What does it mean to be ethically engaged?
Mind sharpened at Emory. Vision too.

Our focus is your focus. At Emory Vision, the difference in our service is clear. As the only LASIK provider affiliated with Emory Healthcare, we offer superior outcomes and meticulous care. To schedule a free initial exam, call 404-778-2733 or visit www.emoryvision.org.
contents

FEATURES

20 Ethics Ed
Biology 101, English literature, calculus, and . . . ethics? Emory’s Center for Ethics is at the heart of a range of efforts to infuse education here with an ethical sensibility, from the College to the professional schools—and far beyond the classroom.
BY JIM AUCHMUTEY

26 An American Warrior
Colonel Ted Westhusing 03PhD wrote his dissertation on military honor and considered Iraq a “just war” in the ancient tradition, so he signed up—a decision that probably cost the West Point professor his life.
BY MARY J. LOFTUS

32 From Lab to Life
Startling breakthroughs in genetic engineering, nanotechnology, and synthetic biology are giving the newly appointed Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues—vice chaired by President James Wagner—plenty to think about.
BY MARY J. LOFTUS

36 The Devil You Know
The digital revolution is transforming the way we work, play, and socialize, creating new connections and making worlds of information immediately accessible. But is there a dark side to the way people behave behind the screen?
BY PAIGE P. PARVIN 96G

CAMPAIGN CHRONICLE

42 PHILANTHROPIST HONORS SURGEON WITH GIFT
43 GOIZUETA GRAD INVESTS IN YOUNG STUDENTS
44 ALUMNUS MAKES CHALLENGE GIFT TO EMORY LAW FUND

On the cover: Illustration by Alex Nabaum.

ONLINE AT WWW.EMORY.EDU/MAGAZINE

WONDERFUL, WICKED WIKIPEDIA Former Emory marketing intern Ani Vrabel 10C describes her efforts to shape the University’s Wikipedia entry and her love-hate relationship with the vast, enigmatic web resource.

ATWOOD, LIVE Find multimedia coverage of the Ellmann Lecture Series featuring novelist Margaret Atwood; see story, page 6.

TANGO TEST Seniors at Emory’s Wesley Woods Center see if they can dance their way to better balance, mobility, and overall health in this video; see story, page 16.
OF NOTE

6 Mistress of Mischief
Author Margaret Atwood explored other planets, burning bushes, and “utopias” as this year’s Ellmann Lecturer. (Just don’t call her stuff sci-fi.)

9 PORTRAITS OF DIVERSITY

10 THE SPOKESMAN IS BACK AT OXFORD

11 WHAT STONE-AGE TOOLS TELL US

12 CAMPUS BEAT EMORY’S STUDENT HONOR COUNCIL

13 ZZZZS AND DISEASE

14 IN THE RING WITH THE SHADOWBOXERS

15 DOH! THE “HOMER SIMPSON” GENE

16 PRESCRIPTION: TANGO

16 NASA GRANT LAUNCES STUDY ON SPACE RADIATION

17 SUSTAINABLE EFFORTS FINDING GREEN FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK

17 HISTORY BY SKYPE

18 DYNAMIC FORCES CAN A CALM MIND BRING BETTER HEALTH?

19 JOHNSON MEDALISTS

Ex Officio
Ron Sauder
Vice President for Communications and Marketing
Susan Carini O4G
Executive Director, Emory Creative Group
Allison Dykes
Vice President for Alumni Relations
Gary Hauk 91PhD
Vice President and Deputy to the President

Emory Magazine Editorial Advisory Board
Ginger Cain 77C 82G
Director of Public Programming, Emory Libraries
Susan Henry-Crowe Dean, Chapel and Religious Life
Ann Borden
Bryan Meltz
Kathy Kinlaw 79C 85T
Associate Director, Center for Ethics
Hank Klibanoff James M. Cox Jr. Chair in Journalism
Gary Laderman
Professor of Religion
Lanny Liebeskind
Professor of Chemistry
Margery McKay
Vice President, Health Sciences Development
Cathy Wooten
Director of Communications, Oxford College

Editor
Paige P. Parvin 96G
paige.parvin@emory.edu

Associate Editor
Mary J. Loftus
mary.loftus@emory.edu

Lead Photographer
Kay Hinton

Copy Editor
Jane Howell

Advertising Manager
David McClurkin

Photographers
Ann Borden, Bryan Meltz

Contributors
Jim Auchmutey
Susan Carini 04G
Beverly Clark
Carol Clark
Frans de Waal
Eric Rangus

Emory Magazine is distributed free to all alumni and to parents of undergraduates, as well as to other friends of the University. Address changes may be sent to the Office of Alumni and Development Records, 1762 Clifton Road, Suite 1400, Atlanta, Georgia 30322. Emory Magazine is published quarterly by Emory Creative Group, a department of Communications and Marketing.
THE BIG PICTURE

8 Happy Thoughts

Want to be happy? And if so, is that bad? Faith leaders joined His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama to debate the path to true fulfillment at the Interfaith Summit on Happiness, held at Emory in October. Photo by Bryan Meltz.
The Choices We Make

When I was about fourteen—the age my son is now—I stole a pair of bowling shoes.

It was a snap, really. Some friends and I had gone bowling on a rainy afternoon, out of small-town boredom, I suppose. Rather than changing back into my own shoes after we finished, I walked out in the bowling shoes. I thought they were cool. I thought I was cool. I also thought that taking them was not such a big deal. I had left my own tennis shoes, after all, which were actually much nicer. So I didn’t even bother to try to hide them from my parents. Which was a mistake.

My father was livid. He roared. He made me take the shoes back, find the bowling alley manager, and apologize (the mystified man kindly returned my own shoes). I truly believe my dad thought jail time would not have been too harsh a lesson.

At the time, I thought his reaction was overkill. But now that I’m a parent myself, I understand that it wasn’t just about some worn-out bowling shoes. It was about his need to see his own high standards and deep values reflected in me, and his keen sense of frustration and failure when that reflection blurred. To me, taking the shoes seemed harmless enough—more mischievous than malicious. To him, it was stealing, plain and simple. And if I was capable of that, what other bad things might I do?

Everyone wants to be a “good person,” and most of us, I would bet, think of ourselves that way.

In this issue of Emory Magazine, we ask a few questions of our own, starting with the meaning and impact of ethical engagement in the University’s vision statement. Can ethical behavior be taught to college students, or is it deeply embedded in character formation that begins at home many years before? The answer, it appears, may be a little of both; what our faculty can do is urge students to question, to think deeply, to assess and actively respond to problems, and to consider the lives of others different from their own. What is also clear is that Emory hopes to see its stated institutional commitment to ethics reflected in its students, as in all of us who make up the broader community.

The challenges are steeper for some than others. As vice chair of President Obama’s special Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, Emory’s own president is confronting some of the thorniest and most compelling ethical problems of the day in the field of synthetic biology—including the fascinating question of whether life can, or should, be created through technology. In this issue, we also visit the widow of Emory graduate Colonel Ted Westhusing 03PhD, who was ultimately unable to reconcile his idea of a “just war” with the work he did in Iraq.

And, as virtual reality becomes the new reality, we asked some faculty experts to weigh in on how people behave online—where sometimes consequences far outstrip intentions.

Most of us don’t have to make recommendations to the White House on bioethics policy, or question whether our contribution to the US presence in Iraq aligns with our studied beliefs regarding war and ethics. But we do make choices every day that shape who we are, as well as who others perceive us to be. Would you keep some extra change given by mistake? Fire off an insult on an Internet forum under a screen name? Spread a juicy rumor about a friend? Pretend to be sick so you can stay home from work? Choose not to help a stranger in trouble? Steal an old pair of bowling shoes?

Are you a good person? Am I?

Honestly, I don’t know. I can only say for sure that I’m glad my dad made me return those shoes. A harmless enough prank, probably; but given the choice, I’d make my son do the same thing.—P.P.P.
“I am really proud to see Emory go across platforms, but most pleased with the content of your work.”

—Peter Elmore 86C
New Marshall Scholar is Emory’s fourteenth

Shivani Jain 11C was awarded the 2011 Marshall Scholarship for graduate study in England, the second consecutive Emory student to receive the scholarship and the fourteenth overall. Jain plans to study global health and economic development, health policy, and infectious disease control in London and Cambridge.

Pharmacology chair elected to Institute of Medicine

The Institute of Medicine has elected Raymond Dingledine, executive associate dean for research and professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology, to its new class of sixty-five leading health scientists. Dingledine’s election brings Emory’s total IOM membership to twenty-two.

Mistress of Mischief

MARGARET ATWOOD’S OTHER WORLDS

Fans of the Richard Ellmann Lectures in Modern Literature—now among the preeminent lecture series in North America—have come to expect major literary lights and stimulating thought. But joie de vivre?

The series director, associate professor Joseph Skibell, uttered that promise—dressed up in French, no less—in his opening-night introduction of Margaret Atwood. Beyond the series’ high intellectual content, he said, it “has involved … chamber music, mariachi bands, margarita fountains, barbecues, fiddle contests, and Nobel Prize–winning poets declaiming their verse. The series is a celebration not just of literature but of life.”

At seventy-one, though, would Atwood continue the tradition as vigorously? The short answer is: never count out a woman raised without modern conveniences in the north woods of Canada whose mother was an ice dancer until the age of seventy-five. The longer answer follows.

Atwood proclaimed at the opening of the first lecture in the series—titled “In Other Worlds: SF and the Human Imagination”—“I have spent quite a lot of my life writing fiction and poetry and some other things, but this has not made me a professional scholar or expert on any subject, including the ones I am about to discuss.”

Atwood, though, is every bit the expert that she swears she is not, especially in talking about SF. The term variously has been used to mean science fiction, speculative fiction, and sword and sorcery fantasy.

A literary skirmish broke out in 2009 when longtime science fiction writer Ursula K. Le Guin 88H wrote in the Guardian: “Margaret Atwood doesn’t want any of her books to be called science fiction. . . . [S]he says that everything that happens in her novels is possible and may even have already happened, so they can’t be science fiction. . . . This arbitrarily restrictive definition seems designed to protect her novels from being relegated to a genre still shunned by hidebound readers, reviewers, and prize-awarders.”

Tough talk, and it has compelled Atwood to be deliberate about what science fiction is and isn’t and where her own books fall along these fuzzy divides. An intellectual battle clearly has been joined from which neither side will retreat.

At seventy-one, though, would Atwood continue the tradition as vigorously? The short answer is: never count out a woman raised without modern conveniences in the north woods of Canada whose mother was an ice dancer until the age of seventy-five. The longer answer follows.

Atwood proclaimed at the opening of the first lecture in the series—titled “In Other Worlds: SF and the Human Imagination”—“I have spent quite a lot of my life writing fiction and poetry and some other things, but this has not made me a professional scholar or expert on any subject, including the ones I am about to discuss.”

Atwood, though, is every bit the expert that she swears she is not, especially in talking about SF. The term variously has been used to mean science fiction, speculative fiction, and sword and sorcery fantasy.

A literary skirmish broke out in 2009 when longtime science fiction writer Ursula K. Le Guin 88H wrote in the Guardian: “Margaret Atwood doesn’t want any of her books to be called science fiction. . . . [S]he says that everything that happens in her novels is possible and may even have already happened, so they can’t be science fiction. . . . This arbitrarily restrictive definition seems designed to protect her novels from being relegated to a genre still shunned by hidebound readers, reviewers, and prize-awarders.”

Tough talk, and it has compelled Atwood to be deliberate about what science fiction is and isn’t and where her own books fall along these fuzzy divides. An intellectual battle clearly has been joined from which neither side will retreat.

As Atwood explains her position, “What I mean by science fiction is those books that descend from H. G. Wells’ War of the Worlds, which treats of an invasion by Martians—things that could not possibly happen. Whereas, for me, speculative
Professor Nanette Wenger named Georgia Woman of the Year

Nanette Wenger, professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology, was awarded the 2010 Georgia Woman of the Year by the Georgia Commission on Women. Wenger, former chief of cardiology at Grady Memorial Hospital, is an internationally known expert on coronary heart disease in women.

Debate team is number one

Emory’s Barkley Forum debate team ranked number one in national intercollegiate varsity debate at the close of the fall semester. Seniors Ovais Inamullah 11C and Stephen Weil 11C were invited to the Dartmouth Round Robin Tournament in January, marking Emory’s seventeenth consecutive year of participation.

Fiction means things that descend from Jules Verne’s books about submarines and such—things that really could happen. . . . I would place my own books in this second category. “ Especially in relation to the position of women and totalitarian states, I asked myself: How thin is this ice, how far can I go, how much trouble am I in, what’s down there if I fall?”

Atwood on Writing The Handmaid’s Tale: “Especially in relation to the position of women and totalitarian states, I asked myself: How thin is this ice, how far can I go, how much trouble am I in, what’s down there if I fall?”

Find more online

For a guide to the multimedia that Atwood’s visit spawned, including video of the three lectures and reading, see emory.edu/magazine.

The website Big Think also features content on Atwood, including the topics “The Challenge of Speculative Fiction,” “How Twitter Is Like African Tribal Drums,” and the not-to-be-missed “Understanding Canadian Humor.” See bigthink.com/margaretatwood.
Happy Thoughts

Faith Leaders Say Happiness is a Worthy Goal—Though It Might Not Be What You Think

The Declaration of Independence proclaims that the pursuit of happiness, along with life and liberty, is an unalienable right. But many of us have been taught that happiness is a selfish or superficial emotion. Is there a place for happiness alongside good work? Should we seek to be happy even as others are suffering?

The consensus from spiritual leaders of several major religious traditions, who gathered at Emory in October, seems to be that happiness is sought by all humans—and rightfully so—but that true spiritual happiness must be rooted in gratitude and compassion, and given as well as received.

As part of a five-year investigation into the pursuit of happiness, Emory’s Center for the Study of Law and Religion (CSLR) invited notable voices from the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and Buddhist traditions to speak at the Interfaith Summit on Happiness, which was moderated by Krista Tippett, host of NPR’s On Being. “Happiness seems always to be best achieved in community, if not in communion, with others,” says John Witte, CSLR director.

His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, Presidential Distinguished Professor at Emory, said finding commonalities among the major faiths is essential for peaceful coexistence. “Harmony on the basis of mutual admiration and respect is very possible to develop,” he said. The Dalai Lama often says that the very purpose of life is to be happy, so long as “one person or group does not seek happiness or glory at the expense of others.”

The Dalai Lama was joined on the panel by the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, and Islamic scholar Seyyed Hossein Nasr, a professor at George Washington University. As they explored the concept of happiness through the texts, tenets, and teachings of their respective faiths, several points of convergence emerged.

