

Boston University

OpenBU

<http://open.bu.edu>

BU Publications

Campus Update

1990-06

Campus Update: June 1990 v. 2, no. 6

<https://hdl.handle.net/2144/18740>

Boston University



Boston University Medical Campus

Campus UPDATE

June 1990

Vol. 2 No. 6

Constance MacDonald: 44 years of service to BUSM

Since 1946, Constance MacDonald has served as administrative assistant to the dean of the School of Medicine. In its 117-year history, the School has had 17 deans; MacDonald has worked with 11 of them.

Her responsibilities as the dean's right hand include planning special events—such as commencement, the Kaufman Lecture, student/faculty teas and receptions—and handling faculty appointments. Basically, she says, her role was the same when she first came to BUSM.

"It seems to me that in a sense [my job] hasn't changed a lot. It's just that the times have changed, and the approaches have changed and certainly we have many more people working here now," she

MacDonald
continued on page 2

Time for new permits for medical center parking lots, p. 3.



Amid the old elegance of Boston's Opera House, School of Medicine graduates and their families and friends celebrate commencement.

Putting the pomp into commencement: A team effort among BUSM departments

For most BUSM graduates and their families, commencement was a brief but grand ceremony. For many of the School's faculty and employees, however, commencement involved months of arduous planning.

"It really was a big team effort," says Susan Mahair, student affairs officer, who is responsible for "anything involving students," from providing caps and gowns to arranging their seating. "Everyone really worked well together."

Planning for commencement, perhaps the School's most important annual event, begins months beforehand and involves

many departments. Constance MacDonald, administrative assistant to the dean, oversees much of the planning and contracts the outside services needed, such as the caterer for the luncheon and the official photographer for the ceremonies. The responsibilities of William McNary, Ph.D., associate dean of student affairs, and the Student Affairs Office include making sure that award-selection committees submit the winners' names and that students complete the requirements for their residency programs.

Commencement
continued on page 4

Planning for the future

BUMC/BCH shape long-term transportation plan with state, federal transit authorities

by Cynthia L. Lepore

Members of a Boston University Medical Center/Boston City Hospital transportation task force are formulating a long-term plan to better promote the transportation needs of the South End medical area and to provide improved access to those who visit it.

Within the last year, task force members—who include representatives from the Boston University Medical Campus, the University Hospital and neighboring Boston City Hospital—have held several meetings with officials from the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) in an effort to "get people to and from this area more easily" says John Sullivan, director of parking services at BUMC. According to his statistics, the number of people who provide their own modes of transportation as opposed to those who take public transportation—about an eight-to-one ratio—is "out of proportion to what it should be, when compared to other areas."

"The overall bottom line is that we need more frequent public transportation service, more reliable ser-

Transportation plan
continued on page 2

MacDonald*continued from page 1*

notes. "I probably did a lot more detailed work then, because in those days there was just one small budget for the entire medical school. Now each area in the School has its own budget. That creates a huge business."

Witness to School's growth

When MacDonald first came to BUSM, the dean's office consisted of a staff of two people and the School had only ten academic departments. Now, there are 18 assistant and associate deans, 24 academic departments and a growing number of students and faculty.

"I can't remember what the number of faculty was back in those days, but the student body was so small then, and the faculty was small. Now everything has expanded....that entails a lot more work of course," MacDonald says.

During the time that MacDonald has been at BUSM, the physical layout of the School has changed dramatically. A few of the older buildings have been torn down while others, such as the Conte Medical Research Center, have been renovated. In addition, a number of new facilities have been constructed, in-



Constance MacDonald has served as administrative assistant for 11 deans and says that adjusting to each new dean has been challenging: "It was like having a new boss everytime you turned around."

cluding the Instructional Building.

"Yet we still don't have enough space. I guess it's the old theory: the larger the desk, the more you fill it up," comments MacDonald. "For me personally, the building boom reflected on what I did. More people and more space require more energy and more hours."

Dedication to the School

MacDonald's dedication to the School has not gone unnoticed. In 1983, she was presented with the Boston University Faculty Council's Distinguished Service Award, and at the com-

mencement exercises of that same year, William McNary, Ph.D., associate dean of student affairs, presented her with a special award honoring her many years of service to the School.

After working at BUSM for so many years, MacDonald says her favorite memories are of the many lasting friendships that she has formed here. "There really is a sense of family here at the School," she says. "One of the School's great assets is the sense of camaraderie you feel. You seem to know almost everybody here. It makes the School

seem not such a great, sprawling place."

Many of MacDonald's friends now are retired, and they are suggesting that she should do the same. MacDonald, however, isn't convinced. "Maybe I would fall apart without the School," she says. "I keep saying to my friends, 'What would I do?'"

So what does MacDonald look forward to in the future? "I don't have any plans for the future. Everything is fine," she states. "I'm happy if other people are. If you're in a state like that, I guess it's the way to stay." □

Transportation plan*continued from page 1*

vice and a better identification of the area," Sullivan suggests.

With only two bus routes that stop directly at UH and three others that stop down the road at BCH, the inter-institutional task force is looking into ways to improve existing bus routes and to establish additional routes.

