

Boston University

OpenBU

<http://open.bu.edu>

BU Publications

Campus Update

1990-03

Campus Update: March 1990 v. 2, no. 3

<https://hdl.handle.net/2144/18734>

Boston University



**Boston
University
Medical
Campus**

Campus UPDATE

March 1990

Vol. 2 No. 3

Medical Students

**See page 4
for employment,
fellowship,
research and
scholarship
opportunities.**

For computers, microwaves are the wave of the future

by Sue Plumb

The roof of the School of Medicine's Instructional Building was recently outfitted with a microwave dish. Resembling a small satellite dish, this newly-installed piece of equipment is crucial to the Department of Information Technology's goal of implementing a new, more efficient computer network.

According to Graham Ward, M.P.H., director of the Department of Information Technology, the new Campus-Wide Fiber Optic Network has the potential to enable all computer-users on the Medical and Main Campuses to communicate easily and efficiently with one another via their computer terminals.

Computers communicate with one another by sending small packages of information called bits, explains Ward. "Presently, a device called a modem is necessary to send these bits."

Unfortunately, he ex-

Microwave
continued on page 3

Radon: Deadly threat to an apathetic public

by Cynthia Paradis

Radon—a naturally occurring gas that results from the breakdown of radium, an element frequently found in soil—is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. According to the Environmental Protec-

tion Agency, 5,000 to 20,000 lung-cancer related deaths each year result from exposure to radon gas.

A recent survey of 269 BUMC employees' homes—conducted by Victor Evdokimoff, M.S., C.H.P., director of the Medical Center's Radiation Protection Office—

revealed that 44 homes exceeded the EPA guideline of 4 picocuries of radon per liter of air. The highest reading among the employee homes surveyed was 67 picocuries per liter of air.

The survey results further

Radon
continued on page 2



Howard Miller, director of Food Services, presents School of Medicine student R. Helen Tulloh '93 with a dozen roses and a box of chocolates, first prize in a Chequers Cafe St. Valentine's Day drawing. Nearly 1,000 people entered the drawing by purchasing a muffin and beverage at Chequers Cafe during early February.

Safeguard your vision with free glaucoma testing

The Gundersen Eye Center will sponsor a free glaucoma-screening clinic, open to all Medical Center employees and their families, Thursday, March 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Glaucoma, an eye disease characterized by gradual loss of vision, is the second leading cause of blindness in the United States. The disease most commonly afflicts African-Americans, persons over the age of 35, and those with a family history of the disease. It is important to note that when diagnosed

early, blindness resulting from glaucoma is preventable in nearly all cases.

Dwayne Baharozian, M.D., an ophthalmology resident at the Gundersen Eye Center, emphasizes the insidious nature of glaucoma, characterizing the disease as a "silent threat." "It's not like heart disease," he says, referring to the various warning signs that frequently indicate heart problems. "Glaucoma just creeps up on you, and there is really no way of knowing whether you have it unless you are screened for the disease."

According to Baharozian, the glaucoma-screening test is a fast and painless process, taking just a few minutes in most cases. Contact-lens wearers, he notes, should be prepared to remove their lenses prior to testing.

To make an appointment or for more information, contact the Gundersen Eye Center, located on the 10th floor of the Doctors Office Building, at 638-8350 (x8350).

Glaucoma
see photo, page 3

Radon*continued from page 1*

show that only 13 of the 44 homeowners with elevated levels of radon requested follow-up testing from the Radiation Protection Office—the next crucial step when such levels are detected.

"The public is clearly apathetic to testing, as well as to fixing radon problems," Evdokimoff states. The reason, he speculates, may be that homeowners are concerned that high levels of radon would lower the resale value of their homes. "I think this could be an economic issue for many, rather than a health issue. People don't want to know, so they won't test," he said.