Happiness Cannot Be Purchased. “The consumer society is constantly tempting us all the time to spend money we don’t have to buy things we don’t need for the sake of a happiness that won’t last,” Sacks said.

Happiness Involves Helping Others. “Jesus’s ministry, his public work, his sharing is a blessing. “This body is something precious,” said the Dalai Lama. “It needs shelter, food, and sleep. When the body is fit, mental function is more effective. But mental pain cannot be subdued by physical comfort.”

Happiness Is Generated Internally. “It is a happy human being who creates a happy ambience, a happy ambience does not necessarily create a happy human being,” said Nasr. “Real happiness must come from within,” said the Dalai Lama. “When I say happiness, it is mainly in the sense of deep satisfaction.”

Happiness Occurs in Communal Celebration. “To sit together, drink together, share one another’s songs and stories, that is beautiful,” Sacks said.

Happiness Involves the Body and the Mind. “It is important to us that God took physical form,” said Jefferts Schori. “We are made in the image of God and reflect the divine. Our bodies are a blessing.” “This body is something precious,” said the Dalai Lama. “It needs shelter, food, and sleep. When the body is fit, mental

FIND MORE ONLINE
The Summit on Happiness is available for listening. Go to EMORY.EDU/MAGAZINE.
Keeping teen dating relationships violence free
Start Strong Atlanta announced the launch of a social networking site for teens, www.KeepItStrongATL.org, where they can build skills for healthy relationships and learn that relationship violence is never acceptable. Start Strong Atlanta was created in 2008 by the Jane Fonda Center at Emory with $1 million from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Professor of global health receives Royal Society award
The Royal Society of South Africa has awarded Keith Klugman the 2011 John F. W. Herschel Medal, the top science award in South Africa. Klugman is the William H. Foege Professor of Global Health in the Rollins School of Public Health and is a leading expert on antibiotic resistance in pneumococcus, the leading cause of bacterial pneumonia.

Happiness can be found in prayer or meditation.
“The five daily prayers pull us out of time to a place that is sacred,” said Nasr. “Punctuation in a life that goes faster and faster.”

Happiness comes from finding perspective.
“When we face a sad thing, if you look very closely, it looks unbearable, but if you look from a distance, it is not that unbearable,” said the Dalai Lama. “Like Jacob wrestling with the angel,” said Sacks, “I will not let go of the bad thing until I find the blessing.”

Happiness requires self-awareness and acceptance.
“Once it was asked of a great Sufi master, ‘What do you want?’ and he said, ‘I want not to want,’” said Nasr. “We must transcend the stifling prison of the ego,” said Nasr. “The Buddhist practice is . . . letting go,” said the Dalai Lama. “Letting go of negative thoughts and emotions.” —M.J.L.

Happiness involves letting go.
“The main thing was that Dawoud wanted the pairs to be very different from one another as far as position, ethnicity, age, that sort of thing,” says Mary Catherine Johnson, assistant director for the Visual Arts Department and Gallery.

The Emory Project was commissioned by the Department of Visual Arts in partnership with the Transforming Community Project, a five-year initiative to examine race and difference across the University. Bey, who began his career in 1975 with the series Harlem, USA, is a professor of photography at Columbia College Chicago; his work has been exhibited around the world and is included in the permanent collections of numerous museums including the Art Institute of Chicago and Atlanta’s High Museum of Art.

The photos in the Emory Project, on display in the Visual Arts Gallery from February 3 through March 5, will become part of the University’s public art collection.—P.P.P.
The Spokesman Speaks Again

OXFORD PAPER FILLS A NEWS NICHE

Sophomore Grace Cummings 11Ox first approached the editors of the campus newspaper, the Oxford Spokesman, about drawing cartoons for the newly revived publication. She wound up becoming its editor-in-chief, sharing that slot with Dallas Hayden 11Ox.

“In order to draw cartoons, I had to attend meetings and eventually I started writing articles,” and one thing led to another, Cummings says. “Although Oxford’s students have reputations for being very involved in campus activities, people are often engrossed in their own clubs and academics and rarely know what’s going on outside of them. The newspaper keeps people informed. I often refer to the Spokesman as an ‘everything-club.”’

The paper was resurrected last year to help keep students abreast of campus happenings, new courses, and recurring events such as the Fall Formal and Alternative Spring Break. “But we have had a few truly newsworthy items grace our pages and website,” Cummings adds. “Last year, we reported on the memorial services of two classmates who passed away during the school year. We also reported on a groundbreaking benefit dance for Haiti earthquake victims and art displays in the library done by Oxford professors. ”

The latest issues roll off the presses only in the virtual sense. “Dallas and I are trying out a new Spokesman website (www.oxfordspeaks.com) similar to the Wheel’s website,” Cummings says. New articles are published every few weeks. But, in a nod to the idiom that everything old becomes new again, the editors have proposed a new project: a print issue of the Spokesman. “It’s important that students have their own news vehicle,” says Carpenter, the paper’s current adviser. “It’s part of a vibrant campus.”

This year’s staff has written about incidents of vandalism on campus, the return visit by His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama to the Atlanta campus, and a well-known rapper’s unexpected appearance at the Fall Band Party. The paper also features student opinion pieces and commentary on politics, music, and movies.

The Spokesman has been published at Oxford for decades, but not consistently. Neil Penn, emeritus professor of history, helped revive the newspaper in 1966, and the role of faculty adviser was then taken over by Professor of English Gretchen Schulz. Kenneth Carter 87Ox 89C, now professor of psychology at Oxford, was a Spokesman editor when he was a student. Eventually, however, the local company that printed the newspaper closed and publication ceased. When Oxford began offering a course in journalism in fall 2008, taught by Charles Howard Candler Professor of English Lucas Carpenter, it sparked an interest in bringing back the Spokesman.

“It’s important that students have their own news vehicle,” says Carpenter, the paper’s current adviser. “It’s part of a vibrant campus.”

A SAMPLING OF THE GRANTS $8 million to the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center

$6.2 million to reduce health disparities in rural southwest Georgia

$3.4 million to create an international genomics database from patients with autism and other developmental disorders

$1 million to develop dialysis equipment tailored to children

Doubled in Five Years During the past five years, Emory’s research funding has grown from $353.9 million in 2006 to $535.1 million in 2010, representing a 51.2 percent increase

Emory director elected president of Infectious Diseases Society James Hughes, professor of medicine and of global health, has been elected president of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. Hughes is the first president who has come primarily from the field of public health. At Emory, he serves as executive director of the Southeastern Center for Emerging Biologic Threats and director of the Program in Global Infectious Diseases.
Brain Trumps Hand in Stone-Age Study

Was it the evolution of the hand, or of the brain, that enabled prehistoric toolmakers to make the leap from simple flakes of rock to a sophisticated hand axe?

A new study finds that the ability to plan complex tasks was key. The research, published in the Public Library of Science journal *PLoS ONE*, is the first to use a cyber data glove to measure the hand movements of stone tool making precisely and compare the results to brain activation.

“Making a hand axe appears to require higher-order cognition in a part of the brain commonly known as Broca’s area,” says Emory anthropologist Dietrich Stout, coauthor of the study. It’s an area associated with hierarchical planning and language processing, he noted, further suggesting links between tool making and language evolution.

“The leap from stone flakes to intentionally shaped hand axes has been seen as a watershed in human prehistory, providing our first evidence for the imposition of preconceived, human designs on the natural world,” he says.

Stout is an experimental archeologist who recreates prehistoric tool making to study the evolution of the human brain and mind. Subjects actually knap tools from stone as activity in their brains is recorded.

“Changes in the hand and grip were probably what made it possible to make the first stone tools,” Stout says. “Increasingly, we’re finding that the earliest tools required visual and motor skills, but were conceptually simple.” —Carol Clark
It was a freshman’s worst nightmare: just weeks into his first semester, he was accused of cheating on a Calculus II test.

“It was actually the first test I took at Emory,” says the economics and mathematics double major, now a senior, who asked that his name be withheld.

After an anxiety-filled, semester-long investigation, Emory’s student Honor Council ultimately found him innocent. “It was really terrible because it was hanging over my head all semester,” he says. “I just thought it was a really slow process. It wasn’t very informative and there was no one that I could really talk to about what to do.”

Yet, while reflecting on his case and the difficult semester that ensued, the student remembers that council members were always considerate, never accusatory. “They were asking questions to kind of engage me and have me explain myself to prove myself innocent,” he says. “That made me feel like, yes, the students were on my side.”

That is assuredly true, according to Meggan Arp, assistant dean of undergraduate education, who oversees all Honor Council cases. “Each one of these cases we take to heart,” Arp says. “Every piece has an element of the human experience. Obviously no one just says, ‘Okay, today I am going to cheat;’ so there has to be an extenuating circumstance. We deal with all of those extenuating circumstances.”

The Honor Council is a somewhat mysterious group—“the heroes of the dark,” as Arp calls them. “People know about the Honor Code,” says Honor Council member Evan Dunn ’10 Ox 12C. “When they come in as freshmen, they all get an orientation on it, and sign the pledge. Every syllabus they will get at this college has a whole section devoted to it. Before you sign half your tests, there’s an honor code pledge. But in regards to Honor Council procedure, I understand how lots of people don’t know.”

“Leading by example,” says Molly Magruder ’11 C, the council’s cochair, “is aware that they’re not always the most popular kids on campus. But, “among the faculty, among some students who have been found not guilty or even guilty, there’s a lot of respect for what we do. We have a really strong council, and our ability to be professional—treating the accused student like a human being, showing them respect—has given us a pretty good reputation.”

Upholding that reputation are twenty council members, two of whom are chairs and do not participate directly in investigations. Sans robes and powdered wigs, five students weigh in on each reported case of honor code infraction, with one faculty adviser present to offer sanction suggestions and ensure that procedure is followed.

Butterfly Rx

Certain species of butterflies may have developed their own version of stopping by the corner drugstore when they need medicine.

Assistant Professor of Biology Jaap de Roode is investigating whether monarch butterflies can cure themselves and their offspring of disease by using medicinal plants. The National Science Foundation awarded de Roode a $500,000 grant to further his research, which focuses on the behavior of monarchs infected with a protozoan parasite.

“We have shown that some species of milkweed, the larvae’s food plants, can reduce parasite infection in the monarchs,” says de Roode. “And we also have found that infected female butterflies prefer to lay their eggs on plants that will make their offspring less sick, suggesting that monarchs have evolved the ability to medicate their offspring.”

Few studies have been done on self-medication by animals, but some scientists have theorized that the practice may be more widespread than we realize.

“The results are also exciting because the behavior is trans-generational,” says Thierry Lefevre, a postdoctoral fellow in de Roode’s lab. “While the mother is expressing the behavior, only her offspring benefit.”—Carol Clark
All rising juniors and seniors are eligible to submit an application for the Honor Council. Of some eighty to ninety applicants, around ten new students are chosen. “They go through a very rigorous election process, have to have close to perfect GPAs, and be leaders in the Emory community,” Arp says. “I think that’s a testimony to the quality and caliber of our Honor Council students.”

John Ford, senior vice president and dean of Campus Life, believes it is important that the Honor Council is made up primarily of students, a practice he says is quite common. “Students overrepresented on the Honor Council are in the best position to foster and maintain a culture of academic integrity because they can be symbols, spokespersons, and role models for other students,” he says.

The Honor Council generally deals with some sixty to eighty-five cases each semester, ranging anywhere from fraudulent registration to plagiarism to lying about a death in the family in order to gain academic advantage. The fall 2010 semester saw forty-six cases. Of the 419 cases reported during the past five years, 225 students were found guilty, seventy-three were either dismissed or are pending.

“The way I like to look at this, being an optimist, is that 99 percent of the students in any one year are not being accused of a violation of the honor code,” says Frank McDonald, chemistry professor and a volunteer faculty adviser for the Honor Council.

A significant source of cases is students for whom English is a second language, who often have difficulty learning the complex rules for using and citing sources. An educational sanction is being created to deal with cases in which students genuinely don’t recognize fault. It will require the student to complete an online class training course to clarify citation and plagiarism guidelines. That way, Arp says, “We can put a big-picture spin into our sanctioning and not just have it be purely punitive.”

Dunn chose to get involved with the Honor Council for a simple reason. “Honestly, it’s the ethical thing to do,” he says. “If you think about it, any educational institution that’s worth its salt has to have a certain integrity to the work they produce.” In fact, Dunn once reported a friend and group project member for an honor code offense. “It wasn’t vengeful,” he says, “it was my job.”

And the most challenging part of that job, he adds, is not getting jaded by the number of cases the council deals with. “I’d rather let ten guilty people off than punish one innocent person. As crazy as some of these stories can be, usually those are the ones that are true,” he says. “You have to remember that people who are innocent do come before you.” —A.D.Y.

**EMORY IN THE NEWS**

**PERFECT PITCH**

Midterms: Emory political scientists and election experts Alan Abramowitz, Merle Black, and Andra Gillespie weighed in on the midterm elections on a near-daily basis in outlets including NPR, Fox News, Georgia Public Broadcasting, WABE, the New York Times, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Associated Press, and the Los Angeles Times.

**After the Mine:** “For a small percentage, this is a genuinely life-changing experience. . . . For most people, it wanes, and they settle back into their old way of life,” explained theology professor Tom Long to CNN’s Belief blog about the faith experience of the Chilean miners rescued last month. Emory physician Kimberly Manning also provided her expertise on the health of the miners for CNN.

**Fossil Finds:** Emory paleontologist Anthony Martin’s find on prehistoric wasp cocoons, as cited by eScience-Commons, was among this year’s “best fossil finds” by Wired Science.

**Pencils Away:** FOX News highlighted chemistry senior lecturer Tracy Morkin in a piece on teaching technologies and her use of “clickers” in the classroom. Preetha Ram, associate dean for pre-health and science, also was interviewed about the global virtual study hall called “OpenStudy” she has helped develop in partnership with Georgia Tech.

**Standout Student:** The Associated Press, Georgia Public Broadcasting and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution highlighted Emory student and neuroscience and behavioral biology major Rosy Gomez as one of three Georgia students to receive a scholarship from the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, one of ten organizations picked to split President Obama’s $1.4 million Nobel Peace Prize award.

**Heal Thyself:** Biologist Jaap de Roode’s research on the self-medicating habits of monarch butterflies (see opposite page) attracted notice with coverage by MSNBC, CBC, Scientific American, Voice of America, LiveScience, and other outlets.

