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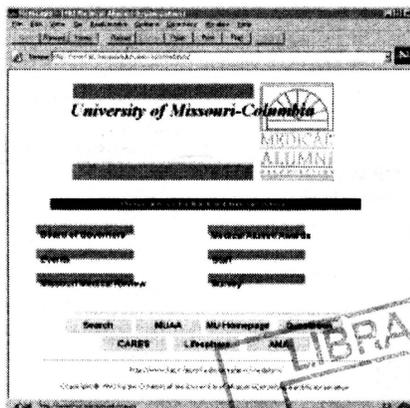
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# I N F O S P H E R E

## NEW MU MEDICAL ALUMNI ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

Medical Alumni have always had ways of keeping in touch with their alma mater. Reading Health Sciences Center (HSC) publications and attending special events have been traditional sources of information. Now, the World Wide Web is also a source. Linked to the MU Health Sciences Center School of Medicine page, the Alumni home page offers up-to-date information, links to other HSC web pages and an opportunity to ask questions online. The address is: <http://www.hsc.missouri.edu/cares/som/medalum/>



The current information categories are: Board of Governors, Events, Missouri Medical Review, Medical Alumni Awards, Staff and Survey. This page is also linked to other web sites such as the MU Alumni Association (MUAA), MU Homepage, CARES, Lifesphere and the AMA home page. Additional features include a SEARCH button and a link to the Alumni "Guest book" which allows visiting "cyber" alumni to sign-in. One of the activities listed under the "Events Button" and also part of the Alumni activities this past homecoming, was the Integrated Technology Services (ITS) demonstration showcasing the new Alumni page. Sue Yun, Computer Programmer, and Sarah Blanton, Senior Programmer Analyst, ITS Web Administrator, provided hands on access to this website.

## TWO PROGRAMS MERGE TO FORM NEW DEPARTMENT

To better prepare healthcare administrators to meet the challenges of today's changing healthcare environment, MU is creating the country's only Department of Health Management and Informatics housed within a medical school.

The new department will be formed from the University's nationally known Health Services Management and Medical Informatics programs. The merger will allow MU to offer graduate degrees in health informatics to complement the master's degree it offers in health administration.

Informatics is the science of managing and analyzing data in all aspects of health care in order to provide meaningful information to healthcare professionals when they need it.

Dr. Joyce Mitchell, School of Medicine's Associate Dean for Computing and Information Technology, says there is a demand for a master's degree in informatics, but the University has been unable to offer one because the informatics program was not part of an academic department. "We've had a federally funded informatics fellowship program, which has been recognized as one of the top ten informatics training programs in the country, for more than 20 years, but we never had a degree to offer," says Dr. Mitchell, who also serves as Chief Information Officer of the Health Sciences Center.

Dr. Gordon Brown, professor and director of the Program in health Services Management, says the management and Informatics programs traditionally have enjoyed a strong collaborative relationship. Dr. Brown, who has been named chair of the new department, says the formal integration of the programs into an academic department will bring an even closer union.

The department provides a stable structure to the health services management program, a critical mass of faculty member for research and teaching and the opportunity for closer interaction with clinical colleagues at the School of Medicine, Dr. Brown says.

Drs. Mitchell and Brown agree that the merger's main impact will be to broaden the curriculum. Students in both programs will be required to take core courses in management and informatics.



## CENTRAL MAILING ADDRESS FOR HELP DESK

If you have a service request, a question, or a complaint, you may now send a note to the Help Desk's mailbox. It is checked for messages at least four times a day. Service requests will be placed in Remedy, the software tracking package, and sent to the appropriate person that day. It is requested that you be as specific as possible. The entire e-mail note will be placed into the description section of the system. The mailbox is in the cc:Mail address directory as Help Desk, Hospital. As always, you may reach the Help Desk by phone at **882-1063**.

## TUESDAY NOON SEMINARS

Seminars are at GL03-11 in the basement tunnel between the Hospital and McHaney Hall

December 2

**Michael R. Barnes, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor, Family  
and Community Medicine

December 9

**Susan Dickerson**  
Service Coordinator, ITS  
*Living in a World of HMOs and  
Lowest Bidders*

## INFOSPHERE WORLD-WIDE

*Our Little Slice of Heaven  
on the Web*



[www.hsc.missouri.edu/  
infosphere](http://www.hsc.missouri.edu/infosphere)



### EDITORIAL STAFF

**Linda Cooperstock:** Manager, Planning and  
Coordination

**Alan Arnold:** LAN Manager, Internal Medicine

**Karen Apple:** Senior Information Specialist, ITS

**Rebecca S. Graves:** Information Services  
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**Lamar Henderson:** Senior Information  
Specialist, ITS

**Debra Wheeler:** Information Specialist, ITS

**InfoSphere** is published monthly to facilitate the transition to an electronic information environment and to promote computer literacy. It is supported, in part, by a grant from the National Library of Medicine (Grant #G08 LM 05415-03).

