



Focus

OCTOBER 2002

Breaking Ground for New Discoveries

Earlier this month, New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and the Brooklyn members of the Assembly awarded \$4 million toward the construction of the Downstate Advanced Biotechnology Incubator. These latest funds were infused with other state monies and funds from the City Council, the federal government, and the Brooklyn Borough President's Office.

This is good news indeed for Downstate, which on September 5 celebrated the groundbreaking for an advanced biotechnology incubator that promises to attract start-up biotech companies and other businesses to Brooklyn. Held under a large tent across the street from where the incubator facility is being built on Parkside Avenue, the ceremony was attended by representatives of business, government, and education.

Russell Bessette, MD, executive director of the New York State Office of

Science, Technology and Academic Research, offered congratulations on behalf of Governor George Pataki.

"Through strategic investments in initiatives such as the Advanced Biotechnology Incubator, the Governor has clearly recognized that biotechnology can be an engine for economic growth and prosperity," he said.

We were honored to have SUNY Chancellor Robert L. King come down from Albany to attend the ceremony. Noting that "investments totaling more than \$1 billion are transforming SUNY into one of the leading high-tech research universities in the world," the Chancellor praised Downstate for having the business acumen to bring good ideas from the lab to the marketplace. "There is a great tradition of discovery at this campus," he said. "This is the obvious next step."

Proclaiming the Chancellor an "honorary Brooklynite," Brooklyn



SUNY Chancellor Robert L. King and President John LaRosa break ground for the new biotechnology incubator facility.

Borough President Marty Markowitz predicted that the incubator facility will "elevate Brooklyn to a place of leadership in scientific research and discovery...and instill in our students a passion for learning and inquiry."

Other local legislators present included City Council Members Yvette Clarke and Tracy Boyland, who were instrumental in securing funding for the incubator. Representatives of the Mayor's Office and federal, city, and local economic development agencies also offered congratulations.

President John LaRosa acknowledged the contributions of many individuals who helped spearhead the incubator project, with special thanks to Dr. Eva Cramer, vice president for biotechnology



Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz proclaims September 5, 2002, to be SUNY Downstate Medical Center Incubator Grows in Brooklyn Day, as City Council Member Tracy Boyland (far left), Assemblyman William F. Boyland, City Council Member Yvette Clark, President John LaRosa, and State Senator Carl Andrews look on.

(continued on back page)

ALONG CLARKSON AVENUE

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, MRI

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Dr. Raymond Damadian's invention of one of the most powerful diagnostic tools that we have today—magnetic resonance imaging, more commonly known as MRI. To celebrate this milestone in medical history, Dr. Damadian has loaned us the prototype of the apparatus he built on campus, which he named the Indomitable and used to produce the first MRI scans of the human body.

For those who have not yet seen the exhibit near the entrance to HSEB, it is a worthwhile learning experience. In addition to original newspaper and magazine articles and the patent Dr. Damadian obtained in 1972, the installation shows life-size replicas of the inventor with his two graduate student assistants Larry Minkoff and Mike Goldsmith. Minkoff is shown seated within the Indomitable, waiting to be scanned.



Will the real Raymond Damadian, MD, please stand up.

COMMEMORATING 9/11

On the anniversary of the September 11 attacks, President John LaRosa encouraged campus members to gather in Alumni Auditorium, in the chapel, and elsewhere to share their feelings with others. Students played an important role in organizing the remembrance ceremony in the Auditorium and Atrium, as well as a candlelight vigil in the evening.

Here are scenes showing some of the ways that faculty, students, and staff chose to express their sentiments and memories of 9/11.



Some campus members found it easier to share their feelings in writing.



The Perioperative Services staff gather outside the OR following a tribute to the victims of 9/11 by Michael Donohue, RN, an ex-firefighter who lost more than 30 comrades in the attack.



Students from Xavier High School serve as honor guard during the remembrance ceremony in Alumni Auditorium.

2002 SEFA CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

Last year our campus raised close to \$1,437,000 for the State Employee Federated Appeal (SEFA), which contributes to more than 500 charitable causes. We've maintained a consistent lead as the largest donor organization in New York City. Under the leadership of campaign manager Lynne Reed-McQueen and SEFA loaned-executive Leslie Rogowsky, we have a good chance of winning the Governor's Cup again this year. So when SEFA solicitors come around to your office, please give generously.