Zzzzs lower risk of disease

Too little sleep may be bad for more than just your concentration levels. A group of Emory and Morehouse researchers found that poor sleep leads to inflammation in the body, which can be a risk factor for heart disease and stroke. Specifically, those who reported getting six or fewer hours of sleep on a regular basis had higher levels of inflammatory markers, compared to those who reported six to nine hours of sleep.

The results come from 525 middle-aged people who participated in the Morehouse-Emory Partnership to Eliminate Cardiovascular Health Disparities (META-Health) study, which examined sleep quality and sleep duration and was codirected by leaders in cardiovascular research at both institutions.

Acute sleep deprivation leads to an increased production of inflammatory hormones and changes in blood vessel function, but more research is needed on the physiological effects of chronic lack of sleep, said Emory cardiologist fellow Alanna Morris.

**Eyes on Emory:** The visit in mid-October by His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama and a series of events devoted to interfaith views on happiness, compassion meditation, creativity and spirituality, and the Emory-Tibet Science Initiative attracted worldwide attention. More than forty outlets provided coverage—including CNN, USA Today, NPR, the Associated Press, Voice of America, WABE, and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

**of Note**
They’re Players

THE MORNING AFTER DAZZLING EMILY SALIERS 85C OF THE INDIGO GIRLS WITH HIS MUSICAL rendition of the Four Questions at a Passover dinner, SCOTT SCHWARTZ 11C awoke with a Manischewitz hangover and his band’s big break. Schwartz had been “coaxed” into playing a few songs on the guitar later in the evening, which led Saliers to contact her manager. By June 2010, the Shadowboxers were officially signed.

But before they were the Shadowboxers, they were just “Matt, Scott, and Adam,” says MATT LIPKINS 11C. Within the first week of their freshman year at Emory, ADAM HOFFMAN 11C’s music library popped up on Lipkins’s shared iTunes when they listened, even though they were in separate dorms. When he saw Hoffman’s name under artists like Miles Davis and Weather Report, Lipkins sought him out to talk music. Meanwhile, Schwartz and Lipkins were in the same music theory class and wrote a song together for their final project. The three performed “Not Again” for the Emory Arts Competition in late fall of their sophomore year and won.

Band members Hoffman (guitar and lead vocals), Lipkins (keyboard and lead vocals), Schwartz (guitar and lead vocals) and Ben Williams (bass) now play knockout shows all over Atlanta and opened for the Indigo Girls at Emory’s Homecoming in September. When we sat down with the original trio, gloves off, to nosh and talk music at their favorite pizza joint, they didn’t pull any punches.

What’s in the name?

ADAM: Shadowboxing is warming up for a fight.
SCOTT: It’s a very rhythmic thing. And it also has a connotation of being a contender . . . you’re practicing, you’re preparing for something. And those are elements of our sound.
ADAM: Boxing feels like an old sport. It’s old school somehow, and all of us love old music.

Who are your musical influences?

MATT: We’re all over the place, but we’ve got a bunch of common links. And that’s where we get our core sound.
SCOTT: I’m a huge Michael Jackson fan. My mom listened to a lot of Jackson Five; Temptations; Earth, Wind, and Fire.
ADAM: My dad was a huge Zeppelin fan. And Rolling Stones . . . classic rock.

MATT: I was listening to blues a lot when I was a kid. And then in high school I got into soul music.

Can you characterize your sound?

ADAM: We are a pop band. Most bands would be terrified of ever saying that, but we use the term pop in the sense of accessible. There’s nothing wrong with having music that millions of people can understand and attach to and relate to; I think that’s almost as beautiful as it gets. But we are not like Lady Gaga pop. We are musicians and that’s our role. We aren’t figures.
SCOTT: That was a big step for us, when we realized that it’s cool to be a pop band.
ADAM: We’re totally cool with making music that anyone can listen to and anyone can enjoy.

Who do you picture yourselves touring with?

MATT: I don’t know if Maroon 5 would have us.
SCOTT: People say we sound like Maroon 5. We’ll take it.

If you could trade instruments, what would you choose?

MATT: Bass.
ADAM: Drums.
SCOTT: Bass.

Top three most played on iTunes?

SCOTT: The Free Willy theme song by Michael Jackson. “Cut the Cake,” by Average White Band, and “Use Me” by Bill Withers.

What’s your group dynamic like outside the studio?

ADAM: The three of us live together.
SCOTT: It’s a sitcom. Matt and Adam are like The Odd Couple.
MATT: Adam’s really good at organizing and keeping things on track and creating structure, and I’m . . . not as good at that.
ADAM: The three of us together have a sense of humor that is very unlike our music in that it’s not easily accessible. So whenever someone new enters the mix they’re always like a little bit . . .
MATT: Weirded out.
—Alyssa Young 11C

© ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
Self-Evident Truths?

NEW BOOK TAKES UP OLD QUESTION OF RELIGION’S RELATIONSHIP TO POLITICS

The idea that all human beings have equal, inherent dignity is the cornerstone of international human rights, and a notion most of us take for granted in our day-to-day lives. We understand that we may scream obscenities at a fellow driver from behind the wheel of our own car, but if we were to leap out and, say, hit him over the head with a bat, we would be violating not just our societal laws but the inherent human dignity upon which those laws are based.

In his latest book, The Political Morality of Liberal Democracy, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law Michael Perry begins with the question of why we invest one another with inherent dignity—and specifically, the role of religion in political morality. It’s fairly easy to see why people with a religious worldview believe in protecting the basic rights of others, Perry argues: if one believes that we all were created by God, then it is natural to perceive all as having equal worth and claim to certain privileges. But it is not as easy to support a political morality based on a purely secular position.

“It is not my point that one has to be religious in order to take human rights seriously,” Perry cautions. “That’s certainly not the case; in fact, a lot of nonreligious people are passionate about human rights, while a lot of religious people are human rights violators. The point has to do with this claim that each born human has this thing called inherent dignity and is to be treated accordingly. The question is what worldview can make sense of that statement, and a worldview that says the universe is meaningless has trouble accounting for this claim. Most religious worldviews don’t have that trouble because of their particular theologies.”

Perry stops short of saying that no secular belief system can support political morality, but he strongly hints he has yet to encounter one that does so to his satisfaction. The book, his eleventh, takes its place among his rich contributions to legal scholarship, “a powerful defense of liberal democracy and human rights—a defense grounded on religious faith,” says Lawrence A. Alexander, Warren Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of San Diego. “Both for religious supporters of liberal democracy and human rights and for secular supporters, Perry’s book is must reading. But the provocative chapters on such topics as religious freedom, abortion, same-sex unions, and the role of courts provide additional reasons to read this book.” —P.P.P.

Doh! Emory researchers discover the ‘Homer Simpson’ gene

DELETING A SPECIFIC GENE IN MICE CAN MAKE THEM SMARTER BY UNLOCKING A MYSTERY REGION OF THE BRAIN

Mice with a disabled rgs14 gene are able to remember objects they have encountered and learn to navigate mazes better than regular mice, suggesting that the gene’s presence limits some forms of learning and memory.

Since rgs14 appears to hold mice back mentally, Professor of Pharmacology John Hepler says he and his colleagues have jokingly called it the “Homer Simpson gene.”

rgs14, which is also found in humans, was identified more than a decade ago, and is primarily active in one particular part of the hippocampus—a region of the brain involved in consolidating new learning and forming memories.

Without it, the ability of the gene-altered mice to recognize objects previously placed in their cages was enhanced, compared to normal mice. They also learned more quickly to navigate through a water maze to a hidden escape platform by remembering visual cues.

“A big question this research raises is why would we, or mice, have a gene that makes us less smart—a Homer Simpson gene?” Hepler says. “I believe that we are not really seeing the full picture. rgs14 may be a key control gene in a part of the brain that, when missing or disabled, knocks brain signals important for learning and memory out of balance.”

The lack of rgs14 doesn’t seem to hurt the altered mice, but it is possible that they have had their brain functions changed in a way that researchers have yet to spot.

“The pipe dream is that maybe you could find a compound that inhibits rgs14 or shuts it down,” Hepler says. “Then, perhaps, you could enhance cognition.”

The research was supported by the National Institutes of Health.—Quinn Eastman
Space-Flight Risk

NASAAWARDS EMORY, MCG $7.6 MILLION FOR SPACE RADIATION RESEARCH

Researchers from Emory University’s Winship Cancer Institute and the Medical College of Georgia are launching a new cancer research initiative—literally.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has awarded a team of investigators from both institutions $7.6 million over five years to study how a component of space radiation may induce lung cancer. The award establishes a NASA Specialized Center of Research (NSCOR), consisting of a team of scientists with complementary skills who work closely together to solve a set of research questions. Ya Wang, professor of radiation oncology at Emory’s School of Medicine and Winship Cancer Institute, is director of the NSCOR at Emory.

Interplanetary space travel could put astronauts in conditions where they are chronically exposed to types of radiation not normally encountered on earth. One of these is high energy-charged particles (HZE), which results in complex damage to DNA and a broader stress response by the affected cells and tissues.

There is no epidemiological data for human exposure to HZE particles, although some estimates have been made studying uranium miners and Japanese atomic bomb survivors, says Wang.

Animal experiments show that HZE particle exposure induces more tumors than other forms of radiation such as X-rays or gamma rays. Because it is a leading form of cancer, lung cancer is included among increased risks from radiation even though astronauts do not smoke. However, the risk remains unclear because the dose of HZE astronauts are expected to receive is very low, Wang says.

The Emory-MCG researchers will probe whether the broader stress response induced by HZE particles amplifies cancer risk. Investigators will collaborate with physicists at Brookhaven National Laboratory to gather information on HZE’s effects.

“Prescription: Tango!”

On a recent morning in Wesley Woods Towers, chairs, tables, and walkers have been pushed to the side of the dining room and a dozen couples—student volunteers and seniors—are dancing to a spicy Latin beat.

Atlanta Veterans Affairs researcher Madeleine Hackney, who has professional experience in ballroom dance, jazz, theater dance, and ballet, is investigating whether regularly dancing the tango can improve wellness in seniors with limited or declining eyesight.

Dancing the tango is much like walking, but with more calculated, precise, and intentional steps and with the safety of a partner, says Hackney. “There is evidence that it may help frail, older individuals with sensory motor impairments, in terms of balance, gait, and coordination,” she says.

Seventy-seven-year-old Ed Sporleder, a Korean War veteran, says he is already noticing improvement in his fellow dancers. “Some people who were having a tough time walking are now able to walk with coordination and larger steps to propel themselves forward,” Sporleder says. “The Emory volunteers are marvelous, and everyone is having a wonderful time.”

Ninety-two-year-old Barney Schoenberg and his wife, Jean, say the shared exercise has helped them improve their health and make new friends: “It’s a nice way to spend part of the day, and it is definitely helping us both.”

Upon completion of the ten-week program, the participating seniors’ health and skills will be reevaluated and compared with their pretests.

“Walter Curran, executive director of Winship and chair of Emory’s Department of Radiation Oncology, says, “The center will place Emory and the state of Georgia squarely on the map as a place of international importance within the handful of NSCORS in the world dedicated to the study of cancer and space radiation exposure.”

New NSCOR awards are also being made to Duke University and University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center on the topic of space radiation-induced lung cancer.

Additional information is available at NASA.gov.—Quinn Eastman
Diaper Duty

With the help of thirty-two babies and more than five thousand used diapers, Emory researchers have developed a simple, accurate way to measure estrogen levels in infants.

Surprisingly little is known about hormone levels during infancy. Previous research has focused on the measurement of hormones in blood, urine, and saliva. But because of the difficulties of repeatedly taking such samples from healthy infants, few data have been available.

The less-invasive approach of collecting fecal samples from cotton diapers provided accurate measures of levels of estradiol, a type of estrogen, reported senior author and Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Anthropology Michelle Lampl in *Frontiers in Systems Biology*.

The importance of estradiol's role in postnatal development of the body, brain, and behavior has in recent years raised concerns about environmental estrogens and their impact on people's long-term health.

The study, conducted by researchers at Emory, the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, and the University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, included fifteen boys and seventeen girls, ages seven days to fifteen months. The infants' parents retained soiled diapers for twenty-four hours, which were then collected, frozen and stored at -80°C, and analyzed.

“We understand very little about the hormonal dynamics that occur during early development precisely because we lack a reliable way to track hormones in neonates and very young children,” says James Robert Mc Cord Professor Sara Berga, chair of the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics. “Having a way to track this critical hormone that influences behavior and the development of many important tissues, including the brain, will allow us to understand normal. This really is a great leap forward.”—Robin Tricoles, PhD

Techno-History

Laurabeth Goldsmith ’14C talks to her grandfather all the time, but not usually at Emory’s Center for Interactive Technologies (cict) using Skype, along with her entire freshman seminar class.

As part of the class Film and the Holocaust, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies Deborah Lipstadt showed students Deborah Oppenheimer’s 2000 documentary, *Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport*, about the rescue operation that ferried children from Germany to England to escape the Nazis before World War II.

When Goldsmith mentioned that her grandfather had been one of the approximately ten thousand Jewish children saved by Kindertransport, Lipstadt arranged for the class to talk with Henry Goldsmith, who escaped along with his brother and now lives in Florida. “The German storm troopers knocked on the door where we lived and they demanded entrance,” he told students during the call. “It was a scary night and after that night my parents decided we had to get out of Germany.”

“It was incredible to be able to connect the concepts and emotions in the film to a specific person, my grandpa, and it was great that the whole class was able to ask specific questions,” said Goldsmith, a double major in religion and international studies.

“This was the first time that I have had Skype used in a classroom, and it really added to our discussion.”—M.J.L.

SUSTAINABLE EFFORTS

**OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY FINDS FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK**

Want to figure out the closest bike rack to the Carlos Museum? Find out where Emory’s eight educational gardens are? Take a self-guided specimen tree tour? Map a MARTA route to get to an Emory event?

Look no further than the new interactive sustainability map on the Emory Sustainability Facebook page.

Friends of a greener Emory can also take the personalized sustainability pledge (have you disabled your screensaver yet?), find out about green events, find healthy cooking demonstrations with seasonal foods, and view or download photos of environmental efforts on campus and by alumni.

The page is just one of the recent efforts of the Office of Sustainability, directed by Ciannatt Howett 87C. “We can’t just build, design, or engineer our way out of climate change,” she says. “We must tackle the mindset that created it. Universities have a critical role to play here through education.”

And taking the virtual "scavenger hunt" is a quick way to learn about the University’s most well-known LEED-certified buildings. (Which building has an innovative energy recovery system made of enthalpy wheels on the roof that paid for itself in approximately four years?)

