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**Boston
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Campus UPDATE



December 1993 Vol. 5 No. 10

Intersession rings in the festive season

For the 19th consecutive year, Boston University will observe an intersession closing for the holiday period from 12:01 a.m., on Friday, Dec. 24, 1993, through midnight on Sunday, Jan. 2, 1994.

Employees working in essential service areas may be expected to work during the intersession. Non-represented, non-exempt employees who are required to work will be paid for the total number of hours worked during the week and will earn one and one half (1 1/2) hours of compensatory time off for each non-overtime hour worked during the closing. Represented employees' time off and pay are covered by their respective collective-bargaining agreements.

For more information, contact the Medical Campus Office of Personnel, at 638-4610 (x84610). □

BUSM student high scorer of hoopathon



Second-year student Brandon Snook was the high scorer in the Huntington's disease hoopathon in April. He scored 252 baskets in 71/2 minutes.

University's Holiday Party to be one of 'Holiday Enchantment'



"Holiday Enchantment" will be the theme of this year's Boston University Holiday Party, set for Tuesday, Dec. 21, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the George Sherman Union Ballroom on the Charles River Campus. The annual event, held for faculty and staff of the University, will include the serving of a bounteous buffet and door prizes, and the display and judging of employees' ice sculptures.

"The University's Holiday Party is a great way for employees to get together socially," said Medical Campus Executive Director of Personnel and Administrative Services Michael Donovan.

"Many employees communi-

cate with each other throughout the year only on the phone. It's nice for people to have a chance to celebrate the festive season together in person."

As in previous years, those attending the party will be able to view and judge the ice sculptures created by employee teams during the previous week.

Shuttle service for BUMC employees will be provided to

and from the Holiday Party. Buses will leave the Medical Center from 80 East Concord St. at 2:30 p.m. and again at 3:30 p.m. They will return to the Medical Center at 4:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m.

For more information, contact Joanne Fay, manager of benefits in the Medical Campus Office of Personnel, at 638-4610 (x84610). □

Ice sculptors sought for contest

Employees interested in putting together a team of four to participate in the "Holiday Enchantment" ice sculpting contest on the Charles River Campus should make plans immediately.

Teams consisting of up to four members from any department in the University will sculpt their creations at the

George Sherman Union loading dock on the evenings of Dec. 14, 15 and 16, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The theme of the sculptures must be "Holiday Enchantment." The sculptures will be displayed and judged at the Boston University Holiday Party on Tuesday, Dec. 21.

The participants will be furnished with tools and blocks of ice, and an artist will be on hand to offer professional assistance. "Teams need to bring only some energy and an idea," said Medical Campus Assistant Director of Personnel George Snowden.

The prizes, one to be awarded by a panel of University administrators and the other by those attending the party, will consist of lunch at the Faculty/Staff Dining Room on the Charles River Campus. To sign up for, or to get more information about, the contest, contact Scott Forrester, at 353-4466. (Do so as soon as possible, as a maximum of 15 teams may compete.) □

Staffing during intersession

During intersession, the following departments will remain open at the Medical Campus:

Facilities Management: This office will be operational with limited staffing; to report problems, contact the control center, at 638-4144 (x4144).

Parking: Lots A and C will be operational according to the normal weekday schedule during the intersession, as will the shuttles for the parking lots and the Broadway "T" station. Neither the parking lots nor the daytime shuttles will be operational on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. For more information, contact the Office of Parking Services, at 638-4915 (x84915).

Security: This department will maintain a normal operating schedule.

Public Relations: This office will be covered to handle media inquiries. □

McNamara receives public relations association's highest award



Owen McNamara

Owen McNamara, the Medical Center's director of publication services, was recently awarded the New England Hospital Public Relations and Marketing Association's highest honor, the Evans Houghton Memorial Award.

This award, presented annually by NEHPRMA's Board of Directors when there is a deserving candidate, is given in acknowledgment of "exemplary performance in, and dedication to, the field of health care public relations." The award was established to honor the memory of Evans F. Houghton, one NEHPRMA's founders.

"We are delighted that Owen has been recognized by his peers for his outstanding contributions to the public relations industry and the Medical Center," said Joannie Jaxtmer, BUMCH's director of marketing, communications, and public relations. "Quite honestly, I can't think of a more deserving individual."

For the past 20 years, McNamara has served the Medical Center, first as senior editor and eventually as director of publication services. Under his direction, a number of publications have received regional and national recognition. During an October conference at which he received the Evans Houghton Memorial Award, McNamara also was selected to be the editor of *PeerView*, the professional

journal of NEHPRMA.

"Owen is widely respected as being one of the most capable professionals in the field," said Jim Peters, the director of public relations at Rhode Island Hospital and chairman of the NEHPRMA nominating committee. "And he has supported and launched a number of outstanding professionals."

