



The Fenway Alliance member institutions strive to achieve an improved physical environment, sense of community, and quality of life for members, residents, and constituent patrons of the Fenway Cultural District.

- Members of The Alliance:
- Berklee College of Music
 - Boston Symphony Orchestra
 - Emmanuel College
 - The First Church of Christ, Scientist Forsyth Institute
 - Harvard School of Public Health
 - Huntington Theatre Company
 - Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
 - The Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity
 - Massachusetts College of Art
 - Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
 - Museum of Fine Arts
 - New England Conservatory
 - Northeastern University
 - Simmons College
 - Wentworth Institute of Technology
 - Wheelock College
 - YMCA of Greater Boston

ALLIANCE NEWS

Letter from the Chair



Happy New Year! This is an exciting time for the Fenway Alliance! The enthusiasm and leadership of our new Executive Director, Kelly Brilliant, and her capable staff of Debora Frazier and Minona Heaviland, are already evident. The Alliance is committed to continuing to be a catalyst for such critical projects as the Huntington Avenue revitalization (Avenue of the Arts), the creation of the Fenway Cultural District, the "clean-up" of the Muddy River and the Ruggles Street initiative. Additionally, new initiatives include expanding our communications vehicles, especially a comprehensive web site; attempting to establish new sources of revenue; and increasing the visibility of the Fenway Cultural community, as evidenced by inclusion of the Alliance in Boston's First Night Celebration. The expectation of the Executive Committee and the Alliance staff is that major progress can be achieved and the Alliance goals will be realized if the membership expands its commitment to "making things happen." This includes helping to identify new members, increasing the capacity for fundraising, and volunteering for vital committee work. So, in this tumultuous era of change for our nation, I thank you for your past commitment and support of the Alliance. I hope sincerely that you consider how important the Alliance has been to effect major change in the Fenway area and, thus, extend your commitment and support. Best wishes for a healthy, happy and successful New Year!

-Dominick DePaola
President, The Forsyth Institute

Letter from the Director

Dear Fenway Alliance Members and Friends,

As the New Executive Director of The Fenway Alliance, I am honored to be a part of this long-standing membership organization, now 18-members strong. I am inspired and encouraged by the commitment of Alliance members to enhance the physical environs of this area and solidify the identity of The Fenway Cultural District.



We are fortunate to be part of a community so rich in culture, art, and

knowledge, particularly during this turbulent time in our country's history. It seems to me that now more than ever we need what our arts, cultural and academic institutions provide: the ability to look at the world with new eyes and fresh perspectives that sit apart from conventional wisdom and accepted paradigms of thought. During times like these, a Fenway Alliance goal--to provide greater numbers of people with more access to the resources contained within our institutions--becomes critical.

In order to accomplish our mission and maintain the vast infrastructure improvements you have all played a vital role in accomplishing, The Fenway Alliance is embarking on a new fundraising initiative this year. We hope to secure support from our corporate neighbors who benefit tremendously from their proximity to the vast resources of this area. This funding will supplement, but never supplant, the vitally important support we receive from you, our members.

To realize the vision set forth in The Mayor's 1998 Avenue of the Arts Proclamation, much work needs to be done. This year, The Fenway Alliance looks forward to more collaborative programming, which spiritedly began with our participation as a Cultural District at this year's First Night celebration. We are also planning a Fenway Cultural District event for the Fall of 2002 to usher in the new subway stations and streetscape improvements now in process on Huntington Avenue. This event would recognize the critical improvements to the Avenue that you all made happen. Finally, we continue to seek more ways to raise and act on our "cultural consciousness." Our success in this will be determined by how well we engage those members of our community who have traditionally had the least participation with our institutions. In doing that, we do not merely enhance our community; we create community for the future. I look forward to creating with you.

Kelly Brilliant
Executive Director, The Fenway Alliance

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For current information on what's happening in the Fenway Cultural District, visit us online at www.fenwayculture.org

[Huntington Theatre Partners with Codman Academy](#)

In September 2001 Codman Academy Charter School was opened as Boston's newest charter school. The Codman Academy offers a unique, hands-on approach to learning that is not found in traditional classrooms. Based in Dorchester, Codman is a "walking school"--students learn on-site through various venues throughout the city. The Huntington Theatre Company is partnering with Codman Academy to provide the core for the students' Language Arts curriculum.