The task force and MBTA also are exploring the feasibility of constructing two bus shelters—one on East Concord Street and the other in front of the Atrium Pavilion on East

Newton Street—that will centralize all of the bus routes that serve the institutions.

Will apply for state grant

By forming a "transportation management association," members of the task force hope to apply for grant funds from the federal Urban Mass Transit Administration (UMTA) to continue the planning process. "We must do extensive planning in order to mitigate the negative effects of such major projects as the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel Project," Sullivan says. □

Summer schedule for SCL

The Student Computer Lab, which is available free of charge to BUMC faculty, staff and students, has a new schedule for the summer. The SCL's summer hours are as follows:

- Monday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Located in the basement of the Instructional Building, the SCL contains IBM-compatible and Apple Macintosh computers.

Becoming EMT-certified: An important step for campus security

by Sue Plumb

Two members of the Medical Campus security staff, Sergeant Constance Bettencourt and Officer Vincent Conti, recently have become certified as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)—an important step in improving campus security.

"There is no greater service we can provide than emergency medical response," says Director of Security Richard G. Natoli. Eventually, Natoli aims to have five or six officers EMT-certified and his entire staff certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as part of his overall efforts to upgrade security around the Medical Campus. "I want students and faculty to realize that we are able and ready to respond to any calls for assistance," says Natoli.

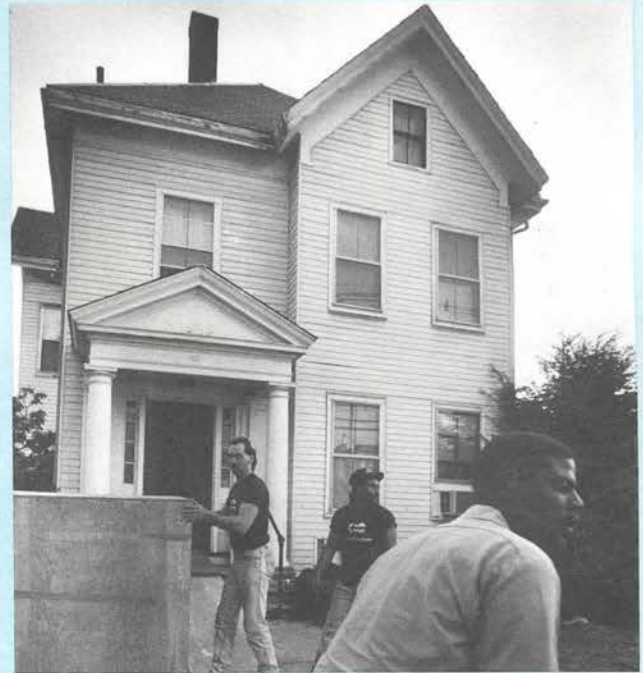
To become EMT-certified, Bettencourt and Conti had to complete a 120-hour course given at Boston's Northeastern University. In addition to passing written examinations, they had to demonstrate that they can splint broken bones, use

spine boards (for motor-vehicle accidents), treat shock and trauma cases, deal with emergency childbirth and transport patients.

EMT course an essential part of security training

Bettencourt believes the course is an essential part of her training as a security officer and expects to put her new training to use around the Medical Campus. As a member of Campus Security, she deals with a wide variety of problems—from episodes of fainting to critical security issues—and she must be able to take action in any situation.

"Even though we are in a medical environment, surrounded by doctors and medical staff, we've had instances where people have needed first aid attention and we must be able to respond," Bettencourt says. "There are hospitals on all sides of us, but in certain cases it takes time to get assistance. Having security officers who are able to transport people, so they can be treated quickly, is a big advantage to the campus." □



Movers remove the final items from the white house on Lincoln Street, former home to the Framingham Heart Study.

Heart Study moves from white house on Lincoln St.

The Boston University Framingham Heart Study recently moved out of the white house on Lincoln Street, made world-famous by the pioneering study. The white house had been home to the study since 1948, when researchers began studying Framingham residents to identify risk factors that could lead to heart dis-

ease. In fact., the Boston University/heart-study researchers coined the phrase "risk factor."

The new home for the Framingham Heart Study headquarters and clinic is in the Marian High School former convent. The Framingham Day Hospital, a psychiatric program, will be housed in the white house on Lincoln Street. □

Time to get new permits for Medical Center parking lots

Registration for new permits for all motor vehicles in the Medical Center parking lots will take place through the end of June.

Permits for Lots A/B, C and T/D are available now until the end of the month, and can be obtained at the Office of Parking Services, R-102. The deadline for registering for new permits is June 30.

In addition, new parking rates have been introduced in all parking areas operated

by BUMC, effective July 1.

Parkers were notified of the rate increase on May 30, in letters distributed by the Office of Parking Services. The new rates are as follows:

- Lot A/B: \$63.25 per month, or \$14.60 per week.
- Lot C: \$30 per month via payroll deduction (\$6.92 per week), or \$33 with the purchase of a 20-coupon booklet (\$1.65

per day).

