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# BUSM News & Notes: May 1988 no. 118

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*Boston University*



Boston University  
School of Medicine

# News & Notes

May 1988  
Issue #118

## Film about Early Selection Program aims to attract minority students to BUSM

The School of Medicine recently completed the production of a documentary about its innovative Early Medical School Selection Program (EMSSP). The film, which premiered at a recent reception in the School's Hiebert Lounge, was completed with the assistance of a major grant from the Ruth M. Batson Educational Foundation and underscores the need to train more black physicians. (See photo on page 3.)

The documentary, entitled "Wake Up Everybody," was produced by BUSM's Educational Media Support Center. Arthur Culbert, Ph.D., associate dean for educational programs and director of the Early Selection Program, was the executive director and interviewer. The script was written by Wendy Eicholzer and the production was filmed by Lewis A. Glass, both of Educational Media and both of whom served as co-producers. Carmen Fields, Boston's WGBH-TV (Channel 2) news anchor, narrated the film.

### Parents and students interviewed

Traveling to Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Virginia and the Virgin Islands, the production crew filmed a number of interviews with EMSSP students on the campuses of Spelman College, Morehouse University and several other traditionally black schools participating in the Program. The parents of these students also were interviewed.

The Early Selection Program, established in 1982, was designed to increase the number of minority students attending BUSM. Talented undergraduates at eight traditionally black colleges and universities in the South and the Virgin Islands are admitted to the School at the end of their sophomore year of college. There currently are 26 students in the Program.

The Ruth M. Batson Educational Foundation is one of the few black charitable organizations in the country assisting black students in fulfilling their educational goals.

## Residency placements for fourth-year students announced on Match Day

The School of Medicine's fourth-year students fared well at Match Day, the annual event in which medical students at BUSM and across the country learn where they will spend their residencies. Seventy BUSM students received their first choice, 23 received their second choice and 13



**RECEPTION FOR OUTGOING DEAN**—Hundreds of faculty, staff, students and guests turned out for a recent reception held in honor of Dean John I. Sandson's retirement as dean of the School of Medicine. Sandson, second from left, who has served as dean of the School for the past 14 years, on May 1 turned the deanship over to Aram V. Chobanian, M.D., director of the Cardiovascular Institute, far right. Among those attending the reception were University President John R. Silber, second from right, and Medical Center Director Richard H. Egdahl (far left). Sandson will continue on the faculty as dean emeritus and a professor of medicine. (Photo by Bradford F. Herzog)

received their third choice. Of the 53 students entering programs in Massachusetts, 32 will be at BUSM-affiliated institutions. This year's Match Day was held on March 23. (See photo on page 4.)

One hundred forty-six students participated in this year's National Residency Matching Program, a nationwide computer system that matches students to residencies on the basis of the priority of choices of both students and hospitals across the country. News media covering the event at the School included United Press International, the *Boston Globe*, the *Boston Herald*, WCVB-TV (Channel 5), WBZ-TV (Channel 4), WNEV-TV (Channel 7) and WLVI-TV (Channel 56).

## NBC commentator, sociologist to speak at BUSM, SPH commencement exercises

Arthur Ulene, M.D., health commentator for NBC's "Today" show, will be the featured speaker at the School of Medicine's commencement ceremony, to be held at 2:30 p.m. on May 15 in the Case Athletic Center on the Charles River Campus. One hundred and fifty-two students are

scheduled to receive degrees at the ceremony. A breakfast for graduating students and their families will be held at 8:30 a.m. on the Talbot Green. A shuttle bus will depart for the Charles River Campus at 9:45 a.m. for the University commencement ceremony, which will begin at 11 a.m. in Nickerson Field. Carlo Rubbia, Ph.D., the 1984 Nobel Prize winner in physics, will be the guest speaker at the University ceremony.

The speaker at the School of Public Health ceremony will be Sol Levine, Ph.D., a professor of public health (social and behavioral sciences) and a University Professor. Levine, who also is a professor of sociology at the Charles River Campus, will speak on "The Public Health Professional as a Hero." He currently is on a leave of absence from Boston University and is working at the Kaiser Family Foundation in Palo Alto, Calif. The commencement ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. on March 15 at the School for the Arts Concert Hall on the Charles River Campus. Approximately 121 students will receive the Master of Public Health degree. A reception for graduates, families and guests will be held in the SFA lobby after the ceremony.

### Awards, talk by 'Red' Auerbach to highlight 1988 Alumni Weekend

Three School of Medicine alumni will receive Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Awards at the 113th Annual Meeting and Banquet of the BUSM Alumni Association to be held on May 7 at the 57 Restaurant. Arnold "Red" Auerbach, president and former coach of the Boston Celtics basketball team, will be the guest speaker at the dinner.

