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Boston University Medical Center

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Boston University
Join the Nursing Staff Clinical Specialists

The Nursing Department of University Hospital has taken important steps in fulfilling its aim of becoming more actively involved in community health care as part of the overall goal of the Medical Center.

On January 6, Alice M. Fraser, Acting Director of Nursing, notified all Chiefs of Service that a qualified Clinical Specialist in Public Health Nursing, Mrs. Helen Siegel, had joined the department and that her services would be available to the entire Hospital staff.

If you have seen a small trim figure in the dark blue uniform which signifies the Public Health nurse, then you have probably seen Mrs. Siegel!

In describing Mrs. Siegel's ways of work both within the Hospital and the community, Miss Fraser has this to say: "Her function is to work with the Nursing Staff on better utilization of our present referral system. When a patient is referred to either a nursing home or a community public health agency, she will work with him and his family. She will also consult with medical staff if, in reviewing a patient's hospital stay, she feels that the patient might benefit from home visits or care in a nursing home."

As the University Hospital patient is discharged, Mrs. Siegel will try to assure continuing appropriate care if it is needed and will serve as a liaison with the community agencies that may be called upon to help in the patient's recovery. In this way it will be increasingly possible to work closely and ef

Party with a View

The spacious 14th floor of our new instructional building, window-lit by a winter sun with a vista of harbor and skyline, its severity softened by mistletoe and holly wreaths, proved a perfect party room for the Medical Center

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At the milling machine in their research machine shop, Room 14, the Blue Building, are Lewis Eaton and Maurice Forbes. Mr. Forbes holds in his hands a micro injection device constructed for Dr. Brewer Auld.

BUMC MACHINE SHOP IS RESOURCE OPEN TO ALL

There is a rich resource of skill — waiting to be tapped still further — in the research machine shop in the basement of the Blue Building, and it is open to all units of the Medical Center.

The skill belongs to two men, Lewis Eaton, who has run the shop for several months, and Maurice Forbes, who now comes in part time, but who has been with the Center six years after retirement from more than 35 years with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Eaton was previously in our plant department. Both men are outstanding machinists and can be called upon to devise or repair the most complex equipment items presented to them, whether in plastics, stainless steel, Formica, or you name it.

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Mrs. Helen Siegel, second from left, Clinical Specialist in Public Health Nursing, now on our staff, is holding an informal bedside conference with a patient about to be discharged. At left Barbara Seidewand, R.N., and at right Ward Clerk Barbara Woodruff are important members of the team that will help to plan for the patient's continuing care in the community.
Above: Maurice Forbes "fits" Lewis Eaton to a special plastic helmet which can be filled with water, while the subject, breathing through a tube, sits in a whole body "plethysmograph." This device made in our machine shop was done for Dr. Louis Vachon. See the story on pages 1 and 3 for details. Below: The two men examine a protective breast-plate constructed for Dr. Ismettin Aral's department.

PARTY (Continued)

Holiday "social," held just one week before Christmas.

Santa's helpers in brief, bright and becoming costumes flitted about; a band played, conversation flourished, as members of the Center drifted in and out from 2:30 to 4:30. But there is no one who will dispute the real star of the party — the refreshments! Arrayed enticingly on a huge horseshoe-shaped buffet, they were the immediate focus of attention for all who entered. Delightful to look at, delightful to eat, the variety was staggering, from canapes, cheeses and dips to small but elaborate cookies, cakes and assorted confections. There was something for everyone — except weight-watchers, who seemed to be casting caution to the wind.

Our own Hospital dietary department crew, inspired by their chief Judy Williams prepared, arranged and served the spread.

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APOLLO ASTRONAUTS: JUNIOR GRADE

Evan, son of Dr. Alan Cohen, scarcely launched into his teens, took off for the moon on December 20th, 1968.

He was the navigator of a gallant crew of three who manned an Apollo capsule model in a simulated flight into space, carried out with scientific sophistication by teenage members of the Science Seminar course of Boston's Museum of Science. Blasting off at noon from their well-equipped space center (the basement floor of the Museum!) David Albert, Michael Kaplan and 13-year-old Evan were supported by a ground control unit of seven (the other boys and girls in the Seminar program,) who had spent every Saturday afternoon from October on intensive planning for the launch.

