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BUSM News and Notes

1987-12

BUSM News & Notes: December 1987

no. 114

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Boston University
School of Medicine

December 1987
Issue #114

News & Notes

Gosman Scholarship provides funds for Boston firefighter's education

Abraham D. Gosman, a Weston, Mass., businessman and philanthropist, recently established a scholarship that will allow a member of the Boston Fire or Police departments to attend the School of Public Health. A reception in Gosman's honor was held in October in the School's Hiebert Lounge.

The first recipient of the scholarship is John Cloherty, a Dorchester resident, who will study environmental sciences. Cloherty has been a Boston firefighter for 10 years.

Gosman established the scholarship to express his gratitude for the Boston Fire Department's quick and effective response to a fire which threatened the building where his son was working. Also, because firefighting has become highly technical and firefighters often are at risk for exposure to toxic chemicals, Gosman decided to set up the fund at SPH.

Gosman is chairman of the board, chief executive officer and director of the Newton, Mass., Mediplex Group, Inc., which he founded in 1956. A wholly owned subsidiary of Avon Products, Inc., Mediplex provides congregate housing, long-term care, alcohol- and drug-abuse treatment and psychiatric care. Gosman also is president and chairman of the board of Meditrust, a Newton, Mass., company that invests in real estate related to health care and is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Gosman founded Meditrust in 1985.

About 100 guests attended the reception. In addition to Cloherty, speakers included Richard H. Egdahl, M.D., director of the Medical Center; Rep. George Keeverian, Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives; Dean John Sandson, M.D.; Rosemarie E. Sansone, director of the Boston Mayor's Office of Business and Cultural Development; Norman A. Scotch, Ph.D., director of SPH; Albert Sherman, director of Special Services at Boston University Medical Campus; Leo Stapleton, commissioner of the Boston Fire Department; and Jon Westling, acting president of Boston University.

Fellowships awarded to first Israeli exchange students at BUSM

The first two students from the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School who are participating in BUSM's Faculty/Student Exchange Fellowship Program were awarded fellowships at a recent reception hosted by Dean John Sandson at the School of Medicine. (see photo on page 2)

Israeli students Ran Kornowski, who was awarded the first George and Beatrice Sherman Foundation Fellowship, and Alon Lang, who was presented with the first Julius Gottlieb Fellow-



ATTENDING THE RECEPTION—Abraham Gosman, center, is flanked by Boston Firefighter and SPH student John Cloherty, left, and Dean John Sandson, at a reception held in Gosman's honor. (Photo by Gustav Freedman)

ship, studied at BUSM for three months. They completed rotations in cardiology, nephrology and pulmonary medicine at Boston City Hospital before returning to their homes in Jerusalem at the end of December.

Leonard Gottlieb, M.D., M.P.H., chairman of the Department of Pathology, presented the fellowships, one of which is named in memory of his father, Julius Gottlieb, M.D., a member of the BUSM Class of 1924. Gottlieb's father was part of the American committee in 1947 that helped to form a national medical school in what was then Palestine. The school since has grown into the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School. The second fellowship was named after the parents of Norton Sherman, a long-time friend of BUSM and parent of Brian Sherman '91. Sherman and his family, have endowed many programs at Boston University and BUSM.

Among those attending the reception were Arthur Avnon, the consul general of Israel; Ernest Blaustein, Ph.D., associate vice president for development at Boston University and a member of the committee that founded the exchange program; Louis Kaitz, president of the New England Region, American Friends of Hebrew University; Al Rosen, executive director of New England Region, American Friends of Hebrew University; and Joseph Vitale, Sc.D., M.D., associate dean for international health.



EXCHANGE STUDENTS—Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School students Alon Lang, second from left, and Ran Kornowski, far right, join Dean John Sandson, left, and Leonard Gottlieb, M.D., M.P.H., at a recent reception in the students' honor. (Photo by Gustav Freedman)

Vachon appointed chairman of the School's Division of Psychiatry

Louis Vachon, M.D., interim chairman of the Division of Psychiatry at the School, recently was appointed chairman of the Division. Vachon has been interim chairman for the past two and a half years.

"Dr. Vachon has been extraordinarily effective as interim chairman," said Dean John Sandson. "The School is most fortunate to have an individual of Dr. Vachon's experience in this important role."

