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Boston University



Boston
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Medical
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Campus UPDATE

November 1989 Vol. 1 No. 2

Medical Campus computer network key goal of new department

The newly established Department of Informational Technology has its work cut out for it, including the installation and maintenance of a computer network for the Medical Campus and the development of computer applications for research.

According to Graham Ward, M.P.H., director of Informational Technology, one of the new department's main projects is setting up a computer network that provides central computer resources for research and administrative support.

"A major first step is the installation of a microwave link to the Charles River Campus," said Ward. "This link will operate at ten megabits per second, substantially faster than a modem connection." Ward expects the installation of the microwave link to be complete in about

New department
continued on page 2

Payroll office has 'T' passes

Faculty, staff and students can purchase MBTA passes at the Payroll Office, Robinson 3 (B-331). Although commuter rail passes are not available, the payroll office offers bus and "T" passes on the last five days of each month, except at the end of December, when the office is closed for Intersession. For more information, call Andrew Sheppard or Helena Tristao at 638-4539 (x4539) or 638-4596 (x4596). □



Sixty BUSM students recently participated in a flu-shot program for elderly people in the Boston area. Pictured here, Bindu Raju practices her flu-shot technique on classmate Cynthia Espanol while Michele Greenwald looks on. The students were instructed by nurses from the University Hospital's Home Medical Service, which offered the program.

GSGD offers first-of-its-kind program to give students hands-on experience

The Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry is beginning a unique dental education program this fall that will allow students to work side by side with dentists. Named APEX (Applied Professional EXperience), this innovative program allows students to integrate classroom study with paid, professional experience.

As part of the School's curriculum, the APEX Program places dental students, functioning as trained assistants or hygienists, in selected dental practices around the Boston area. "This kind of program has never been done in a dental school," said Madalyn Mann, director of the APEX Program. "The focus is ex-

periential. There's no better way to learn than by doing and seeing."

Besides giving students professional experience, APEX has several other benefits: the money that students earn on their rotations can help them meet the cost of their education; participating dental practices will gain highly motivated students assisting in their clinics; and students can establish professional contacts for the future.

"Perhaps the key benefit is that the program will help ease the students' transition from dental school into practice," said Mann. "It will give them the confidence they will need when they see their first patient." □

Parking changes take effect at Medical Center

Changes in parking in Lots A, B and C were implemented in mid-November and others are scheduled to occur, according to BUMC Parking Director John Sullivan. Although some of these changes had been planned for some time, Sullivan said, they were precipitated earlier this fall by two events: The completion of a Boston Water and Sewer project in a portion of Lot C, and the transfer of a portion of Lot A to the city to accommodate Boston City Hospital parking needs for patients, employees and visitors.

"These modifications were designed to improve conditions and to better ensure the overall safety and welfare of our parkers," Sullivan said.

Parking changes
continued on page 2

Play it safe, says parking director

Such security improvements as increased lighting and the placement of emergency call boxes in Lot C are aimed at providing a safer environment. However, as BUMC Parking Director John Sullivan points out, individuals can add to their personal safety by taking the following precautions:

Be aware of your surroundings; if you notice someone unusual in the area, report him or her to BU

