Hospital Celebrating 126th Year with November 8 Gala Anniversary Event

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital will celebrate 126 years of service to the Greater Philadelphia community with an Anniversary Gala November 8 at the Philadelphia Marriott Hotel.

To mark the occasion, orthopaedic surgeon Richard H. Rothman, MD, PhD, James Edwards Professor and Chair, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Thomas Jefferson University, will receive the hospital’s Achievement Award in Medicine and Vickie and Jack Farber will receive the hospital’s Award of Merit.

Gala Honorary Chair is Mrs. Walter H. Annenberg. The dinner co-chairs are: Ira Brind, Barbara and Dr. Todd Albert and Suzanne and James Ksanofsky.

“This is an opportunity to recognize these individuals for their contributions in helping to make Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and the Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience centers of excellence in the region and nation,” said Dr. and Mrs. Albert.

Achievement Award in Medicine
Honoring Dr. Rothman
The Achievement Award in Medicine, being presented to Dr. Rothman, was created to honor an individual who has attained excellence in their profession and who has actively contributed to the growth and development of their field.

“For more than a quarter of a century, Dr. Rothman has dedicated his career toward research, teaching and surgery. He has redefined the quality of orthopaedics in the Delaware Valley,” said Dr. Albert.

The Rothman Institute at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital provides world-class expertise in virtually every orthopaedic procedure. The staff of the Rothman Institute includes some of the world’s finest orthopaedic specialists.

Award of Merit Honoring Vickie and Jack Farber
The Award of Merit, being presented to Vickie and Jack Farber, recognizes accomplished Philadelphians who have enhanced the medical experience through leadership, contribution and innovation.

“We are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Farber for their continuing support of advances in medicine,” said Mrs. Albert.

Mr. and Mrs. Farber have given generously to Jefferson in the past.

Mr. Farber established both the Farber Health Professions Scholars Program in the Jefferson College of Health Professions, the Farber Fellowship awarded annually since 1989 to a student in the Master of Science degree program in rehabilitative nursing, and created a Geriatric Fellowship in the Department of Family Medicine.

Mrs. Farber is an active member of the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital Women’s Board as well as the Board of Overseers of the ALS Chapter of Greater Philadelphia and the Education Board of the National Liberty Museum.

The Farber Institute for Neurosciences is a multidisciplinary center focusing its efforts on basic and clinical research in Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and other neurodegenerative disorders.

In December 2001, the Farber Family Foundation, Inc., announced a gift of $10 million to Thomas Jefferson University to establish this new neuroscience research institute, one of the largest gifts the university has ever received.

It’s United Way Time!

“We are proud to announce that the Jefferson United Way Campaign for 2004 has begun,” says Randy McLaughlin, Chair of Jefferson’s 2004 United Way Campaign.

“Each year we ask that our employees contribute to the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania to assist their long tradition of helping citizens in our community through hundreds of agencies and millions of dollars in support. We believe that contributing to this cause is a great way to give something back to the community, which in turn supports our institutional development.”

Mr. McLaughlin reminds employees that Thomas Jefferson University, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Jefferson University Physicians have always been staunch supporters of the United Way.

As a contributor to the United Way, your donation will be combined with others to fund the agency’s various programs such as Investing In Our Children/Youth, Building Adult Independence, and Promoting Healthy Living, just to name a few.

“We hope that when you receive your pledge form, you will consider the serious problems facing many of our neighbors. A quick scan of a newspaper or television newscast will demonstrate sufficiently the need for all of us to care and reach out by any means possible,” Mr. McLaughlin says.

“Jefferson, one of the top healthcare organizations in the region, has consistently been a leader in employer-based campaigns thanks to the generosity of its employees. Such a demonstration clearly shows that we are a caring and compassionate organization.”

“We greatly appreciate your assistance and support in order that this campaign, as those of previous years, be a success and continue the commitment of Jefferson to helping those in need.”

You can find the code numbers in the Guide to Caring brochure, the Donor Choice Helpline at 215-665-2598 or donorchoice@uwsepa.org, or the United Way’s website.