The page links to other helpful online resources such as Cliff shuttle schedules, Map My Ride (a site where bikers can post their favorite urban or mountain biking paths in Georgia), and Zipcar locations.
Mind Over Matters

STUDIES SHOW THAT FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS, A CALM MIND CAN HELP LEAD TO A HEALTHY BODY

When Brendan Ozawa-de Silva first walked into the classroom of five- to eight-year-olds at Atlanta’s Paideia School, he quickly despaired of ever achieving his objective: getting the children to meditate.

Noisy and excitable, the kids could barely sit still, much less approach the state of utter calm and concentration that is central to the Buddhist tradition. But Ozawa-de Silva captured their attention by speaking an ancient language that every child on earth can understand: a story.

He told them about the sweater he was wearing, describing how his father gave it to him and explaining that it makes him happy because it is warm and makes him think of his father. Then he asked the children to consider the other reasons why he is able to enjoy the sweater—where it came from, who made it, and how it traveled to him. The kids rattled off answers like popcorn on a hot stove: wool, sheep, trucks, roads, stores, people.

“Finally, they shouted out, ‘It never ends. You need the whole world!’,” Ozawa-de Silva, an Emory PhD candidate, told His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama in his research presentation during the Dalai Lama’s visit to the University in October.

And just like that, the children understood—at least for a moment—the Buddhist concept of universal interconnectedness that undergirds compassion meditation.

The pilot program at Paideia, which Ozawa-de Silva codirected with graduate student Brooke Dodson-Lavelle, is part of an ongoing series of Emory research initiatives studying the effects of meditation on physical and mental health. The protocol for the program was developed by Geshe Lobsang Tenzin Negi, director of the Emory-Tibet Partnership and codirector of the Emory Collaborative for Contemplative Studies, using Cognitively Based Compassion Training—a technique drawn from Buddhism, but without the spiritual elements. Secular compassion meditation is based on a thousand-year-old Tibetan Buddhist practice called lojong, which uses a cognitive, analytic approach to challenge a person’s unexamined thoughts and emotions toward other people.

The practice is designed to help participants recognize the interdependence of all creatures and cultivate compassion toward others, whether family, friends, or far-flung strangers. The comprehension of shared suffering is thought to reduce negative emotions, like anger and resentment, and help nurture positive ones, like kindness and gratitude.

“I really think it helps the kids to center,” says Jonathan Petrash, who coteaches a class of five- to seven-year-olds at Paideia. “We have tried to make it part of our daily routine. There is a real calm, settled feeling in our classroom, with deeper and richer conversations. The kids are better able to show empathy, better able to show compassion.”

Ozawa-de Silva was just one of a series of researchers who described their work and findings to the Dalai Lama during his three-day visit, which featured a number of high-profile public events, including a panel discussion on creativity among His Holiness, Pulitzer Prize–winning author Alice Walker, and film star and Buddhist advocate Richard Gere.

During the daylong conference on compassion meditation where Ozawa-de Silva spoke about the Paideia pilot, Charles Raison, associate professor in Emory’s Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and clinical director of Emory’s Mind-Body Program, presented findings from another study involving youth in Atlanta’s foster-care system.

“We know that children who are maltreated experience devastating consequences, such as abnormal levels of stress hormones and inflammation,” Rasion says. “Psychoso-
cial stress is also a risk factor for depression and anxiety.”

Raison and Negi led a 2005 study of college students that indicated that meditation can help reduce stress levels and physiological responses like inflammation. Applying the same principles, his team did a baseline assessment of seventy-two children, ages thirteen to seventeen, in the foster-care system, asking a series of questions and testing their saliva for stress hormones. Afterward, half received training in compassion meditation for six weeks.

When they were tested again, Raison says, the results were mixed: there was virtually no difference in their self-reporting, but their stress hormones and inflammation markers were shown to be lower. “There seem to be measurable benefits to our biological systems from compassion meditation,” Raison says.

In a previous clinical intervention, six teenage girls in a foster home were trained in a six-week compassion meditation program aimed at helping them cultivate inner strength, self-esteem, and hope. They did report benefits from meditation, including improved interaction with others; one girl told Dodson-Lavelle that the training transformed her relationship with her estranged adoptive mother. Ozawa-de Silva and Dodson-Lavelle hope that this work will lead to training for educators and caregivers to implement the practice of compassion meditation in a range of settings.

Raison also reported to the Dalai Lama on a new study now under way, designed to test the value of meditation in reducing the types of physical and emotional responses to stress that increase disease risk. The Compassion and Attention Longitudinal Meditation Study (CALM) will help scientists determine how people’s bodies, minds, and hearts respond to stress and which specific meditation practices are better at turning down those responses. “Data show that people who practice meditation may reduce their inflammatory and behavioral responses to stress, which are linked to serious illnesses including cancer, depression, and heart disease,” says Raison, who is principal investigator of the study.

The CALM study has three different components. The main component, which is funded by a federal grant, compares compassion meditation with two other interventions—mindfulness training and a series of health-related lectures. Participants are randomized into one of the three interventions.

A second component involves the use of an electronically activated recorder (called the EAR) that is worn by the participants before beginning and after completion of the meditation interventions. The recorder will be used to evaluate the effect of the study interventions on the participants’ social behavior by periodically recording snippets of ambient sounds from their daily lives.

The third component involves neuroimaging of the participants to determine if compassion meditation and mindfulness meditation have different effects on brain architecture and the function of empathic pathways of the brain.

Mastering meditation takes dedication and time. “Meditation is not just about sitting quietly,” says Negi. “Meditation is a process of familiarizing, cultivating, or enhancing certain skills, and you can think of attentiveness and compassion as skills. Meditation practices designed to foster compassion may impact physiological pathways that are modulated by stress and relevant to disease.”

Raison and Negi hope to show that centuries of wisdom about nurturing the inner mind, combined with Western science about how the body and brain interact, can have a positive impact on personal well-being and health.—P.P.P.

New Legacies Honored

It is always meaningful to be recognized for one’s work, but when the award bestowed carries the name of a personal hero, it can be especially gratifying.

That happened for Justice Leah Ward Sears 80L when she received a 2010 James Weldon Johnson Medal at a ceremony hosted by the Johnson Institute in November at The Carter Center. The medals honor the legacy and accomplishments of Johnson, the legendary writer, journalist, civil rights leader, musician, and humanitarian.

“[Johnson is] a great figure to me,” Sears told the Emory Wheel in an interview. “To have his light shed on me—it’s such an honor, it’s very overwhelming.”

Sears is an Emory trustee and a partner in the Atlanta law firm Schiff Hardin. In 1992, she became the first woman and the youngest person to be appointed to Georgia’s Supreme Court; from 2005 to 2009, she served as chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court.

In addition to Sears, the Johnson Institute honored six other figures whose achievements in civil rights and humanitarian service reflect a deep and unwavering commitment to civil and human rights:

- Lucy Cline Huie 390x 42G, cofounder of HOPE, a civil rights project whose purpose was to desegregate public schools in Georgia in the 1940s and 1950s.
- Deborah E. Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at the Tam Institute at Emory.
- Joseph E. Lowery 10H, former president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, still one of the leading civil rights organizations in the nation.
- Robert (Bob) P. Moses, founder of the Algebra Project. Moses was a pivotal organizer for the civil rights movement as field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).
- The late Sondra K. Wilson, a scholar of Johnson and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Wilson was executor of the estate of Grace Nail and James Weldon Johnson and the founder of the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Foundation.
- Ambassador Andrew J. Young, former Atlanta mayor and US congressman, and a top aide to Martin Luther King Jr. He is the founding principal and cochair of Good Works International of Atlanta.

“The Johnson Medal Award Ceremony is an occasion when we may reclaim and reaffirm our commitment to the greatest social movement of the twentieth century,” says Byrd, offering a chance to “pause to reflect upon our relationship to a living history that has provided us with a knowledge of our condition.”
Ethics Ed

TEACHING STUDENTS TO CHALLENGE ASSUMPTIONS, EMBRACE AMBIGUITY, AND STEP OUTSIDE THEIR COMFORT ZONES

BY JIM AUCHMUTY
On a sunny autumn Saturday, half a dozen Emory undergraduates climb into a van and drive six miles east to Clarkston, an Atlanta suburb where the US government has settled thousands of refugees in warrens of time-worn apartments. The van is headed for Brannon Hill, a condominium complex teetering between despair and hope. Because of the real estate bust, boarded-up units almost outnumber ones bustling with Somali and Ethiopian families trying to get a foothold in a new country. None of the Emory students grew up in a place quite like this.

After a brief consultation with the manager, the ethics professor in charge of the group, Edward Queen, straps a gas-powered blower on his back and noisily goes to work. His charges follow with rakes and lawn bags. As they scoop up the leaves and pine straw, they look up occasionally and see children smiling and waving at them from the balconies.

After a while, a resident drives up and watches the scene through the open window of his car. He catches a student’s attention and asks an obvious question: “What are you doing?”

“Community service,” answers Mariangela Jordan 12C, a junior from Romania.

The man seems puzzled. “You’re on probation?”

“Oh, no,” Jordan assures him, “we’re doing community service.”

“But you’re on probation, right?” The man can’t seem to believe that normal young people would spend their spare time cleaning up someone else’s property unless a judge had ordered them to.

Talking about the exchange later, Queen can’t resist a quip. “Maybe,” he deadpans, “we should wear orange jump suits next time.”
The Brannon Hill excursion was one of many volunteer opportunities during Emory Cares International Service Day, the annual day of community service organized by the Emory Alumni Association. This particular group was eager to enlist: They’re part of the Ethics and Servant Leadership (EASL) program at the University’s Center for Ethics. One of the reasons they applied for EASL is because they wanted to get off campus and encounter people struggling with real problems in the real world.

“That’s the whole idea: to get us out of our comfort zone,” says a member of the yard crew, Hannah Rogers 12C, a junior from Fayetteville, Georgia.

The center, which recently celebrated its twentieth anniversary, is one of the most significant—and misunderstood— institutions at Emory. Significant because its purpose lies at the heart of how the University envisions itself and undertakes its educational mission. Misunderstood because outsiders sometimes have trouble imagining what an ethics center is. Does it enforce the honor code? Do they sit around pontificating about lofty issues of good and bad?

Not quite, says Director Paul Root Wolpe, who is happy to explain his specialty to lay audiences.

“People tend to misunderstand what ethics really is,” he says. “Most people think it’s questions of what’s right or wrong, what’s correct or incorrect behavior. In fact, the message we’re trying to communicate is much deeper. The decisions you make every day are informed by a set of principles and values—what I call an ethical sensibility. Only when you examine that sensibility and challenge your beliefs and assumptions can you come to a mature understanding of ethics.”

Wolpe is speaking in his office at the center, which shares a sparkling new building with Candler School of Theology. A nationally known authority in the field—he serves as NASA’s first bioethicist—he came to Emory in 2008 after more than two decades of teaching bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania.

The ethics center is the nexus of a broader effort that takes countless forms and reaches every corner of the campus. It starts at freshman orientation, when incoming students hear a presentation about the center and the University’s ambition to develop character as well as intellect.

The center’s seven resident faculty members and thirty-one affiliated professors infuse ethics into courses across all of Emory’s schools. They collaborate with Candler, which weaves a rich ethics curriculum throughout its theology courses, and lecture at Goizueta Business School and the School of Law, both of which have their own vigorous (and required) practice-specific ethics and professionalism training. And they share the heavy responsibility of ethics education in the schools of medicine, nursing, and public health; the School of Medicine has its own diverse ethics curriculum with deep roots in the center.

And there are more unusual examples: at Winship Cancer Institute, an ethicist on the research team fosters a vibrant ethics program in oncology research; Emory recently launched a master of arts in bioethics degree program; and there is a formal public health-focused partnership being established among the ethics center, the CDC, and the Rollins School of Public Health. Not to mention the more civic and creative outreach programs such as EASL and Ethics and the Arts, which brings artists to campus to discuss works that explore moral questions.

Most respected research universities offer an ethics curriculum these days. One of the factors that set Emory apart, its leaders believe, is the University’s commitment to ethics as an institutional value.

“I noticed it immediately when I started speaking with people about coming here,” President James Wagner says. “In my initial interviews and in reading the literature, I was impressed by the unusual facility this University has with the vocabulary of values. I decided to test it.”

Wagner spoke with about eighty people during the lengthy job interview process. He asked every one of them about Emory’s concern for ethics. Some mentioned the University’s roots in the Methodist Church, while others stressed its modern involvement with human rights issues. “Not a single person dismissed the idea,” he says. “Their attitude was: ‘Of course. How could it be any other way?’”

Soon after Wagner arrived, the University crafted a new vision statement, a painstaking exercise that prompted extended discussions about Emory’s values and priorities. Later research found that only one other university among eighteen top-ranked institutions considered Emory’s peers used the word “ethics” in its statement: Notre Dame. Emory has embraced the word as well, describing itself in the finished declaration as “an inquiry-driven, ethically engaged, and diverse community.”

“This is not to say that Emory is more ethical,” Wagner cautions. “But it does indicate what we expect of ourselves.”

That expectation was tested in 2009 when the worst recession in decades forced the administration to make staff reductions. Wagner summoned Wolpe to his office.

“I had no idea why he wanted to see me,” Wolpe remembers. “He handed me an article about the ethical consider-
lations of layoffs, and we spent an hour discussing the issues. He was very concerned that a difficult situation be handled as ethically as possible. I walked out impressed that he wanted to meet with me at a time like that, when most university presidents probably would be calling in their lawyers.”

Colleges have been teaching ethics since the dawn of higher education. For most of that time, the subject was the purview of theology schools or philosophy departments. That began to change in the sixties and seventies, as medical advances such as organ transplants and enhanced end-of-life care raised new moral complications.

“The explosion in interest really started with bioethics,” says Brian Schrag, director of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, an umbrella group for ethics centers, at Indiana University. “After the Tuskegee Study was revealed, there was a rising concern about medical research ethics. Then Watergate made people wonder about the ethics of lawyers. And there were always business scandals. It made universities think they should start applying these ancient theories of ethics to practical experience.”

The Hastings Center, an independent institution widely regarded as the first bioethics center, was founded in 1969. Other pioneering centers soon followed at Georgetown University in 1971 and Indiana University in 1972. The field remained sparsely populated when Emory began to consider an ethics center in 1990. President James Laney, a Christian ethicist by training, started the conversation.

“He invited a group of us over to Lullwater for a series of meetings to brainstorm the idea,” recalls the center’s associate director, Kathy Kinlaw ’79C ’85T. “There was a general feeling that we could do more to prepare students as they went out into the world. The health sciences faculty were strong participants.”

Unlike many centers, Emory’s was meant to be cross-disciplinary, touching on everything from religion and the arts to medicine and engineering. “This is one of the most holistic centers of its type in the country,” says James Fowler, a retired theology professor who served as the center’s first full-time director for more than a decade.

