Methodist, St. Agnes Sign Agreement to Enhance Services

Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals and Mercy Health System’s St. Agnes Medical Center have signed an agreement that will change healthcare delivery in South Philadelphia. Jefferson’s Methodist Hospital Division will enhance its delivery of acute care services in the community by renovating its Emergency Department, Intensive Care, and some ancillary services to increase capacity.

St. Agnes Medical Center (renamed the St. Agnes Continuing Care Center), will transform from an acute care hospital into a continuing care center including a long-term care hospital for patients whose hospital stay exceeds 25 days, an expanded skilled nursing unit and other programs to meet the needs of the elderly and others who require continuing care services.

Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals and Mercy Health System together project from $12.5 to $15 million in capital investment to implement their new joint venture project from Methodist Hospital.

Jefferson College of Health Professions Holds 180th Commencement on May 19

Jefferson College of Health Professions (JCHP), Thomas Jefferson University will hold commencement exercises on Wednesday, May 19, 10:30 a.m., at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in center city Philadelphia. A honorary doctoral degree will be awarded to Andrea Higham, Director of Corporate Equity, the Campaign for Nursing’s Future, and New Ventures at Johnson & Johnson.

The Class of 2004 totals 343 graduates, including 325 bachelor of science degree recipients in the disciplines of nursing, occupational therapy, radiologic sciences and bioscience technology; six post-baccalaureate certificate recipients in bioscience technology, and 12 associate degree recipients. Also included in the totals are physical therapy students who will complete their combined BS-MS degree program during this ceremony. Douglas J. MacMaster, Jr., Esq., member and former Chair, Board of Trustees, will present Ms. Higham the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Ms. Higham has directed Johnson & Johnson’s Campaign for Nursing’s Future, a pioneering strategy to promote the profession of nursing.

In helping to raise more than $5 million for nursing scholarships, faculty fellowships and nursing school grants, the campaign has had a positive impact on the recruitment and retention of nursing professionals nationwide.

University President Paul C. Brucker, MD, will confer the student degrees. JCHP Dean James B. Eichmann, PhD, will address students and their families and present the JCHP Student Life Award. Janice Burke, PhD, CTRI/L, Chairman and Associate Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy, will serve as the Grand Marshal.

Calling Runners, Walkers, Volunteers ... See Page 3

Typical of involvement in the ‘Big Walk for Little Feet’ by employee families is the participation of William P. Caraker, Biomedical instrumentation, his wife, Elise, and their three children, from left, Keldon, 5, Billy, 8, and Bradley, 7. "We had a great day last year, and we look forward to coming back again this year," says Mr. Caraker. "We encourage more employees to take part."

Brian G. Harrison Appointed Chair of University Board of Trustees

Thomas Jefferson University has announced the appointment of Brian G. Harrison as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Harrison has been a University trustee since his election in 1984. He has served in many Board leadership positions including Vice Chair, University Board; Chair, Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals Board, and also as a member of the Jefferson Health System Board.

Mr. Harrison brings to the position an extensive business background that includes many years as President of the Franklin Mint and, more recently, as an investor and consultant to a variety of local companies. He is currently majority owner of SmokeStoppers, a leader in smoking cessation for over 20 years.

Paul C. Brucker, MD, University President, said, "I welcome Mr. Harrison’s vision of close cooperation between the University and Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals to assure our continued excellence in medical education, research and patient care. Brian and I have worked together for many years. He brings a strong combination of experience, knowledge of the region, and an understanding of our mission to his latest leadership role. This, along with his entrepreneurial spirit, will advance our ability to thoughtfully consider the many opportunities and challenges facing Jefferson.”

Facing Many Urgent Issues

In accepting the position, Mr. Harrison said that many urgent issues face the University. “The first priority the Board must address is to complete the presidential search now under way. I have appointed Douglas J. MacMaster, former University Board Chair, as the new Chair of the Search Committee. I am pleased that several exceptional individuals have been identified and that the committee interviewed a number of candidates the week of April 12.”

