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Front & Center: September 1971

Boston University Medical Center

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Boston University
BUMC'S VISUAL REHABILITATION CLINIC LARGEST IN NEW ENGLAND

A six-year-old girl learning braille was fitted with special telescopic glasses and is now enrolled in the first grade; a near-blind college student was given a newly-developed closed-circuit television for reading and can now continue his studies; an old woman with only side vision wanted to sew....

Yearly, more than 2,000 people from all over New England suffering from low vision (diminished eyesight which cannot be helped by conventional glasses or an operation) have benefited from a comprehensive visual rehabilitation program at BUMC.

Located in the Talbot Outpatient Building, the program, which is under the direction of Dr. Carter Tallman, is task-oriented.

"Patients come in with specific problems: they want to write, read, watch television, or do a combination of these. Our job is to test them and find the proper visual aid that will help the patient in doing certain tasks," said Dr. Tallman.

Visual aids, which number more than 100, range from a lighted magnifying glass to a complicated TV system developed at BUMC and used to scan an ordinary book page and project an enlarged version on a TV screen, said Dr. Tallman.

The clinic, which is the largest in New England, is open five days a week from 9 am to 4 pm and also provides rehabilitation and social services to patients.

Each patient is instructed how to use his visual aid or aids, if he requires more than one, for the tasks he has in mind, according to the doctor. In addition, the clinic has available a room specially equipped with such things as a stove, an ironing board and a loom for weaving where patients can practice using their visual aids under the supervision of a physical therapist.

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DONALD TAYLOR JOINS
BU MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

A community leader with broad background in the fields of social work and mental health has been appointed to a key position at BUMC. Donald F. Taylor, 37, has been named associate area director of the proposed Commonwealth of Massachusetts - Boston University Community Mental Health Center.

Taylor will have administrative responsibility for the numerous programs connected with the Mental Health Center, which is in the final phase of pre-construction planning. He also will coordinate programs with existing community agencies to insure that community representatives are deeply involved in those programs.

UH CHAPEL FUND GROWING:
A DREAM COMING TRUE

The UH Chapel Fund recently passed the $65,000 mark with a $500 contribution from the UH medical staff. The donation brings the chapel closer to reality - a dream that UH Chaplain Leicester Potter has had since joining the staff in 1944.

Stressing the need for a chapel, Rev. Potter said, "Many people who come here are facing numerous crises and need a place to go for spiritual refreshment and meditation."

EMILY FEENER HONORED AT FAREWELL RECEPTION

The occasion was happy, yet sad.

Staff, students and friends of Emily L. Feener, associate director of nursing for patient care at University Hospital, gathered for a farewell reception for her which was held recently in Vose Hall.

Miss Feener left BUMC to become assistant director of nursing at Salem Hospital.

As a remembrance of her eight years here, members of the Nursing Department presented Miss Feener with a delicate crescent-shaped pin of opals and diamonds.

Ingrid Stoelzting, in-service instructor in the Nursing Department, summed up the sentiments of those present: "Miss Feener is a warm, fun-loving person who is always interested in everyone. We will miss her."

Miss Feener, a graduate of the Massachusetts Memorial Hospital, received her BS and MS degrees from Boston University. In her new position she will be in charge of in-service education and will act as liaison for all schools of nursing which use facilities at Salem Hospital.

NOTICE

CENTERSCOPE, the official publication of the Medical Center, is seeking noteworthy papers either published in major journals or delivered orally. A carbon copy or page proofs should be forwarded to the Office of Communications, Doctors Building 303. Articles of general interest by members of the Medical Center family also are welcome. Unusual photographs also will be considered for publication.
* Lawrence M. Strum has been named deputy director of communications for BUMC. In his new position, Strum will have the responsibility for press relations, publications and internal communications in the School of Medicine, School of Graduate Dentistry and University Hospital. For the past year, Strum has been news editor of the Citizen Group Publishing Company in Brookline. Before that he was information director for Boston City Hospital. He has served in public information offices at BU and Brandeis University, worked for WIND and WGBH and was on the staff of the Boston Herald-Traveler.