Safety measures
continued on page 2

New department

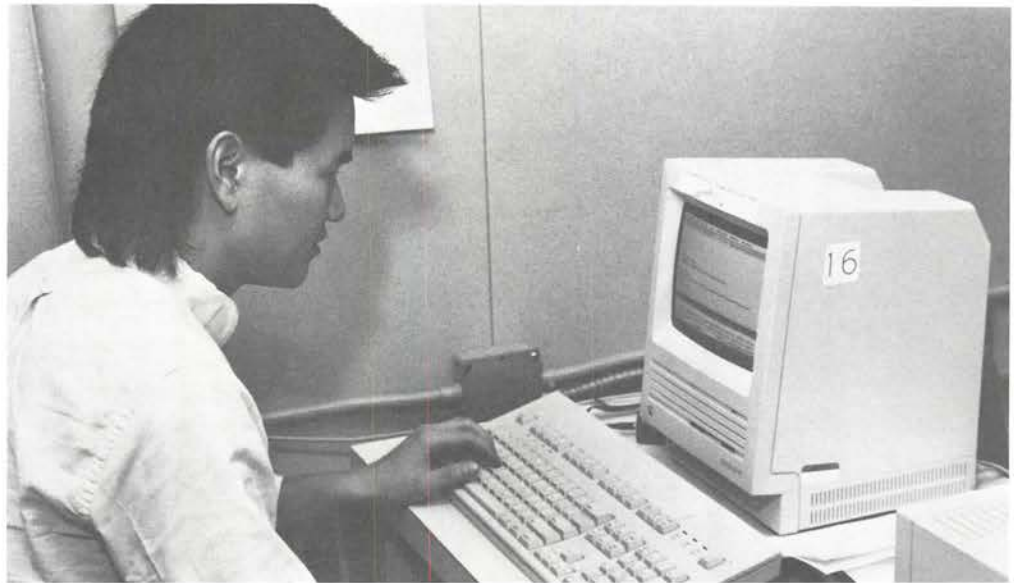
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six months. Placement of fiber-optic cabling to connect users to the microwave link will be done in phases and is expected to be complete in three to five years.

The Department of Informational Technology also conducts research to develop computer applications for medical education and research. In addition, if a department has a new software program or a new piece of equipment, Informational Technology can arrange training programs for faculty and staff members. Although the department is not yet equipped to meet all of the Medical Campus's support needs, the Medical Campus has contracted Information Technology Management Association (ITMA) to assist for a fee with support services.

Educational courses also are offered by the new department. At present, two sections of "Introduction to Personal Computers," a two-credit course, are being held, and Ward hopes to run a third section in January. "We'd like to encourage faculty, staff and employees to enroll in these courses, perhaps using tuition remission," Ward said. "These courses provide a good start for anyone who wants to get a leg up on the business of using a computer in the office." A course for pre-medical students also will be offered in January. Titled "Computers and Medicine," the course is designed to give students a sense of how they will use computers as they pursue their medical careers.

For more information about the Department of Informational Technology's educational programs, contact Doreen Nicastro, assistant director of the Department for Computer Education, at 638-5433 (x5433). To find out more about training programs and other services, contact the Department of Informational Technology at 638-8854 (x8854). □



Vincent Wang, a first-year BUSM student, works in the Student Computer Lab (SCL), one of the services provided by the Department of Informational Technology. The SCL, supported in part by the School of Medicine's Parents' Committee, contains IBM-compatible and Apple Macintosh computers. Located in the basement of the Instructional Building, the SCL is available free of charge to BUMC faculty, staff and students.

Parking changes

continued from page 1

The changes are as follows:

- **Lots A and B:** The space remaining after the transfer of spaces to BCH was merged with Lot B to form one lot, known as Lot A/B. This lot has been reconfigured and completely relined.
- **Lot C:** The entrance and roadway into Lot C was relocated to its original location of 18 months ago, approximately 100 feet east of the former Lot C booth. Also, the internal roadway was modified to ensure controlled circulation.

The hours for Lot C were changed from 24 hours, Monday through Friday, to 5 a.m. to midnight, Monday through Friday.

Increased lighting has been installed throughout the lot. Five emergency call boxes, located approximately 100 yards apart, are being installed along the roadway that abuts the Boston Flower Exchange. These emergency call boxes will provide a direct line to the Medical Campus Security Office.

Parking for second-shift personnel is now located in the area to the left of the relocated Lot C booth. The entrance to this area has been paved.

- **Public parking:** A portion of Lot A/B has been designated as public parking. The area is accessed through Lot C.

New public parking rates will go into effect on Jan. 1 and are as follows: \$3 for 0-2 hours; \$5 for 2-4 hours; \$8 after four hours. A flat rate of \$3 is planned for public parkers entering the lot after 3 p.m. □

A reminder about grant applications

Because of Intersession, grant applications due during the first week of January to any agency should be submitted to the Office of Sponsored Programs by mid-December. □

Safety measures

continued from page 1

Security, Sullivan said.