Before joining the Medical Center staff, McNamara worked as a reporter and editor at the *Worcester Telegram and Evening Gazette*, the *Catholic Free Press*, the *Boston Herald* and the *Providence Journal*. For more than a decade, he was the managing editor of the former *Citizen Group Newspapers* in Brookline. □

Can share draws BUMC support

Boston University Medical Center employees rallied to donate 1,106 cans of food and \$30 to the "Boston Can Share" food drive this fall. Members of the Medical Center Boston Can Share committee wish to thank those people who contributed. □

Medical Campus weather-emergency procedures

With winter fast approaching, employees should be aware of the Medical Campus' weather-emergency guidelines. Generally, the Medical Campus has a "no-close" policy and remains open during weather emergencies. However, in the event that an all-day closing or delayed opening proves necessary, announcements specific to the Medical Campus will be made between 6 and 9 a.m. on the following stations: **Radio stations:** WBZ (1030 AM), WHDH (850 AM), WRKO (680 AM), WBMX (98.5 FM) and

Caution in parking lots urged during holidays and winter season



With early sunsets and snowy days upon us, the Office of Parking Services urges employees to take caution in the parking lots. Keep roadways and firelanes clear. Avoid walking through the Lot A and Lot C entranceways. Take note of the pedestrian accesses in the lots.

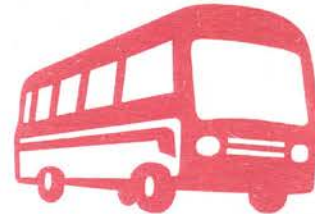
With the holidays approaching, it is particularly important not to leave gifts in cars, as thieves will be on the lookout for an opportunity to steal them. □

Emergency dental service available during intersession

Emergency dental service will be available during intersession for members of the Boston University Dental Health Plan. Those seeking assistance should call the 100 East Newton St. facility, at 638-4700 (x84700). The person receiving inquiries there will direct callers to the appropriate emergency-service number, and will provide information about hours and availability of service.

There's a reason to ride Bus #10 again and again and again...

Will the mystery person choose you to receive a special prize? Ride Bus #10 and find out...



WBUR (90.9 FM). **Television stations:** WBZ-TV (channel 4), WHDH-TV (channel 7) and WCVB-TV (channel 5). These are the only stations authorized to announce University closings and delayed openings.

Employees and students are requested **not** to call the Boston University Campus Police Department to verify a University closing. During the day, the decision to shorten the workday normally will be made by 3 p.m. On such occasions, the Medical Campus Office of Personnel will

notify department heads, who, in turn, will communicate this information to their respective employees.

Employees in essential services, as determined by department heads, should report as scheduled. Essential services include, but are not limited to, Medical Campus security and facilities management personnel.

For more information, contact the Medical Campus Office of Personnel, at 638-4610 (x4610). □

Black Achievers named for '94

Three members of the Medical Campus community have been named Black Achievers for 1994, under the Greater Boston YMCA Black Achievers Program. The program, now in its 18th year, is intended to promote the recognition of accomplished black employees and to foster the development of minority youth by exposing them to these positive role models.

The Medical Campus, the Evans Medical Foundation and Boston University Medical Center Hospital have participated in the program for the last eight years.

The three Medical Campus recipients are Raia Warfield, of the Center for Educational Development in Health; Ava Hurd, of the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry's Department of Oral Diagnosis/Radiology, and Cecilia Dawkins, of the School of Public Health.

Under the YMCA program, Black Achievers agree to be matched with students in the Greater Boston area to serve as their mentors for a year. During this time, they are expected to fulfill a minimum commitment of 40 hours of volunteer time. Nominations for Medical Campus recipients of the award are made by deans, department chairpersons, directors and principal investigators of departments. To honor those recognized at the Medical Campus, the Hospital and the Evans Medical Foundation, and to focus attention on the importance of such leadership in the black community, the Medical Center will hold an annual recognition program in early January at the Medical Center. There also will be a citywide dinner hosted by the YMCA for all new Black Achievers on Thursday, Jan. 20, at the Boston Marriot Hotel, in Copley Place. □

Medical school is not Vega's first big challenge



First-year student Maria Vega has traveled far.

By almost any standard, Maria Vega doesn't have it easy. And yet, while the countless difficulties she has faced in her young life are ample fodder for an excuse to live for herself, she has, instead, decided to dedicate her life to the art of healing others.

A 26-year-old, first-year student at Boston University School of Medicine, Vega is a long way from home. Raised in Florida, she grew up in a family of seven Mexican migrant farm workers—her parents, her two brothers, two sisters, and herself. Her story evokes the image of what some immigrants endure to live in this country and pursue the elusive "American dream."

Of all the details she recalls from her childhood, the one she remembers most is not moving from place to place picking fruits and vegetables every three months, or sleeping on filthy campgrounds that often doubled as animal dwellings in the off-season. It's not even the many days she spent surrounded by poverty, illiteracy, substance abuse, violence, sickness and disease.

Visits made by physicians to the migrant dwellings provide most of the stuff her childhood memories are made of. "In my farm labor camps," Vega recalled, "there would be physicians and

nurses that would spend weekends with us. They brought us sacks with soap and toothbrushes and hygiene films to watch. They gave all the kids cookies—to me they were like gods. I wanted to be just like them when I grew up."