Over the course of the academic year, the students make 20 visits to the Huntington and work in tandem with its Education Department under the supervision of Donna Glick, Director of Education. "This collaboration is unique for a number of reasons," says Glick. "First of all, I don't know of any collaborations throughout the country quite like this one. And that is very exciting. For a new charter school to involve all of its students on site with a cultural organization and integrate artistic work for a majority of the curriculum is unique. We feel that we are just beginning to discover the possibilities for collaboration, for opening the world of theatre and for introducing the principle tenets required for successful artistic participation -- teamwork, personal ambition, self-confidence, taking risks, and supporting each other."

For more information about the Huntington Theatre's education programs, please contact the Huntington's Education Director, Donna Glick, at 617-266-7900, ext. 1548 or visit online at www.huntingtontheatre.org.

[New Family Program at the MFA: Art Alive!](#)

Art Alive brings the MFA's galleries to life through performance and storytelling. Monthly features of Art Inter"ACT"ions presented by members of the Underground Railway Theater engage hundreds of families through theatrical interactions with the MFA's collection. On all other Saturdays, Books Bring Art Alive presentations are held in the galleries with Kristin Solias and featuring children's literature that brings the MFA collection to life and inspires gallery art projects. Free on Saturdays with admission.

[Berklee College of Music's Annual "Encore Gala" to Benefit Talented Urban Teens Raises Over \\$340,000](#)



Members of the City Music All-Stars directed by Winston Maccow are seen in this photo, as they perform at Berklee's Encore Gala 2001. From left to right are: Devron Warner (bass); Brent Irvine (trumpet); Jacob Bor (alto saxophone); Mike MacAllister (guitar). Photo by Bob Kramer.

Berklee College of Music's seventh annual Encore Gala and silent auction took place in October 2001, at the Harvard Club of Boston. Over \$340,000 was raised to support Berklee City Music, the college's education outreach program for talented urban teens. Schwab Capital Markets was the lead sponsor. The festivities included a cocktail reception, dinner, silent auction, and the Gala party, which featured performances from many musical styles.

Berklee City Music provides scholarships to deserving Boston area high school students. Through Berklee City Music, students receive scholarships to

Berklee's five-week summer performance program, participate in after-school mentoring and a Saturday music school, and can be awarded four-year, full-tuition scholarships to attend Berklee College of Music.

This past year more than 50 students from Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, and Lynn were funded to participate in the college's summer five-week performance program, SYSTEM-5 "Summer Youth Scholarship for Talent and Excellence in Music." Eight students were awarded four-year full-tuition scholarships to Berklee College of Music. To quote Berklee's Assistant Vice President for Community and Governmental Affairs J. Curtis Warner, Jr., "At some institutions, community affairs is an afterthought, but at Berklee, it's a priority."

[Pulpits, Harmonies and Dreams:](#)

[A Glimpse of the Black Communities of Boston](#)

An extraordinary collection of memorabilia from Boston's Black communities belonging to Wheelock College professor of education and music Dr. Leland Clarke will be on display at the College's Towne Art Gallery from Feb.-March 2002.

The exhibition, "Pulpits, Harmonies, and Dreams," spans culture, politics, school, family, work, and church. "The show highlights the significant contributions that African Americans made in the development and growth of the Black communities in Boston," says Clarke. This history was hidden away for years in the office of Leland's father, Othniel Clarke, who lived in the South End of Boston with his family, worked at S.S. Pierce as a painter and shipper, served in the Army during World War II, was superintendent of the People's Baptist Church Sunday school, and taught basket-weaving at the Robert Gould Shaw Community Center.

In addition to showing the accomplishments of African-American Bostonians, Clarke hopes the show will "encourage other African-American families and institutions to explore, preserve, and share their history." And on a more personal level, the show "celebrates and maintains a written history of the contributions and accomplishments of the Clarke family of Boston."

[Boston Symphony Offers Friday Afternoon Bus Service for Seacoast Maine and New Hampshire Residents](#)

The Boston Symphony Orchestra, through the Boston Symphony Association of Volunteers (BSAV), offers an affordable and convenient bus service to Friday afternoon concertgoers living in seacoast Maine and New Hampshire. While targeted at Friday-afternoon concertgoers, seacoast Maine and New Hampshire residents not attending the concerts are also welcome to take advantage of the bus service for shopping, sightseeing, or other activities in Boston. Upon request, the bus will stop at Arlington Street or Copley Square. For more information, or to purchase a ticket, please call the BSAV Office at 617-638-9390.