Vachon also is psychiatrist-in-chief at the University Hospital. He received his medical degree in 1958 from the University of Montreal, and completed his residency in psychiatry at the Institute Albert Prevost in Montreal. He has been a faculty member at BUSM since 1962.

Ginter Sotrel, M.D., performs first video laparoscopic procedure at BCH

Ginter Sotrel, M.D., an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the School, and Jerald Korman, M.D., a third-year resident in OB/GYN at Boston City Hospital, recently performed an operation using video-laparoscopy to remove an early ectopic gestation from a patient's fallopian tube. The operation, which utilizes a television camera attached to a laparoscopic telescope, was the first such procedure performed at BCH.

According to the physicians, by using new and sensitive pregnancy tests, ultrasound and laparoscopy, the majority of tubal

pregnancies can be diagnosed early, before the condition becomes life-threatening. Early detection of these pregnancies means a less-radical surgical procedure may be performed and the future fertility of the patient therefore may be preserved. Other advantages of such treatment include minimal incision, shorter hospitalization, decreased operative morbidity, lower cost, and an earlier return to full activity for the patient.

The operation took just over one hour, and involved three small incisions in the patient's abdomen and the removal of the mid-portion of the right fallopian tube. The patient was discharged on the second postoperative day.

Kerrins co-authors text on AIDS information, misconceptions

Joseph Kerrins, M.D., an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the School, recently published "The AIDS File: What We Need to Know About AIDS Now!," a text that offers up-to-date information on the disease and attempts to dispel common misconceptions.

According to Kerrins, the book is being used as a text in an AIDS course by the Attleboro, Mass., school system. The book also is printed in Spanish and Portuguese and soon will be translated into French and Hebrew. Kerrins co-authored the book with Massachusetts-based author George Jacobs.

Koh elected to board of directors of American Cancer Society

Howard Koh, M.D., F.A.C.P., an assistant professor of public health, dermatology and medicine, recently was elected to the board of directors of the Massachusetts Division of the American Cancer Society.

Koh, who has been a BUSM faculty member since 1985, has research interests in the early detection and prevention of cancer, malignant melanoma, extracorporeal photophoresis, cutaneous manifestations of cancer and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), and cancer epidemiology. "I hope to contribute to improving strategies for early detection and prevention of cancer for the public," said Koh of his new position.

Recognition certificate awarded to Schweber for Alzheimer's research

Miriam Schweber, Ph.D., an assistant professor of biochemistry, recently was awarded the Certificate of Recognition for Research Advances and Insights into Alzheimer's Disease at the first International Conference of the Familial Alzheimer's Disease Research Foundation in Tulsa, Okla.

In addition, Schweber recently was appointed a research scientist at the Bedford Veterans Administration Medical Center in the Gerontology Research and Education Clinical Center (GRECC).

BUMC to honor Black Achievers on birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.

Four Medical Campus staff members have received the Boston YMCA's 1988 Black Achievers awards and will be honored during a program commemorating the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The program will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 12, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the University Hospital's Keefer Auditorium.

Lorraine Payne, associate director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, Lorraine Peters, assistant to the director of BUMC; Etlyn Steele, executive secretary to the director of personnel at the Medical Campus, and Rhonda L. Thomas of the Alumni Medical Library, are this year's recipients. The Black Achievers program links successful black professionals with young people in the community.

A reception following the program will be held in the Wilkins Board Room at 5 p.m.; all members of the Medical Center community are invited to attend. The year 1988 marks the 20th anniversary of the death of King. The theme of the program will be "The Martin Luther King Jr. Dream—20 Years Later."

Burton receives NIH grant for research on tissue kallikrein

James Burton, Ph.D., an associate professor of medicine, recently received a five-year, \$735,000 grant from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for his research entitled "Inhibition of the Enzyme Tissue Kallikrein."

According to Burton, research indicates that the hormone plays an important role in blood-pressure control and renal function. The grant is for the continued development of compounds that may have therapeutic value.

New introductory course offered on biomedical laboratory sciences

The Program in Biomedical Laboratory and Clinical Sciences will offer a new course entitled "Introduction to Biomedical Laboratory Sciences" beginning Jan. 11. Ellen Berkowitz, Ph.D., an assistant professor of biochemistry, will be the instructor.