The homes of the Medical Center and Charles River Campus employees tested are located in 71 cities and towns throughout Massachusetts, as well as in four neighboring states. Approximately 120 of the 269 homes are located in Boston, Cambridge, Brookline or Newton, while 140 others are scattered throughout 67 other communities.

In addition to employees' homes, all BUMC buildings were tested and found to contain acceptable levels of radon.

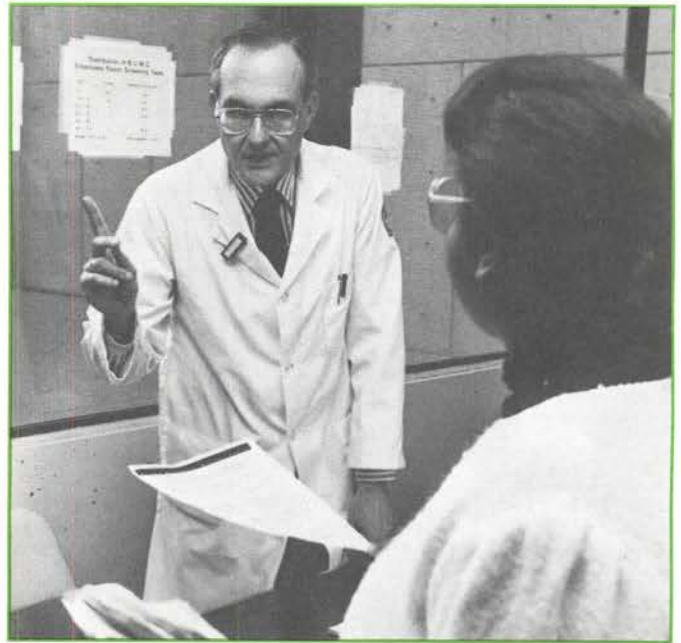
It is important to note that there is no correlation between radon levels and the location of the homes tested, according to Evdokimoff. "Each case is house-specific. We have encountered next-door neighbors whose radon readings have varied by factors of two or three. There is no way to predict radon levels; you just have to test."

Evdokimoff encourages the use of trained professionals in all instances in which high levels of radon are detected, in order to ensure a thorough, professional job. The Radiation Protection Office recommends a number of professionals who, Evdokimoff is confident, will not "take advantage" of employees.

Evdokimoff also points out that, "A house isn't [necessarily] contaminated just because a homeowner gets a high screening." Follow-up testing to assess *annual average* radon levels may reveal levels within the limits set by the EPA.

The 16 percent of employees' homes found to contain elevated levels of radon gas compares to 21 percent of homes statewide, according to a 1988 study of 2,000 homes conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Evdokimoff, an assistant professor at the School of



Victor Evdokimoff, director of the Medical Center's Radiation Protection Office, shares information regarding the dangers of radon gas with an employee during Radon Awareness Day, Jan. 24. The Radiation Protection Office offers a radon-testing service to Medical Center employees for a nominal charge.

Public Health and the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry, received one of four fellowships awarded to School of Public Health faculty to pursue the study of radon. The group of four, led by David Ozonoff, M.D., chief of Environmental Health at SPH, has focused its attention on four key areas: attitudes toward testing, alleviation of the problem, testing services and the role of radon

in real estate transactions.

The Radiation Protection Office offers an EPA-certified, household radon-testing service to BUMC employees for \$20. The service is offered to medical students for \$10. There is a \$10 fee for follow-up tests, as well.

For further information or to obtain a radon test kit, contact the Radiation Protection Office at 638-7052 (x7052). □

Scholarship honors memory of Goldman School's Paraskis



A scholarship fund has been established in the name of Charles S. Paraskis, in honor of his 20 years of service to the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry as a professor of Prosthodontics. Paraskis died suddenly at Brockton Hospital in late January at the age of 73.

A scholarship to benefit dental students has been established in memory of Charles S. Paraskis, D.M.D., a professor of Prosthodontics at the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry.

