WHEN THE CLOCK strikes midnight on Jan. 1, the MGH community will ring in not only the new year, but also the start of the yearlong celebration of the 200th anniversary of the hospital’s founding. Many MGHers will be planning their own department’s bicentennial celebrations, and the entire hospital community is encouraged to join in the festivities by using the bicentennial logo, historical photos and helpful resources available in the Bicentennial Intranet Toolkit at http://intranet.massgeneral.org/bicentennial. Staff can use these items to “bicentennialize” an MGH event, document or presentation.

“This truly is an amazing time to be an MGH employee,” says MGH President Peter L. Slavin, MD. “While we pause and take a moment in 2011 to reflect on the rich history of the MGH, we look forward to the contributions this hospital can make to society over the next 200 years by enhancing patient care, developing groundbreaking research, delivering award-winning education to the caregivers of tomorrow and remaining steadfast in our longstanding commitment to our neighbors – locally and around the world.”

(Continued on page 2)

Bruins lace up to deliver toys

IN THE MIDST of a competitive season, players and staff from the Boston Bruins made their way up from the TD Garden Dec. 21 to visit pediatric patients at MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGHfC). Handing out toys, Bruins memorabilia and other gifts were goalie Tim Thomas, defenseman Johnny Boychuk and forward Greg Campbell.

“The visit was wonderful and cheered up the pediatric patients during this holiday season,” says Heather Peach, MS, CCLS, child life specialist, who organized the visit on behalf of MGHfC. “The players spent time with as many patients as they could while signing autographs and chatting with them. We are very appreciative of their visit.”

The Bruins players stopped by the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Unit in the Yawkey Center before making their way to the pediatric floors on Ellison 17 and 18.

“We are in a unique situation where showing up and meeting us is a thrill for the young patients, but for me, I know I’m just a normal guy,” says Thomas. “Coming here and seeing the smiles on their faces, seeing them be happy and taking their minds off their worries for a little while is all I could ever ask for.”
Among the highlights of 2011 MGHers can anticipate are the announcement of the birth of the MGH Bicentennial Baby, the ceremonial renewal of the MGH Charter – the document formally establishing the hospital – at the Massachusetts State House on Feb. 25, and the openings of the Lunder Building and the MGH museum.

“We invite all employees to take part in commemorating the hospital’s bicentennial,” says Lynn Dale, director of MGH Bicentennial Planning, Programming and Special Events. “There already are a number of hospital events that will have the bicentennial theme incorporated into their programs. For example, the Multicultural Affairs Office Alumni Reunion in February, the Scientific Advisory Committee meeting in April and the Warren Triennial Prize Symposium in October all will feature a look at the rich past and exciting future of the MGH in honor of the 200th anniversary.”

“The bicentennial is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to reflect on the extraordinary history of the MGH, its contribution to the lives of our patients and to the world,” adds David F. Torchiana, MD, chairman and CEO of the MGPO.

For a list of internal hospital events hosted by various departments, access the Bicentennial Intranet Toolkit at http://intranet.massgeneral.org/bicentennial. For questions about the bicentennial, contact Dale at ldale@partners.org or mgh2011@partners.org.

Lawrence “Larry” E. Martin

LAWRENCE “LARRY” E. MARTIN, who served in a number of positions at the MGH from 1949 through 1994 and most recently was a member of the MGH History Committee, died Dec. 16. He was 88 years old.

Martin joined the MGH in 1949 after responding to a classified ad seeking a cost accountant. He steadily gained responsibility as well as the respect of MGH leadership for his financial vision, creativity and overall business acumen. From 1951 to 1961, he served as comptroller of the MGH and from 1961 to 1974 as associate director of administration. During this time, Martin was integral in navigating the MGH across the then-new national landscape of Medicare and Medicaid. From 1974 to 1986, Martin served as associate general director at the hospital before being named senior vice president, a position he held until 1994. Martin continued to be involved with the MGH after his retirement, serving on the History Committee and contributing to the planning for both the MGH museum and the MGH bicentennial celebration.

“His capacity to work with all – the MGH trustee, executive and nonexecutive – was immense,” says Kay Bander, a former colleague and current member of the MGH Ladies Visiting Committee. “It was a privilege to work with and be guided by him.”

Martin played a significant role in guiding the planning of the Ellison and Blake buildings, the expansion of the MGH to Charlestown Navy Yard – home of the Lawrence E. Martin Laboratories – and the establishment of health clinics in Chelsea and the North End.

“Larry was all about taking care of our patients first, and that was always his number one priority,” says Jim Guiry, senior construction manager, who worked with Martin for 35 years. “He was a mentor and great friend to all of us here at MGH for many years.”

