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Boston University



Boston University Medical Campus

Campus UPDATE

February 1991 Vol. 3 No. 2

Drilling in Lot C and Lot A signals activity on 2 key projects

The large drilling rigs in Lot C and Lot A are being used to carry out preliminary engineering studies for both the proposed Boston University Medical Center office, research and parking facility and the Central Artery Project.

In Lot A, drillers are doing a geotechnical survey in preparation for designing the foundation of the proposed Medical Center complex.

In Lot A, drillers are doing a geotechnical survey in preparation for designing the foundation of the proposed Medical Center complex and are examining the soil for hazardous waste, a routine procedure.

Drillers in Lot C are working on the Central Artery Project, testing the site to determine how far down pilings must be driven to support the south terminus of the structure. Because the area is filled-in land that sits above the Fort Point Channel, the pilings must extend to granite or bedrock, anywhere from 200 to 400 feet below.

The Medical Center building project calls for the construction of an office, research, parking and hotel complex. Boston University and the University Hospital are working together with a private developer on the project under the name University Associates.

In the first phase of the project, a 180,000 square-foot medical-research building and a parking garage will

be built. Retail space will be included on the first floor of both the research building and the parking garage. A medical office building, two smaller office buildings, a 250-room hotel and additional parking are planned for later phases.

"The project will bring to fruition many years of planning for a development that will benefit the Boston University Medical Center and its neighboring community and the economic well-being of Boston," said School of Medicine Dean Aram V. Chobanian.

The plan has been under discussion for many years and will be reviewed in detail by the nearby South End neighborhoods. Currently, community information meetings, sponsored by the Boston Redevelopment Authority and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, are being held to identify questions and concerns, so that the plan can be perfected to accommodate everyone involved. "We look forward to close cooperation with our neighbors to continue to improve the South End and to continue to serve the area's medical needs," said UH President J. Scott Abercrombie Jr.

While the project will support ongoing programs at the center, it also will improve the economic condition of the local community by creating construction and permanent jobs, and will bring additional retail and commercial activity to Albany Street. □

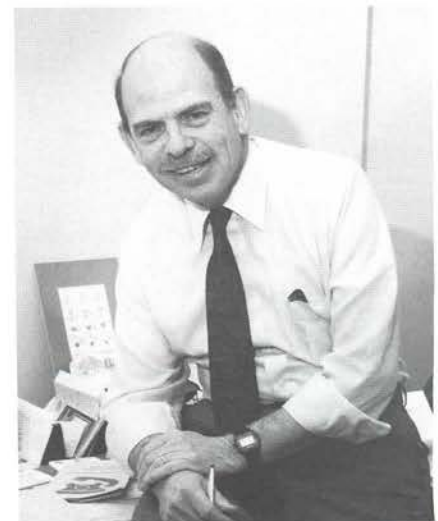


Marine Capt. Robert MacCallum, a lab technician in the Department of Pharmacology, bade farewell to his colleagues in late January at a lunch hosted in his honor. MacCallum's reserve unit was called up for active duty last month and he was assigned to a base in North Carolina.

Newman finds work gratifying at the Goldman School

Harold E. Newman Jr. had had no more experience with dentistry than an annual teeth cleaning before he assumed his position as the head of the clinic finance office of the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry (GSGD) in 1982. However, the 30-year veteran of Boston University says this position is the most gratifying he's held at the University. Having worked his way from payroll clerk on the Charles River Campus in 1961 to his role overseeing 17 people in the GSGD clinic financial office today, he speaks with broad perspective.

"I love it," he said recently. "I've always said that for every year I spent here I



Harold Newman, School of Graduate Dentistry, clinic finance director.

added two to my life."