ALLIANCE PLANNING AND PARKLANDS PROJECTS

Fenway Planning Task Force

The Fenway Planning Task Force is currently working with an urban planning consultant, The Cecil Group, on developing an East Fenway Strategic Plan to identify growth and preservation areas in the neighborhood and provide zoning guidelines to the City. Simultaneously, the Fenway Planning Task Force spends time each meeting to review active projects in the neighborhood, such as Huntington Ave. & Mass Ave. If you are interested in finding out more about the Fenway Planning Task Force, contact Kelly Brilliant at The Fenway Alliance.

Muddy River Restoration

The Muddy River Project is aimed at providing flood control, water quality assurance, habitat enhancement, and historic preservation to the Emerald Necklace Park System. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was released in December. Work will likely begin upon approval of the Final Environmental Impact Report later this year. The project would likely proceed geographically from Ward's Pond to Charlesgate. However, work in the Charlesgate area may begin soon after review and certification of the DEIR, which is expected in February or March.



Merck Breaks Ground at Emmanuel College

By Molly E. Honan



Groundbreaking ceremony; from left to right: Mayor Thomas Menino; Emmanuel President Sister Janet Eisner, SND; and Merck Chairman, President and CEO, Raymond Gilmartin. Photo by Kerry Brett Hurley.

Merck Research Laboratories-Boston, scheduled to open in early 2004 on Emmanuel College campus, will be devoted to new drug discovery and will offer new educational opportunities, including research internships and program initiatives, to Emmanuel students and faculty.

Emmanuel's President Sister Janet Eisner, SND, and Boston political leaders, Mayor Thomas Menino and Congressman Michael Capuano, were on hand to welcome Merck to Boston and the Longwood medical, academic and scientific community during an October groundbreaking ceremony held on the Emmanuel College quad. At the ceremony, Sister Janet Eisner spoke of the significance of the new facility's location, "Since its founding by the Sisters of Notre Dame 83 years

ago, Emmanuel College has stood proudly at 400 The Fenway in Boston. Some say that these few acres are unique in the whole of America, where so many prestigious institutions are lined-up around the green Olmstead jewel. For where else in this country could you find such rare beauty, such commitment to intellectual pursuit, and such dedicated service to improving the health of humanity?"

Merck & Company was established in 1891. Its first research laboratory opened in 1933 in Rahway, NJ by George W. Merck, the son of the company's founder. Since then, Merck has grown to 10 major research centers in 7 countries, with more than 69,000 employees and a portfolio of more than 100 prescription medicines. Merck's Boston facility, which will house 300 scientists, will be critical to future discoveries.

"This is a great day for the City of Boston, a great day for Merck and especially a great day for Emmanuel College because this research facility will do so much for this college over the next century," said Mayor Menino.

The state-of-the-art facility will continue Merck's efforts to develop treatments for all diseases that currently lack effective cures, including cancer and AIDS. The center's entrance will be located on Avenue Louis Pasteur.

"We are proud to call Merck our partner and neighbor," said Sister Janet Eisner.

BERKLEE TO CREATE NEW MAIL CENTER

Berklee College of Music is busy converting the former City Sports store located at 168 Mass Ave into a new copying/mail distribution center. The work is targeted for completion in March, 2002. Student mailboxes and the student mail-processing center will be relocated to the lower level of the new facility.

The street level area will house a unique blend of college and public services. A retail copy center will occupy the space to the right of the entrance-way. The remaining space will be devoted to a lounge, faculty mailboxes, the college's incoming and outgoing mail processing center, and a suite for Auxiliary Services staff.

The photocopying operation will fill both a Fenway neighborhood and Berklee College need for efficient, cost effective, volume copying. Students, faculty, and staff will be able to make personal use of the copy center at a reduced cost.

Fenway Alliance members are encouraged to contact either Rena Wade, Director of Auxiliary Services (617-747-4206) or David Hornfischer, Vice President for Administration and Finance (617-747-2234) for further information. We hope our new service will be a cost-effective photocopying solution for Alliance members.



A Walk in the Park with Commissioner Justine Liff

By Cathleen McCarron

The concept of the public park as a cultural institution is one Boston Parks and Recreation Commissioner Justine M. Liff wants to advance. According to Liff on the eve of her sixth year at the helm of Boston's 2200-acre park system, the Back Bay Fens is as much a part of the City's cultural core as the Boston Symphony Orchestra or the Museum of Fine Arts.