Not quite so long as the "real thing", the flight of the Museum students brought them down to earth at the successful close of a two-stage, 16½ hour voyage to the moon. Speeding up the time schedule somewhat, the junior astronauts kept fantastically busy: feeding information back and forth to ground control, performing orbital calculations, projecting weather, conducting physical and psychological experiments. They kept fit in flight with isometric exercises and low-residue meals consumed through tubes. They also found time to monitor their heartbeats with an electrocardiograph system.

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Above: Dr. and Mrs. Alan Cohen, with young Evan between them, look over Commander Kaplan's shoulder as he consults his orders for the simulated Apollo flight, planned and carried through by students of the Science Seminar of Boston's Museum of Science. Below: It's all systems go! The gallant young men as they prepare to go into orbit are David Albert, Command Module Pilot; Michael Kaplan, Commander; and Evan Cohen, Navigator.

The festive board at the Holiday Party, and the creative members of the Dietary Department who made it possible. Hovering over an enormous "house" of cake is Judy Williams, left, who heads the department at the Hospital, and with her are Mrs. John Ahern, Chara Wright, Lesley Rosenberg.
CLINICAL SPECIALISTS (Continued)

Effectively with health and social service organizations in the community. In planning with medical staff and nursing staff as the patient prepares to leave the Hospital, Mrs. Siegel will, of course, be in close touch, also, with Mrs. Bernice Howard and her staff of social workers.

While Mrs. Siegel has joined us most recently, she is one of a highly-skilled group of Clinical Specialists whose consultant services are available to nursing staff throughout the Hospital.

Patricia Bocchicchio, who is based in the Special Care Unit, is a Clinical Specialist in surgical nursing. Juliette Anderson, a Clinical Specialist in psychiatric nursing, is also ready to consult with nurses in other units. And during the month of February a Clinical Specialist in rehabilitation nursing will enrich the total nursing resources of the Department.

MACHINE SHOP (Continued)

Admirers of the work that the shop performs call it "absolutely extraordinary."

The Machine Shop can turn out such expert work on special order that Dr. Carl Franzblau, feeling that not all Medical Center personnel are aware of their privileges in utilizing Mr. Eaton's services, suggested that the story be told in Front & Center. Dr. Franzblau, a biochemist, is on the committee for projects and activities subsidized by GRS (general research support) which includes the machine shop. (And in this financial connection, Dr. Franzblau reminds prospective "customers" that requests for services should be made on School of Medicine or University Hospital purchase requisitions, not on work orders.)

Mr. Forbes and Mr. Eaton, interviewed in their Room 14 Blue Building workshop were surrounded by fascinating examples of one-of-a-kind pieces of equipment that they have built or designed for many departments of the Center . . . usually after consultation on the exact purpose the object is to serve. Sometimes specifications are exactly given; sometimes a good deal of inventive know-how goes into the machining process.

In the photographs on page one and two of this issue, you will see some rather special devices created in the shop, including a plastic breastplate for the protection of women cancer patients receiving radiation. This was requested by Dr. Isamettin Aral.

Dr. Louis Vachon, whose psychosomatic research projects are carried on in the Division of Psychiatry, uses a plastic cylinder built in the workshop which forms a helmet for use with human subjects under study for their reactions to the immersion of the face in water: the "diving reflex." Information is being acquired on airway conductance and on the ways in which the diving reflex may influence respiration and the entire cardiovascular system of the body.

A third extremely satisfied "client" is Dr. Brewer Auld, in Dr. Norman Levinsky's department. Since the development of a micro-puncture methodology, Dr. Auld and his associates have been using a micro injection apparatus constructed in Room 14. This device makes it possible to inject controlled, and very small, quantities of fluid; transferring, for example a minute sample (one billionth of a quart) from the pipettes to the reagent. Dr. Auld refers to Mr. Eaton and Mr. Forbes as "unusual craftsmen."

You may reach the machine shop on Extension 6498, and Mr. Eaton will be happy to consult with you on an appropriate job, regardless of how small — or large — it may be.