Published by Integrated Technology Services, MC406 McHaney Hall, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri 65212, (573) 884-7717.

For ADA accommodations, contact the ITS office.

**InfoSphere** is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.hsc.missouri.edu/infosphere/docs/infosphere.html>.

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## MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHT

David Witten II, Manager  
Research Support and Development Group

The Research Support and Development Group (RSD) of Integrated Technology Services exists to provide support for research and education in the UMC Health Sciences Center. It is composed of three subgroups, each providing a particular set of skills.

The Biostatistics Unit provides key support for researchers as they initiate new projects. With its assistance in experimental design, faculty can be assured that investigations are conducted in a manner that will allow valid conclusions to be drawn from their work. The Biostatistics Unit also offers sound advice on the design of surveys and other data gathering instruments based on extensive experience and training.

Once the data from an experiment has been collected members of this unit can offer experience in the use of tools for data analysis such as SAS and SPSS. Their expertise in the application of these tools to experimental data and can guide researchers through the process of drawing valid conclusions from experimental data.

The Biostatistics Unit has recently been augmented by the addition of an epidemiologist. Her assistance is available in the construction of population studies and projects related to managed care.

The Software Development Unit offers assistance in the design and implementation of database and other programming projects. It has a special focus on the needs of the academic components. It provides expertise in data modeling, data management, data extraction and conversion. This unit maintains server resources for hosting new projects as well as temporary housing of transient data sets. It offers expertise in the application of products such as Oracle database servers to a wide variety of problems. It also serves as a source of referrals for groups seeking assistance with data management problems from sources outside the University.

The work of the Software Development Unit complements that of the Biostatistics Unit in that it provides the middle piece—data collection—that fits between the design phase of a research project and the final analysis of the collected data. In addition, they provide a channel of communication to help researchers connect with existing bodies of patient care and other data within the institution.

All members of this unit are experienced in the design of user-friendly interfaces that ease access to information. They use a variety of tools, depending on the need, to construct 'thin client' Web interfaces as well as interfaces to databases based on more traditional client/server models. Since the Internet has become the prime vehicle for providing location independent access to enterprise information resources, the Software Development Unit provides expertise in using the Web for building solutions to many education and communications problems.

Another basic function of the Software Development Unit is to provide programming support for the needs of all aspects of medical education. It offers support to the developers of curriculum materials. It provides faculty from the School of Nursing, School of Medicine and the School of Health Related Professions with assistance in the creation of multimedia, Internet accessible, and database driven teaching materials. Current projects include image databases, Web-based teaching materials and Web-based workstations to support the distribution of educational resources to students located in rural settings. The Software Development Unit also has a specific responsibility to serve as a reservoir of knowledge about emerging and advanced technologies. It is expected to advise the enterprise about the potential for application of these technologies to problems in all areas of patient care, administration, education and research.

The third subgroup within RSD is made up of people working on specific grant or contract funded projects. These principally relate to telemedicine and evaluation of the impact of telemedicine on healthcare in rural communities. These people provide a bridge between information services within the Health Sciences Center and those of the Missouri Telemedicine Network. Many of them are physically located in the communities they serve. There they provide training, user support, and information retrieval services to end-users.

## NEW STAFF

### Deborah Sunday

Project Administrative Liaison  
from FCG  
PCCOnline Project

### Evelyn Harned

Administrative Assistant  
Finance

### Susan Koenig

Project Development  
Specialist  
Research Support and  
Development

### Cathy Schafer

Computer Programmer  
Analyst I  
UP Business Applications

### Dr. Patricia Schnitzer

Epidemiologist  
Biostatisticians

### Mary Catherine Jurczyk

Administrative Associate  
Finance

### Franklin Gannan

Network Support Specialist  
Research Support and  
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### Kenneth Hoffman

Network Support Specialist  
Research Support and  
Development

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User Support Analyst II  
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UP Business Applications

### Carrie Embree

Senior Clerk  
Data and Technical Services

### Greg Easley

User Support Analyst II  
User Services

### Brenda Diehls

Training Associate  
UP Business Applications

### Kate Wise

Senior Secretary  
Planning and Coordination

## CONGRATULATIONS

Michael Barnes, M.D., Craig Klimczak, D.V.M., Joyce Mitchell, Ph.D., Jesse Bowen, Ph.D. and Mike Ruiz, R.N., were interviewed for an article in the November issue of *Health Data Management* about the System for Text Archive Retrieval (STAR). The system is a database of medical records that can be accessed by physicians remotely, through the internet, by providing the appropriate user name and password. An online demonstration, using scrambled data for security reasons, can be found at:

<https://macaroni.mig.missouri.edu:10121/Star.html>

## NEWS FROM HEALTH INFORMATICS RESEARCH

Drs. Andrew Balas, John C. Reid and Joyce A. Mitchell had an article, "Health informatics Training at the University of Missouri," published in *The 1997 Yearbook of Medical Informatics*.

