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**Boston
University
Medical
Campus**

Campus UPDATE



March 1992 Vol. 4 No. 2

Financial planning set for March 3

A financial planning seminar for Medical Campus employees will be held on Tuesday, March 3, from 2 to 6 p.m. in the University Hospital C/D conference room, on the second level of the Atrium Pavilion. Financial planning expert Bob Glovsky, the director of financial planning at Boston University, a principal of Tofias/Fleishman, Shapiro & Co. and a co-host of a radio talk show called "The Money Experts" on WHDH, will discuss financial planning strategies and a variety of other subjects, including how to choose a financial planner, estate planning, retirement planning and investment and income tax planning. Glovsky led the retirement seminar held last April at the Medical Campus. The financial planning seminar is sponsored by the Medical Campus Office of Personnel. For further information, contact the office, at 638-4610 (x4610).

There also will be a financial planning session held at the Charles River Campus on Thursday, March 5, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. in the Ellberg Lounge at the Case Athletic Center. □

Attention students:

For important news on loan checks, see page 4.



Refinancing videotape to be available on loan

A videotape of the Charles River Campus presentation on mortgage refinancing held in January will be available for borrowing through the Medical Campus Office of Personnel shortly.

The tape covers discussions on refinancing with representatives from the Boston University Credit Union and BayBanks, as well as with financial planning expert Bob Glovsky. □

Facilities management manual due out soon

A new guide offering an overview of the services provided by the Medical Campus Office of Facilities Management will be distributed soon to all departments of the Medical Campus.

Facilities management Director Craig Lazenby encourages feedback on the services provided, whether they be concerns or compliments. He can be reached at 638-4211 (x4211). □

Family violence task force seeks to help community

A desire to increase awareness and action in combating family violence in the Boston community has prompted a group of School of Medicine students and Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Elaine Alpert, M.D., to start the "Family Violence Task Force." This information and discussion group, open to all members of the Medical Center community, as well as personnel from Boston City Hospital, is intended to provide information about the issues of family violence and to assist those interested in finding opportunities to volunteer in local battered-women's shelters.

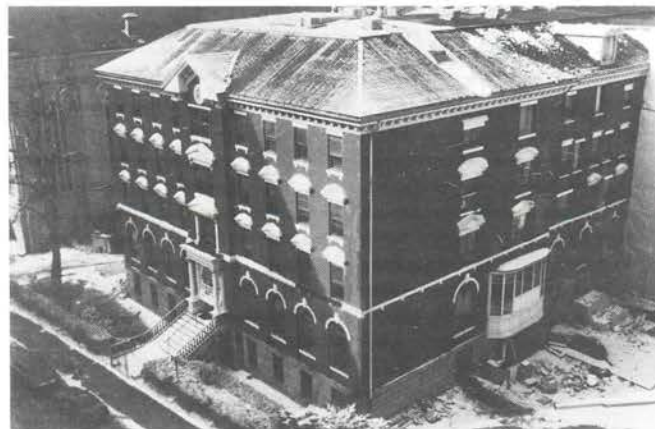
"This is an innovative, grassroots organization," said Alpert. "We're still just figuring out our goals and

priorities."

The meetings provide information about volunteer opportunities for working on counseling hot lines and at such shelters as Renewal House, which is for battered women and their children. Currently, one task force volunteer is working at Emerge, a counseling service for men with a history of battering family members.

The task force meetings also serve as a forum for information about issues concerning family violence. At a recent meeting, the group viewed the documentary "Prisoners of Wedlock," produced by Lifetime Cable TV.

For information about upcoming meetings, contact Tamara Ward, in the Office of Student Affairs, 638-4166 (x4166). □



Renovations of Harrison Court, the 19th-century building that will serve as a modern apartment complex for students and employees of the Medical Center, continue. Dormers are being built into the fourth floor apartments, adding light and a decorative touch. For more information on this building, see page 2.