Since the center was founded, the number of university ethics institutions has proliferated. At the first meeting of the ethics association in 1991, perhaps twenty centers were represented; now more than a hundred attend. “They started popping up like mushrooms in the nineties,” Schrag says.

John Stuhr, chair of the Department of Philosophy, helped launch one of those centers in his last post at Pennsylvania State University. Although he obviously values his chosen discipline, he wonders whether its recent popularity has something to do with academic fashion. “At the risk of sounding cynical, it’s easier to secure funding when you’ve established a center,” he says. “There’s also a little bit of keeping up with the Joneses. If everyone has ethics centers, shouldn’t you have one? And if you don’t, does that mean you aren’t concerned with ethics?”

Stuhr also has reservations about the fondest goal of ethics education: to mold ethical adults. There’s a limit, he believes, to what a university can do.

“It’s not realistic to think that a single class can erase habits that formed over eighteen or twenty years,” he says. “Aristotle points out the difference between knowing good and doing good. We all know what he means. I imagine it’s relatively easy to pass the Georgia driving exam, but passing it doesn’t mean you won’t be a terrible driver. Universities are like that: We’re very good on the theoretical side, but translating it into practice is much harder.”

But as Wolpe pointed out, having an ethical sensibility means more than simply knowing right from wrong. Faculty at the Center for Ethics take the approach that although a student’s character may have taken root when he arrives, there is still value in teaching, exploring, and applying ethics as a discipline.

“Of course you can mold ethical adults,” says Queen, who tries to do just that as director of the Ethics and Servant Leadership program. “If we think we can mold a

“People tend to misunderstand what ethics really is. Most people think it’s questions of what’s right or wrong, what’s correct or incorrect behavior. In fact, the message we’re trying to communicate is much deeper.”

—Paul Root Wolpe

—Paul Root Wolpe

Kathy Kinlaw ’79C ’85T and Paul Root Wolpe
Policy in Practice

Like all research universities, Emory perches on a bridge that spans a rushing torrent of ethical questions and quandaries. But a wide web of safety nets woven across the institution is designed to protect the integrity of scholarship, research, teaching, and health care—and keep individuals from tumbling over the side.

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) is the primary body charged with overseeing research protocol. Its purpose is to “protect the rights and welfare of humans participating as subjects in research,” ensuring compliance with federal regulations for the protection of research subjects. The IRB administers two committees for biomedical research, totaling about one hundred members from across and outside Emory, that meet three times a month; and one committee for social, humanist, and behavioral research that meets monthly.

Anyone who has access to protected patient information, whether at Emory Healthcare or Emory University, must follow federal and state privacy laws, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Human subjects are not the only ones protected; Yerkes National Primate Research Center is fully accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International, regarded as the gold seal of approval for the humane care of laboratory animals.

Emory has an Internal Audit Division whose mission is to provide independent, objective evaluation of institutional operations and processes in both Emory University and Emory Healthcare. The division provides routine audits, consultations, and advisory services to University management. It also oversees the Emory Trust Line, a whistleblower hotline staffed by an outside company that any Emory employee is encouraged to call to report suspicion of theft, fraud, waste or abuse, conflict of interest, or billing misconduct.

In 1994, Emory spearheaded the creation of the Health Care Ethics Consortium of Georgia, a statewide network of representatives from forty-three health organizations that share a common interest in bringing ethics analysis to patient care and organizational issues. The consortium works with Georgia lawmakers on legislation affecting health care ethics and offers workshops, continuing education, and on-site consultation for professionals across the field. Emory’s Center for Ethics houses and staffs the consortium.

All faculty involved in sponsored research must work with the University Conflict of Interest (COI) Office. Established in 2008, the office was created to oversee and manage potential conflicts of interest for faculty and staff members engaged in research and other professional activities.

In 2009, Emory’s School of Medicine issued a new, comprehensive policy on industry relations to further strengthen and clarify University conflict-of-interest guidelines. In a climate of increasing complexity when it comes to federal funding and the relationship between academic research and industry, the new rules were aimed at managing these relationships and overseeing (and in some cases, limiting) the financial benefit to scientists from activities such as public speaking, education, and start-up companies.

All Emory College students are required to sign the Honor Code pledge in their first year, agreeing that they will uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and will not participate in cheating in any form. For more on the Honor Code and the University’s Honor Council, see the story on page 12.

In 1994, Emory spearheaded the creation of the Health Care Ethics Consortium of Georgia, a statewide network of representatives from forty-three health organizations that share a common interest in bringing ethics analysis to patient care and organizational issues. The consortium works with Georgia lawmakers on legislation affecting health care ethics and offers workshops, continuing education, and on-site consultation for professionals across the field. Emory’s Center for Ethics houses and staffs the consortium.

All faculty involved in sponsored research must work with the University Conflict of Interest (COI) Office. Established in 2008, the office was created to oversee and manage potential conflicts of interest for faculty and staff members engaged in research and other professional activities.

In 2009, Emory’s School of Medicine issued a new, comprehensive policy on industry relations to further strengthen and clarify University conflict-of-interest guidelines. In a climate of increasing complexity when it comes to federal funding and the relationship between academic research and industry, the new rules were aimed at managing these relationships and overseeing (and in some cases, limiting) the financial benefit to scientists from activities such as public speaking, education, and start-up companies.

All Emory College students are required to sign the Honor Code pledge in their first year, agreeing that they will uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and will not participate in cheating in any form. For more on the Honor Code and the University’s Honor Council, see the story on page 12.

f all the center’s initiatives, perhaps none touches students as profoundly as EASL.

“It brings people together from across the University to learn about ethical leadership,” says the Reverend Lyn Pace 02T, who participated ten years ago and went on to become chaplain at Oxford College.

“I think about my experiences at Emory all the time,” says Ali Lutz 04T, who coordinates operations in Haiti for Partners in Health, a medical nonprofit. She tried out her career path as an EASL intern with the Georgia Justice Project, which provides legal services and support to poor families.

“That’s where I learned the distinction between charity and working for a more just society,” she says. “Charity is serving other people because they’re in great need. Working for a more just society is about understanding why people are suffering in the first place, and taking responsibility for it.”

EASL has two components. Lutz participated in the summer internship, in which thirty students are placed with Atlanta nonprofits, governmental agencies, or socially responsible businesses. They work off campus and spend one afternoon a week in the classroom. Pace was part of the academic-year program, known as the Forum. Fifteen to twenty students, receiving no stipend or course credit, meet weekly to learn about values-based leadership and ethical decision making. They eventually break into smaller groups to pursue their own service projects.

“It’s a shared intellectual journey focused on recognizing our responsibilities to the wider world,” Queen says.

This year’s Forum is typical: sixteen students from a variety of backgrounds and interests. The group starts the year with a team-building retreat on the Nantahala River in North Carolina. Then it settles into its weekly meetings, where the members learn to examine the assumptions they grew up with.

One of the first sessions deals with ethics and identity. Carlton Mackey, EASL’s assistant director, asks students to make a list of twenty things that come to mind to complete the phrase “I am . . . .” Then they fill out a similar list of attributes for different groups: poor people, white people, African Americans, and so forth. They compare the lists.

“What people say about themselves usually doesn’t match what others say about their group,” Mackey says. “I ask them why, and they’ll say, ‘It’s because they don’t know me.’ At that point, I don’t really have to say much else.”

In the next sessions, Queen introduces the students to critical ethical thinking. He asks them to consider a
hypothetical situation, a classic ethical dilemma called the trolley problem. In its simplest version, a runaway train is barreling down the tracks toward five people. You notice a switch that could divert the train to another track, where it would strike one person. Do you flip the switch and kill one human being? Or do you stand by and watch five die?

“Most people say they’d pull the switch,” Queen says. Naturally, the plot thickens. In the second version of the dilemma, you’re watching the runaway train approach the same hapless quintet from a bridge directly overhead. Only there’s no switch this time. Instead, you’re standing next to an extremely overweight man, and you realize—to your horror—that you could push him onto the track and derail the train. It’s the same moral calculus—saving five lives at the sacrifice of one—yet most people say they couldn’t do it. Shoving a man to his death is harder than flipping a switch.

“I couldn’t decide what to do,” says Leyla Sokullu 14C, from Turkey. “It was frustrating, knowing that you might kill five people because you couldn’t make up your mind.”

The point of the exercise, Queen explains, is to grasp the complexities of ethical decision making. “Hard decisions ought to be undertaken with humility and ambiguity. We take our best-considered position depending on what we know and understand, but we ought to be willing to change our minds if we’re disabused with new information or a better argument. We don’t know the mind of God.”

The trolley problem is only the beginning. Soon the students are discussing problems that are anything but hypothetical: homelessness, human rights, medical research, the environment, the plight of refugees.

It’s Monday night, time for the Forum. This week the students aren’t gathering in a conference room at the ethics center; they’re piling into cars and vans for another field trip. Their destination: WonderRoot, a community arts organization in southeast Atlanta that partners with the center.

The director leads the students on a quick tour of the facility, a converted bungalow that manages to fit galleries, performance space, a darkroom, and a recording studio under one humble roof.

It has been only a couple of days since some of these students did yard work at the refugee complex, and they’re still wondering what to make of the experience. During the ride to and from WonderRoot, a spirited discussion breaks out.

“I think it’s kind of a publicity thing for Emory,” one person says.

“Oh, there’s more to it than that,” someone counters. “Yeah, I guess we can feel good about ourselves for another year,” another one jokes, drawing glares from the back seat.

So what did the students take away from those three hours of volunteer work? And what, exactly, does it have to do with ethics?

Lauren Henrickson 13C has been mulling it over. “On one hand, we were just raking up some leaves, and that’s pretty small scale,” she says. “But on the other hand, it was making us more aware of the refugee community, and that could lead to something that isn’t small scale.”

She pauses and adds another thought that suggests she is learning one of the most fundamental lessons in ethics, not to mention life: considering other viewpoints. “I hope our being there had some effect on the residents. I keep thinking about a girl I noticed peeking at us from a balcony. I hope she isn’t too young to remember that these people who were not part of her community came in to help, that someone else cared.”

For Courtney Bell 12C, the day was worthwhile—if only as an exercise in consciousness raising.

“When you come to college,” she says, “you’re so into these books and papers and exams that sometimes you forget there’s an outside world. I don’t remember the last time I read the news because I’m always studying. So the day we raked leaves was awesome, because it took me out of Emory and into Atlanta and into the world.”

That yearning for involvement is why she gravitated to the ethics center in the first place. In fact, it’s one of the main reasons she came to Emory. “We have a duty to promote the greater good,” she says. “That’s part of the culture here.”

Jim Auchmutey, a former reporter for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, is an author and freelance writer living in Atlanta.
An American Warrior
The honorable life and untimely death of Colonel Ted Westhusing

By Mary J. Loftus ★ Photos by Kay Hinton
A "soldier’s soldier," Ted Westhusing 03PhD (above) was committed to the mission of training Iraqi forces to take over their own security and took leave from his teaching position at West Point to serve in Baghdad. Michelle Westhusing (previous page) continues to grapple with the absence of her husband and "best friend."

Already a lieutenant colonel in the army when he came to Emory, Ted Westhusing 03PhD used to jog around campus with his backpack filled with bricks so he wouldn't "get soft." An honor graduate of West Point, he was fluent in Russian and classical Greek, and was working toward a doctorate of philosophy with an emphasis on military ethics.

"There are so many good stories about Teddy," says his thesis adviser, Professor of Philosophy Nicholas Fotion. "Most people, it takes them two years to write their dissertation. It took him from September to April. He was such a dedicated, well-organized guy. He would say—he used military lingo, even to describe his academic work—that he was on a mission."

Westhusing set and pursued goals with a hard-driving dedication, apparent even at a young age. One of seven children, he was born in Dallas on November 17, 1960, and grew up in Tulsa, where he was starting point guard on his high school's basketball team, often going to school early to practice his jump shot. As a National Merit Scholar, Westhusing had his choice of colleges, and decided on the United States Military Academy at West Point.

A devout Catholic, he thrived in an environment that emphasized integrity, virtue, and self-discipline. He served on the Cadet Honor Committee as senior honor captain, enforcing the code that a cadet "will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do," and graduated third in his class in 1983. Westhusing's father had served in the navy, and his grandfather in the army during World War II; he had his mind set on following them into military service.

After graduation, he became a platoon leader, received Special Forces training, and was stationed in Italy, South Korea, and Honduras. He met his wife, Michelle, through a mutual friend while he was overseas, and they wrote letters back and forth for three and a half years, sweetly courting during his furloughs.

"My friends tease me that the first time we met, it was like something out of Romeo and Juliet," Michelle says. "I was in my apartment in Memphis, and he came walking up to my balcony, this jarhead guy with no hair and flowers. He had this smile, and I hugged him and said, It's so nice to finally meet you. We went to the barbecue festival down at the river, and lunch turned into dinner, and then he was going to Honduras for six months. But he wrote really good letters. He was so different than anyone I had ever dated, and so genuine."

Westhusing returned to the states and became division operations officer for the Eighty-Second Airborne based at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He and Michelle married in 1988.

He enjoyed the camaraderie of military service, but missed the intellectual rigor of a university. In 2000, he enrolled in Emory's graduate school, moving with Michelle and their three young children—ten-year-old Sarah, five-year-old Aaron, and one-year-old Anthony—to Atlanta.

"Emory was the only school with the emphasis on military ethics and the ancients that Ted was looking for," Michelle says. "He took it and applied it to his daily life by the code of honor he learned at West Point."

Westhusing's dissertation was titled, "The Competitive and Cooperative Aretai within the American Warfighting Ethos," with aretai, from the Greek, meaning virtues or excellences.

"Born to be a warrior, I desire these answers not just for philosophical reasons, but for self-knowledge," he wrote in the opening to the 352-page exploration of military honor.

A student at Emory at the time, Jeff Jackson 04C, remembers asking Westhusing for advice about joining the military after taking a class the lieutenant colonel cotaught. Jackson went on to serve in Afghanistan with the Army Reserves. Westhusing, he says, was "a very upbeat guy, a rarity among philosophy types."

After completing his doctorate, Westhusing returned to West Point to teach English.
and philosophy, and Michelle and the children settled into life on the scenic, historic campus, which runs along the Hudson River in New York. He was offered a lifetime assignment as a professor and seemed to enjoy the role of preparing young officers-in-training.

“I will never forget the lessons Westhusing taught me. As a cadet in his philosophy class, he forged an understanding of right and wrong—the harder right, over the easier wrong,” wrote Carlos Keith, a 1996 graduate of West Point, on an alumni website.