## FROM THE J. OTTO LOTTES HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY

### NOTHING BUT 'NET— CHOOSING A WEB SEARCH ENGINE

Having trouble finding information on the Web? Can't keep up with the changes in search engines such as Altavista, Hotbot, or Magellan? The "Nothing but 'Net — Choosing a Web Search Engine" web site, created by the librarians in the Information Services Department at the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library and at ITS with support from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine— Midcontinental Region, is designed to solve just such problems. To get to "Nothing but 'Net" choose "Assistance selecting an Internet search engine" from the top of the library's web page at <http://www.missouri.edu/library>.

"Nothing but 'Net" allows you to select from 15 popular search engines the ones best suited to your specific search. From the main page simply choose the features that you want the search engine to perform, such as limiting your search by language, the ability to combine terms and phrases, or case sensitivity. You will then be presented with a hypertext list of three search engines that can best perform the functions that you specified. From here click on the search engine of choice and link directly into its site. "Nothing but 'Net" frees you from having to keep up with the ever changing features of each search engine and allows you to maximize the best features of each engine.

If you are one who prefers to do his or her own evaluating, the list of features on the main page provides you with a ready made template against which to judge the search engines. Does the search engine allow searching on the exact phrase, e.g. "health maintenance organizations"? Can you combine words by nesting, using both AND as well as OR, e.g. "nurses and (Missouri or Kansas or Iowa)"? Does it support case sensitive searches, e.g. AIDS? With the increasing sophistication of the Internet search engines, you no longer have to put up with baby-basic searches. Instead you can use more complex search strategies to narrow in on your topic.

Should you find yourself uncertain as to what a specific feature listed on "Nothing but 'Net" means, click on the term and you will be given a definition along with an example. For a more in-depth look at searching, click on "Overview of Web Searching." If you find yourself running out of time, click on "Request an expert Web search" to have a search performed for you. To reach the librarians, call 882-6141 or send email to

[hslref@showme.missouri.edu](mailto:hslref@showme.missouri.edu).

**MEDLINE /  
CINAHL /  
PSYCINFO  
WORKSHOP  
SCHEDULE**

**December**

Medline 10-11:30  
Tuesday 2  
CINAHL 3:30-5  
Monday 8  
PsycINFO 3:30-5  
Thursday 11

**January**

Medline 11-11:30  
Thursday 13  
CINAHL 3:30-5  
Tuesday 20  
PsycINFO 3:30-5  
Monday 26

**February**

Medline 3:30-5  
Monday 2  
CINAHL 10-11:30  
Tuesday 10  
PsycINFO 10-11:30  
Wednesday 18  
Internet 12-1:15  
Searching Tuesday 24

You can search journal literature on the OVID system using Windows or Web. These workshops focus on Windows; you may request Web instructions. Enrollment is limited to eight each. Special dates available. Call 882-6141 or go to <http://www.hsc.missouri.edu/library/docs/wsreg.html> to register or for more information.

**WORK GROUP HIGHLIGHT**

**Patient Centered Care Online (PCCO): IDXtend Work Group Profile**

The IDXtend Work Group is responsible for implementation of the IDXtend software product from the IDX Corporation. IDXtend is the GUI (graphical user interface) to our current IDX system, bringing a windows environment to our registration and scheduling applications.

IDXtend is designed around front desk staff work flows, enabling the end user to check patients in and out more efficiently. It is also the foundation for other IDX GUI applications such as Enterprise Visit Management and Enterprise Patient Management, which will be implemented during the course of the PCCO project.

Members of this work group are: Cindy Raef (FCG) Work Group Leader; Scott Stever (UP) Associate Work Group Leader; Barbara Basnett (UP); Kathy Smith (UP); Jill McGinnis (ITS); John Guyton (UHC); Stan Shollenbarger (ITS).

Their current accomplishments and activities include: Learning IDXtend as well as Microsoft Word, Excel and Visio; Conducting site visits; Pilot sites have been selected; Completed a draft of the roll-out proposal; Developing a 10-15 minute demo to use with clinic staff; Attending screen design and security workshops.



**JACK HAMMER, NETWORK DETECTIVE**

by Alan Arnold



Margaret Howell  
Special Collections  
401 Ellis Library