Paraskis, who died suddenly in late January, practiced in Holbrook and taught prosthetic dentistry at the Goldman School for the past 20 years.

In addition to lecturing nationally and internationally, Paraskis was involved in several professional dental organizations and was past president of the American Prosthodontic Society.

Among his many interests, Paraskis was fascinated with the history of articulators in dentistry and was writing a book on the subject. His collection and documentation of articulators was the focus of a 1981 exhibit at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., and is currently on display in the lobby of the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry.

Those wishing to contribute to the Paraskis Scholarship Fund may send their contributions to the GSGD Development Office, 100 East Newton Street, Room G-308, Boston, Mass. 02118; (617) 638-4891. □

Microwave*continued from page 1*

plains, modems are capable of sending only 1,200 to 2,400 bits per second. In addition, modems require the use of telephone lines, which can prove inefficient in a number of respects. In addition to busy signals and a problematic noise level, communication via telephone lines can be slow, often requiring up to 10 minutes to send a single file of information.

With the installation of the microwave link, the need for modems will be

eliminated, says Ward. Any two computers that are hooked up to the system will be able to communicate directly, with greater speed and efficiency. He estimates that the microwave link will enable users to transmit information at a speed of 10 million bits per second, an increase in speed of more than four thousand percent.

The new system is still on the ground floor of development, Ward indicates, but he says he hopes that limited service will be available by July 1, 1990.

"A special equipment shed

must first be built on the Charles River Campus in order to complete the link," he explains. "Once the link is complete, however, the system will be accessible to all departments arranging for hook up."

Looking to the future, Ward speculates that the new system may extend far beyond the confines of the Boston University Campus. "Through a larger network called Bitnet," he explains, "communication may be possible not only campus-wide, but also world-wide." □

Business travelers: Don't leave home without it

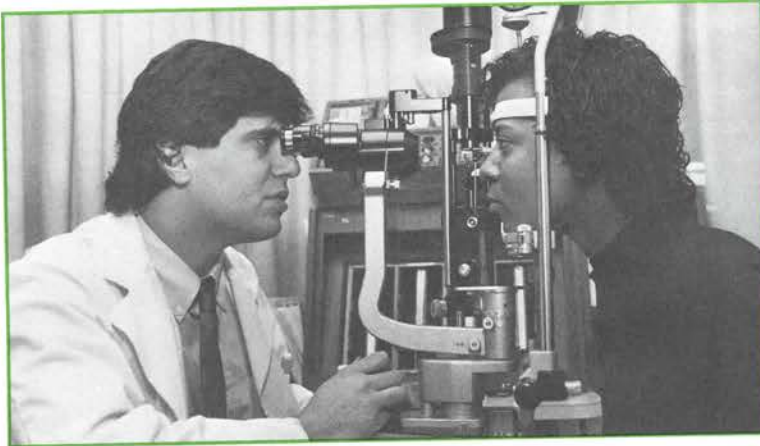
Employees traveling on business should know that the Boston University Corporate Credit Card from American Express can simplify life on the road and help travelers get down to business.

In addition to reducing the need for cash advances and the risks attendant upon carrying large amounts of cash, the American Express Corporate Card provides automatic accident, car rental and personal property insurance, as well as check-cashing privileges at participating motels, hotels and American Express Service Centers.

What's more, an unlimited credit ceiling allows the card to easily accommodate extended trips or unforeseen expenses.

The corporate card is provided at no cost to eligible employees. For more information or to obtain a card, contact the Medical Campus Office of Financial Affairs at 638-5346 (x5346). □

Glaucoma screening: 'Fast, painless and effective'



Dwayne Baharozian, M.D., of the Gundersen Eye Center, examines Annette Scott for glaucoma, the second-leading cause of blindness in the U.S. The Gundersen Eye Center is sponsoring a free glaucoma-screening clinic, open to Medical Center employees and their families, Thursday, March 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. (see story, page 1)

Lunchtime seminars address problems plaguing working parents

The Parent Services Department on the Charles River Campus, a cost-free resource and referral service available to parents of the Boston University community, is offering several seminars of interest to working parents. The following is a list of upcoming seminars, both on the Medical and the Charles River Campuses.

