Information, Please

Medical College Expands “Next Generation” Phone System

In less than a year, the new Ambulatory Care and Medical Education Building will open its doors. In preparation, the computer-based phone system that was initiated two years ago in the 575 Lexington Avenue offices is getting readied for implementation in physician practices moving into the new York Avenue facility.

“The Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system is the ‘next generation’ phone system, which is being implemented in businesses across the country,” says Gerry Goodrich, Director of Practice Operations for the Weill Cornell Physician Organization. “It sits on the network wiring of the computer systems, which is why the management of this phone system resides inside the Office of Academic Computing.”

“VoIP is the technology of how you communicate between the phones and phone switch,” explains Dr. Steven M. Erde, Senior Director, Office of Academic Computing and Chief Security Officer. “It uses the same network, cabling and infrastructure for voice as well as data.”

The VoIP phone system is much more sophisticated than

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Picture This

Art Program Planned for Ambulatory Care Building

As the Ambulatory Care and Education Building nears completion, much planning and preparation has gone into ensuring that the new space is warm and welcoming. This includes careful consideration of the artwork that will adorn the walls. To help develop an appropriate art program, the Medical College has hired the services of a corporate art consultant.

The process for selecting an art consultant included interviewing a number of corporate art advisors, as well as seeking the advice of several museum curators at private institutions, such as The Rockefeller University and the Historic Hudson Valley Foundation.

“Though we haven’t decided on the style we want, we did make it clear to the candidates that the art should be conducive to making patients feel better about coming to Weill Cornell,” says Richard Thomas, Senior Director, Strategic Initiatives. After several months, the Medical College chose Vick Corporate Art for the assignment.

“The material that Connie Vick submitted from projects she did for other clients was excellent regardless of the style,” says Mr. Thomas. “We were also impressed by her experience and

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CURRENT RENOVATIONS

The sidewalk bridge that has been installed around the E Building at the corner of York Avenue and 68th Street is in preparation for the start of the first of the Major Upgrade Projects, which includes the construction of a three-story addition on the E Building roof. (There will be more information about the Major Upgrades in our next issue of On the Move.)

In addition, a former retail space on the ground floor of 1155 York Avenue is being converted into generic office space to be used to house departments displaced during the Major Upgrade Projects. This space, with room for ten occupants, will be ready for occupancy in June.

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the types of businesses and institutions she has served.”

Ms. Vick says she understands what the Medical College hopes to achieve. “We specialize in art that reinforces the spaces and creates an energetic, dynamic environment that’s contemporary, exciting and interesting,” she says. The artwork will be located in patient waiting areas and exam rooms, the lobby, corridors, a conference center, and it will also wrap around the center core of the building where patients pass in order to get to their destination. The art will also be surface-applied to the building finishes, allowing it to be changed periodically.

According to Ms. Vick, the project has two components. “One will be new artwork that’s purchased to work aesthetically with the spaces and to make the whole environment attractive and lovely to look at,” she says. “Whether prints or photographs, the art will stand on its own and not matched to a décor. It will all be done by professional artists with aesthetic integrity. It will also reflect on the staff and the physicians who work in this space, showing that this is an environment that is sophisticated and intelligent.”

Ms. Vick will also be working with Cornell University’s Johnson Museum of Art, which has agreed to loan the Medical College works from its permanent collection. She plans to group the borrowed art in the conference center or a central location that best showcases it as an integrated collection. “This art exhibit also will be rotated after a year or two and then we’ll borrow other works,” she says.

“We don’t know what Connie is going to recommend yet,” adds Mr. Thomas, “but we know it will be beautiful.”

Renovations Under Way on WCMC Campus

The second and third floors of 425 East 61st Street are being made ready for the relocation of the Secretary of the Medical College, the Office of Faculty Affairs, and the Affiliations Office who will be moving into freshly painted, newly carpeted, well-lit offices there in May. This project is part of a larger plan to reassign administrative offices in response to new priorities as outlined in Strategic Plan II. Subsequent phases of this plan will renovate much of the first floor of the A, B and C Buildings for occupancy by the Institute for Clinical Research, the Office of Tri-Institutional Programs, the MD-PhD Program, the Office of International Initiatives, and the Clinical Trials office. In addition, the A-1 Corridor—Weill Cornell’s “front hall”—will be considerably refurbished. This work will be under way this summer, with occupants moving in by September.

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