Harrison Court:

A new role for a historical South End building

Harrison Court, the building that soon will provide 60 comfortable, secure apartments for members of the Boston University Medical Center community, has a notable place in Boston's history. This imposing brick building with classical ornamentation was designed by architect Louis Weissbein in 1858, and served as the original home for Boston College until 1913, when the institution moved to Chestnut Hill. Several major additions were added over the

decades. From 1913 to 1955, it was a school building and faculty residence for Boston College High School. For the past 30 years, it has been a residence for members of the Jesuit order.

Recessed arches and prominent keystones adorn the windows on the first floor, while the windows on the second and third floors are capped with pediments of contrasting styles. The fourth floor windows are plain. The center of the facade is trimmed with a ga-

bled pavilion, and there is a projecting Corinthian portico over the entrance.

Adding yet another flair to the architecture of this building, dormers currently are being inset into the roof for the fourth floor apartments.

Situated just blocks from the grass parks of Blackstone and Franklin Squares, and the handsome brick bow front town houses of Worcester Square, the building is an established part of the history of the South

End. Charles Bulfinch, the architect of the Massachusetts State House and later the United States Capitol, laid out the South End's first street plan in 8101, designing it as a grid pattern of streets surrounding the two squares. Worcester Square, as well as Union Park and Chester Square, were created during the 1850s to attract the city's mercantile class. □

Two former smokers have found "Freedom from Smoking"



Former smoker Chris Lewis imparts advice to the people participating in the winter session of the "Freedom from Smoking" program on how to withstand the urge to light up.

The 11 participants in the "Freedom from Smoking" winter session took what they hoped would be the last drags of their cigarettes on Jan. 28. They quit at the third of the seven sessions of the program, each member of the group buddied up with a fellow quitter for emotional support during the ensuing weeks.

On hand to give the group an inspirational send-off on "Quit Day" were two former smokers who have succeeded in kicking the

habit. One of the speakers, Meg Skaggs, quit on Oct. 1 with the help of the support she received in the fall session of the "Freedom from Smoking" program. The other speaker, Chris Lewis, who quit a year ago in January, said he wished he had had the support of the program. Skaggs works in the Medical Campus Office of Purchasing. Lewis is a clinic coordinator in the School of Graduate Dentistry predoctoral clinic.

At the quitting session, Skaggs and Lewis offered tips on resisting the urge to smoke. For Skaggs, taking deep breaths when she was craving a cigarette was the saving grace in the early weeks of her effort to quit. "The deep breathing really helped," she said. "It was the loss of a crutch that was hardest for me."

Resolute in her commitment to quit, Skaggs admits that it was tough, particularly during the first two weeks. "There's nothing wrong with working through your bad feelings about it," she told her audience of impending quitters. While over the holidays she did succumb to having a cigarette, she said she didn't enjoy it.

Skaggs said she found the "Freedom from Smoking" program very helpful. "I feel really good about it now," she concluded, telling her audience, "I really am glad that you'll quit. You can do it."

Lewis, who had tried unsuccessfully to quit four times in previous years, initially was forced to quit because he had oral surgery. While he succeeded in quitting without the help of a support group, he said he doesn't recommend it.

The first 48 hours were the most difficult for him, he said. From there he survived by having short-term goals of three days, then three weeks, then three months. "After that it got better," he said.

Lewis stressed the relief he felt of no longer being "socially a misfit." Just "hav-

ing my friends stop torturing me was a relief," he said. He also emphasized what a conquest quitting had been for him. "I'd been one of those smokers who'd be holding on to the steering wheel with my toes just to have a cigarette on the highway," he said.