Before moving to GSGD nine years ago, Newman spent 21 years on the Charles River Campus, working

Newman

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Newman

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his way up to the position of assistant comptroller. The largest challenge he faced when he made the transition to the GSGD, he said, was learning the language of the dental community. "That was the biggest stumbling block to coming here," he said. "I couldn't even talk to faculty and department chairmen—not even to students. I could tell them how much money they made, but I had no idea what they were doing."

Newman now reels off references to endodontics and periodontics with an evident ease.

He has since overcome this obstacle. Newman now reels off references to endodontics and periodontics with an evident ease and enthusiasm, and speaks confidently and excitedly about the School's mission.

He's come to play an integral role in the developments that take place there,

such as spending the last two years helping to prepare the school for its reaccreditation. The evaluation took place last month. He also spent the last couple of years helping prepare for the development of the Central Sterilization Unit, which opened five months ago. For this project, Newman made trips to the University of Buffalo to review that school's sterilization unit and to Chicago to meet with vendors, before submitting the proposal for purchasing plans to GSGD Dean Spencer N. Frankl.

Now Newman is helping to administer the new dental facility at 930 Commonwealth Ave., which will be one of the two dental centers for the new Boston University Dental Health Plan. Currently he is interviewing candidates for the position of financial manager of that office.

Newman concedes, without despair, that he justifiably has been called "Mr. Meeting." Off the top of his head, he reels off 10 committees he participates in, including the School's computer steering committee, ex-

ecutive committee and telecommunications committee. He doesn't feel disheartened by all these meetings, he said. "Good folks work on them, and things *do* get done."

Newman supervises all clinically related business at the GSGD, managing patient

billing, income reports and reception areas, making purchasing decisions and overseeing dental supplies and the Central Sterilization Unit. He works closely with Dean Frankl and the department chairmen, which he said he enjoys. "Time goes by very quickly," he said. □



The keynote speaker for the 1991 Greater Boston Black Achievers Program ceremony, held last month in the Keefer Auditorium, was Jane Edmonds, president of Jane Edmonds Associates, a human resources and management company. Edmonds is a former affirmative action officer for Massachusetts. Each year the Medical Campus recognizes Black Achievers, under the YMCA program.

International hospital network links clinicians around the world

An existing international hospital network that addresses topics ranging from AIDS to snake bites to medical technology could be of interest to a wide scope of clinicians and clinical researchers at the Medical Center. Currently, the network is accessible to eight departments at the School of Medicine through the Internet network, a nationwide network that connects academic and government research centers.

Medical Campus departments with current access to the hospital network are the Departments of Biophysics, Physiology and Neurology, the Dean's Of-

fice/Cardiovascular Institute network, the Student Computer Laboratory, the Office of Student Financial Aid and the Office of the Registrar.

The network provides a forum for consultation, focusing particularly on acute and chronic care. It provides a monthly electronic journal, a database of hospital consultation networks, and a series of summary files, papers and several databases. Departments communicate

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on the hospital network through electronic mail to a host computer in Buffalo,

N.Y. One goal of the network is to promote the restoration and extension of consulting for rural hospitals by connection to major medical centers. The ef-

fect of this consulting on referrals to teaching hospitals is not yet known.

Current subscribers include many other hospitals across the United States and Canada, and international subscribers, such as Prague's medical faculty 8

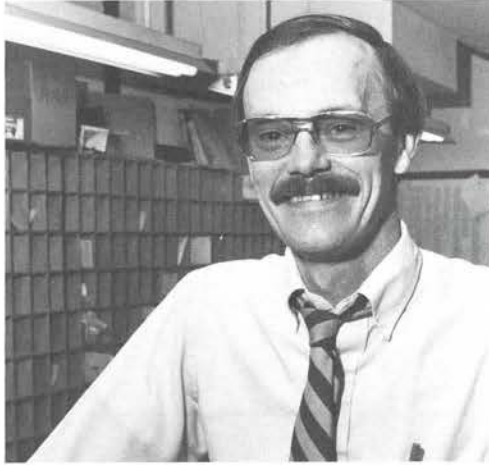
in "the brand new democratic" Czechoslovakia, as the subscriber put it; the Buenos Aires Children's Hospital in Argentina; and the Center of Emergency Medicine, in Moscow.