Betty J. Bamforth '47, Eleanor Nicolai McQuillen '60 and Jerome D. Waye '58 will receive awards at the banquet. Bamforth is assistant dean of student affairs and a professor in the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Wisconsin. McQuillen is the chief medical examiner in Vermont and is a clinical associate professor of pathology at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. Waye is chief of the Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Unit and a clinical professor of medicine at the Mount Sinai Medical Center and chief of the Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Unit at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City.

A scientific program will be held in the morning in the School's Bakst Auditorium. Richard S. Blacher, M.D., a professor of psychiatry and a lecturer in surgery at Tufts University School of Medicine, is the 1988 Jacob Swartz Visiting Professor. Blacher will discuss "Affairs of the Heart: Observations in Surgery." The presentation of scientific papers by members of the Class of 1963 will be followed by an address by Dean Aram V. Chobanian. The afternoon will conclude with the premiere of a film entitled "Women in Medicine," which is a videotape of a discussion among BUSM alumnae led by then Alumni Association President Roberta Apfel '62 during the 1987 Alumni Weekend.



*THAT'S 'SKIT' NITE—Gary Schwartz '91 and James Pollard Jr. '91 practice their skeet shooting during BUSM's annual "Skit Nite." (Photo by Gustav Freedman)*

### Skit Nite festivities feature awards, spoofs of life at the School of Medicine

The School of Medicine's annual "Skit Nite" and awards ceremony, co-sponsored by the BUSM Alumni Association and the Student Committee on Medical School Affairs, recently was held in the University Hospital's Keefer Auditorium. William McNary, Ph.D., associate dean for student affairs, presented the awards to students and faculty members.

Beth Hanrahan '88 received the Henry J. Bakst Scholarship Award, given to the senior student "who has demonstrated the qualities that exemplify the true physician." Steven Palter '90 received the Ciba Award for Outstanding Community Service, given by the Ciba Pharmaceutical Company. Kamal Kalia '90 and Bruce Kastin '90 received the McGraw-Hill Awards, given to the first and second top-ranking students (respectively) who have completed the first year curriculum. The Class of 1954 Faculty and Student Awards were given to the following: Douglas Rosene, Ph.D., an associate professor of anatomy, received the Thomas Robitscher Faculty Award for excellence in teaching the preclinical sciences; Joel Caslowitz, M.D., an associate professor of medicine, received the Frederick Jackson Faculty Award for excellence in clinical instruction; and Kamal Kalia '90 received the Geoffrey Boughton Student Award, for the outstanding second-year student in pathology. David Druckman '91 and John Meehan '91 received the Dr. Elizabeth K. Moyer Award, presented to the first-year student for excellence in gross anatomy. Eric Watsky '89 received the Esther B. and Albert Kahn Scholarship Award, presented to the third-year student who demonstrates devotion to the profession and concern and compassion for the patients. The Lange Medical Publications Awards went to John Barnes '91, Bruce Kastin '90 and Kamalia, and Jill Heytens '89 for academic achievement, and to Ellen Hight '91, Jaime Este-McDonald '90, and Margo Moskos '89 for community service.

## Noble receives awards for humanitarian service and smallpox eradication work

John Noble, M.D., a professor of medicine, chief of the Section of General Internal Medicine and director of the Primary Care Center at Boston City Hospital, recently was awarded a Special Humanitarian and Social Action Award by the International Christians for Unity and Social Action for his accomplishments in humanitarian service. Noble was nominated by one of his patients for the work he has done in the community through BCH.

In addition, Noble recently received a Special Commendation for Smallpox Eradication from U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, M.D., for his work in the Smallpox Eradication Program of the World Health Organization and Pan American Health Organization, from 1966 to 1969. Noble was responsible for developing an international reference lab for smallpox while in the U.S. Public Health Service at the National Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, Ga.

## William Kannel, M.D., receives award in cardiovascular medicine from ACC

William B. Kannel, M.D., a professor of medicine and public health, recently received the 1988 Distinguished Service Award from the American College of Cardiology (ACC) for his outstanding contributions and leadership in the field of cardiovascular medicine. Kannel, who also is chief of the Section of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology in the Department of Medicine at the University Hospital, was presented the award at the 37th Annual convocation ceremony of the Scientific Session of the College in Atlanta, Ga.

Active in the field of cardiology for more than 30 years, Kannel has been associated with the Boston University Framingham Heart Study since its inception in 1949. A former director of the Study, Kannel now is a principal investigator.

## Phyllis J. Stevens receives Distinguished Service Award

Phyllis J. Stevens, director of the Office of Minority Affairs, recently received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Medical Minority Educators (NAMME) for her outstanding contributions to the recruitment, retention and graduation of minority medical students.