The four-credit laboratory course is designed for students interested in pursuing careers in laboratory sciences. Data-gathering and presentation, laboratory safety and instrumentation are some of the skills that will be covered. All Medical Center employees who enroll in the course will get tuition remission. For further information, please contact Constance Phillips, director of the Program, at x5097 (638-5097).

Buzzee, director of personnel at Medical Campus, retires after 22 years

Howard Buzzee, director of personnel at the Medical Campus, recently retired after 22 years. Michael Donovan, of the Charles River Campus Personnel Office, will serve as acting director of

personnel until a new director is appointed.

Buzzee first came to Boston University in 1965 as compensation manager at the Charles River Campus. He assumed the role of director of personnel at the Medical Campus in 1970. During his tenure, Buzzee saw the Medical Campus grow from 590 employees in 1970 to 2,250 employees in 1987. His office was responsible for processing the growth in positions, recruiting the personnel to fill these positions, and servicing the personnel-related needs of the faculty and staff.

He was instrumental in implementing programs to better serve the personnel of the Medical Campus, and his efforts contributed to improvements in fringe benefits and affirmative action. He also oversaw the automation of Medical Campus personnel records.

Office of Business Affairs responsible for changes on Medical Campus

A number of changes are taking place at the Medical Campus as a result of a revitalized Office of Business Affairs, according to Assistant Vice President for Business Affairs William Gasper.

In addition to the new Boston University Bookstore branch and the planned renovation of dining facilities at the School, and the additional parking made available for BUMC employees in Lot B, a new student computer laboratory recently was



FACULTY PHONATHON—School of Medicine faculty, staff and students raised \$25,000 in pledges during the faculty Phonathon, which was held at the School of Medicine in October. During this campaign, Neiman-Marcus Corporation will match every dollar contributed by the BUSM faculty to the SRLF up to \$10,000 a year, through 1989. The 24 callers appealed to full-time, part-time and adjunct faculty members for support of the BUSM Student Revolving Loan Fund. According to Dean John Sandson, although the returns are still coming in, he believes the School will surpass the 85-percent faculty participation achieved during last year's campaign. Shown here, from left to right, are Lawrence Miller, M.D., an associate clinical professor of psychiatry; Selwyn Broitman, Ph.D., a professor of microbiology; and John Dittmer, Ph.D., an associate professor of histology and an assistant professor of anatomy. (Photo by Gustav Freeman)

constructed in the School, benches were placed on the Talbot Green and an automated teller machine (restricted to cash dispensing) is planned for the basement of the Instructional Building.

The Office of Business Affairs at the Medical Campus oversees the departments of Personnel, Purchasing, Financial Affairs, and Plant Services (which includes custodial, maintenance and groundskeeping services) and Auxiliary Services.

The Office of Auxiliary Services, directed by John Burtis, has been established to manage security, parking, shuttle bus, dining services, mail services, shipping and receiving, and the bookstore. Gasper also said that an ongoing program, including violation notices and clearer identification of restricted parking areas to maintain orderly parking in Lot C, has been initiated.

Security also has been improved: a new radio system has been installed to allow security personnel to communicate from all areas of the Medical Campus and Charles River Campus, the supervision of security personnel has been increased, and a

security vehicle has been purchased. Gasper's goal is to "revitalize the various Business Affairs operations to ensure the proper level of support and service to the instructional, research and clinical areas of the Campus."

Whitaker Health Sciences Fund announces application deadline for research proposals

The Whitaker Health Sciences Fund, an independent, nonprofit organization that supports joint biomedical research between the School of Medicine and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has announced that the deadline for its collaborative research proposals for grants beginning next year will be Jan. 15. Proposals must be sent to department chairpersons by the deadline for grants beginning July 1, 1988.

Ten awards will be given this year for \$48,000 each (excluding overhead). For more information, please contact the Whitaker Health Sciences Fund office at 253-7878.

News & Notes is a publication of the Office of Publication Services. If you have news of interest to the BUSM community, please contact editor Cynthia Koury, x8482 (638-8482) or write to her at the Office of Publication Services, DOB-600 (720 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118). Marge Dwyer is managing editor.

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