* An introductory digital computer course is being offered, free of charge, to BUMC employees by the Biomedical Engineering Section, Division of Medicine. The course will be held on Mondays from 3 to 5 pm beginning on September 27 and ending December 13. The course will consist of lectures and work sessions. During and after the course students will have the opportunity to run their programs on BUMC's IBM 360 model 40 computer. Those interested in taking the course should contact Dr. Charles K. Nagy, Vose Hall 1, Ext. 5234.

* UH patients and nursing staff have "gone Hollywood" for an upcoming television refresher course for nurses. WGBH-TV (channels 2 and 44) has filmed segments in the hospital's Extended Care Unit and at the Roxbury Comprehensive Community Health Center for the series which is being produced by the Continuing Education Program of the Boston College School of Nursing.

* Mrs. Helen Siegel, a member of the UH Nursing Department from November 1963-January 1971, has won the National Nurses' Award for 1971 for a booklet she wrote while at UH entitled, "About Adrenalectomies." A plaque and a $100 bond were recently presented to Miss Siegel by a representative of the S. E. Edison Chemical Company, sponsor of the Award Program.

* BUMC recently dedicated its nine-story Housman Research Center in recognition of a $750,000 gift by the Housman family of Winthrop which made the multi-million dollar facility possible.

* A special welcome is extended to students of the Northeastern School of Nursing who are arriving for the first time in September to serve the cooperative, clinical portion of their training at UH.

* Dr. Howard M. Leibowitz recently received two appointments at BUMC. He will serve as chairman of the department of ophthalmology at the School of Medicine and chief of the ophthalmology service at University Hospital.

* Appointment of a committee to explore more effective ways for financing the professional education for students was announced by Dr. Rohrbaugh. The committee was organized at the request of BU President John R. Silber.

"We must not permit traditional pay-as-you-go tuition plans, with inevitable increases, to price professional education beyond the reach of students," Dr. Rohrbaugh said. Committee members are Dean Ernest M. Haddad, School of Law; Professor Samuel C. Hanna, College of Business Administration; and Robert N. Jordan, business manager for medical affairs, BUMC.

* Barbara O'Brien has recently joined the UH Medical Records Department as a medical transcriptionist and Yvonne Snyder, formerly a transcriptionist in Medical Records, is now a secretary in the Oncology Department.

* Thinking about Fall fitness and fun? Join the UH co-ed Bowling League then (open to all BUMC employees) which will play on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at the BU Student Union beginning September 15. If you're interested in joining, call Karen Turino at Ext. 5570.

* Dr. J. Mark Hiebert of New York, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Sterling Drug Co., Inc., has been elected to the BUMC Trustee Council.
FOR SALE: 1965 VW. Very good condition. $675. Call 749-2435 or 773-4979.

FOR SALE: 1 twin bed, good cond., $10. 1 twin bed, excellent cond., $25 (with head-, and footboard). Also, really nice lovely living room chest your mother would approve of; dark wood, sliding doors; a bargain at $15. Call 566-0710.


FOR SALE: Grant's Atlas. Good condition. $15. Call 262-3696.

LOOKING FOR HOME: Free puppy. Good condition. 547-7488.

ROOMMATE WANTED: To share 2-bedroom apt. one mile from hosp. New kitchen, hardwood floors. Total rent: $200. Call Jerry, 665-1387.

FOR SALE: Assorted furniture: sofa, two desks, chair, etc. Call 254-5263.

FOR SALE: Four new 650 x 13 tires. Two are snow tires. $40. Call Dr. Slawsky, 244-1422.


THRILL TO TERRIER FOOTBALL, 1971

ORDER YOUR SEASON TICKETS NOW!

Schedule:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<td>The Citadel (N)</td>
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Regular Season Ticket - $20.00
Children's Season Ticket - 10.00

Make check payable to:
BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Return to:
Athletic Ticket Office
32 Gaffney Street
Boston, Mass. 02215

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Often, patients with low vision have special problems such as finding work or enrolling in school. To help meet these needs, the clinic has a staff of four social workers.

"Every patient is interviewed by a social worker when he arrives and a complete history is taken including previous medical care, visual aids that have been used and his special needs," Dr. Tallman said. "Once the patient receives his aid, the social worker contacts various agencies for assistance. This may involve placing a child in a special school, or enrolling a patient in a job training program, and is usually done through the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind."

Low vision, aided and trained, can turn a life harnessed by dim images into productive focus. BUMC's Visual Rehabilitation Clinic is trying to do just that.