- **Travel in groups,** especially in the dark, and secure your belongings; don't carry a lot of cash at any one time.
- **Use the shuttle buses.** After the shuttle service ends each evening, use the Medical Center's escort service, which is operated by UH and is available nightly from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m., and 24 hours a day on weekends and holidays, according to UH Security Manager Kevin Tuohey. The service is available to BUMC and Boston City Hospital staffers upon request. Escorts are made to the Medical Center lots as well as to the Broadway station. BUMC staffers who want an escort must sign up at the Security desk outside the UH Emergency Room.
- **Remember to lock your automobile** and don't leave articles out in the open where they can attract the eye of possible thieves, Sullivan noted. □

Harris takes post as new Purchasing asst. director

Jessica Harris has joined the Department of Purchasing as its new assistant director. Harris, who previously served as a buyer for the Charles River Campus, will be responsible for the department's daily operations, including problem-solving and purchasing furniture for the Medical Campus.

"I'm looking forward to meeting the challenges that the Purchasing Department faces, as well as working with the Medical Campus," said Harris, who also is involved in other Medical Campus purchases, whether they are for instructional, clinical or maintenance purposes.

"Jessica has taken on a very difficult and challeng-

ing role," said Dick Bradshaw, director of the department. "She's doing a great job."

According to Bradshaw and Harris, the Purchasing Department must comply with certain policies and procedures in order to meet the purchasing needs of the Medical Campus. Although these procedures can involve paperwork and take time, the process will go much more smoothly if the purchase is planned in advance.

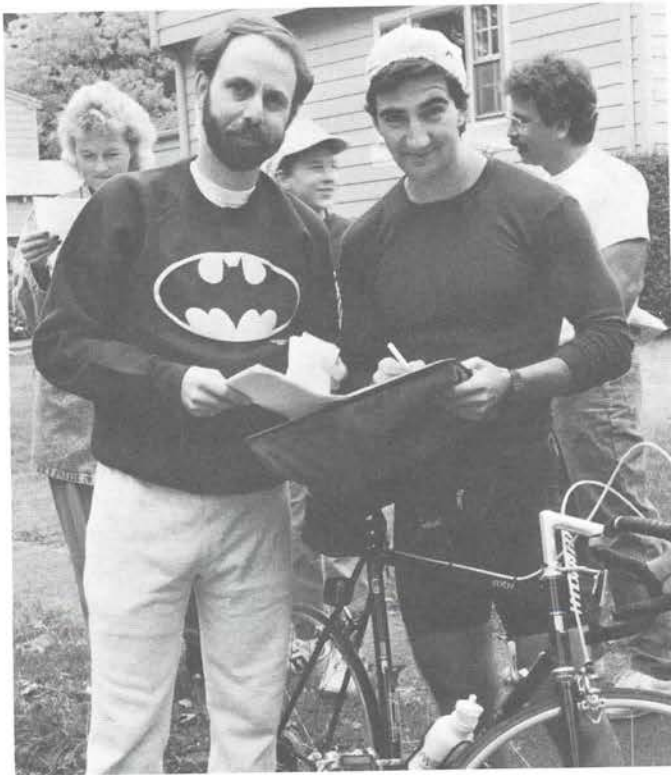
"If we can get advance notice of a purchase, Jessica or I can resolve problems before the order has to go out," Bradshaw said. "This gives us more time to respond to situations that have to be settled more quickly."



Dick Bradshaw, director of the Purchasing Department, consults with Jessica Harris, Purchasing's new assistant director.

Many Medical Campus employees don't realize that they can work with the Purchasing Department before they are ready to place an order. "We're here to assist someone who's just looking to buy something or needs help with planning or budgeting," Bradshaw said.

"Whether someone wants to buy a microscope or a computer, we can help determine which brand or product will best serve their needs," added Harris. "If anyone has any questions about the procurement process, they should feel free to call us." □



Lawrence Zoller, Ph.D., (left), an associate professor of anatomy, and Paulo Nogueira, a student at the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry, go over final details before embarking on "The Zoller Insanity Ride to Combat Leukemia," held on the South Shore on October 15. The 50-mile bike ride, which had many dental students participating, raised approximately \$1,000 to combat juvenile leukemia.