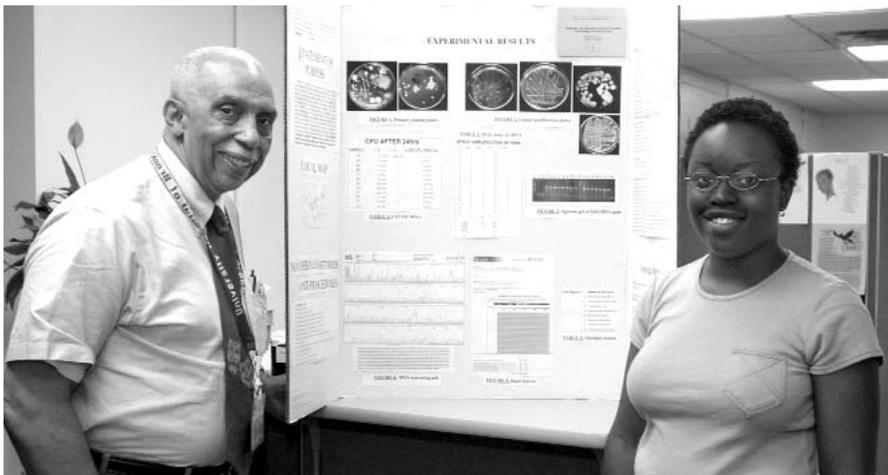
SEFA captains and solicitors, along with members of Downstate's leadership team, gather to kick off this year's State Employee Federated Appeal.

President La Rosa prepares to throw out the first pitch on SUNY Downstate Day at Keyspan Stadium.



photo op

photo op



Dr. Gerald Deas congratulates 18-year-old Olubunmi Adeosun, a semi-finalist in the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) science competition, sponsored by the Associated Medical Schools of New York and the N.Y. Department of Education. For her project, she collected water samples near the sanitation facility on Parkside Avenue and analyzed their microbial contents to see if they posed a public health hazard. Thanks in part to the preparation she received in the STEP program, administered on our campus by the Office of Minority Affairs, Miss Adeosun entered Trinity College in Connecticut this fall.

UHB

University Hospital of Brooklyn

news & events

UHB Celebrates Employees Recognition Day

To make up for the pouring rain that nearly drowned our float at the West Indian Day Parade, Mother Nature provided good weather on UHB Employees Recognition Day, celebrated in Prospect Park on September 18. Many staff members brought their families along for wild and crazy games, sports, dancing, and, of course, good eating. Congratulations to all the hard-working committee members who contributed to making this such an enjoyable event.



Thank You

It took a lot of work and creative energy, but the UHB Picnic Committee managed to pull it all together to make this year's Hospital Employees Recognition Day celebration a tremendous success.

Here are the folks who made it all happen at the UHB employees picnic.



New Appointment

Anne Kastor, MD, assistant professor of internal medicine, is the new medical director of our Center for Health Care Services at Midwood. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Dr. Kastor worked for several years as a health educator before entering medical school. She received her MD from UC San Francisco and completed her residency training at San Francisco General Hospital. A board-certified internist, Dr. Kastor's interests focus on women's health care, geriatric and preventive medicine, mental illness, and addiction.

Breast Cancer Awareness

Community lectures, nursing grand rounds, registering women for free or low-cost mammograms, and a walkathon in Prospect Park were some of the ways that UHB members helped observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month. To kick off the month-long series of events, members of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month Committee mounted an impressive information display adjacent to the cafeteria.

Interim Executive Director Jeannette Marrero and Dr. William Solomon join Betty Jung, Angela Kelly, Ellen McTigue, Maria Yomtov, Mildred Wilson, Bettina Willis, and Sarah Marshall at the kick-off for Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities.



Making Strides

Fifty walkers from Downstate joined thousands more from all parts of New York City in a walkathon through Prospect Park to raise money and build breast cancer awareness. This annual event is usually held in Central park, but this year, for the first time, the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk was held in Brooklyn. At the same time that the walkathon was going on in Prospect Park, some members of the Downstate Breast Cancer Awareness Month Committee helped lead a similar march along Jones Beach.

