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Team says Y2K bug won't sting campus

For all the hoopla surrounding Y2K and that pesky bug, it seems that the IUPUI campus is well prepared for whatever the event may bring.

Members of the team charged with de-bugging the Y2K bug say they anticipate no major problems with utilities, computers, elevators or the myriad of things that contain computer chips that could cause them to malfunction when the date rolls over to 1-1-00.

Vincent Sheehan, director, and Lena Woods, manager, of University Information Technology Services, say their office has been working for three years to make sure campus telephones, campus pagers, campus cable television, e-mail, computer servers and the campus computer mainframe will function properly when New Year's Day arrives.

Some precautions will be in place, they say. For instance, some departments are turning off their servers as a safety valve against hackers; a temporary filtering system will be in place that will prevent e-mail attachments from being received should viruses be attached. However, Web sites and e-mail will remain functional.

Jeffrey Plawecki, associate director of engineering and maintenance, is adamant that campus buildings are prepared. He foresees no problems unless they come from outside the campus; however, he says the City of Indianapolis, Indianapolis Power & Light Co. and utility companies in general are Y2K prepared.

The safety of people comes first and the safety of biological materials is the second priority, says Neil Langferman, director of facilities for IUSM. Four of the medical school buildings have backup power sources available for certain department equipment. As a precaution, an emergency power source will be installed in the basement of the VanNuys Medical Science Building. Should a power outage occur, each department would be allowed to bring one freezer to the site and plug it in. It is up to the individual departments to finalize those plans, he says.

Power is not expected to be a problem for the campus, both Langferman and Plawecki stressed. Service

to campus research facilities is always high priority in the unlikely event of the need to reduce power. Clarian hospitals have the ability to produce their own power if necessary through their permanent on-site standby generators.

Michael Ney, director of administration and informatics at IUSM, says departments are responsible for developing contingency plans for research.

While IUSM has been busy preparing for the worse, south of Michigan Street Jude Wilkinson, JD, technical transfer specialist at the IU School of Dentistry, has kept busy anticipating any needs that might arise for their patients, faculty and biological research. Their faculty members were in agreement that portable generators should be brought on site should problems develop.

Campus police, on the other hand, aren't dealing with protecting cell lines but they have been busy with the communications and safety end of emergency preparedness. Capt. Bob True, who is in charge of special projects for IUPUI police, says eight telephone lines have been installed at the emergency operations center at the physical plant. All emergency radio equipment has been checked and emergency procedures have been updated, he says.

Additional officers will be on campus Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, although True says he does not anticipate the officers will be responding to extra calls if needed. He adds that the same phone numbers used throughout the year would be functioning. Individuals needing to reach campus police should call 274-7911; calls to the fire department should be placed to 274-2311.

Now, should Mother Nature decide to throw a monkey wrench into the works, well that's another matter. That's why the people working on the potential Y2K problem say they see New Year's Day as an exercise for emergency preparedness. The entire venture, which has cost thousands of hours and dollars for IU and Purdue departments on campus, is viewed as a scheduled emergency drill.

"We have not approached this as a Y2K issue," says Sheehan. "We've approached this as a campus emergency preparedness issue."

Those involved with emergency preparedness will continue to meet on a routine basis to resolve potential problems.

Briefs

Ficklin party

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Pager numbers

Effective Jan. 1, IUSM radiology faculty, fellows and staff will have new PageNet pager numbers and will no longer be pageable on the four-digit campus number. The department began switching to the new pagers in October. A listing of the department's phone numbers, including the new pager numbers, can be found at <http://www.indyrad.iupui.edu/phonelist.doc>. For more information, email Susan Overs Wilson at sowilson@iupui.edu.

Leadership awards presented

Three IUSM faculty members were recipients of the inaugural March of Dimes Health Leadership Awards.

The awards were initiated to educate the public about the role March of Dimes fills with health care programs, services and leaders of the community.

James A. Lemons, MD, director of the Section of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at Riley Hospital for Children and the Hugh McK. Landon Professor of Pediatrics at IUSM, was the recipient of the Health Leadership Physician Award for his activities in the community in maternal and child health.

The Health Leadership Public Health Education Award was presented to Marilyn Bull, MD, director of developmental pediatrics at Riley Hospital and the Morris Green Professor of Pediatrics at IUSM. She has been active in many programs to educate parents and public on preventive measures to reduce accidental injury and death among children.

The Health Leadership Research Award was presented to David Weaver, MD, professor of medicine and molecular genetics. An expert in the field of birth defects, Dr. Weaver has worked closely with the March of Dimes and has served as a sponsor for the March of Dimes Summer Fellowship for medical students.

Also honored was Joanne Martin, assistant professor at the IU School of Nursing. She received the Health Leadership Nursing Award for her involvement in several outreach programs including serving as director of the Maternity Outreach Mobile (MOM) Project.

The recipient of the Health Leadership Health Care Management Award was William Loveday, president and CEO of Clarian Health Partners.

Asthma program kicks off

Some came running, others "power" walked or took a casual stroll. A few were in wheelchairs. Their mode of movement might have been different but their motive was the same: to raise money for the recently formed IUSM Asthma Clinical Research Center, which was established by the American Lung Association of Indiana.

The Nov. 20 "Jon Flasch Breath of Fresh Air Mid-Nighter" was held at the National Institute of Fitness and Sport, and more than 500 individuals on teams lapped the facility's track 10,000 times, including long-distance runner William Martin, MD, director of IUSM's Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care and Occupational Medicine. When the clock struck midnight, more than \$16,000 had been raised for IUSM's ACRC, a new program whose goals are to treat and cure asthma and educate the public about the dangers of the disease.

"Asthma is a chronic disease that afflicts 600,000 Hoosiers, and it's a disease that has increased nationally more than 60 percent over the last decade," said Dr. Martin, who also is director of the ACRC. Joining him at the Mid-Nighter was Frank Kenny, director of ALA-Indiana, and local luminaries.

The "Midnighter" was in memory of 12-year-old Jon Flasch, a southside Indianapolis resident, who died last spring as a result of asthma complications.

<http://www.medicine.indiana.edu>
