Award given for 609 Albany St. building

Boston University and the contractor and architect who worked together to build the School of Medicine’s 609 Albany St. research building have won a performance award from the Association of General Contractors of Massachusetts.

The award, which recognizes contractor R.F. Walsh and Co., the architectural firm of John Shesky Associates and Boston University, the owner of the 609 Albany St. building, acknowledges the three professional groups’ success in working together under challenging circumstances to create a structure notable for its construction and architecture.

The honor, granted for the medium-size-project category, was given through the organization’s “Build Massa-

New biomedical research building opens

Some 300 people turned out to celebrate the official opening of Boston University’s new Center for Advanced Biomedical Research (CABR) on Oct. 14, at the site of the new building at 700 Albany Street. School of Medicine Dean Aram V. Chobanian called the building "a dream transformed into reality in a remarkably brief period of time."

The Center is the pioneering structure in BioSquare, a $350 million, biomedical biotechnology complex planned for Albany Street by Boston University and BUMC Hospital. When completed, the "scientific village" is expected to be the largest and most comprehensive health care and biotechnology development in Boston.

"Albany Street and the South Bay area will undergo a wonderful transformation during this decade," said Chobanian.

The celebratory event opened with a two-ribbon cutting ceremony held in the foyer of the building. Chobanian presided over the inauguration, in which a number of dignitaries participated, including Boston University and BUMC leaders, as well as Judith Vaitukaitis, MD, a BUSM graduate and former faculty member, who is now director of the National Center for Research Resources at the National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C.

Following the ceremony, Boston University’s guests—including members of the Medical Center, Boston University and local community—gathered in a tent behind the Center for lunch and the remainder of the opening ceremony. Amongst the many speakers were Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, Vaitukaitis and Boston University President John Silber.

Vaitukaitis said she considered "multidisciplinary enter-

Center provides new open space

Southern exposure, coupled with landscaping and benches set up behind the new Center for Advanced Biomedical Research, should attract Medical Center employees looking for a sunny spot to have lunch or just get some fresh air during the winter months. Those employees looking to stretch their legs during the day may want to consider walking over to the new building and walking around it.
Harrison Avenue and its sidewalks revitalized

A major upgrade of much of Harrison Avenue and the sidewalks that line it is under way, and when it is through the buckled road will have been replaced with a completely new road, the worn out infrastructure below it will have been reconstructed, the sidewalks that have been precarious to walk on will have been replaced with new concrete slabs and brick trim, and acorn lights will be in place.

This project marks the third major development to take place on Harrison Ave. in the last year and a half that the Medical Center has prompted. A renal dialysis center for the Medical Center is being constructed at the corner of East Canton Street, the Harrison Court residential complex for the Medical Center opened in the spring of 1992, and the development of the Star Brush Lot was completed a year and a half ago. The Medical Center worked in conjunction with the local community to prompt the City of Boston to finance the road reconstruction project.

The reconstruction is being carried out on Harrison Avenue between East Brookline Street and East Concord Street. It will be completed by the end of December. The portion of Harrison Avenue, between East Concord Street and Massachusetts Avenue, was repaired several years ago. In conjunction with this project, BUMC has upgraded the entrance to the receiving area between East Concord and East Newton streets.

The Harrison Avenue project includes rebuilding the damaged infrastructure of pipes and steam lines below the street. The damaged steam lines had caused shifting in the road and sidewalks, making passage by car rough and walking along the sidewalk dangerous, particularly for people in wheelchairs, those with other disabilities, and senior citizens. There will be acorn lights, resembling the old-fashioned poles with a single bulb, as exist outside the new Center for Advanced Biomedical Research, on Albany Street.

Harrison Court apartment complex for year-long rentals only

The Medical Center Office of Rental Property Management wishes to announce that Harrison Court, the Medical Center’s residential complex on Harrison Ave., is 100 percent occupied, and is therefore not available for short-term leases as it was last year.

Award honors team performance

The Huntington’s Disease Society of Massachusetts, based at BUMC Hospital, has a volunteer team of people with Huntington’s disease who are interested in doing mailings for other departments at the Medical Center. The volunteers are particularly interested in stuffing and labeling envelopes. "This is our way of thanking the folks at BUMC who have always supported the work of the Huntington’s Disease Society," said May Long, the executive director of the organization. For further information, contact Long, at x88333.

New EdMedia director named

Domenic Screnci EdD has been promoted to the position of director of the Educational Media Center, bringing eight years of experience in the department to his new role. He has served as acting director since April.

Screnci is a member of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology, and the Biological Photographic Association, and has served these and other associations as a presenter in the areas of communication and photography.