Martin is survived by his wife Dorothy, daughter Dawn, and son and daughter-in-law Bradford and Albine, as well as grandchildren Rory, Max, Anjalee and Ashley. To view a series of video clips featuring Martin providing a narrated history of the MGH, access www.massgeneral.org/history/exhibits/oralhistory.
Orthopædics staff make festive delivery

JUST AS SNOW began to fall in Boston on Dec. 20, Santa Claus and his elves arrived at MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGH/C) to deliver gifts to pediatric patients on the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Unit, Ellison 17 and 18, the Francis H. Burr Proton Therapy Center and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

The holiday appearance, organized by the Department of Orthopædics, has become a tradition over the last five years. Staff from the department purchase gifts, including fleece blankets, coloring books, hats and toys for children of all ages. The MGH Gift Shop, Imaging, and Nutrition and Food Services also contribute to the gift delivery.

“The holidays are about helping people feel happy, and that’s what we want to do,” said Santa Claus, who is closely related to Kevin Raskin, MD, of the Department of Orthopædics.

But Raskin credits other members of the department – Santa’s elves – for arranging the yearly donation. “The staff of the department really put everything together, I just bring Santa!”

Blood donors give twice in December

SANTA CLAUS made an early stop at MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGH/C) on Dec. 14, passing out stuffed animals and treats on behalf of individuals who donated blood at the Blood Donor Center during December. Through the Puppy Pals Program, each year the Blood Donor Center invites donors to write holiday messages to pediatric patients. The tags are then attached to gifts and delivered to the patients by Santa and his helpers. This year, the center provided more than 70 presents to young people.

“I was happy to know that my small donation of blood would benefit a child with a gift this holiday season,” says Donna Halliday, a patient service coordinator in the MGH Psychology Assessment Center, who donated blood at the center and filled out one of the gift tags.

Angels Above provide holiday smiles

THEIR HAPPY FACES and open arms are familiar to the staff on Ellison 17 and 18 and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Since 1996, Sue Horman, founder of Angels Above, and her friend Mary Beth Brunelle have visited MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGH/C), bringing gifts for the hospitalized children. On Dec. 16, Horman and Brunelle once again made a trip to the hospital and were joined by special guests from the North Pole, Santa and Mrs. Claus. They brought holiday-themed pajamas, socks, toys, crafts and games to help raise the spirits of the young patients.

Along with holiday gifts for the pediatric patients, Horman and Brunelle brought presents for the patients’ siblings and parents. They also provided a catered lunch for the patients, their families and MGH/C staff in the Ellison 18 Playroom, where pediatric outpatients joined in the festivities as well.

“I think it is awesome that they do this for the kids,” said Nathalie, mother of 14-year-old MGH/C patient Jeremy Wiles. “It distracts the kids and takes them out of their hospital rooms to spend time with other children and the staff. It is really nice.”

ANGELS ABOVE: From left, Sacha Field, MS, CCLS, child life specialist; Horman; Brunelle; Anne Bouchard Pizzano, MS, CCLS, child life specialist; Joanne Riley, RN, pediatric access nurse; MGH/C patient Jeremy Wiles; Santa and Mrs. Claus; and MGH/C patient Cody Dellamano
MGH Senior HealthWISE
MGH Senior HealthWISE is offering the following events for seniors ages 60 and older: a hypertension screening Jan. 3 from 1:30 to 2:30 pm at the Hill House, 127 Mt. Vernon St., and a seminar, “Macular Degeneration,” Jan. 6 from 11 am to noon in the Haber Conference Room with speaker Chirag P Shah, MD, MPH, of the Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston. For more information, call 617-724-6756.

2011 Run to Home Base
Registration is now open for the 2011 Run to Home Base, scheduled to take place May 22. Participants will complete a 9-kilometer course that ends at Fenway Park’s home plate. Each runner is required to raise $1,000, but it is also possible to help support veterans as a “virtual runner” or by donating directly. All proceeds from the race will benefit the Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital Home Base Program. For more information or to register, visit www.runtohomebase.org.

Online overview of RPDR
The MGH Clinical Research Program is offering “Online Overview of Research Patient Data Registry (RPDR)” Jan. 12 from 2 to 4 pm at 165 Cambridge St., Room 230. Stacey Duey, project specialist for Partners Research Computing, will provide an overview of RPDR functionality and demonstrate how researchers can use the RPDR to recruit patients and gather information for clinical studies. To submit an application for this class, access http://hub.partners.org/catalog. For more information, contact Lauren Michaels at lmichaels@partners.org.

Clinical research Internet recruitment and retention
The MGH Clinical Research Program is sponsoring “Internet Recruitment and Retention: IRB, Security and Web 2.0” Jan. 12 from noon to 1 pm in the Simches Research Center, Room 3.110. Melissa Abraham, PhD, chair of the Partners Human Research Committee, and Lynn Simpson, MPH, project analyst for Enterprise Research Infrastructure and Services, will review privacy considerations and use a case-based approach to discuss how the IRB views using the Internet and Web 2.0 for interacting with study participants. This program meets the requirements of the Board of Registration in Nursing at 244 CMR 5.00, for one contact hour of continuing education. To register, go to http://hub.partners.org/catalog. For more information, contact Lauren Michaels at lmichaels@partners.org.