In addition, because the success of... See Page 3

Guitar Maker and Guitarist Generosity Benefit Students

Hospital Launches Noise Reduction Pilot Program

Jefferson’s CHORD Forms Center on Aging

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Christine Ann Arenson, MD
To Direct New Division of Geriatric Medicine

Christine Ann Arenson, MD, has been appointed Director of the newly created Division of Geriatric Medicine, Richard C. Wender, MD, Alumni Professor of Family Medicine, and Department Chair, has announced.

In making the announcement, Dr. Wender said the Department had a strong rationale for creating a new Division of Geriatric Medicine. “The population is aging, and Jefferson needs to confirm its position as a leader in geriatric care,” he said. The geriatrician faculty members already have a strong reputation for excellence in clinical care.

Hospital Launching Noise Reduction Pilot Project from May 3 to October 29

The entire seventh floor of the Gibbon Building will participate in a Noise Reduction Pilot Project from May 3 to October 29. Hospital Administration asks that all staff practice noise-reducing strategies when on the floor. These include: having cell phones and beepers on vibrate or minimal beep, closing patient doors, providing headsets for TV listening, dimming hallway lights, and above all – using a quieter voice.

The gift represents a portion of the profits from the sale of the Signature Edition Eric Johnson Signature Edition Eric Johnson guitar, manufactured by Nazareth, PA-based C. F. Martin & Company. The company, which has $12 million charitable giving grants since 1993.

Dr. Arenson is particularly active at JMC and its outside organizations regarding issues of aging populations. She has been a member of the American Geriatric Society since 1993 and a member of its Education Committee since 2001, a Board Member of the Delaware Valley Geriatric Society 1992-1993 and of the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging since 2001, and Medical Director of the Philadelphia Senior Center since 2000. She is Co-Chair of the Group on Geriatric Education of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine since 2002.

Dr. Arenson may be reached at 215-955-6402.

Students to Benefit from Generosity of Guitar Maker and Grammy-Winning Guitarist

Grammy-winning guitarist Eric Johnson, who has performed with some of the biggest names in music and whose talent has been compared to such greats as Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix, and Stevie Ray Vaughan, visited Thomas Jefferson University Hospital recently to present a special donation in memory of his father, Dr. Robert Neroni, MD, JMC Class of 1942.

The late Dr. Johnson’s medical education was completely covered by a scholarship, a gift his son Eric says he never forget. “Jefferson helped my dad pursue his dreams,” Johnson said. “It was due to my dad’s success that I was able to pursue my music. He helped me when the going was tough.”

The gift represents a portion of the profits from the sale of the Signature Edition Eric Johnson guitar, manufactured by Nazareth, PA-based C. F. Martin & Company. Mr. Johnson visited Jefferson while in Philadelphia for a concert appearance.

The Austin (Texas) American Statesman remembered the late Dr. Johnson as a “high school dropout who eventually would become a doctor and go on to bring new life to Austin’s fledgling medical community.” He was Austin’s first board-certified anesthesiologist and helped to organize the city’s first blood bank.

C. F. Martin & Company is the oldest acoustic instrument producer in the world. Martin guitars are hand-made by skilled craftsmen, many still using techniques as they were developed in the 1830s. Dr. Arenson is particularly active at JMC and its outside organizations regarding issues of aging populations. She has been a member of the American Geriatric Society since 1993 and a member of its Education Committee since 2001, a Board Member of the Delaware Valley Geriatric Society 1992-1993 and of the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging since 2001, and Medical Director of the Philadelphia Senior Center since 2000. She is Co-Chair of the Group on Geriatric Education of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine since 2002.

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JeffNEWS

May 1, 2004

Calling All Runners, Walkers, Volunteers ... Register May 20
For 27th Annual Jefferson Hospital Philadelphia Distance Run and ‘Big Walk for Little Feet’

Here’s your opportunity to have some fun and participate in worthwhile events either as a Jefferson employee runner, walker or volunteer.

The 2004 Jefferson Hospital Philadelphia Distance Run, is set to start Sunday, September 19, at 8 a.m., at 9th and Market streets. And as a special feature of the Run, the Hospital’s 4th Annual “Big Walk for Little Feet,” a three-mile walk to benefit all babies born at Jefferson, will also kick off at 8 a.m., at 12th and Market. You and your family can participate in these events in several ways.