Working Parents Brown-Bag Luncheon Series (Medical Campus)

This discussion series will highlight issues that parents confront as they struggle with their work and family responsibilities. Each of three discussions will entail a brief presentation followed by group discussion. Issues discussed will include family roles and expectations and managing stressful times during the workday. The three-part series will be conducted on three consecutive Thursdays—March 22, March 29 and April 5—from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., and will be held in the AB Conference Room in the University Hospital's Atrium Pavilion. The discussion will be led by Marcia Wagner, director of the Faculty and Staff Assistance Program, and by Nikki Sibley, director of the Parent Services Department. Call the Faculty Staff Assistance Program at 353-5381 to reserve space for the series.

Helping Your Child Choose the Right College (Charles River Campus)

Topics for this brown-bag lunch seminar include: when

and how to begin looking for a college, financial aid options, and qualifications colleges seek. The seminar will be held April 10, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., in the Thurman Room, Marsh Chapel, 735 Commonwealth Ave. Representatives of the Boston University Office of Admissions will lead the discussion. Call the Parent Services Department at 353-5942 to reserve space.

Live-In Child Care: An Affordable Option (Charles River Campus)

This brown-bag lunch seminar will be led by Diane Swartz and Jane Dexter of Knightsbridge Associates, a professional consulting service specializing in matching families with the right nanny. Learn how to effectively advertise, interview, and hire a nanny. The seminar will be held April 24, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., on the first floor of the Parent Services Department, 25 Buick Street. Contact the Parent Services Dept. at 353-5954 to reserve space.

April School Vacation Program (Charles River Campus)

This short-term day-care alternative will be available during the public-school vacation, from April 17 to 20, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Children in kindergarten through grade five are eligible to attend. The program will be held in the Case Center at Rich Hall on the Charles River Campus. Cost is \$100. Call the Parent Services Department at 353-5954 to reserve space. □

Opportunities open to B.U. medical students

The following list details employment opportunities, fall internships, fellowship programs, medical education courses, scholarships and awards, and summer research programs available to Boston University medical students.

Employment opportunities

Camp Tanuga (Michigan)

Northern Michigan summer camp for children, ages 6-15. Openings for counselors, specialists and others. Mid-June through mid-August. For more information, call the camp at (313) 354-7400.