Forging this image in the public consciousness was the impetus behind Liff's highly successful ParkARTS program, which this year brought, among other programs, *Translating Motion: Kinetic Arts in the Park* and *Swinging at Mother's Rest* to Boston's public parks.

The findings of a national study that determined only 40% of visitors to public parks were women, along with Liff's belief that there existed a "weakness in the amount of cultural programming offered by the Parks Department," signaled the need to diversify offerings at the City's 215 parks and playgrounds. Part fine arts, part performing arts and part participatory arts, the ParkARTS program is welcoming Boston's many communities back to the parks.

Liff attributes this renaissance of public interest in the parks to being another one of the "incredible parallels between the end of the 19th Century and the end of the 20th Century." She talks of the nation's "coming of age in an American way" between the 1860s and World War I and of the "combination of wealth and sophistication" which led to people's desire to leave a legacy.

This same combination is riding a new wave of philanthropy. But today, Liff asserts, legacies are born out of partnerships. The Parks and Recreation Department's most celebrated programs -- ParkARTS, Mayor's Cup Championship events, Emerald Necklace Ball and Rose Garden Party, to name a few - blend public and private funding. Among this year's most successful partnerships was the inaugural Boston Half-Marathon, an event Liff calls an "instant tradition." Launched by the BAA (Boston Athletic Association), the October race that began at Clemente Field and wound through the Emerald Necklace attracted national caliber runners, resulting in "a wonderful marriage of parks and sports and fitness."

One of Liff's critical partners, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, which aims (with the help of The Fenway Alliance) to restore Frederick Law Olmsted's park system and waterways to their original splendor, has led to commencement of a \$91 million dredging project on the Muddy River. Liff stated that the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was completed earlier this month, and the Army Corps of Engineers will soon determine its funding commitment to the project.

The Muddy River restoration project has received strong support from legislators. Liff credits Congressmen Barney Frank and Michael Capuano and Senators Kennedy and Kerry with being solidly behind the project.

She is optimistic about the project's potential, noting that its completion "will mark the first time in generations that people can see the water." Liff looks forward to the Fens' reclaiming its place as a waterway for canoeing and fishing. She also shares Gardner Museum Director Anne Hawley's vision of gondolas floating down the Fens, offering views of the City's most venerable institutions.

According to Liff, the same institutions located on the banks of the Fens will contribute to the restoration of the Back Bay Fens in the name of "enlightened self interest." She lists Emmanuel College's \$150,000 investment to restore the landscape of the section of the Fens in front of its property as the first of a number of commitments made to improve Olmsted's park. The Museum of Fine Arts and The Forsyth Institute are expected to be among the next contributors. The investment is needed if the Fenway Cultural District is to reach its potential. Liff confidently states that the Fens

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Commissioner Liff with Mayor Menino

ALLIANCE STREETSCAPE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Huntington Avenue/ Avenue of the Arts

Under the leadership of Jack Martin, VP of Business at Northeastern University, the Huntington Avenue Reconstruction project is nearing its final lap. McCourt Construction now estimates that the new T stops will be in place and ready for use by this July. Kelly Brilliant of The Fenway Alliance, along with Paul McCaffrey of MassArt, Bob Glavin of New England Conservatory, and Jack Martin & Jack Malone of Northeastern, meet with McCourt Construction on a bi-weekly basis to discuss the progress of construction along the Avenue of the Arts. An event is being planned by The Fenway Alliance to celebrate the completion of the T stops in the fall. We will be contacting you to become involved in this exciting event.

Ruggles Street

A short-term plan to improve Ruggles Street, initiated by Northeastern University, has received approval from the City to begin construction. This plan is aimed at improving vehicle traffic flow and accessibility of the street to pedestrians and bicyclists at the Northeastern end of the street, near Ruggles Station. These improvements, including a traffic light at Leon St. and bike path extensions, will soon be implemented by Northeastern University. Discussion of a long-term plan for Ruggles St. reconstruction, initiated by The Fenway Alliance, is also underway.

Massachusetts Avenue

The first phase of Massachusetts Ave. Reconstruction (from Huntington Ave. to Melnea Cass Boulevard) is now in the design stage. The City expects the design for this section of Mass Ave. to be completed by September 2003. In order to complete the design, the City will be holding at least two community meetings for comments and suggestions on the developing design. When the design is finalized, the project will go through a lobbying process similar to that of the Huntington Avenue Reconstruction project prior to receiving funding.