BayBank cash dispenser now active in Instructional Building

The recently installed Bay-Bank X-Press 24 Cash Dispenser in the basement of the Instructional Building has been activated and is ready for use. With a Bay-Bank account, faculty, staff and students can make withdrawals, check their account balances, transfer

funds and obtain up-to-date information on account activity. Making withdrawals and checking account balances are possible through an account with a bank that is a member of the Express 24, Cirrus or NYCE Networks. □

Poetry competition for medical students has Dec. 31 deadline

Medical students who enjoy expressing themselves through poetry should not miss the chance to enter the eighth annual William Carlos Williams poetry competition. The competition is open to medical students throughout the United States and Canada. Poetry must be submitted by December 31, 1989. Winning poems will be announced by March 31, 1990,

and will be reviewed by the editors of *The Journal of the American Medical Association* for possible publication. The top three poets will be awarded \$300, \$200 and \$100, respectively. For more information, contact the Human Values in Medicine Program, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, P.O. Box 95, Rootstown, Ohio 44272; (216) 325-2511. □

Howard Lin, a BUSM student, tests his grip strength at a fitness fair celebrating National Physical Therapy Week. Sponsored by Employee Relations and the Physical Therapy Department at University Hospital, the fitness fair gave members of the Medical Center community an opportunity to measure their body fat and lung capacity. Out of the men who had their body fat measured, Lin had the lowest percentage—a mere 12.2 percent.



Kit available for testing radon-gas level in the home

Exposure to radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas, continues to be a health problem, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It is estimated that 5,000 to 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year may be attributed to indoor radon.

Because radon is colorless and odorless, many people may not realize that their homes could have high levels of the gas. In a state survey, the EPA found almost 22 percent of the tested homes exceeded EPA

levels. The EPA recommends that every home and apartment up to the second level be tested for radon.

The BUMC Radiation Protection Office participates in the voluntary Radon Proficiency Program of the EPA. The cost is \$20 for a radon-gas test and analysis. A lower fee is available for students. For more information on how to obtain a radon-test canister or a follow-up test, call 638-7052 (x7052). □



Lorraine Josof, Ed.M., an associate director of administration in the Division of Medical and Dental Sciences at BUSM, recently was announced a winner of the "WJIB Caters to Your Work" contest. As a winner, Josof invited 25 guests from the Medical Campus to feast on a catered lunch from the Averof Restaurant. Josof is pictured here with WJIB promotional director, Lou Bortone (right), and WJIB midday host, Gene Gerry.

'Soul Catchers' on display at Bates Art Center

"Soul Catchers," a collection of sculptures and paintings by Gertrude Michel, is being exhibited at the Bates Art Resource Center Gallery through Dec. 12. Michel's work is based on the "soul-catching" quality of Kachina dolls, which are spiritual representations in ceremonies of the Hopi and Zuni Native Americans of New Mexico. Soul

Catchers, presented by HOME, Inc., is on view Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Mondays and Fridays by appointment. The Bates Art Resource Center is located at 731 Harrison Ave. For more information, call HOME, Inc. at 266-1386. □

BUMC director's office relocates

The office of Medical Center Director Richard H. Egdahl, M.D., has moved from the Doctors Office Building, 11th floor, to the Robinson Building, Suite 324 (B-324).

Lorraine Peters, assistant to the director, also now is located in the Robinson Building, Suite 320 (B-320). Although the addresses for Egdahl and Peters have changed, the telephone numbers remain the same.

To reach Egdahl, call 638-8100 (x8100), and to reach Peters call 638-8116 (x8116). □

Campus Update is published monthly by the Boston University Medical Campus Office of Business Affairs, William J. Gasper, assistant vice president. Article ideas may be addressed to Gasper or to Michael J. Donovan, director of Personnel. The publication is edited and produced by the Office of Publication Services, Owen J. McNamara, director, Angela Cochran, Ted Moncreiff, editors/writers. Staff artist is Catherine LeBlanc. Photos by David Keough, Lucy Milne and Bruce Spector.