The American Lung Association's "Freedom from Smoking" program, offered by the Medical Campus Office of Personnel, is lead by ex-smoker Sandy Platt, an employee relations representative in the Office of Personnel. The program is carried out at the Medical Campus over the course of seven sessions, with one meeting taking place every week. If you are interested in participating in the smoking-cessation program, contact Sandy Platt at 638-8821 (x8821). □

Vending machines to be installed at School's 801 Albany Street building

At least three vending machines, containing sodas, juices and snacks, will be installed on the first floor of the 801 Albany Street building by mid March, in an area being set aside to provide a gathering spot for employees working in the building. □

Employee profile

Meet the School's irrepressible Carl Franzblau, Ph.D.

Carl Franzblau, Ph.D., the chairperson of the Department of Biochemistry, is rounding out his 30th year at an institution he expected to leave after just one year. Arriving at the School of Medicine in 1962 after earning his doctorate, he "just took an opportunity, told my wife we'd probably be in Boston for one year,

and came here with a four-month-old baby who's now a 30-year-old lawyer," he recalled recently. Clearly ardent about his work, his family and a host of other interests, he's somewhat irrepressible when he begins talking about any of them.

Yes, he's been at the School longer than all but a handful of colleagues; yes,

he's started up an academic program or two. But get him started on such personal matters as the facts that he expects to become a grandfather in April, a father-in-law for the second time in August, that his wife is a teacher or that he has a home on the Cape, and he is equally eager to talk.

The chairperson of the Department of Biochemistry since 1977, Franzblau, 57 years old, has seen the department grow significantly from the time he arrived as a young assistant professor. He now oversees a program with 70 graduate students and some 19 postdoctoral candidates.

In addition to his leadership in that department, he has been the associate dean for graduate studies at the Medical Campus, administering the Division of Medical and Dental Sciences, for the last 2 1/2 years. In this capacity, he has been responsible for establishing City-Lab, a joint effort of the School of Medicine and the School of Education that is designed to provide high



Carl Franzblau, Ph.D.

school teachers in the Greater Boston Area with instruction in the bio-sciences and with the laboratory facilities to use for instructing their own students.

After 30 years at BUSM, Franzblau clearly is not wanting for projects. Reflecting on his number of years at the School, he joked, "I've been here so long that when [University President] John Silber said at a recent Employee Recogni-

Franzblau
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Genetics finding provides clue to form of inherited deafness



Aubrey Milunsky, M.B.B.Ch., director of the Center for Human Genetics, unveiled at a press conference the findings made by his team of investigators concerning the genetic defect responsible for an inherited form of deafness. Kip Opperman, director of Boston University's Disability Services, communicated the presentation in sign language.

Members of the press gathered at the School of Medicine on Feb. 13 to listen to the announcement by researchers in the Center for Human Genetics of their finding of the genetic defect responsible for the most common syndrome of inherited deafness.

The discovery, published in the Feb. 13 issue of the journal *Nature* reveals for the first time the precise molecular error underlying this important cause of congenital hearing loss.

The finding will enable scientists to create blood tests for the precise diagnosis of the condition, called Waardenburg syndrome.

Further work also may lead to the development of the first effective medical treatments for congenital deafness. The syndrome accounts for about 3 percent of all cases of congenital deafness, striking approximately one in 37,000 newborns.

The director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders at the National Institutes of Health, James B. Snow Jr., called the finding "a major breakthrough that will improve diagnosis and genetic counseling and ultimately lead to substitution therapy or gene transfer therapy." □

Benefits open-enrollment in April

During April, eligible employees who currently are participating in health, life, personal and family accident insurance plans will have the option to modify coverages on certain plans or to switch plans. This opportunity runs from April 1 through April 30, 1992. New coverages will take effect May 1, 1992.

The upcoming enrollment period is the only time for the next year that employees can make a change in their plans, with the exception of instances in which employees experience certain "qualified changes," as defined by the

Internal Revenue Service. These changes include an employee or spouse losing his or her job; an employee and spouse having a baby; and an employee becoming married or divorced, amongst others.