Dorchester High School Completes Project in Partnership with Shawmut Design and Construction and The Mary Baker Eddy Library

Eighteen sophomores at Dorchester High School recently presented construction plans for a new Dorchester High School at Student Recognition Night after completing a course at The Mary Baker Eddy Library construction site. The goal for the project was to build knowledge and general interest in the building process by studying the renovation at The Mary Baker Eddy Library with Shawmut Design and Construction's team. Volunteer faculty from the firms now renovating the Publishing Society Building at 200 Massachusetts Avenue taught the students about construction management, how to work with architects in designing space, how to analyze the envelope of a building, and the basics of HVAC and electrical engineering.

Construction at Simmons

These are exciting times for Simmons College, as their new building on One Palace Road starts to take shape. Upon completion in August 2002, the four-story building will provide a new home for the Graduate School of Social Work and the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, as well as the Technology Resource Center, Academic Support Center, and the Career Resource Library. The new building will offer much-needed relief for classroom and meeting space, and will provide three levels of underground parking.

There also are renovations taking place in existing campus buildings that will result in a modernized look and state-of-the-art technology. In addition to a complete renovation of the Education Department and the Modern Languages Department, the third floor of the Science Center has been renovated to house the Graduate School for Health Studies in one location. This renovation includes a new nursing lab, motion lab, physical therapy lab, and nutrition lab.

For more information on these construction projects, visit online at www.simmons.edu/visitors/news/construction.html

Massachusetts College of Art Constructs New Residence Hall

Massachusetts College of Art's new residence hall, designed by Kyu Sung Woo Architect Inc. and Rothman Partners Inc., is on schedule for completion this July. The residence facility will accommodate 306 students in apartment-style suites, thereby tripling the College's capacity to provide housing.

The residence hall will be MassArt's first newly constructed building since 1929. The nine story facility is designed specifically for a diverse community of artists and will house a large and accessible exhibition gallery. Students from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts are slated to occupy approximately 20% of the rooms. A major public art piece, designed by nationally known artist Jamie Carpenter, is planned for the space between the residence hall and the Avenue of the Arts.

The Massachusetts State College Building Authority is the lead agency for the project; construction is managed by the Beacon Skanska and CorJen Construction Companies. The building, which includes below ground parking, will be sited on Huntington Avenue, the Avenue of the Arts.

Kay Sloan, President of MassArt, notes that, "New student housing will expand and strengthen our campus community, giving more of our students access to the extremely rich resources of the Fenway Cultural District. This project also demonstrates MassArt's commitment to easing the student housing crunch in our adjacent neighborhoods."

Gardner Museum Selects Master Planner

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum has selected Machado and Silvetti Associates of Boston to design a master plan that will assess the Museum's physical needs for the future. The focus of the master planning assignment is a study of the capacity of the Gardner Museum's campus to accommodate enhanced programs and services for a broad range of audiences while preserving the unique qualities of the Gardner and its preeminent art collection.

"This is an opportunity to extend the Gardner's legacy," commented Gardner Museum Director Anne Hawley. "The approaching centennial in 2003 reminds us of Isabella Stewart Gardner's mission to inspire through beauty and art. The museum she created enables a dynamic connection between art, artists and the public. It's a privilege to position the Gardner for the next 100 years."

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will be "the centerpiece" of the district because "the park offers the district a distinct sense of place."

Liff has earned the right to be certain of her opinions. She holds degrees from Barnard College and the Simmons College Graduate School of Management, has completed coursework in restoration and preservation of historic architecture from Columbia University and was a Loeb Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. However, in terms of preparing her for the rigors of running a major city department, Liff admits her academic training is rivaled closely by her experience growing up the eldest of five children in Englewood, New Jersey.

Since being appointed commissioner by Mayor Menino in 1996, Liff has a long list of accomplishments to her credit. In addition to directing a staff of 260 and managing an operating budget of \$13 million and an additional \$12 million in annual capital and trust funds, Liff has overseen the drafting and publication of the Boston Common and Copley Square Master Plans, initiated a system-wide restoration of Olmsted's Emerald Necklace Parks, and made maintenance of the City's expanding open space system a top priority. She has developed high profile fundraising events, increased community programming, and completed several major construction and renovation projects.