- Lot T/D: \$68.75 per month, or \$15.87 per week.
- Visitor parking rates were adjusted in January and remain the same; they are as follows: Lot A/B (visitor access is through Lot C): \$3 for 0-2 hours; \$5 for 2-4 hours; \$8 after four hours (deposit required). A flat rate of \$3 is charged to public parkers after 3 p.m. In addition, staff and

employee parking rates increased in the Hospital's Doctors Office Building garage, also effective July 1. Preferred parking now costs \$120 per month and other monthly parking is \$105. Parking in the gate-accessed lot behind the Doctors Office Building is \$85 per month.

For further information, call the Parking Office at 638-4915 (x4915). □

Commencement*continued from page 1*

Dorothy Keefer, registrar for the School, and members of her office organize the list of candidates for graduation, submit it to the University's Diploma Office, proof the final list and check each diploma before it is rolled. The registrar's office also makes sure that all student accounts are settled and that students have completed all academic requirements.

"It's a process that starts months ahead of time and continues right up to the actual event," says Keefer, noting that some diplomas have to be pulled out on the morning of commencement because of unfulfilled academic requirements or incomplete financial accounts.

Having commencement off-campus at the Opera House proved to be more complicated

In the past, most of BUSM's commencements have been held at the University's Case Center and, as MacDonald and Mahair both note, the planning process has been quite simple. "The people at the Case Center and I had a very smooth operation—we knew exactly what to do," said MacDonald. Having commencement off-campus at the Opera House, however, proved to be more complicated.

"There's all sorts of little things that you don't think



Susan Mahair, student affairs officer, right, and the official commencement photographer consider how to arrange the flowers and diplomas on stage in order to have good graduation photographs.

of that need to be done," said Mahair. "It's sort of like putting on a wedding. Nobody thinks of all the details until you actually have to do it."

To make sure that all the details were covered, a committee was formed in mid-April. In addition to McNary, Mahair, MacDonald and Keefer, the committee consisted of the following people: William Gasper, associate vice president for business affairs; John Clift, manager of operations and maintenance; Michael Donovan, director of personnel; Craig Lazenby, director of facilities management; Jim Monroe, manager of custodial services; Richard Natoli, director of security; and John Sullivan, director of parking services. The committee met every week to discuss progress and refine the commencement plans.

The Opera House: beautiful but neglected

When the committee first visited the Opera House in late April, the members were surprised at how dirty it was. "I'm sure the Opera House was very beautiful and elegant in its day, but it's just been neglected," said MacDonald. "We realized we needed something to spiff it up quite a bit."

Members of the committee contacted an exhibition company to provide carpeting for the stage and drapes to hang around the orchestra pit. A florist was called to provide plants and other greenery to decorate the stage.

To give the Opera House a thorough cleaning, Monroe brought in his crews. Twenty of BUSM's custodians worked for four days before commencement shampooing rugs, scouring

the restrooms, polishing brass doors and scraping gum off the seats and floors.

"The Opera House is such a unique building and has such potential," said Monroe. "The custodians took pride in what they did and really had fun making the Opera House come back to life. I have never been so proud of them." Said Mahair, "The Opera House was like a different place just from the cleaning."

With an estimated 2,000 people attending commencement, deciding how to get them to and from the Opera House was another issue the committee had to address.

'Everybody working together really created an excellent graduation'

Sullivan coordinated ten buses running between the School and the Opera House. According to Sullivan, the buses made 20 trips to the Opera House and had few problems. "The big problem was running smack into a road race on Washington Street," Sullivan said. "We had to reroute the last few buses up onto the Expressway to get to the Opera House."

At the Opera House, security was provided by BUSM's security staff, under the direction of Natoli. Graduates, their guests and faculty were directed to their proper locations by BUSM students working as ushers. "Everybody working together really created an excellent graduation," said Mahair. "Everyone seemed to enjoy it." □

Campus Update is published monthly by the Boston University Medical Campus Office of Business Affairs; William J. Gasper, associate vice president. Article ideas may be addressed to Mr. Gasper or to Michael J. Donovan, director of Personnel. The publication is produced by the Office of Publication Services: Owen J. McNamara, director; Angela C. Sullivan, editor/writer. Staff designer is Catherine LeBlanc. Photos by David Keough and Bradford Herzog. Photo p. 3 courtesy of Middlesex News.

Media Relations, Publications consolidate on B-7; Educational Media going to B-5

The Office of Media Relations and Publication Services have consolidated their operations into a single Department of Public Relations. Elizabeth Russell is director of Media Relations and Owen McNamara is director of Publications. The Department has moved from the Doctors Office Building

to Robinson 7 (B-7), the former surgical intensive care unit.

The telephone numbers for the Department remain the same: Publications—638-8482 (x8482) and Media Relations—638-8491 (x8491).

The Educational Media Support Center is tentatively scheduled to be closed

from July 2 to 15 while it relocates to new quarters on Robinson 5 (B-5). Student laboratories and instructional support services for BUSM will remain on the third floor of the Instructional Building. Educational Media will retain the same telephone number: 638-4370 (x4370). □