piece of professional cookware.**

For more information, contact **Charlene Palmore-Lewis** at 662-6425 or charlene.palmorelewis@uphs.upenn.edu, or **Tilly Heggs** at 662-6729 or tilly.heggs@uphs.upenn.edu.



PENN Relays

The Penn Relays will take place on Thursday, April 22, through Saturday, April 24. Volunteers are needed to help out with registration and various on-field jobs. The Penn Relays' Distance Classic, on Sunday, April 18, is also looking for people to help with registration and at water stations. For more information, call Isabel Sampson-Mapp at 898-2020.



2004

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*N*ext year is Gospelrama's tenth anniversary. The show will be held on February 25. If you're interested in helping to plan this special event or in performing, please contact Chaplain Dawson at 349-5779.

Ayesha Dixon of Otorhinolaryngology



Gwen Nissel, Clinical Resource Coordinator



Chaplain Resident Robert Phillips, Minister Johnnie L. Dawson of Pastoral Care/Guest Services, Rosetta Davis, daughter of Jeannette Davis of Penn Transplant Center

***I** look forward to this every year," said HUP Executive Director Garry Scheib. "I'm amazed at the talent we have here and I thank everyone who helped to organize it."*



Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Ensemble.



Nadira Duckett, granddaughter of Madeline Dawson



Tamika Patton-Watkins

Roundtable



Notables

HUP Executive Director **Garry Scheib** discussed a number of items at last month's 'Meal with An Administrator.' The state's malpractice crisis continues to loom over health-care providers. "The only way to cap noneconomic damages in Pennsylvania is through a constitutional amendment. The state legislature has started the process, but it will take several years to get approval and to see any impact," he said. California capped damages several years ago, and the premiums have dropped.

"The governor doesn't support an amendment but has proposed some short-term solutions that can be put in place more quickly."

The Health System is self-insured; it pays the malpractice insurance for its doctors, at a cost of millions of dollars each year. "Every month we put away several million dollars so we have available funds if needed."

The crisis has caused many specialty physicians — especially those in trauma, obstetrics, and neurosurgery — to either stop practicing or to leave the state. "In the past several years, seven OB programs in the region have closed. As a result, we've seen many patients who had no pre-natal care, which puts their babies at higher risk. Our NICU beds are full most of the time. The NICUs at CHOP and Pennsylvania Hospital are full as well. There's no easy solution."

In an attempt to ease this overflow, Pennsylvania Hospital will add five beds to its NICU. "They have the room to expand, but the equipment is very expensive and finding staff is even more challenging."

Local Hospital News

In local hospital news, Scheib said UPHS is not purchasing Chestnut Hill Hospital. "Vanguard is buying the hospital and has asked us to be a 'minority partner' — to help them create new services or to get things started. We are not making a cash investment."

UPHS is also working with the foundation board of Phoenixville Hospital to find a buyer. "We have so many capital needs at HUP, Pennsylvania Hospital, and Presbyterian that we don't have enough to meet Phoenixville's needs." He said many potential buyers have shown an interest in purchasing the community hospital.

HR Business

All eligible employees (those hired prior to July 1, 2003) should have received a Total Compensation Statement at home. "You should have also received a feedback card with your statement. Please complete and return it — in the US mail or in an intramural envelope — and encourage your coworkers to send it in as well," said **Terri Woodruff**, HUP's chief human resources officer. "Is the statement something you want us to continue doing every year? Are there things you'd like to see that weren't included? What did you find most valuable? Your feedback is very important to us."

Woodruff also mentioned the new recruitment program for radiology and radiation oncology technicians. "If you know someone in these fields who is looking for a job, encourage them to come to HUP, and we will reward you with a bonus of up to \$2,500." (See article on page 2).

In Other News

Financially, Scheib said we are behind target for January because of a "malpractice hit." He explained that an actuarial firm that does projections on how much money should be put away for possible malpractice suits said we needed to add several million dollars to the fund, and this came out of January's budget. Year-to-date, however, both the Health System and HUP are running ahead of budget. "We expect to be ahead of target for the year at the end of June," he said.

Responding to an employee's question, Scheib discussed the "Riverview Project," which is the plan to build a 300,000 square foot ambulatory care/cancer center on the former Convention Center property across the street from Penn Tower. "It will give us an opportunity to grow and to provide more ambulatory space for patient access. It's a important project for our long-term growth."

Scheib said a major fundraising effort is now under way to help finance the \$182 million project.

Selina Luger, MD, director of Penn's Leukemia Program, will receive the Hope Award for Medical Achievement from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter. According to the Society, the award recognizes Luger's "humanistic approach to patient care and her commitment to improve the quality of life of patients and families touched by blood-related cancers."

Jon Morris, MD, of Surgery, has been named medical director of Admissions, a position he had held on an interim basis. This role is pivotal in balancing the increasing demand for beds at HUP and in maintaining the efficient flow of patients through the hospital.

HUPdate

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