Liff brushes aside attempts to praise her work. Instead, she simply waxes enthusiastic about her role as commissioner, stating, "My job is to say 'Yes.' There are so many wonderful ideas out there that will benefit the neighborhood, the City and the environment. We love to say 'Yes.'" With the Fenway Cultural District a burgeoning concept and a Parks commissioner a believer in its fruition, the Fenway Alliance has only to begin asking questions.

Wentworth Dedicates New Residence Hall



Officials who participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony; from left: Dean of Students Maureen Keefe; BRA Director Mark Maloney, Wentworth President John Van Domelen, Boston City Councilor Michael Ross, Mayor Thomas Menino, State Representative Kevin Fitzgerald, and former City Council President Charles Yancey. Photo by Gustav Freedman.

Wentworth Institute of Technology recently dedicated its new, 137,000 square foot residence hall at 610 Huntington Avenue. Approximately 200 people attended the dedication. At the ceremony, President Van Domelen thanked those responsible for the planning and construction of the hall. He also called attention to a new landscaped park and courtyard the students now enjoy.

"Clearly the new hall is a milestone in the history of the institution," the President said. "Sixty percent of our nearly 2400 full-time students are now living on campus. We're becoming a residential college." Mayor Menino congratulated Wentworth on the completion of the facility, noting that bringing students on campus would help free up housing for families in the neighborhood.

The residents moved into the building in late August. With its buff colored bricks, signature hip roof and painted gutters and downspouts, the facility reflects the old-world charm of Wentworth's three main buildings, all constructed before 1917. The building's interior, however, carries all the contemporary conveniences students now want and expect. The five-story, L-shaped building houses 473 students in 83 apartment-style suites. A typical suite includes a kitchenette, living room, two bathrooms, and three bedrooms. And, to accommodate Wentworth's technology-driven students, there is phone and high speed Internet access in each unit, the equivalent of three electronic ports for each student. Local phone service and cable TV are free.

Opening of Davenport Commons Heralded by City, State Officials

Northeastern University, Trinity Financial, Madison Park Development Corporation, Housing Investments, the Lower Roxbury community, and City and State officials celebrated the official opening of the completed mixed-housing development, Davenport Commons, on Douglass Park Ave., in September 2001. Mayor Menino and Northeastern President Richard M. Freeland, among others, participated in the official ribbon cutting and complex dedication to open this new housing alternative. The ceremony was followed by a neighborhood picnic sponsored by Northeastern University on the lawn behind the complex.

The \$51 million project, which began more than four years ago and was completed late in summer 2001, is the result of the combined efforts of city, state and university officials, mortgage and construction companies, and members of the Boston community. For more information on this project, please contact: Edward Klotzbier of Northeastern at (617) 373-5434, or DeWayne Lehman of the Boston Dept. of Neighborhood Development at (617) 635-4802.



Davenport Commons

The Mary Baker Eddy Library Facility and Exhibits Take Shape

The shape and function of the Library's new entrance is now becoming apparent to traffic passing by the Library on 200 Massachusetts Ave.

The new glass and steel-framed entrance and foyer space gleam in the afternoon sunlight. Concrete has been poured to form basins for flowers, trees, and a small reflecting pool in the patio area outside the entrance. Inside the building, drywall has been mounted, and the new stairway that will take visitors to the second floor exhibit area is being installed.

Following more than a year of preparation and planning, exhibits at The Mary Baker Eddy Library are moving swiftly into fabrication and construction. Learning experiences for all ages will be available at the Library's exhibits, including films, computer interactives, and displays of nineteenth-century artifacts and documents. While drawing from the Library's historical collection, the exhibits are highly participatory and contemporary in presentation.

In the Library's main "Quest Gallery," visitors are invited to explore their own questions about spirituality while learning about society's ongoing search for spiritual meaning and about Mary Baker Eddy's quest for lasting answers and healing. A Hall of Ideas features the words of history's great thinkers and leads to the historic "Mapparium," a colorful thirty-foot glass globe offering a view of the world from the inside out. And an exhibit on The Christian Science Monitor looks into the Monitor newsroom and out at world events and issues through the unique lens of Monitor journalism.

Check the Library's Web site at www.marybakereddylibrary.org for photos of exhibit and construction progress.