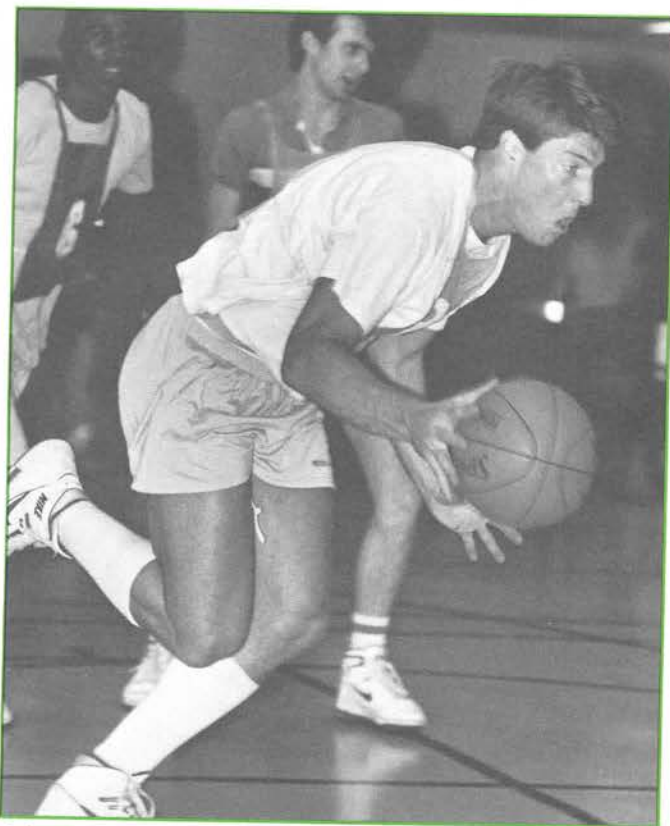
Floating Hospital

Unique health-education facility offering comprehensive health-care and health-education programs for low-income families and senior citizens while sailing New York's waters. June 6-Aug. 17, 1990. Deadline: April 15, 1990.

Fellowship programs

Delaware Academy of Family Physicians

Summer Fellowship Program. Spend a week with each of six different family physicians throughout the state of Delaware. Summer 1990 program. Open to all medical students. Deadline: May 1, 1990.



School of Medicine student Mark Dougherty '93 drives across the court in a recent basketball game at the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center between the BUSM Schlemrocks and the UH Security Green Team. The Green Team out-hooped the Schlemrocks, 51-34. Teams representing the School of Medicine, the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry, the Fuller Mental Health Center, Boston Edison and the University Hospital compete Wednesday evenings, beginning at 6:15 p.m., in the SCFMHC gymnasium. Regular season action ends in April; playoffs begin in May.

University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Fellowships in Cancer Epidemiology. Training and research opportunities in cancer etiology and prevention.

Medical education courses

University of British Columbia

Graduate Studies in Experimental Medicine. M.Sc.- and Ph. D.-degree research program. Detailed information available upon request.

Utica College of Syracuse University

Medical Education Summer Program. Observe small-city and rural-medical practices. Eight-week program, from late May through August. Open to first- and second-year students. Deadline: April 1, 1990.

Volunteers for Israel

Summer 1990 Medical Program. Observe procedures in Israeli hospitals and tour medical facilities throughout the country. Flexible three-week program. Open to all medical students. Deadline: April 23, 1990. For more information, contact Volunteers for Israel at (212) 643-4848.

Scholarships and awards

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Training Program

Medical Student Program in Alcohol and Other Drug Dependencies. Three-week Summer 1990 program at one of 16 institutes and summer schools of alcohol and drug studies. Open to all medical students. Students encouraged to call individual programs for enrollment information.

Summer research programs

American Geriatrics Society

Summer Institute in Geriatrics. Aug. 6-11, 1990, at Boston University School of Medicine. Open to third-year medical students. Deadline: April 15, 1990.

Mount Sinai Hospital (Hartford, Conn.)

Summer Clinical Research Program 1990. Students complete eight-week summer clinical research project. Open to first- and second-year medical students. Deadline: April 15, 1990.

Tibet/Nepal

International Health Expedition. Expedition to remote village in Mt. Everest region of Nepal or Tibet to conduct survey of health conditions. Expeditions run June 20-July 21, 1990 (length, number of expeditions contingent upon enrollment). Open to all. Tentative deadline: May 16, 1990.

United Jewish Appeal

Summer Medical Students Mission to Israel '90. Fourteen-day mission to Israel for medical studies. June 17-July 1. Open to all medical students. Deadline: April 2, 1990.

For more information on any of the opportunities listed above, contact the BUSM Student Affairs Office, Instructional Building, Rm. L-109, at 638-4166 (x4166).

Note: B.U. faculty with summer-research opportunities available to B.U. medical students should notify Susan Mahair at the Student Affairs Office, Rm. L-109, in writing. □

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 Mr. Gasper or to Michael J. Donovan, director of Personnel. The publication is written and produced by the Office of Publication Services; Owen J. McNamara, director; Ted Moncreiff, editor/writer. Staff artist is Catherine LeBlanc. Photos by David Keough, Rose Marston, Lucy Milne.