The Educational Media Center provides a host of professional services to the

Help with mailings available from Huntington’s disease volunteers

In the event of a medical emergency on Campus...
Health care reform is focus of BUMC forum

BUMC held the first in a series of open forums on health care reform on Thursday, Sept. 23. Panelists were, from left, Wendy Mariner, JD, MPH, Patricia Barry, MD, MPH, Spencer Frankl, DDS, John Cradock, chief executive officer of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center; Robert Meenan, MD, MPH, Richard Egdahl, MD, Patricia Barry, MD, MPH, Spencer Frankl, DDS, John Cradock, chief executive officer of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center; Robert Meenan, MD, MPH, Richard Egdahl, MD, and Michael Eliastam, MD, MPP. School of Medicine Dean Aram Chobanian, pictured at right, served as moderator.

Leaders from BUMC and the local health care community gathered to discuss their assessment of the Clinton Health Care Reform plan on Sept. 23, in what was the first of a series of forums on the issue to be held at the Medical Center. The seven panelists, moderated by School of Medicine Dean Aram V. Chobanian, spoke to a standing-room only crowd of students, employees, faculty and administrators in the newly renovated Bakst Auditorium.

All of the participants supported the need for health care reform, and each evaluated the aspect of the current package that dealt with their area of expertise.

"I applaud the president, because this is about access," said John Cradock, chief executive officer of the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center. "If in my lifetime [this country] could see universal entitlement only—not that I don't want a lot more—I'd be delighted," he said. "I didn't believe that it could happen until very recently." School of Public Health Director Robert Meenan, MD, MPH, also expressed enthusiasm for reform. "It's exciting to hear a Presidential address on a major, important domestic issue," he said.

"Now that we don't have to perhaps worry about a bomb arriving on our doorstep from the Soviet Union, we can focus on very important issues of domestic policy." Cradock and Meenan's fellow panelists were Patricia Barry, MD, MPH, chief of geriatrics at BUMCH; Richard Egdahl, MD, director of

United Way campaign taps winners on Medical Campus

The generous donations of three Medical Campus employees to Boston University's United Way campaign qualified them for, and then led them to win, three out of the four drawings held so far this campaign season for those making donations of more than $93.

Ellen Wiklanski, a grants administrator in the BUSM Cardiovascular Institute, won the first drawing in the campaign. Wiklanski won the opportunity to participate in a one-day "fall culinary experience" through Boston University's Metropolitan College. Stephen Kane, a clinical assistant professor in the Goldman School of Graduate Dentistry's Department of Operative Dentistry, won tickets for two to the Huntington Theatre, while Cheryl England, a lab supervisor in the BUSM Department of Biophysics, won a $150 gift certificate to the Boston University Bookstore.

While Wiklanski was grateful for the prize, she stressed that making the donation was a lot more important to her. "It's a wonderful opportunity for people to give to their community," she said.

Ten reasons to take the #10 bus...

TEN fabulous prizes, now being distributed over TEN weeks, to TEN lucky people taking the new and improved Bus #10 (Copley Square, via Andrews Station), which makes one of two main stops at Back Bay Station. Prizes being donated by retail shops in Copley Square and the South End. Stay tuned for more details...
The new research building: "A dream transformed into reality"

Panelists evaluate Clinton package, focusing on their areas of expertise

Panel continued from page 3

ices as soon as possible, Eliastam said.

Goldman School Dean Frankl focused on the real strides for dental care offered under the Clinton plan. "I'm very pleased that the Clinton plan will include dental care [for children] as part of its reform package," he Frankl. "Today, dental care is mandated for all residents in our correctional systems, while dental care for children has, to date, never been mandated. Perhaps tomorrow as a result of this health care reform package, dental treatment will no longer be considered discretionary or optional, but will rather be considered necessary, vital and valuable, especially for our nation's children."

Eliastam took issue with the fact that the Clinton plan for universal care excludes illegal aliens and prisoners. "While their dental care is good," he said about prisoners, "their health care is lacking." No matter what a person's circumstance, Eliastam said, all American residents should be covered by a health care plan.

From a public health perspective, Meenan said it is important to remember public health changes are integral to health care reform. Programs addressing such issues as teenage pregnancy, drug addiction and AIDS, must be structured and funded in order for health care reform to work, he said.

In regard to health care for the fastest growing population in America, Barry said, "Approach to elderly care really requires a continuum of care. One of the things I would like to see addressed, if we formalize this plan, is some sort of attention to how to move elderly people through different aspects of the system so that they can be where they need to be and receive the appropriate level of care based on their need at the time."

Hospital President J. Scott Abercrombie, MD, was unable to participate in the forum because he was at the White House that afternoon, having been invited to join the President and Hillary Clinton and other health care professionals in an event marking the beginning of the Clinton health care reform campaign.

BUMC plans to continue the series of open forums, entitled "The Road to Health Care Reform," in order to track health care reform as it works its way through the political process. Each forum will be designed to assist the Medical Center community in understanding the developments in the reform package.