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Families Graduate From Special Program at Wentworth



Photo by Patrice Flesch. Technology Goes Home graduates Carmen Cordero, left, and daughter Carmen Lopez hold the certificates of accomplishment they received at the program's commencement ceremonies, held recently at Wentworth. Shown with the mother-daughter duo from the Mission Hill/Fenway Collaborative are Sherwyn Fullington, right, the collaborative's coordinator, and Professor Michael Greene of Wentworth.

Wentworth Institute of Technology was recently the setting of a graduation - not of its students, but rather of 11 happy families who successfully completed a special computer training program. Through the Technology Goes Home program, the families earned free computers, printers, software, and yearlong Internet service after finishing the course.

TGH is a 10-week computer training program for low-income families in Boston. Wentworth belongs to the Mission Hill/Fenway Collaborative, one of six collaboratives or areas covered by the program. In late November, the collaborative held graduation ceremonies for the families at the institute, which provided them the training. A total of 32 families have successfully completed the course in this collaborative since it started in Spring 2001.

TGH's aim is to give adults and children the technology knowledge and tools that can help them better succeed in business

and school. The format is unusual. An adult and child from each selected family take the program, which meets twice a week.

Besides the institute, the members that comprise the Mission Hill/Fenway group include the Fenway Community Development Corporation, Parker Hill/ABCD, the Alice Taylor Tenants Task Force, Mission Main Resident Services, and the Office of City Councilor Michael P. Ross.

The other collaboratives are Codman Square, Allston/Brighton, Grove Hall, Uphams Corner/Dudley, and Lower Roxbury.

TGH was introduced by Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino in his 1999 State of the City address, and was created when Echo Tsai, CEO of Hi Q Computers in Roxbury, donated 1,000 computers to the city for distribution to low-income Boston families. The Boston Digital Bridge Foundation, a nonprofit organization, oversees the program.

The Greening of Landmark Center by Harvard School of Public Health

Harvard School of Public Health has renovated the fourth floor at the Landmark Center to create an expansive "green" office space. Inspired by the "Greening of the Crimson" effort (now known as the Harvard Green Campus Initiative) started by Harvard faculty, students, and staff several years ago, the renovated offices offer cutting-edge features designed to increase the space's energy efficiency while promoting the health, comfort, and productivity of the staff and students working there.

The Environmental Science and Engineering group and Environmental Epidemiology group in the Department of Environmental Health, as well as the Department of Health and Social Behavior, moved into the new offices in November. More than just a renovation, the offices at the Landmark Center have also become a living laboratory for the faculty, staff, and students working there.

The 42,311 square foot renovation of the historic building, the site of a former Sears warehouse from which the company's famous Christmas catalogs shipped nationwide, has created an office space unlike any other at HSPH. The ventilation system is underneath the floors as opposed to above the ceiling, and employees control the air temperature near their workstations. Indirect lighting using energy-efficient bulbs was installed to save money and wear-and-tear on peoples' eyesight. Lamps with motion detectors are installed at workstations so that lights shut down when no one is present. To help soundproof areas, mounted speakers softly emit white noise that will blend into background noises of conversations and phones.

"We approached the project with the understanding that a building evolves and that we wanted space that was readily adaptable without using more resources," said Daniel Beaudoin, energy and utilities manager, "We looked at all aspects of construction and tried to find new technologies to create comfort and sustainability."

Wheelock Technology Conference Brings Local Teachers Together

Imagine using computers to teach kindergartners geometry, or going online with third-graders to tour Massachusetts history. On December 1, public school teachers from Cambridge and Boston demonstrated these projects and others they have used in their own classrooms at E-Learning in Classrooms, a conference on technology and teaching held at Wheelock.

For the past two years, Wheelock College faculty members have worked with students and teachers on integrating technology into the K-5 curriculum, concentrating on literacy, language arts, math and science. Wheelock has simultaneously worked to strengthen the technology-based teacher preparation it provides to its own students, future teachers.

Ninety-five teachers, student teachers, Wheelock faculty and students, and regional college representatives were on hand to present and listen to presentations including "Laptops and Literacy Across the Curriculum," "Using Technology to Support the Writing Process," "Creating Connections to Science at Wheelock and in Cambridge Schools," and "Creating Curriculum Using Encarta Africana."

Dean of Arts and Sciences Laurie Crumpacker said, "This conference and the work presented here have pointed us in new directions in closing the digital divide and realizing the transformational potential of technology-assisted learning in the classrooms of today and tomorrow."