But Westhusing found it hard to be in a classroom when the country he loved was a year into a conflict that he strongly supported, considering the Iraq War a “just war” in the ancient, Augustinian sense of the term—a war that occurs for a good and just purpose rather than for self-gain or power, waged by a proper authority, using no more force than necessary, with peace as the ultimate goal.

Serving in Iraq, Westhusing told friends, would help him be a better professor to cadets who might be facing service there or in Afghanistan.

The person most difficult to convince, however, was Michelle. “It was one of the biggest arguments we ever had,” she says, when she discovered he had volunteered for duty in fall 2004. “We had three kids, he was a professor. I couldn’t understand it.”

But Westhusing wouldn’t be dissuaded. After a few weeks of training at Fort Benning, at age forty-four, he was on his way to Baghdad to help train Iraqi forces to take charge of their own security. As head of counterterrorism and special operations for the Multinational Security Transition Command, he worked in partnership with a private US security company contracted to train an elite group of Iraqi police in special operations.

Westhusing reported to Major General Joseph Fil and Lieutenant General David Petraeus, a fellow West Point graduate who was then in charge of operations in northern Iraq. Petraeus was widely known for his ability to inspire his troops and gain the trust of the Iraqis; helping to rebuild Iraq and train their own forces was an important part of his strategy. Millions of dollars from the US, much of it in cash, were being used to stimulate the local economy, support public works, and pay private contractors.

At first, Westhusing’s correspondence indicated he was excited to be in Iraq, and his commanders commended his performance; Petraeus soon promoted him to full colonel. But within a few months, the situation, and Westhusing’s state of mind, had started to deteriorate. In May, Westhusing received an anonymous letter claiming that there was rampant fraud, waste, and abuse of power in the private company he oversaw.

“They only goal is to make as much money as they can, doing as little work as possible,” read the letter, now publicly available under the Freedom of Information Act.

Westhusing sent the allegations to Fil, saying he had reviewed the alleged discrepancies and found that the company was complying with its contractual obligations, and that “the evidence suggests that these allegations are untrue.”

But his emails home were filled with disillusionment—about contractors, the money changing hands, and infighting among the Iraqis they were training. He began to lose sleep, grew physically ill, and told Michelle that he thought he might have to resign his position.

“Trust was very important to Ted. And in the last conversation I had with him, he said he was having trouble trusting anyone,” she says. “He couldn’t trust the Iraqi police force, the contractors, even his commanders. He was in a place far away from home, by himself, and he felt very isolated. He felt like he had lost control over the whole, hopeless situation.”

In the minds of friend and foe alike, our army is, without a doubt, the best-trained, best-equipped, best-led, and most intelligent of any in our nation’s history. Our soldiers are recognized as the world’s finest.”

—TED WESTHUSING, EDITORIAL IN THE TULSA TRIBUNE DURING GULF WAR I.

Professor of Philosophy Nicholas Fotion often discussed just war theory with Westhusing. “The American military behaves more in accordance with the just war theory now than it ever has in the past—they teach it in officer training school,” says Fotion, who has written six books on military ethics. “Given modern life, you have to give your soldiers a broad education. They have to be more than good shooters.”
Death before being dishonored anymore.
—FROM A NOTE FOUND BESIDE TED WESTHUSING’S BODY

On June 5, 2005, Ted Westhusing was found dead in a trailer at Camp Dublin in Baghdad, his service pistol on his bed along with a letter indicating that he had taken his own life. "I cannot support a msn [mission] that leads to corruption, human rights abuse, and liars. I am sullied—no more," it read in part. "I didn't volunteer to support corrupt, money grubbing contractors, nor work for commanders only interested in themselves. I came to serve honorably and feel dishonored. . . Death before being dishonored anymore."

The letter, says Michelle, was in her husband's handwriting. An official inquiry declared his death a suicide. Westhusing was the highest-rank military official to have died in Iraq at the time, and the story received widespread media coverage, especially after documents and interviews associated with the investigation were released under the Freedom of Information Act.

But many unanswered questions remain for Michelle, who now lives a quiet suburban life with her eleven- and fifteen-year-old sons (her daughter is away at college).

"Ted very much believed in honor and doing the right thing. I think he was told not to worry about things, to sweep them under the carpet and go home," says Michelle. "But Ted couldn’t do that. He wasn’t just a professor of ethics, he didn’t just teach it, he believed it with all his heart."

Fotion also had stayed in contact with Westhusing. "I had no clue that this was going to happen," he says. "The last email I got from him was a week before he died. He said he’d be going home in a month or so. He hid it from me, but I gather his emails to his family were more honest."

His former student had a strong sense of morality, says Fotion, that could have been challenged when "things ended up seeming so dirty to him there," he says. "Ethics can be a brittle shell, and when that broke . . . well, I want to believe it was not a suicide. It breaks my heart for his kids and his wife."

Veteran Dan Cantey is a graduate student in Emory’s Department of Religion who, while he never knew Westhusing, also served in Iraq and shares an interest in the classics and the ancient notion of just war. "You know, Book Nine of The Iliad is about Achilles—his friends go to him and say, we need you to come back and fight, and he gives a long speech asking basically, am I going to go back and seek the glory of war or go home?"

For his part, "I had no expectations about war being all glory, but I had very few qualms about going over there," Cantey says. "The imbalance of power was between a tyrannical government and its people, and I’m glad we tried to put a stop to that."

“But I would also be naive to say that I was unstained by it," he adds. "Going to war, in general, changes you in ways that you don’t understand."

JUST WAR THEORY AND MODERN WARFARE

The idea of creating conditions that make war “morally just” dates back to the Romans and Greeks, and was further developed by St. Augustine, who, while believing that Christians should be pacifists, made an exception for fighting defensively or in the defense of innocents. In an age of terrorism, counter-insurgencies, predator drones, and PSYOP units, however, do the principles of a just war—one waged defensively, by a proper authority, for a lasting peace—still apply? We asked a cross-section of University experts to share their thoughts.

Just war: "Armed intervention, even for humanitarian reasons, is not to be undertaken lightly. It requires a precipitating event of significant magnitude. . . . [which] might include egregious human rights violations, crimes against humanity, massive war crimes, or genocide."—Edward Queen, Emory Center for Ethics

"The concept of just war remains rooted in ancient ideals. A just war, then and now, should not be self-serving, to gain land, resources, or power, and should be declared only after all non-violent forms of diplomacy have been exhausted. A just war is always a last resort."—Professor Nicholas Fotion, author of War and Ethics: A New Just War Theory

Defining the enemy: "It’s not always clear who the enemy is. In old warfare, you line up and meet your enemy. But now you don’t know whether to trust civilian women, kids, dogs. Insurgents will use anything, anyone, a woman in a burka with bombs strapped to her. It’s unpredictable and uncontrollable. Guys say, I was scared 24/7 over there. You have to think what that does to your nervous system, your emotions. It’s not the regular rules of engagement."—Psychologist Barbara Rothbaum, post-traumatic stress expert

"Hussein had his men go to a town on the way to Baghdad and give machine guns to the men and boys there. By ROE [rules of engagement] they are combatants because they have weapons, so our soldiers had to treat them as such when they engaged us in battle. Were the actions of the American soldiers just? Yes. The evil lies with the criminals who forced fathers and sons to run into battle. But were American soldiers touched by the evil of the situation? Also, yes."—Dan Cantey, Iraq veteran and graduate student, Department of Religion

"How do we define an army, if there are no uniforms? Are terrorists considered soldiers, criminals, pirates, enemies of all humanity? Should they be tried in military or criminal courts?"—Edward Queen

Armed contractors: "There is very little way to control their behavior. If they kill civilians, is it reported? Does anyone do anything about it? Or are they just sent home on the next plane?"—Nicholas Fotion

"Armed private contractors are one of the most asinine ideas we’ve had, particularly in fraught situations where the need to build local relationships is key. It’s a disturbing trend, at best."—Edward Queen

Instant isolation: "It’s almost a cliché from World War II, the long boat ride home, but that was very therapeutic. You could process and grieve together. Contrast that with one of our guys from Vietnam who, as his plane was taking off, mortars were following it, he barely escaped, and then less than twenty-four hours later he was home watching what he called ‘lies’ about the war on TV in his parents’ living room."—Barbara Rothbaum
Since the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, suicide rates among American troops have risen steadily to the highest levels in nearly three decades. In 2004, the army reported that 67 soldiers on active duty committed suicide; in 2009, that number was 162. Officials say primary causes are longer deployments to war zones, depression, and stress.

The strength of Westhusing’s aretai, however, has been carried forth. A memorial at Emory, organized by Fotion, was held for Westhusing in September 2005 in the philosophy seminar room in Bowden Hall and was well attended. “Everyone told Teddy stories,” Fotion says, smiling at the memory. “I bound them up in a book and sent them to his wife.”

One of Westhusing’s West Point classmates, D. Richard Tucker, has written a one-act play about Westhusing’s death called Duty, Honor, Profit: One Man’s Struggle with the War in Iraq, which was performed in Seattle in 2008 during six weekends.

“I knew Ted briefly, I had one class with him,” says Tucker. “I mainly knew him by reputation. He was the star of the class. When I saw the news story on the Internet, I couldn’t believe it. It hit me hard. Two years later, when the FOI documents were released, I decided to write the play.”

Michelle Westhusing once asked her husband to teach her the basics of philosophy, since she had never formally studied the discipline. He smiled and told her she was already an expert. “He said, ‘It just comes down to knowing what the right thing is and then doing it.’ That gets me through the tough days: choose the right thing. And the right thing for me right now is to focus on raising the kids.”

Classmates and colleagues continue to pay homage to Westhusing on a memorial site at west-point.org.

Reads one: “At this, the fifth anniversary of his death, it is appropriate to remember all that Ted was . . . for what made Ted unique among men is that he was exactly as he intended to be. Ethical and moral beyond measure, forthright in all his dealings, always questioning—Ted was the very conscience of our class.”

Another: “We all were very interested in Ted’s projects with the Trojan War and the Discovery Channel documentary, and he recommended that we read The Iliad and Odyssey and picked out what he thought were the best translations.”

And another: “I remember Ted best as captain of the honor committee. In many ways the Honor Code epitomizes West Point, and Ted certainly epitomized the Honor Code. I think if you had to tell someone what a West Pointer is supposed to be like, you couldn’t do much better than to start describing Ted.”

The remembrances continue: Westhusing effortlessly leading a rifle platoon, reading Kant, perfecting his Russian and Italian, rocking out to Bruce Springsteen.

But perhaps Westhusing’s most poignant living memorial, on this chilly fall evening just before Thanksgiving, is the gangly fifteen-year-old warming up before a basketball game in his high school gymnasium.

He’s laughing, joking with his teammates, rolling the basketball effortlessly between his hands and behind his back.

And when he catches the ball and goes up for a jump shot, it looks like he’s flying.

“Just like Ted,” says Michelle, watching her son play. “He looks just like Ted when he does that.”

Two fates bear me on to the day of death. / If I hold out here and I lay siege to Troy / My journey home is gone, but my glory never dies.

—ACHILLES, THE ILIAD, BOOK 9

Michelle Westhusing once asked her husband to teach her the basics of philosophy, since she had never formally studied the discipline. He smiled and told her she was already an expert. “He said, ‘It just comes down to knowing what the right thing is and then doing it.’ That gets me through the tough days: choose the right thing. And the right thing for me right now is to focus on raising the kids.”

Classmates and colleagues continue to pay homage to Westhusing on a memorial site at west-point.org.

Reads one: “At this, the fifth anniversary of his death, it is appropriate to remember all that Ted was . . . for what made Ted unique among men is that he was exactly as he intended to be. Ethical and moral beyond measure, forthright in all his dealings, always questioning—Ted was the very conscience of our class.”

Another: “We all were very interested in Ted’s projects with the Trojan War and the Discovery Channel documentary, and he recommended that we read The Iliad and Odyssey and picked out what he thought were the best translations.”

And another: “I remember Ted best as captain of the honor committee. In many ways the Honor Code epitomizes West Point, and Ted certainly epitomized the Honor Code. I think if you had to tell someone what a West Pointer is supposed to be like, you couldn’t do much better than to start describing Ted.”

The remembrances continue: Westhusing effortlessly leading a rifle platoon, reading Kant, perfecting his Russian and Italian, rocking out to Bruce Springsteen.

But perhaps Westhusing’s most poignant living memorial, on this chilly fall evening just before Thanksgiving, is the gangly fifteen-year-old warming up before a basketball game in his high school gymnasium.

He’s laughing, joking with his teammates, rolling the basketball effortlessly between his hands and behind his back.

And when he catches the ball and goes up for a jump shot, it looks like he’s flying.

“Just like Ted,” says Michelle, watching her son play. “He looks just like Ted when he does that.”
In almost any field—science, law, business, politics, medicine—the very skills, ingenuity, and technologies that promise tremendous benefit to society can also bring grievous harm. But perhaps nowhere is this so true as in the emerging area of biotechnology.

Breakthroughs in genetic engineering, nanotechnology, and synthetic biology are occurring at a dizzying pace. And with these advances comes the potential to create artificial fuels and artificial pathogens, microscopic medical markers and microscopic weapons, synthetic vaccines and synthetic pandemics.

“As our nation invests in science and innovation and pursues advances in biomedical research and health care, it’s imperative that we do so in a responsible manner,” President Obama said last year, announcing the creation of a new Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues.

Obama appointed as chair Amy Gutmann, president of the University of Pennsylvania, a political philosopher and scholar of ethics and public policy.

And he selected Emory President James Wagner as vice chair, attracted by his background as an engineer with specialties in electrical, materials science, and biomedical engineering, as well as the fact that he has championed ethical engagement as a vital part of Emory’s identity. Universities, Wagner believes, must produce the next generation of ethical professionals.

“Training a mind alone can be dangerous, if this is decoupled from moral guidance,” he says. “We need people who feel confident in their ability to exercise judgment based on ethics and to make decisions based on moral principle.”

The remaining eleven panel members are scientists, ethicists, public policy experts, and MD/PhDs—one of whom is a Franciscan friar.

**BY MARY J. LOFTUS**
LIGHTNING-ROD ISSUES INFLICT

When the commission met in Atlanta in November, Gutmann and Wagner took the opportunity to hold an evening dialogue on bioethics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Wagner told the audience—mostly Emory and Penn alumni—that universities must be able to take up “lightningrod topics,” such as the use of embryonic stem cells to treat chronic diseases.

“It’s not that we are agendas neutral, although sometimes we are,” he said. “We must be inclusive. And it’s not about tolerating diverse viewpoints, it’s about demanding that we have people who represent as many viewpoints as possible.”

