

# Gazette

Family  
Colleagues  
Friends

Aviators  
Administrators  
Surgeons

December 1989

Springfield, Illinois

Circulation: About 100

## New position filled at Northwestern University.

### Gait lab manager commutes.

#### Messages in a footprint.

It's been quite a year in the midwest. Two years ago Susan and Jim were married in Canada. Last year we introduced you to their new baby, a 1947 Taylorcraft. Now true to the style of the 1980's they are separated. You're asking how could it be? They're such a nice couple. Or, I knew it would happen, but so soon!

Susan and Jim have become commuter couples. Monday through Thursday, Susan is living in a flat on the fifth floor in Lincoln Park, a Yuppie neighborhood on the north side of downtown Chicago. Cara, her new roommate is in the theatre program at DePaul University. The apartment is a lovely place, and about once a month Jim visits and helps Susan spend some money at Crate and Barrel to decorate her room. A flower theme permeates the bedspread, window shades and wall hangings. Danish furniture lends a modern accent to the room. To be

complete, the living room has a corner fireplace to fight off the Windy City's winter chill.

Susan was offered a position at Childrens Memorial Hospital, an affiliate of Northwestern University, this summer to establish and run a new Gait Analysis laboratory. Despite the distance, the offer was enticing careerwise. Opportunity knocked and Susan answered.

Five months later it seems the Hospital is living up to their promises of hundreds of patients, a nice facility and administrative support. Already they are

increasing the hours of her employees and planning to expand over the coming years. The majority of her patients are children and each is leaving their footprints on a giant wall poster to be hung up someday.

The lab is surrealistic with computers beeping, lights flashing, the hum of the DEC PDP 11/54, and cameras peering at you from every angle. With light reflective balls attached to your joints you can observe yourself dancing on the video screen from four simultaneous views. The screen is dark and picks up only the infrared

light reflected from the balls. To the neophyte, they appear to be stars exploding in all directions on the screen.

However, Susan plots, analyzes and interprets the data for physician use in determining a patient treatment plan. With her new lab comes a private office and a personal computer (IBM PS/2). It's all very high technology.

The Chicago life is a four day a week life and on Thursday evening she boards Amtrak for a three day weekend in Springfield. So, the couple is separated only part time. On Fridays, Susan does contract research for Southern Illinois University as needed. The weekends are reserved for passion, at least when Jim is not on call.

The separation is temporary each week and also temporary in the long run. Plans are for Jim to join Susan if a suitable position opens in Chicago at the end of his residency or for the two of them to look at cities where both could find a job. Susan and Jim both have standing job offers in several cities.