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Congratulations to Jefferson Employees Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries!
Jefferson Science Camp Encourages High School Students to Pursue Biomedical Careers

The Thomas Jefferson University Summer Science Camp provided a special four-week program for high school students in biomedical sciences. The program was administered by the Department of General Studies on behalf of the Department of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology of Jefferson Medical College and the Department of Bioscience Technologies of Jefferson College of Health Professions. This intensive introduction to the latest achievements in biomedical sciences is intended to encourage students to pursue careers in this important field. Dates for next year’s Summer Science Camp have already been set for June 27 and July 22, 2005.

Zvi Grunwald, MD, Invested as Chair of Anesthesiology

Zvi Grunwald, MD, was invested as the James Donald Wentzler, MD Chair of Anesthesiology in a ceremony that began with a white coat procession of his faculty and hospital colleagues.

MD, PhD, Thomas Jefferson University’s President, stressed the importance of donor-endowed chairs for the University, citing that the additional resources make it possible for departments to achieve the highest levels of excellence in research, education, and patient care.

For more information about donor-endowed chairs at Jefferson, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 215-955-1635.

Hospital Pastoral Care and Education Launches Society of Spirituality and Science

Inspired by the success of the Clinical Pastoral Education program it directs, the hospital’s Pastoral Care and Education office has initiated “Conversations: A Forum for Spirituality and Science at Jefferson.”

“Conversations” is “an open-ended community society whose common interest is to develop or engage in dialogue around healthcare delivery and spiritual/emotional/religious issues,” says Rev. Joseph Leggeiri, PhD, Director of Pastoral Care and Education.

Offering an opportunity for the larger Jefferson community, the effort is an outgrowth of a summer core group drawn from clinical, research and educational areas.

“Our hope is that this society would engage Jefferson students and faculty, researchers, healthcare providers and members of area institutions and faith groups in an ongoing dialogue,” says Dr. Leggeiri. “We have a number of activities already planned including a December symposium, spiritual grand rounds, a book discussion group and a community speakers bureau.”

The symposium, “Illness Narratives: Embracing the Spiritual and Emotional in Healthcare Conversations,” is set for December 9 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in 101 BLSB and is free to Jefferson professionals. Arthur W. Frank, PhD, Professor of Sociology, University of California and author of several books is the keynote speaker.

“Conversations” is funded by a three-year grant from the Metaxenius Institute.

For more information, call Marianne Klumph at 215-955-6336.

AHA Honors Three from Jefferson Among Nine Top Researchers for 2003-04

The American Heart Association (AHA) of Southeastern Pennsylvania has named three Jefferson Medical College (JMC) researchers among the nine selected as AHA’s “Top Researchers for 2003-04.”

They are: Robert Barsotti, PhD, Associate Professor of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology, JMC; Dr. Barsotti’s research centers on the fundamental mechanisms of how calcium controls the intensity of heart muscle contraction.

Shiu-Ying Ho, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, JMC. Dr. Ho’s research centers on the absorption of lipids in the intestine. She uses the zebrafish as a living laboratory to try to understand more about a gene called fat-free, which when mutated, alters lipid absorption.

Donna Saunders Woulfe, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, JMC. Dr. Woulfe’s research focuses on the various biochemical messages that help activate the blood clotting process. The work may help scientists identify new targets for the treatment of heart attack and stroke.

National Allied Health Week November 7-13

National Allied Health Week will be held on November 7 to 13 to honor educators and providers in more than 80 allied health professions.

Jefferson College of Health Professions (JCHP) is celebrating with a wide variety of activities, including faculty and student appreciation days and public education events, and culminating with the JCHP Fall Open House on Saturday, November 13 at Jefferson Alumni Hall.

Representing 60 percent of all healthcare providers, allied health professionals support, assist and complement the roles of physicians and other healthcare specialists.

For more information about Jefferson’s Allied Health Week celebration, visit JCHP’s website at http://www.jefferson.edu/jchp
Congratulations to 913 Jefferson Employees Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries!

A total of 913 employees were honored for celebrating milestone anniversaries in 5-year increments of service from 40 to 45 years. More than 700 honorees and their supervisors filled The Ballroom at the Benjamin Franklin House for the gala celebration. Pictured are employees recognized for 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service. Joining each group of honorees, including Modesto G. Martinez, Hematology, 45 years, and Bobbie J. Luga, Rehabilitation Medicine, 40 years, are Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD, University President, and Thomas J. Lewis, Hospital President and CEO.