No topic was off limits during the wide-ranging discussion, moderated by Kathy Kinlaw 79C 8ST, associate director of the Emory Center for Ethics, and Penn’s Jonathan Moreno, a professor of medical ethics and the history and sociology of science.

“The devil and God are both in the details,” Gutmann said of the difficult decisions sure to arise in bioethics. Should “designer” genes controlled, or will its creations run amok? By now, Gutmann and Wagner are well practiced at bioethical hairsplitting and at entertaining possible future scenarios both inspiring and alarming (although Gutmann joked that The Blob is “the only movie I ever walked out of”).

They have led three public commission meetings, the third of which took place November 16 and 17 at the Emory Conference Center Hotel. They’ve listened to dozens of experts speak about the potential good works of biotechnology (organisms that can gobble up oil spills) and terrifying misuses (artificial germ warfare).

“They’ve considered the impact of biotech research being conducted by professional scientists in labs and amateur or DIYs (“do-it-yourselfers”) in basements and garages. And in mid-December—just a month after the Atlanta meeting where final details were debated—the commission came up with a list of recommendations for how the government should respond to a startling scientific development in synthetic biology: the possible creation of life.

THE STORM OVER SYNTHIA

On May 20, 2010, the J. Craig Venter Institute in Rockville, Maryland, announced that it had created “the first self-replicating species we’ve had on the planet whose parent is a computer.”

The Venter lab’s synthetic single-celled organism, nicknamed “Synthia,” was manufactured from artificial DNA the scientists purchased on the Internet. They then transferred the synthetic DNA into an empty bacterium and allowed it to multiply.

The event made headlines around the world: “Scientist accused of playing God by making designer microbe from scratch,” “Synthetic life breakthrough could be worth over a trillion dollars,” and “Genesis Redux.”

“In the end,” read a piece in the Economist, “there was no castle, no thunderstorm, and definitely no hunchbacked cackling lab assistant. Nevertheless, Craig Venter . . . and colleagues have done for real what Mary Shelley merely imagined.”

Some said Venter had not created life but only “mimicked” it; doomsayers called the organism a “microscopic Frankenstein’s monster.”

The White House was concerned enough to send Gutmann a letter dated the day of the announcement, asking her to set aside all other commission work to make recommendations within six months for how the government should respond to this leap in synthetic biology.

“For the first time, all of the natural genetic material in a bacterial cell has been replaced with a synthetic set of genes,” said the letter, signed by President Obama. “This development raises the prospect of important benefits, such as the ability to accelerate vaccine development. At the same time, it raises genuine concerns.”

During the course of its next three meetings, Gutmann responded, the commission would “examine the implications of the emerging science of synthetic biology, including the announcement in May of the successful creation of a self-replicating bacterial cell with a completely synthetically replicated genome . . . [and] offer recommendations to ensure that America reaps the benefits of this developing field within appropriate ethical boundaries.”

PREPARING FOR THE BEST—AND WORST

At its first public meeting July 8 and 9 in D.C., the commission invited several experts to talk about the scope and definition of synthetic biology, including Paul Root Wolpe, director of the Emory Center for Ethics, and J. Craig Venter, the father of “Synthia” himself.

“I think this is an area [in which] we are limited more by our imaginations now than by any technological limitations,” Venter told the commission, just hours after its members were sworn in. “I think having an intelligent ethical legal framework for this new science to emerge in is absolutely critical.”

Venter said advances in synthetic biology could lead, fairly quickly, to synthetic flu vaccines and bio-crude fuels, two products his lab is working on through partnerships with Novartis and ExxonMobil.

The next day, Wolpe shared his understanding of various religious perspectives on synthetic biology.
“I spoke to people from a variety of faith traditions, from Buddhism and Emory’s wonderful Emory-Tibet program; people from Islam, Christianity and Judaism, Hinduism,” he said. “What I discovered was that, fundamentally, their objections or their concerns were those of all of us in this room. What are the potential harms? What might happen if these things are released into the environment? They expressed a concern that synbio keep its eye on maximizing human good and reducing suffering, and if it does that, it’s acceptable. That was reflected in the Vatican’s response, I think, where they said the recent creation of Venter’s cell can be a positive development if correctly used. And then there was a warning afterward, that scientists should be careful about playing God, creating life, remembering that only God can do that.”

Modern science and the bioethical dilemmas it poses, Wolpe said, are simply “our newest means of trying to struggle with eternal questions about what our proper relationship is to the natural world, what are the important problems we as a species must solve, and so on.”

Wolpe warned that no matter how thoughtfully and deliberately we as a society proceed, however, there are no guarantees: “We can follow a path where every step is examined individually and found to be ethically unobjectionable and yet, a hundred steps later, we find ourselves in a place that no one wants to be.”

The second public meeting was hosted by Penn in Philadelphia on September 13 and 14, and included an overview of emerging technologies in synthetic biology, a continued look at philosophical and theological perspectives, social responsibility and risk assessment, knowledge sharing, and translating research for the public good.

Renowned bioethicist Arthur Caplan, director of Penn’s Center for Bioethics, cautioned that consequences are hard to foresee.

“The point of the grant proposal is that these problems will keep coming up, and we need to find ways to deal with them,” Berry says. “What caught the interest of the NSF was the idea of future scientists and engineers developing a particular set of skills necessary to deal with these issues at a policy level. The NSF also found the diverse mix of students very promising.”

“The students are placed on teams of five to six members that deliberate-ately mix the different institutions and disciplines, with representatives from the biosciences, public policy, law, engineering, and even the humanities. There are no textbooks or assigned readings; rather, the teams are given a series of three problems and set loose (guided by a faculty facilitator) to develop policy recommendations, which they ultimately present to invited stakeholders and policymakers including scientists and engineers, patent attorneys, law professors, judges, legislators, and legislative staffers.

“We are talking about this against a backdrop where we have had failures in controlling the dissemination of organisms, and I don’t have to remind this group about the problems we’ve had with things getting into places we don’t want them, whether they’re kudzu or Japanese beetles or starlings or, for that matter, zebra mussels and little beetles.”

At its third meeting in Atlanta, the group hammered out eighteen draft recommendations on federal oversight to present to President Obama before the year’s end.

Wagner, addressing his fellow panelists, set forth a series of provocative questions. What if a synthetic biology creation “is more robust than what is in nature?” he asked. “Or what if it could be applied for malevolent purposes? [To] what degree do we interfere with the natural order of life?”

“Certainly some risk now can’t be imag-inable,” he said, “but our job is to give advice to society on how to be best prepared.”

“Certainly some risk now can’t be imag-
Checking the Moral Compass
On December 16, the commission released its recommendations, New Directions: The Ethics of Synthetic Biology and Emerging Technologies.

“What [we] found is that the Venter Institute’s research and synthetic biology are in the early stages of a new direction in a long continuum of research in biology and genetics,” it states. “The announcement last May, although extraordinary in many ways, does not amount to creating life as either a scientific or a moral matter … the likelihood of which still remains remote for the foreseeable future.”

More realistic, says the commission, is the expectation that synthetic biology will lead to new products for clean energy, pollution control, customized vaccines, targeted medicines, and hardy crops.

While forming its recommendations, the commission kept in mind five ethical principles relevant to considering the social implications of emerging technologies: public beneficence, responsible stewardship, intellectual freedom and responsibility, democratic deliberation, and justice and fairness.

What follows is a sampling of the commission’s eighteen recommendations, which can be found in full at www.bioethics.gov.

• Innovation Through Sharing. Synthetic biology is at a very early stage of development, and innovation should be encouraged.

• Monitoring, Containment, and Control. At this early stage of development, the potential for harm through the inadvertent environmental release of organisms or other bioactive materials produced by synthetic biology requires safeguards and monitoring … For example, “suicide genes” or other types of self-destruction triggers could be considered in order to place a limit on their life spans.

• Ethics Education. Because synthetic biology and related research cross traditional disciplinary boundaries, ethics education similar or superior to the training required today in the medical and clinical research communities should be developed and required.

The commission concluded that it had not found cause for immediate concern: “All the experts who testified agreed that any danger is far off in the future. But that is not to say that dangers won’t ever happen. That’s why the commission has opted for a moderate course. It is operating on the principle of ‘prudent vigilance.’

As for the work of Gutmann, Wagner, and the rest of the bioethics panel? They will begin two new projects—one involving the ethics of genetic and neurological testing, the other reviewing human subject trials to ensure that all participants are protected from harm and unethical treatment.

In other words, no rest for the ethicists.

Tara Wabbersen 12PhD is a fourth-year student in Emory’s Graduate Division of Biomedical and Biological Sciences, where she works in cell and developmental biology. Her program requires an initial two-day bioethics course and additional classes once a month, but she says she was drawn to the depth offered by the NSF course.

“I’ve always been interested in bioethics, and I wanted a taste of what it’s like to work with the bigger issues,” she says. “I was also interested because as a scientist, it’s good to get perspective from nonscientists. It’s easy to lose sight of that broader view.”

Faced with the first question of the course, Wabbersen says it was fairly easy for her team to come up with the answer: no, scientists should not create a Neanderthal man. The challenge, though, was explaining why. “There were too many big questions,” she says. “Would it be defined as a person? Would there be social and class issues? The law student wanted to know what its rights would be.”

The NSF course was taught for the first time last year, and Sarah Cork 11PhD, a graduate student in neuroscience at Emory, jumped at the chance to take it. “I’m planning to go to law school, so I was very interested in the intersection of science and law and the ethical issues that arise,” she says.

For her team’s final problem, they were asked to determine whether a universal DNA database should be created that extends to all citizens, not just those with a criminal record. Initially, the team was divided on the issue, with the minority members objecting to the formation of the database—which made for some interesting and at times tense discussion. Cork says. Ultimately, they did recommend in favor of the database, although with a range of qualifications and restrictions.

This year’s teams were assigned final problems with a focus on synthetic biology, so their work resonated with many of the key issues discussed by the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, which met at Emory in November.

Just days later, the two teams met in the Center for Ethics to deliver practice presentations to advisory council members.

One team analyzed the potential impact of cultivating emergent behaviors of differentiating cells, basically the production of biological “machines” through steering the differentiation of interacting stem cells. The second team worked on a real-life project that is actually in development, led by a Harvard researcher—the creation of a cellular system designed to detect glucose levels in the blood and then instruct other systems to produce and secrete insulin, to be used in treating type I diabetes patients.

Both teams drew on the highly controversial use of human embryonic stem cells to illustrate their points, noting the ongoing debate over the definition of life and when it begins. They covered religious and ethical implications, the need for balance between private innovation and public interest, the possibility for dual use if the advances fall into the wrong hands, and the importance of public perception in the success of new biological technologies. Ultimately, the teams found that researchers in these areas should be encouraged to proceed—but with caution, and overseen by regulatory agencies and clear, restrictive policies. Still, the potential for health benefits far outweighs the risks, the teams said.

Melissa Creary 14PhD, who is studying public health, ethics, and history in the Institute for Liberal Arts, has worked in the Division of Blood Disorders at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the past six years.

“In my work, ethics comes up all the time,” she says. “If I were to rely on what I knew before this class, it was basically gut reaction and instinct. I was not really looking at the problem in a systematic way, which is what this class teaches.”—P.P.P.
THE DEVIL

You know
movie *The Social Network*, Facebook, the world’s most popular networking site, was born of dark motives.

On an autumn night in 2003, the story begins, spurned Harvard student Mark Zuckerberg takes a notion to vent his frustration with the fairer sex by creating a website called “Facemash,” where visitors can rank pairs of ill-begotten photos according to the hapless women subjects’ attractiveness. Within hours, the site draws so much traffic that it crashes Harvard’s network, and Mark winds up on academic probation—and hundreds of female students’ hit lists.

But the wild popularity of Facemash sparks a chain of events that eventually result in The Facebook, as it was called until Napster mastermind Sean Parker reportedly suggested to Zuckerberg that “the” was uncool. Facebook now has more than five hundred million active users around the world and is the third-largest US web company (following Google and Amazon), valued at more than $40 billion.

Certainly a fraction of those five hundred million “friends” are Emory students—as well as faculty, staff, and alumni. There are Facebook pages for Emory University, Emory Healthcare, the Emory Alumni Association, Emory Sustainability, *Emory Report*, the Emory Eye Center, the Emory Eagles—more than fifty in all for Emory alone. The Emory alumni page has 2,480 friends.

And Facebook is just one outlet for the ceaseless virtual interaction taking place across this community, which is but a microcosm of the wired world. According to studies by the Pew Research Center’s Internet and American Life Project, in 2009, 79 percent of American adults used the Internet, and 46 percent accessed a social networking site like Facebook, MySpace, or LinkedIn. Among teens and young adults, 93 percent use the Internet, and at least 65 percent of those use online social networking. Even seniors who are computer-savvy seem to be getting into the game, with social networking among those over fifty rising from 22 percent in April 2009 to 42 percent in May 2010.

And electronic communication is hardly limited to computers. More than 70 percent of adults with cell phones text regularly and a staggering 87 percent of teen cell users text an average of fifty times a day. And of those mobile users, 23 percent of adults and 27 percent of teens use their handhelds to hop on the Internet on a typical day—with 23 percent of teens accessing social networking sites via phone.

The idea that we are are “always on,” constantly accessible and exchanging information through various networks and electronic devices, is hardly novel. From socializing to shopping, working to networking, technology makes it possible to conduct more and more of life’s business—and pleasure—online.

But scholars, social scientists, think tanks, and the media are showing increasing interest in the real-life consequences of a virtual world—how the digital revolution is changing the way we act, interact, and even think.

One of the central questions is whether the volume of technology use is creating new generations of distracted, screen-addicted multitaskers unable to think and focus deeply on meaningful subjects. Last year the *New York Times* launched a series of articles under the moniker “Your Brain on Computers” to “examine how a deluge of data can affect the way people think and behave.” The headlines alone tell the story: “More Americans Sense a Downside to an Always Plugged-In Experience,” “Attached to Technology and Paying a Price,” and more recently, “Growing Up Digital, Wired for Distraction.”

This is old news to Emory’s Mark Bauerlein, English professor and author of *Dumbest Generation*, who has studied the effects of electronic interaction among teens and college students. The propagation of cell phones and laptops among young people, he says, has a profound impact on not only their attention span, but also their intellectual development. Whereas once social life was limited to school and after-school activities, now teens are literally in constant contact with one another, isolating themselves in a bubble of “BFFs.”

“Peer pressure used to end at dinnertime,” he says. “Now there is no end to peer-to-peer contact. It has always been important for that contact to have a limit.”