As director of the Office for the past eight years, Stevens has provided academic, career and personal counseling for BUSM medical students and has conducted workshops for premedical students on such topics as admissions procedures, self-esteem and self-awareness. She also has participated in and coordinated workshops for the minority

affairs section of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Established in 1975, NAMME is an organization of health professionals whose major goal is to support minority education in the health professions. Stevens, a charter member of NAMME and an active member of the executive committee, recently was a panelist at the organization's thirteenth northeastern regional conference held in Baltimore, Md. Stevens will be co-chairperson of the next northeastern regional NAMME conference to be held in Boston in 1989.

## Saralynn Allaire, M.S., R.N., receives traineeship from Arthritis Foundation

Saralynn J. Allaire, M.S., R.N., a nurse clinical specialist in rheumatology and assistant director of community services at the Multipurpose Arthritis Center at the School of Medicine, recently received a two-year Arthritis Health Professions Traineeship from the Arthritis Foundation.

The traineeship will allow Allaire to complete her doctoral degree in education counseling and will enable her to undertake a research project on "Homemaking, Disability and Arthritis: The Importance of Disease, Family and Personal Factors."

## Cholesterol, blood pressure screenings to be conducted at the Medical Center

The Medical Center's Employee Health Service, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, will sponsor a two-day cholesterol screening program May 24 and 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the H-2 bridge of the University Hospital. A two-day blood pressure screening will be held June 16 and 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the same location. There is no charge for either of the



**RECRUITMENT FILM PREMIERES**—A reception recently was held for Ruth M. Batson, M.Ed., after the premiere of the Early Medical School Selection Program recruitment film. Shown here, from left to right, are Batson, Dean Aram Chobanian and Dean Emeritus John Sandson. (Photo by Gustav Freedman)

tests and the results will be available immediately to participants.

Health educators will be present at the screening to offer individuals advice about their cholesterol level and to explain what the level says about their risk of heart disease. For more information, please call the Employee Health Service at x8400 (638-8400).

### **Janina Galler, M.D., awarded NIH grant to study effects of fetal malnutrition**

Janina R. Galler, M.D., a professor of psychiatry and public health (epidemiology and biostatistics), has been awarded a three-year, program project grant of \$1,422,080 from the National Institutes of Health to study "Fetal Protein Malnutrition and Mental Retardation."

Galler will evaluate in a rat model the correlation among the behavioral, neurophysiological and neuroanatomical effects that early undernutrition has on the brain. According to Galler, who has studied the problems of malnutrition for more than 20 years, 40 to 60 percent of the world's children suffer from mild to moderate undernutrition. At Boston City Hospital, she said, up to 50 percent of pediatric admissions have some form of undernutrition, though a child may be hospitalized for unrelated reasons.

### **BUSM's Fetal Alcohol Education Program receives funding from Kennedy Foundation**

A one-year \$37,405 grant from the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation recently was awarded to BUSM's Fetal Alcohol Education Program. The grant will provide funding for a study on children affected with fetal alcohol syndrome. Barbara A. Morse, Ph.D., an assistant research professor in the Division of Psychiatry and assistant director of the Program, is the principal investigator of the study. Lyn Weiner, M.P.H., an associate professor of psychiatry at the School, is director of the Program.

Fetal alcohol syndrome, which is seen in children whose mothers were heavy drinkers during pregnancy, is estimated to occur in about 1.9 per 1,000 births. In the U.S., it is the third leading known cause of mental retardation in association with birth defects.

### **Bissonnette becomes first nurse appointed BUSM associate professor**



Anna Bissonnette, R.N., M.S., an assistant professor of socio-medical sciences and community medicine and associate director of the University Hospital's Home Medical Service, recently became the first nurse to be promoted to the rank of associate professor at the School of Medicine, according to HMS Director R. Knight Steel. Bissonnette's



**MATCH DAY EXCITEMENT**—Fourth-year BUSM students display their internship assignment notices on Match Day. Shown, from left to right, are Elizabeth Berk '90, Susan Donohue '88, Alfred Burgo '88, Mark Cianciola '88 and Christine Campbell '88. (Photo by Michael McGovern)

new title, to be effective July 1, will be associate professor of socio-medical sciences and community medicine (community health nursing-gerontology).

University President John R. Silber, in a letter announcing Bissonnette's appointment, said that the promotion represents the Trustees' recognition of her contributions to the University's academic programs and to her profession.

### **BUMC Radiation Protection Office offers home radon testing service**

The Medical Center's Radiation Protection Office now is offering Household Radon Testing kits to all BUMC faculty, staff and students, according to Victor Evdokimoff, Sc.M., an adjunct assistant professor of public health (environmental health) and radiation protection officer for the Medical Center.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that has been linked with cancer and is sometimes found in homes. Radon may seep into homes from the earth through cracks in the foundation, floor drains, porous building material or from well water. An energy-efficient home may trap low levels of radon and result in a higher concentration of the gas, according to Evdokimoff. The cost for radon-gas sampling and analysis is \$20. A discount is available for students. For more information, please call the Radiation Protection Office at x7052 (638-7052).