Take Your Choice
Average people can compete for the 27th world-famed half-marathon’s cash prize. Visit us in the Atrium on May 20 to register in person. The first 53 Jefferson registrants run the half-marathon for free! Applications must be turned into Volunteer Services, 2180 Gibbons and are on a first-come, first-served basis.

As walkers, you will help raise funds for all babies born at Jefferson Hospital. You can register as a walker on May 20 in the Atrium where you also will be able to pick up your packets to enlist sponsors to financially support your participation in the “Big Walk for Little Feet.”

The earlier walkers register and pick up their sponsor packets, the greater their opportunity to enlist walkers to support funds for Jefferson’s seriously ill and well babies,” says Patricia A Wallace, Program Director: Community, Pastoral and Volunteer Services.

“Early registration gives walkers more time to seek out and speak with sponsors and to explain why their pledges are vitally important in making the ‘Big Walk’ successful.” You also can register to walk and download a pledge form at www.JeffersonHospital.org/psr.

Volunteers Needed for Race, Walk
Jefferson Hospital would appreciate your help as a volunteer for the Race or the Walk. From Thursday, September 16, through Sunday, September 19, there are a host of volunteer opportunities for you and your family members. Some are appropriate for children. And all are guaranteed to be family fun.

Whether you decide to staff a registration table at Jefferson Thursday, work at the Marriott Hotel Expo tables on Friday and Saturday or if you’re an early riser, to volunteer for “Big Walk for Little Feet” registration beginning at 6 a.m. at Jefferson Hospital on Sunday, you’ll play an important role.

Jefferson also needs 50 Sunday early risers to volunteer to staff the Run’s Jefferson Water Station at 16th and JFK Blvd. and as well as volunteers to work at the Big Walk’s start line and as course marshals (along Walnut Street to Penn’s Landing). At the finish line, you can cheer our walkers on and help with activities for the children.

Please respond to our call for volunteers so that we can achieve our goal of 125 Jefferson volunteers to cover all these exciting activities.

Your first opportunity to register to run, walk or volunteer will be on Thursday, May 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the West Atrium. Be one of the first employees to stop by to register and/or obtain more information about volunteer options.

Free Tay-Sachs Screening Offered at Jefferson in May

It’s a Delaware Valley tradition for the Tay-Sachs Prevention Program at Thomas Jefferson University to provide free Tay-Sachs and Canavan screening throughout May, sponsored by National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association of Delaware Valley (NTSAD-DV). Families of Irish or Eastern European Jewish background are most at risk.

Screening is a simple blood test and screening sites are set up at set up at more than two dozen community locations, including the Tay-Sachs Lab at 1100 Walnut Street, 4th Floor. Call 215-955-8320 for an appointment.

For more information, call 215-887-0177, email ntssadvac@aol.com or visit www.tay-sachs.org.

Kimmel Center Cancer Center Holding 5th Annual Survivors Day ‘Celebration of Life’ May 26

The Kimmel Center for Cancer Research at Thomas Jefferson University will celebrate Cancer Survivors Day on May 26 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Blumberg Life Sciences Building.

The 5th annual ‘Celebration of Life’ will feature exhibits of art and writing by cancer survivors, inspirational talks by survivors and family members, a health expo featuring practitioners from the Jefferson-Myra Myers Brint Center of Integrative Medicine, as well as music and food.

Cancer survivors, families and friends will be invited to attend this special event.

To RSVP or for more information, call 215-955-1751 or visit www.kimmelcancercenter.org/celebration.

ID Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis May 20 and 21
For Hospital Employees

All hospital employees wanting to replace or exchange their ID can have one – free of charge and no questions asked. Simply walk into 22002 (the Gibbon Building) or the ID Center at 924 Walnut Street between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on May 20 and 21 and walk out with a new ID.

Other users also are planned in the Atrium to reinforce hospital ID standards for introducing yourself on the telephone, in person and upon entering a patient room.

Employees with questions should contact Marge Newkirk at 215-955-1521 or marge.newkirk@jefferson.edu.

Wear Your Jefferson ID. It shows you belong.