Information on the open-enrollment period will be sent to all employees shortly. Employees may stop by the Office of Personnel in the Talbot Building to register for the change, or they may register in writing through the mail. For more information, contact the Office of Personnel at 638-4610 (x4610). □

Energy, imagination mark Franzblau's influence at School

Franzblau

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tion Dinner that he's going to out last everybody here [he's been here only 17 years], I went up and told him, 'There's no way,' since I'm much younger than he is and would be here much longer."

For all the time he's given to Boston University, however, Franzblau said, he and his family have received much in return. "Both of our children obtained their undergraduate degrees at BU, our son his law degree, our daughter is getting a doctorate in counseling psychology in the School of Education, and my wife received a master's degree at the School of Education."

Franzblau has built an impressive track record during his years at the School. He has been an established investigator of the American Heart Association since the early 1960s and has had National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants every year he's been here. He has overseen a number of program projects involving faculty from both the basic science and clinical departments. Last year, his laboratory published nine papers—the Department of Biochemistry well over 50 papers.

For the last 15 years, he has been the principal investigator of a National Institutes of Health (NIH) \$1.2-million-a-year pulmonary program project addressing "Response of the Lung to Injury." It now is in its 16th year of funding. The project, which also involved the Department of Medicine's Pulmonary Research Center, is now headed by two different investigators. Both are funded for the next

five years.

Franzblau is also the co-principal investigator of a program project on atherosclerosis, which is now entering its 21st year of NIH funding. The Department of Medicine collaborates in this program project as well.

In his other leadership role, serving as the associate dean for all of the graduate programs at the Medical Campus, Franzblau oversees 300 students. The program includes 63 M.D./Ph.D. students, which pleases him.

"This is something I've made a major commitment to, because I believe there is a subset of medical students who want to have a research experience in their education, and want to include research in their ultimate career choices," he said.

The Division of Medical Sciences also includes a master's degree in medical sciences, which is designed to help students assess careers in biomedicine. There are 73 in the program this year, many of whom aspire to attend medical school. "Overall, they are an exciting group of students, who deserve recognition," Franzblau said.

With regard to another strong interest of Franzblau's, CityLab, this program was one of four out of 250 to receive funding (\$500,000) by NIH under a secondary education partnership association grant. The program is directed by Connie Phillips.

Franzblau's enthusiasm for the program is evident. "These youngsters are going to walk into 801 Albany Street, amidst a cancer center that has all kinds of research going on, and they're going to have their own laboratory in exactly the same building. And it is not



Medical Campus security dispatcher Marc Vigneau, stationed in the department's new headquarters in the basement of the new biomedical research building at 609 Albany St., watches the campus by viewing the security monitors, which have been consolidated in a new console.

matchboxes that they're going to try to do experiments with. It's state-of-the-art equipment, with high-powered microscopes and chromatography systems. Ultimately, we hope to have the students here on Saturdays in biotechnology clubs," he said.

"I'm the principal investigator of this grant that is designed to develop a high school centralized laboratory at a medical school," he said, noting that a lot of individuals have contributed to its success. "It's probably the first of its type in the United States."

"It's very exciting. We're trying hard to make it go, but with no funds others than what we get from the public, it's difficult. We're ready to solicit private foundations." Just another project for Franzblau, one which he is bound to take on with the vigor he has been approaching his other programs for the last three decades. □

Student loan checks now endorsed at Medical Campus

For the convenience of students on the Medical Campus, loan checks will now be endorsed on this campus, rather than at the Charles River Campus. Refund checks, cash advances, and emergency loans, however, remain available only at the Charles River Campus.

The new service will be carried out in the Medical Campus Office of Financial Affairs, in the Robinson (B) Building, room 301. The scheduled hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., with the additional hours of 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. For additional information, please call 638-4598 (x4598).

This new service is a result of a collaborative effort by SCOMSA (the Student Committee on Medical School Affairs), the Office of the Comptroller, the Office of Financial and Business Affairs, and the Office of Student Financial Management. These offices welcome your comments. □