

FACTS & FIGURES

We've got you covered

11.0%

New Hampshire residents without health insurance coverage

10.3%

Vermont residents without health insurance coverage

1.7 million

Outpatient visits to DHMC in FY05

21,254

Inpatient discharges from DHMC in FY05

95%

Percentage of FY05 patients discharged to New Hampshire or Vermont

\$18.8 million

Financial assistance provided by DHMC in FY05 to uninsured patients

9,495

Number of FY05 patients who received financial assistance

2,150

Additional patients served in FY05 through DHMC's support of clinics for uninsured, unemployed, and low-income patients

1,734

Number of patients who received support through DHMC in FY05 for the purchase of prescription medications



1st & 2nd

Rank of Vermont and New Hampshire, respectively, in the annual "healthiest state" rankings

SOURCES: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU (2003-2004 FIGURES), DHMC FY2005 ANNUAL REPORT AND COMMUNITY BENEFITS REPORT, MORGAN QUITNO PRESS'S HEALTH CARE STATE RANKINGS 2006

DMS Class Day 2006: Lots of good cheer despite absence of sun

Dr. Stephen Spielberg, DMS's dean, opened the 2006 Class Day ceremonies with an apology that "we could not be outdoors today." The graduates, faculty, and speakers—all in colorful academic regalia—had marched in behind a pair of bagpipers—Drs. James Feeney and Travis Matheny, both DMS '00s—into the College's Leede Arena. There, family and friends eagerly awaited their arrival on an inclement day. But, explained Spielberg, the occasion is about family and friends, those who sustained the graduates during their education, so their presence mattered more than the absence of sun.

Service: Dr. Antonia Novello, the 14th U.S. surgeon general and the first woman and first Hispanic to hold that office, gave the keynote address. Now New York State's health commissioner, Novello called the graduates "colleagues" throughout her speech and noted that she was impressed by their community service—from providing assistance to special-needs children to singing at hospitals and nursing homes.

She frequently interjected counsel, too. "The happiest people I know are those who go about their everyday lives doing good things for other people without asking 'What's in it for me?'" she said. "For a moment, colleagues, I want you to imagine a world in which 'we' would

replace 'I' as the operative pronoun. Think of the impact on learning and knowledge if there were intellectuality without arrogance."

Diverse: She laid down three serious challenges to the graduates: to respond to the needs of an increasingly diverse society; to work to eliminate disparities affecting the health of the nation's emerging majorities; and to approach their work with a professionalism that keeps medicine a sacred institution.

"If you . . . succeed in caring for all, you must become men and women who are concerned with discovering where your patients come from, where they've been . . . their total persona, their integral humanity," Novello said. "We must fight for a health-care system where all patients have access to doctors, clinics, specialists, diagnostic tests, and needed services."

"Control has been wrested from health-care professionals and is in the hands of bureaucrats, CEOs, and even politicians," she went on. "In these times I cannot help but wonder whether the essential humanity of medicine will survive. And I cannot help but ponder the way it once was and ask, 'Is there a doctor in the house?' I suggest . . . we must start to respond more directly to the needs of our patients and make ourselves heard as representatives of the communities we serve." (See page 64 for more of Novello's thoughts, in this issue's "Point of View" essay, which was adapted from her Class Day talk.)

She was followed by medical