### **The University Hospital Blood Bank announces need for donors**

The University Hospital Blood Bank is appealing to all members of the Medical Center community to donate blood,

according to Georgia Mason, a blood donor recruiter. All blood types are needed.

The Blood Bank is located in room 420 of UH's Health Services Building and is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. If the hours are inconvenient, appointments are available.

The Blood Bank also offers free premarital testing to all blood donors. For patients scheduled to undergo surgery, the Blood Bank offers autologous transfusion, a procedure that makes use of a patient's own blood to meet his anticipated transfusion needs before surgery. Directed donations also can be made for a family member who may need a transfusion prior to surgery. For more information, call the Blood Bank at x7855 (638-7855).

### School of Medicine outlines policy on smoking in University facilities

Dean Emeritus John Sandson recently outlined the University's policy on smoking in common areas of University-owned facilities. According to the policy, all common areas are considered "no-smoking" areas, unless clearly designated for smoking.

Smoking is not allowed in such common areas as lobbies, corridors, stairwells, lavatories and elevators. With regard to private work areas, each department should establish its individual policy on smoking on its premises. The Office of Plant Services is overseeing the placement of signs spelling out the policy in appropriate locations. The policy is available on heavy-grade paper suitable for posting. For a copy of the policy, please contact Pattie Duggan of the Business Affairs Office at x4590 (638-4590).



**ALUMNI SPRING PHONATHON HELD**—Volunteers raised \$31,840 in pledges during the School of Medicine's annual Spring Phonathon, held on March 7 at the George Sherman Union on the Charles River Campus. Sixteen alumni and 12 students phoned 464 BUSM alumni, 199 of whom made pledges. Peter Pochi '55 is chairman of the Phonathon Committee. Shown here are Dennis LaRock '90, left, and Michelle Dobkin '88. (Photo by Louis Martin)



**EARLY DAYS AT BUSM**—The office above is that of William Waters, M.D., a professor of pathology at the School from about 1900 to 1920. The photo is one of many items of historical interest in the Alumni Medical Library's archives.

### BUSM Alumni Medical Library Archives seeking items to add to collection

The staff of the School of Medicine's Alumni Medical Library reminds the Medical Center community that there is an ongoing interest in obtaining items of historical significance to add to the Library's archives. According to Archivist Pat Sherman, such items as photographs, scrapbooks, unpublished manuscripts, personal mementos, minutes from meetings, notes, memoranda and other records that document the academic and administrative life of a department, the School or Medical Center, are of particular significance to the collection.

Sherman asks that staff members who are reviewing old files and discarding unwanted materials that might be of interest for the Library collection please call her at x4237 (638-4237).

### Boston University to host conference on sports, home eye safety and trauma

Boston University will host an audio teleconference, sponsored by the National Society to Prevent Blindness, on sports and home eye safety and eye trauma from noon to 2 p.m. on May 27. The event will take place in a studio at the University's Charles River Campus, but members of the Medical Center community may watch the teleconference in the University Hospital's Keefer Auditorium.

Faculty, staff and students interested in watching the teleconference from Keefer Auditorium should call the School of Medicine's Educational Media Support Center at x4370 (638-4370). For further information, please call Maryann Dwyer at x5110 (638-5110).

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## Michael Grodin, M.D., awarded grant to study justice and health

Michael Grodin, M.D., director of the Program in Medical Ethics at the School of Medicine, recently received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to attend a summer seminar on justice and health.

Grodin, who also is an associate professor of pediatrics, socio-medical sciences and community medicine, and social and behavioral sciences, is one of 10 professors from across the country who will come together to attend the program, to be held at Tufts University this summer. Grodin's specific proposal is the ethical issues in AIDS research.

## Free skin cancer screening to be held at the Medical Center

Physicians in the Dermatology Section of the Evans Medical Group of the University Hospital will conduct free skin

cancer screening sessions Thursday, June 2, from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m., for interested individuals and employees of the Medical Center, Boston City Hospital and other area institutions. Clinics will be held in the Doctors Office Building, Suite 402. The screening is being held in observance of May and June as National Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Months.

Dermatologists will provide free skin evaluations for those who are concerned about possible skin cancer and they will provide educational materials and answer questions about skin cancer detection and prevention. Patients with suspicious lesions will be referred to their own physicians for follow-up.

Anyone wishing to be screened should call x7420 (638-7420) for an appointment. This effort is co-sponsored by the American Cancer Society and the American Academy of Dermatology.

*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-915 (720 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118). Marge Dwyer is managing editor.

## News & Notes

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