Members of departments on the Internet network who are interested in subscribing to the hospital network should contact Graham Ward, director of the Medical Campus Information Technology Office, x8854. There are also some 20 on-line library databases that these departments have access to. Ward can provide a list of these. □

Department Profile

Medical Center mail room serves as hub for community

Jack Cahill, supervisor of the Medical Center mail room, plays a role similar to that of a network controller. From his hub behind the mail room window in the lobby of the Instructional Building, this veteran of 10 years oversees the distribution of some 3.5 million pieces of mail each year, and administers most of the services offered by a regular post office. He and his staff of seven serve some 5,300 employees and



Jack Cahill, manager of the Medical Center mail room.

students at the Medical Center, as well as the patients of the University Hospital. They even deliver administrative mail between the Medical Center and Boston City Hospital.

"These people work hard," said John Sullivan, director of Auxilliary Services, which includes the mail room. "The level of activity is almost as if we're a small town. We do a lot more business than many post offices." Sullivan assumed responsibility for the mail room two-and-a-half years ago, but he's no stranger to mail services. He worked in a post office for three summers earlier in his career, and his father worked for the postal service for 38 years, 10 of them as the postmaster of Holbrook.

Between sorting and distributing mail, and providing such services as Express mail, certified mail and bulk-rate mailings, the Medical Center mail room workers are constantly under pressure. Trying to set up a time to speak with Cahill for this article, was somewhat of a task in itself. He called out the hours he'd be free (two days hence) from a stamp machine that he worked at without interruption during

the interchange.

"We have to really hustle to get everything done," acknowledged Cahill. "It's quite tough. But my people are absolutely great. They don't complain at all."

The workers are, in fact, a cheery bunch. As Sullivan noted, "There's a little of the hometown atmosphere there, with a local coffee shop [feel]."

"This mail room is our version of the 'Cheers' crowd," he added. "When we have our Christmas party, it's amazing how many people pass through."

Part of the reason for this congeniality, of course, is that, over the course of years of service, the employees have gotten to know many of the people they serve. There's often lively bantering between the mail room staff and the office administrators who drop off or pick up mail for their departments. "My people know just about everybody within both complexes," said Cahill.

Five employees work full time with Cahill in the mail room, while two others are responsible for shipping and receiving work that travels through the loading dock in the basement of the Instructional Building. Margurita Canhigh has worked in the mail room for some 23 years, while John Hitch and Tom Lundrigan have been there for 10 years. The newer members of the team are Brian Curran, who's been there for two years, and Richie Bouchie, who's been there for six months. □

Security director offers tips to those working during off hours

To enhance the safety of employees and students who are working alone in isolated offices or labs during off hours, Director of Security Richard Natoli suggests they notify his office of their location. This reporting procedure will alert officers as to who is legitimately in the buildings, which is particularly helpful to them while they're making their patrol rounds. Upon request and with time permitting, security officers will check on after-hours employees.

The foremost safeguard, however, should be to keep all work areas locked after business hours. In case of emergency, contact the security office at x5000. For routine matters, call the department at x4568. All safety, medical and crime-related incidents should be reported immediately to the Campus Security Office. □



Last month, a \$500 donation to the Boston City Hospital Kids' Fund was presented by Jim Munroe, manager of custodial services for the Medical Campus, to Robert Vinci, M.D., a physician in the hospital's Department of Pediatrics and an assistant professor of pediatrics at the School. The money was raised through the refund proceeds from recycled soda cans, which can be put in bins in the Chequer's cafeteria, the Rite Bite Cafe, and in various classrooms.