114th Annual Meeting of University Hospital

The 114th Annual Meeting of the Hospital, held on the evening of December 9th, transformed the 14th floor student lounge of the new Instructional Building into a handsome dining room for the 200 or so trustees, incorporators, staff members and friends of the Hospital, in attendance.

A string trio played softly during the reception that preceded the dinner meeting, and there were many exclamations of delight at the glittering vistas of Boston after dark. Holding the meeting on "home grounds" rather than at a downtown hotel emphasized the great physical strides the Hospital and School have made within the Medical Center.

The principal speaker of the evening was President Arland Christ-Janer of Boston University.
BUMC BRIEFS

Dr. Donald Talbot Downing of the Department of Dermatology starts the new year as a recipient of the Career Development Award, a signal honor bestowed, with funds attached, by the National Institutes of Health to unusually promising men in the field of medical research. Coming to us from Australia in 1966, Dr. Downing is currently engaged in a study of the biochemistry of lipids. His award was made through the Division of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases of the NIH.

A gratifying — and stimulating — message went out recently to “Members of the Class of 1970” of the School of Medicine.

Dean Franklin G. Ebaugh, Jr., sent the following memo: “Collectively your class ranked eleven out of forty-four medical schools requiring all of their students to take Part I of National Boards. This places your school in the top quarter of the schools in the Nation. Your performance is one which you and the school can well be proud of. However, do not rest on your laurels, redouble your efforts to place your class, and hence your school in the top 10% when you take Part II of National Boards.

Congratulations!”

All members of the Center staff are reminded of a basic procedure that is essential to the reputation of our institution: if you are asked a question by a member of the press — an “inquiring reporter” or photographer — refer it at once to the Public Relations Office, extension 6147. Following this simple rule can save everyone misunderstandings that may range from the trivial to the serious.

Dr. Lewis H. Rohrbaugh, BUMC Director, was elected Vice President for 1969, and President-elect for 1970, of the Organization of University Health Center Administrators, at their January meeting in Puerto Rico.

The OUHCA is composed of representatives of about 75 universities, which, having grouped their teaching hospitals and various schools devoted to the health professions, are now known as Medical or Health Centers. Such centers are always built around a medical school, plus at least one other school of the health professions — dentistry, nursing, veterinary medicine, social work, schools of the allied health professions (like Boston University’s own Sargent College), and almost always the teaching hospital.

Dr. Rohrbaugh has announced promotions within his Department with which all of us in the Center are concerned. Raymond Mougahlian moves up from Assistant to the Plant Superintendent to “Chief of Maintenance — Training”. For the next two years he will work with Frederick O’Toole, serving as his understudy in the complex responsibilities which Mr. O’Toole carries.

“Ray’s” duties, which included supervision of Elevator Operators and the planning of other projects, are now assigned to Roger Caron, new Assistant to Mr. Klein. Mr. Caron has been involved for nearly three years with Medical Center projects and his assumption of responsibility will provide continuity in the crucial area of planning and follow-through with which the Plant Department is charged for the entire Medical Center.

Celtics star Jim Barnes has been a recent “guest” of University Hospital, under the care of Dr. Tom Silva, surgeon. “The flow of king-sized patients has begun to stir considerable interest” according to an F&C informant.

EXTRA, EXTRA! As Front & Center goes to press, the above item on our “king-sized” patients receives dramatic reinforcement. Bill Russell, all 6 feet and ten inches of him, was rushed from the Garden to Robinson 7, after an accident during the course of a game with the Knicks.

Dr. Silva, team physician, examined X-rays immediately and the damage to Bill’s knee is not so bad as was feared when the crowds saw him struggle with cruel pain while he was carried off the field. "Extreme exhaustion", coupled with his injury, should keep the star immobilized at the Hospital for a week or so, according to Dr. Silva.

Meanwhile, in the Public Relations office, the kind of chaos that publicity offices enjoy went on all day, as all phones went into action to provide an eager sports world with information on that certain patient on Robinson 7.

Come on UP! The skiing is fine at Sargent Camp and you are invited for a winter sports weekend. Next dates: March 7-9. The place, Peterborough, N.H., the rates, very reasonable. The whole family is welcome. Call Miss O’Donnell soon at 353-2748.