Those volunteer health care workers stirred Vega's heart, giving her the determination to finish high school, leave her family to attend four years of college, and apply for Boston University School of Medicine's Pre-Professional Post Baccalaureate Program for disadvantaged minorities. This program, conducted through the Office of Minority Affairs, assists those minority students who've been unsuccessful in getting into medical school through the traditional application process. In its fourth year, this program is funded by BUSM and the federal government. According to Kenneth Edelin, MD, associate dean of the Office of Minority Affairs and director of the program, 60 percent of the students who have completed the program have been accepted into medical school. Last year, Vega was chosen by BUSM as one of 10 participants from some 300 applicants.

Is she satisfied with her career choice? "Being a physician means having the knowl-

edge to heal the human body. If I see a sick person, chances are 10 years from now I'll be able to help them. What could be more important than that?" she remarked.

"Growing up the way I did, I didn't think being a physician would be possible. But I've come this far, and I can't think of a better way to spend the rest of my life."

"I was very moved by Maria's story," Edelin said, who works closely with the students during the one-and-a-quarter-year program. "She is a remarkable young woman, very tenacious, intelligent, articulate, rather quiet, but very determined. She is committed to going back to her community to deliver health care, and as such will be an inspiration to other young people who are in similar circumstances, helping them to believe that they, too, can achieve their dream."

Though not consciously, Vega's interest in pursuing a career in primary care medicine has come at a time when there is a wide-ranging effort on the part of physicians, medical schools, health care experts, and foundations to counter a nationwide shortage of primary care physicians. In recent years, a wealth of new incen-

Vega

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BUMC's hoops season begins

The 1993-1994 season of the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center basketball league has begun, and members of the Medical Center community are invited to join a team, create their own departmental teams or attend the free events as spectators. The teams are comprised of employees from the Medical Campus, Boston University Medical Center Hospital and several neighborhood businesses. All games begin at 6:30 p.m., and are held on Wednesdays in the gymnasium of the mental health facility. For a season schedule, or to sign up to play, contact Bob Filmore, league supervisor and coordinator, Monday through Friday, at 266-8800, x204. □



Medical school is not Vega's first big challenge

Vega

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tives directed at encouraging more students to enter general medicine have sprung up around the country. Recently, BUSM was selected as one of 18 medical schools nationwide to participate in the first phase of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's \$32-million Generalist Physician Initiative, the goal of which is to increase the number of primary care physicians practicing in the United States. Aside from all the grants and incentives, aspiring medical students may only have to recognize, like Vega, that the need is everywhere.

"When I was in my second year of college, my grandmother died of Type II diabetes," Vega said. "She didn't have to die; her diabetes could have been controlled. But because she didn't have adequate care and was not educated, it cost her her life. I wonder how many other families go through that every day."

A test of Vega's true conviction now begins with medical school. "I know it's going to take a lot of hard work," she admitted, "but that is what I was brought up doing anyway—working hard. And besides, I love to learn. Material things like money, they come and go, but once you acquire knowledge, that's yours to keep; no one can take it away."

Vega would be hard to spot in a crowd of students. She doesn't carry her past like baggage along with the backpack slung over her shoulder. On the contrary, Vega is quick to smile, even after waxing philosophical: "I was exposed to a lot of the products of poverty. I stood by and

watched all those things happen without saying anything. Now I'm on my way to making a difference. I probably won't change too much, but I want to do my part."

She remains undaunted, even through the trying times, knowing, better than most, that nothing comes for free. "It gets depressing when you hear students talk about how much debt they are going to be in when they finish," she said. "But, I never really had any money to begin with, so I really have nothing to lose. I just keep praying for the best, and hope my loans come in on time so I don't fall behind in school."

While Vega's own financial needs are real, she is most concerned about her family's

welfare. "I feel bad—I've invested seven years, education-wise, with at least another seven left, and I haven't been able to contribute anything to my family," she said. "My mom and dad, they are 50 years old and still picking tomatoes. My whole family doesn't have health insurance. I know one day I'll be able to do something for them, but it's been so long. That's something I have to block out and keep focused on my studies."

For all of her accomplishments, Vega expresses no sense of superiority over the rest of her family. "My brothers and sisters just chose different routes," she said. "I know they are not happy, but that's all they know how to do. No matter what happens, I know I

always have a place to call home with my family. Love was never something that was lacking in my family."

Vega realizes the hard part of her quest has just begun, but she's ready to persevere. "I've come this far," she said, "and the sky is the limit," a belief she wants to inspire in the young people of her community.

"If I could go back and encourage the young people in my community, even just one, to do what I did, to let them know that there is a way out, that would be my part of my goal."

The other part? "I don't want just to be a doctor, I want to be the best doctor I can be." □

Deck the halls...the classrooms, the offices...

The holidays are here!

It's time to plan your holiday party, and Chequers is here to help. We have your favorite hors d'oeuvres and seasonal specialties. Plus, ask about our holiday packages with free delivery. But hurry...packages are valid until Dec. 17 only.