Randy Haines Named 2004 ‘International Energy Manager of the Year’

Randolph (Randy) L. Haines, Energy Manager for Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) and the Jefferson Health System (JHS) has been named the “International Energy Manager of the Year” by the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE).

In announcing the honor, the AEE said: “Randy was selected for this prestigious award based on his progressive energy management program, leading the advocacy of the importance of saving energy, and being a key facilitator and implementer of many energy-related projects throughout the JHS and the Thomas Jefferson University campus, saving more than $1.4 million per year. Randy has worked more than 20 years as a Facilities Manager, and has been instrumental in the development of energy management at Jefferson starting seven years ago.”

Mr. Haines is a very active AEE member, at both local and national levels. He joined the Greater Philadelphia Chapter in 1996, and has held the positions of Board-at-Large, Membership Chair, Vice-President, and President. In 2002, Randy received the Energy Manager of the Year from the Philadelphia chapter.

The JHS has an electrical peak of more than 60 megawatts, consuming more than 300 million kilowatt per year, 700,000 BTUs of natural gas, 325 million pounds of steam and 506 million gallons of water per year. It spends around $45 million a year on all its utilities.

In the past two years, Randy was responsible for designing, installing and operating more than $6.9 million in energy projects – from lamp and exit sign upgrades to steam trap modernization. In addition, Randy managed the installation of more than 250 electric, steam and water meters throughout JHS and the creation of a computerized system that automatically collects data for daily, weekly, and monthly reports.

To raise energy awareness of Jefferson’s 10,000 Center City employees, Randy conceived and edits a quarterly newsletter, Currents.

The AEE is a professional association with more than 9,000 energy professionals throughout the world. AEE’s roster of corporate members is a veritable “Who’s Who” from the commercial, industrial, institutional, governmental, energy services and utility sectors. AEE offers a variety of information outreach programs from technical seminars, conferences and certification programs.

Jefferson Researcher Using DOD Grant To Fight High-Risk Prostate Cancer

When prostate cancer spreads to the bones, it turns deadly. Some 90 percent of deaths from prostate cancer occur in patients whose disease has progressed to the bones.

Now, a Jefferson radiation oncologist plans to use a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to test the potential effectiveness of a new therapy aimed at thwarting the effects of the spreading disease.

“The strategy is to use bone-targeted agents upfront along with standard treatment – a combination of hormones and radiation – for high-risk prostate cancer,” says Richard Valicenti, MD, Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology at Jefferson Medical College and the Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson.

Dr. Valicenti is developing a clinical trial to study individuals at increased risk for having prostate cancer spreading to the bones, but whose disease has not shown any outward clinical signs of having done so to date.

He and his co-workers are using an agent that their research suggests will attack cancer cells that have spread from the prostate to bones. Dr. Valicenti says the agent “seems to primarily target prostate cancer sites that harbor bony metastases.”

“The thinking is that this will help improve a reduction in death rates from prostate cancer,” says Dr. Valicenti.

In 2004, an estimated 29,000 men will die of prostate cancer, with complications from bone metastases a contributing cause in most of the deaths. It is the second leading cause of cancer death in men.

The DOD award – 1 of 7 initial proposals to be funded – is initially for $100,000 for one year to develop an infrastructure to carry out a two-to-three-year trial. When he and his co-workers show the DOD that they have developed the necessary plan to carry out a Phase II trial, they will receive an additional $1 million from the government agency for three years.

Winner of a 2004 AOA National Student Research Fellowship is Timothy V. Wade, Jefferson Medical College (JMC) ‘05, seated at left. The award enables Mr. Wade to expand his research efforts in Parkinson’s disease, a goal of his as a medical student and a future physician. Standing behind him is Troy L. Thompson III, MD, Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, JMC, and faculty adviser to the Jefferson chapter of AOA, the National Medical Honor Society. Also shown are Florence Spencer, Education Coordinator, Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior and AOA Liaison, center, and, standing right, Brit Sanford, MD, Assistant Professor of Neurology and Assistant Professor of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology, JMC, and seated right, Mr. Wade’s research mentor, Jay S. Schneider, MD, Professor of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology.

The Jefferson Medical and Health Science Bookstore celebrated a Grand Opening Week at its new location at 1009 Chestnut St. The Kick-Off day had a Philadelphia theme, with a focus on local interest book titles, Jefferson authors, an appearance by The Fralinger String Band, gifts for employees and smiles all around.