Walking alongside of breast cancer survivors and their families and friends was a great experience for the Downstate contingent. And best of all, they had the satisfaction of knowing that the \$6,000 they helped raise for the American Cancer Society will go toward supporting breast cancer research, education, and health care.



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and scientific affairs, and Assemblyman William F. Boyland, who fostered the original idea.

State Assemblyman Clarence Norman, Jr., in whose district Downstate is located, commented, "Sometimes people are cynical about what elected officials really bring to their community. This project shows that, with the right vision, there is no end to what we can accomplish. The best," he said, "is yet to come." ■

SAVE THE DATE

Nov 6 Pediatric Alumni Day, "Current Concepts of Evaluating and Caring for the Abused Child," sponsored by the Office of Continuing Education, 8 am-1 pm, Alumni Auditorium.

Nov 14 OR Open House, in celebration of Perioperative Nurse Week; 10 am-2 pm, A2-583.

Nov 17 International Conference of Judaism and Contemporary Medicine; Sponsored by the Office of Continuing Education; 8 am-6 pm, Alumni Auditorium.

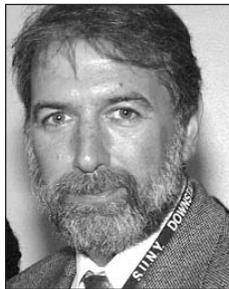
Nov 26 Employee Recognition Day, for employees celebrating 10, 20, or 30 years of service; noon, Student Center.

Dec 13 Women's Health Challenges on the Inner City. 9th Annual Conference, sponsored by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Office of Continuing Education, will focus on "Cancers of the Female Patient"; 8 am-4 pm, Alumni Auditorium. There will be a collation and dinner later in the day in tribute to John G. Boyce, MD, distinguished service professor emeritus. Call 270-2081 for further information.

Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

Four members of our campus were selected to receive the 2002 Chancellor's Award for Excellence. This commendation is reserved for individuals who exemplify the high purposes of the State University and demonstrate excellence in their fields. At a special award ceremony held in their honor, President John LaRosa awarded a medallion and certificate to the following individuals:

TEACHING EXCELLENCE



Peter Bergold, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology and neural and behavioral science, is co-director of the Neural and Behavioral Science Block of the second-year curriculum in the College of Medicine. In the School of Graduate Studies, Dr. Bergold serves as course director and lecturer for "Introduction to Neuroscience" and lectures in molecular and cellular biology courses. He also offers assistance in drafting scientific papers and thesis proposals culminating in a doctoral dissertation. In these and other ways, Dr. Bergold contributes greatly to the teaching efforts of the College of Medicine and School of Graduate Studies.

EXCELLENCE IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICE



Sophie Christorou, MS, has served as registrar and assistant dean of student affairs for the past eight years. Under her leadership, the Office of the Registrar has been modernized and equipped with a computerized student database system. She also made important improvements in the clinical rotation course scheduling for third- and fourth-year medical students, and helped ensure that scheduling changes required by the new curriculum went smoothly. Ms. Christorou has the trust of colleagues, faculty, and students, who have three times awarded her the Special Recognition Award—in 1998, 2001, and again this year.

EXCELLENCE IN LIBRARIANSHIP



Andrea Markinson, MLS, DPM, joined the Medical Research Library five years ago as assistant director of education. Her arrival coincided with the College of Medicine's development of a new curriculum that included a course in medical informatics. Dr. Markinson helped to introduce informatics and evidence-based medicine skills to medical students, and later to students in the Colleges of Allied Health and Nursing. She is also responsible for a broad array of teaching programs. Her teaching skills and innovative ideas have helped expand the library's role as an important resource for medical education and research.

EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH



William McAllister, PhD, has served as professor and chair of microbiology and immunology since 1986. For the past four years he has been PI on an NIH grant totaling more than \$1.7 million. Dr. McAllister's research is directed at understanding the fundamental aspects of how the transcription of genetic information in DNA into messenger RNA takes place. His work has important implications in the emerging field of nanotechnology and the information and computing sciences. It also holds great importance for Downstate through Dr. McAllister's involvement in our alliance with Polytechnic University and the development of our Biotechnology Park.

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