Annual home radon test kit available

The Medical Center Radiation Protection Office (RPO) urges staff and students to take advantage of its annual household radon-testing service. The cost is \$20 for a radon-gas test kit and analysis. A lower fee is available to students.

Employees and students can use the kits to carry out the test in their homes; the results will then be analyzed by the RPO, which is an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certified Radon Testing Laboratory.

The EPA recommends

that every home and apartment be tested annually up to the second floor for this naturally occurring radioactive gas, even if a previous initial short-term radon-screen test was low. It also recommends testing both the basement and first floor of a home for accurate results. There is no correlation between radon levels in one home and the results of radon testing in neighboring homes. Radon gets into homes through cracks in the foundation, the use of well water, floor drains and

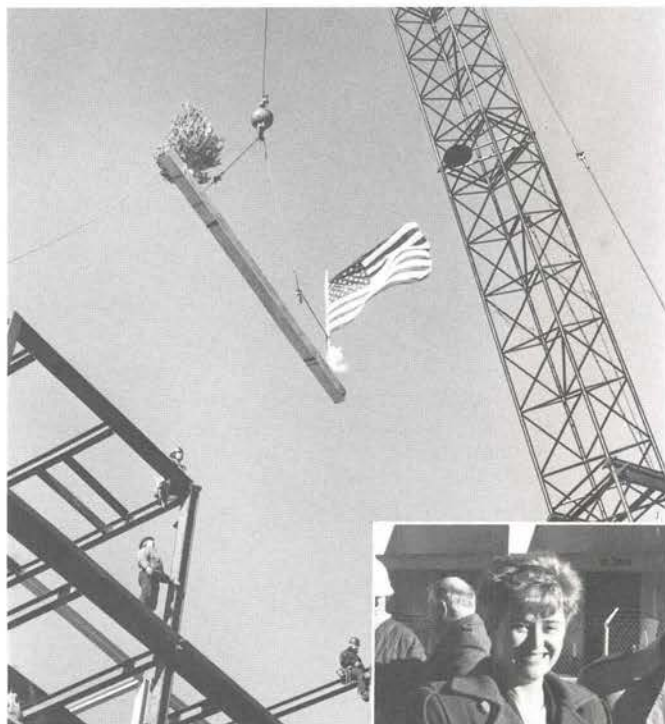
porous building materials. An energy-efficient home can trap low levels of radon and concentrate the gas at a higher level.

The EPA estimates that 5,000 to 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year may be attributed to this gas. Smokers have a 10 times greater risk of getting lung cancer than nonsmokers who are exposed to the same radon level.

Call the RPO at 638-7052 (x7052) to obtain a radon-test cannister and to learn how to use it. □

Just a reminder...

Yearning for some one-stop shopping? Stop down in the basement of the Instructional Building for a range of purchasing choices. There, employees and students will find a well-stocked candy machine and vending machines offering "Veryfine fruit juices," sodas and fruit. The basement also is home to the Chequers cafeteria and the School's book shop. An X-Press 24 cash machine is located next to the vending machines to help facilitate these various purchases. □



Workers constructing the new BUSM Department of Dermatology research building at 609 Albany Street hoisted up the final piece of steel for the outside structure with an evergreen tree, an American flag and a yellow ribbon on Jan. 25. This custom, called the "topping-off" ceremony, evolved from the Viking tradition of raising a tree up to the top of the mast of a newly completed ship to express gratitude to the earth for providing wood. The six-story building will house the Department of Dermatology and the Medical Campus Department of Security.



On hand for the topping-off ceremony of the new dermatology building at 609 Albany Street were Barbara Gilchrest, M.D., chairperson of the Department of Dermatology, and Dean Aram V. Chobanian.

Credit Union moves to new site

The main office of the Boston University Credit Union has been moved from its present quarters at 629 Commonwealth Ave., to 846 Commonwealth Ave. Its hours remain the same: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. □

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; Jennifer C. O'Brien, editor/writer; Catherine LeBlanc, designer.