That’s because teenagers don’t tend to encourage one another to cultivate their minds, he says—or their morals. “The presence of peers generally hinders intellectual growth,” he says. “The problem is, in the world of adolescence, virtues are harder to come by and the vices and narcissism of adolescence often overpower the better sides.”

Which begs another, deeper, and darker follow-up question: as they spend ever-increasing hours engaged in electronic socializing and networking, do people behave differently in those virtual circles than they do in face-to-face situations?

There’s no question that the dangers of the digital realm have gotten plenty of bad press lately. The potential for anonymity lies at the heart of the matter, and is blamed for a good deal of bad behavior online.

Take a trend that has made dozens of headlines in recent months: cyberbullying. The topic of yet another *New York Times* series, virtual viciousness among young people has been blamed for teenagers’ unhappiness, social isolation, and even cases of suicide.

Some observers liken the Internet to a few stiff drinks: it may lessen people’s inhibitions, but it doesn’t wholly transform their personalities. Bauerlein, for one, seems to feel that if online behavior is worse than real life, it’s usually only a matter of degree. Kids, he says, haven’t changed much; it’s just that instead of sticks and stones, now they have smartphones.
Among adults, too, the change their behavior in radical ways. “People—even ordinary, good people—often an anonymity, the effect is even more pronounced. "Road rage blossoms when like-minded people find one another, untethered by geography."

"Among adults," too, the invisibility cloak of the Internet, combined with its power to brush against thousands of fellow users with one click, makes it a formidable weapon.

Julie Zhuo, a product design manager for Facebook, recently wrote a Times opinion piece on “trolling”—the practice of posting inflammatory or derogatory comments on Internet forums. “Psychological research has proven again and again that anonymity increases unethical behavior,” she writes. “Road rage bubbles up in the relative anonymity of one’s car. And in the online world, which can offer total anonymity, the effect is even more pronounced. People—even ordinary, good people—often change their behavior in radical ways."

In many cases, the subjects that prod Internet users to vent their anger are classic hot-button issues, like politics and religion. Emory’s Andrea Gillespie, assistant professor of political science, notes that political discourse online is increasing, marked by heated intensity and often outright ugliness. The level of malevolence, Gillespie says, probably reflects an increasingly fractured media, which in turn reflects an increasingly polarized Congress.

“My hunch is that the proliferation of information networks has contributed to greater polarization and not cooperation,” she says. “People feel protected by anonymity on the Internet so it gives them an outlet to say rude things, but then, they are primed to say rude things because we spend a lot of time watching shows where the sole purpose is to make fun of people and put them in a bad light. I would be surprised if it did not seep over into public discourse.”

Emory religion professor Gary Laderman experienced virtual vitriol firsthand through Religion Dispatches, an online magazine he founded to offer thoughtful analysis of a range of religious topics and influences. Tending toward more progressive viewpoints, Religion Dispatches rapidly became the target of adamant and angry conservative voices—many of which spoke from the dark.

“The biggest issue we have had is anonymous online comments,” Laderman says. “Religion is a topic that generates a lot of heat, if not outright hate speech. I’m a scholar, and I want people to be respectful and tolerant. I believe in academic freedom. But I feel in this context we have a responsibility to maintain a measure of control over what can be put on the site.”

Laderman and his colleagues recently made the decision to discontinue anonymous comments on the magazine’s main stories, although they do accept letters to the editor—in which the writer is identified. “People were upset,” he says. “They wrote in, saying we were being undemocratic and going against the whole spirit of online communication. But I don’t buy that it’s democratic when you can hide behind some avatar. The responsible thing to do is say your name and be up-front. The tone and tenor of things change when it’s a real letter to the editor."

Hank Klibanoff, Emory’s new James M. Cox Jr. Chair in Journalism, agrees that anonymous responses are a quagmire for any media outlet. A news industry veteran and Pulitzer–winning author, Klibanoff says he has been surprised and disappointed to see some newspapers publish unsigned reader comments from their websites—even in their print editions.

“I remember when newspapers never would have carried a letter to the editor that was not signed by someone, using their true name, and not verified as having come from that person,” he says. “Now that standard seems to be gone.”

From his perspective as an English professor, Bauerlein agrees that the Internet blurs individual identity, accountability, and authorship in ways that can lead users to make poor judgments, particularly when it comes to ethical scholarship and research.

The web has made cheating much easier for students, for instance—even when they don’t necessarily intend to.

“When texts can circulate so easily, and be disengaged so easily from the author, there is going to be a rise of cheating—mostly plagia-
probably the future. Whether it’s establishing a church on [the virtual-world site] Second Life or maintaining a memorial to someone who has died, it is genuine religious investment and involvement signaling a profound change in how people are religious in the twenty-first century.”

In other areas, too, the proliferation of social media and online communication actually serves to increase civic participation, knowledge, and candor. In the commercial business world, the Internet has transformed the way consumers obtain information about products; now consumer sites and online customer reviews allow potential buyers to benefit from others’ experience before purchasing. While there are certainly lone (and anonymous) voices, the sheer volume of consumer communication helps bolster its validity, and they can recognize hollow self-promotion on the part of the company.

“Brand communities are honest about the company for the most part,” Shah says. “Of course there are deceptive practices, such as when companies plant positive reviews. But I think in the end things right themselves. People can sniff that out, when it’s the party line or corporate communication.”

Virtual politicking is equally lively, if not more so. For years there has been an abundance of political jokes, cartoons, and anecdotes being shared among web surfers of every ideological stripe, many of which have been known to ruffle feathers if spotted by the wrong friend on Facebook. But more recently, political leaders and candidates have jumped into the fray with “official” messages and campaign tactics, aimed at reaching voters where they live: online.

According to Reshma Shah, assistant professor of marketing at Goizueta Business School and coauthor of the recent book How to Make Money with Social Media,

“Technology makes it very easy for information to get out there, whether positive or negative,” Shah says. “In the past, corporate secrets had to pass from one person to another, but now people can put information out as soon as they have it and do it anonymously as well. Business organizations know this, and they are much more careful about what they say publicly and do privately. I do think it helps keep them more honest.”

Many companies also have plunged into the realm of social media themselves, using it as a marketing tool, as Shah explains in her book. But unlike traditional marketing strategies, in Internet-based “brand communities,” consumers are active participants in the conversation—

“Brand communities are honest about the company for the most part,” Shah says. “Of course there are deceptive practices, such as when companies plant positive reviews. But I think in the end things right themselves. People can sniff that out, when it’s the party line or corporate communication.”

Virtual politicking is equally lively, if not more so. For years there has been an abundance of political jokes, cartoons, and anecdotes being shared among web surfers of every ideological stripe, many of which have been known to ruffle feathers if spotted by the wrong friend on Facebook. But more recently, political leaders and candidates have jumped into the fray with “official” messages and campaign tactics, aimed at reaching voters where they live: online.

“Brand communities are honest about the company for the most part,” Shah says. “Of course there are deceptive practices, such as when companies plant positive reviews. But I think in the end things right themselves. People can sniff that out, when it’s the party line or corporate communication.”

Virtual politicking is equally lively, if not more so. For years there has been an abundance of political jokes, cartoons, and anecdotes being shared among web surfers of every ideological stripe, many of which have been known to ruffle feathers if spotted by the wrong friend on Facebook. But more recently, political leaders and candidates have jumped into the fray with “official” messages and campaign tactics, aimed at reaching voters where they live: online.

From left: Hank Klibanoff, Reshma Shah, and Gary Laderman

because of their hunger for as many hits as they can get, are more vulnerable than ever to fraud.”

However, Klibanoff adds, it is possible for social media to be used responsibly, and to great effect—as in the lead of a story in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution published in October. After a young family was killed in a car accident, reporters quoted from the mother’s MySpace page, where she had wondered about her twins’ future: “What will my boys look like when they grow up? . . . Will the personalities that I know now still exist when they are twenty?”

“Years ago, those beautifully powerful, loving remarks would only be in a private scrapbook,” Klibanoff says. “It’s appropriate to use a combination of news judgment and visceral and common sense.”

The poignant dreams of a young mother expressed in a receptive online community are a far cry from Harvard students rating women’s looks on an insidious site called Facemash, where it all began. It’s a good reminder that you can use the Internet to be whoever you want—even yourself. ■
Is teaching ethics a waste of time?

Is it really possible for a university to be “ethically engaged,” as Emory, in its vision statement, calls itself to be? Maybe more to the point, can a university even hope to teach people to be ethical as well as to merely cogitate and talk about ethics? Can an institution as big and diverse as a research university really back up reflection with doing when it comes to striving for goodness?

A lot of people would say no—that the level of ethical engagement students leave with is not much different than what they arrive with, and that, with few exceptions, staff and faculty members work month after month without much change in their general sense of the good and their ability to follow the rules. Some people say yes—that students and employees do in fact strive toward institutional and community ideals, and that they also develop good ethical habits to the degree that rules, processes, and ethical culture are in place to guide their behavior.

For my part, I respond to these questions by going out on a limb and saying—maybe. Maybe a university can teach ethical engagement. For those that consciously attempt it, I think success depends on their ability to nurture good judgment in people.

What do I mean by “judgment”? The great American ethicist and Christian philosopher H. Richard Niebuhr—the younger and less-renowned brother of Reinhold Niebuhr—offers helpful insight in his posthumous masterpiece The Responsible Self. There he outlines three ways of thinking about ethics: we can seek to live by what is right, trying to follow the most-just laws we can devise; we can strive to aim for what is good, working to build a way of life that most effectively promotes our vision of human happiness; or we can aim to live responsibly, putting less emphasis on rules and definitions of the good, and more on our response to what is needed. For Niebuhr, response-ability is the capacity to size up what is going on, determine what the appropriate response should be, and then hold oneself accountable for the outcomes of one’s actions.

In large measure this is what I take to be the mission of an ethically engaged university. It is true that universities, like some nations and other collective enterprises, often spell out “the good” in their founding documents. Where the aim of “the people of the United States” is “to form a more perfect Union,” and so on, the aim of the founders of Emory University was “to encourage freedom of thought as liberal as the limitations of truth.” Behind both of these statements lies an understanding that such endeavors are worthy and good—that men, women, and society in general will be the better for having undertaken them.

It is also true that universities establish what is “right”—policies, procedures, regulations about everything from proper laboratory work to behavior in residence halls and the keeping of work hours and so on.

Reading Emory’s charter and bylaws tells us something about the founders’ understanding of what the “good” university should be, and reading our policy website tells us much about how to live “right” on our campus. But these things still do not get at whether Emory is ethically engaged. To understand that, we need to know whether Emory can live responsibly.

Take an instance from Emory’s history. In the 1980s, as South Africa’s apartheid regime held tightly to power, students and faculty at many American universities advocated divesting institutional endowment in companies that did business in South Africa. At Emory, which then held a heavy concentration in Coca-Cola stock, the concern was whether The Coca-Cola Company’s presence in South Africa—and therefore Emory’s investment—somehow supported the apartheid regime or, on the other hand, made it possible for black South Africans to rise above their economic circumstances. President Jim Laney appointed a task force, chaired by ethicist Jon Gunnenmann, to study the matter. The task force’s deeply probing and thoughtful 1986 report—articulating clear principles, presenting guidelines, and recommending transformative engagement—still offers a superb instance of the kind of ethical responsibility of which institutions are capable.

In a world that seems to want to abdicate the exercise of judgment in favor of rote behavior, teaching to the test, and formulaic answers to complex questions, it becomes ever more incumbent on a university to instill judgment in young men and women.

For my part, I believe that judgment is the gold standard by which Emory measures all other skills and talents. The technically best surgeon needs good judgment about where and when not to cut. The most talented writer must Exercise judgment both in choosing the right word for the right place and in leaving out some good but extraneous words. The most knowledgeable MBA holder needs judgment to determine when maximizing profits might not maximize happiness or goodness.

Good judgment is the sine qua non of human maturity, and it should be (if it’s not already) the distinctive quality of an Emory education.
EMPLOYEES, RETIREEs GIVE $52 MILLION
Gifts from more than 3,300 Emory employees, current and retired, push MyEmory past its $50 million goal (page 42)

EMORY LAW GRAD ISSUES CHALLENGE
Lash Harrison 62B 65L challenges alumni to support the Law School Fund for Excellence (page 44)

PROGRESS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2010

$1.16 BILLION
TOTAL GOAL $1.6 BILLION

“We have the opportunity to develop the talent of so many of our kids who otherwise may not have had a fighting chance to succeed.”

Rick Rieder 83B (page 43)
A GIVING COMMUNITY

We often talk about community at Emory, and with good reason. Our community begins on Emory’s Atlanta and Oxford campuses and extends around the world, comprising a diverse network of alumni, students and parents, faculty and staff both current and retired, patients and their families, and other friends.

Bound by our ties to this great university, many of us are finding creative ways to invest in its mission and vision.

In this issue of the Campaign Chronicle, you’ll read about some of these gifts, including the Emory trustee investing in the Office of University-Community Partnerships (page 43), the Emory patient honoring her surgeon with a $1 million endowment (above right), and the English professor helping sustain a scholarship that bears his name (page 45).

Their stories offer a glimpse into Emory’s philanthropic community, which is fueling a remarkable range of work in academics, health care, the arts, and so many other areas. If you haven’t already, I hope you’ll join our community of giving this year. You’ll find it’s a welcoming one.

Susan Cruse, Senior Vice President, Development and Alumni Relations

Philanthropist Honors Emory Surgeon with Major Gift

Grateful for having received outstanding patient care, a philanthropist has committed $1 million—and so far thirty-five former spine surgery fellows have matched the gift—with the goal of establishing the Thomas E. Whitesides Jr., MD, Endowed Chair in Orthopaedic Spine Surgery.

Whitesides 51BS 55M, a professor emeritus in the Department of Orthopaedics, served as a faculty member for forty years and chaired the department for eight years. He founded the Spine Fellowship Program in 1989 and directed the program until retiring from clinical practice in 2000. He remains active in teaching, editing, and research.

Spine surgeon John Heller, professor of orthopaedics at the Emory Spine Center and current director of the Spine Fellowship Program, challenged all of the program’s forty-six graduates to match the anonymous gift.

Emory Employees, Retirees Give More than $50 Million

MyEmory, the employee and retiree component of Campaign Emory, has exceeded its goal of $50 million. Current and former Emory employees contributed $52 million as of September 30, 2010.

Representing every school and unit, these donors support scholarships, professorships, patient care, the arts, research, and countless other priorities.

“All of us at Emory have been blessed in countless ways, so it’s appropriate for our community to be a source of blessing through a culture of philanthropy,” said President James Wagner.

FOR MORE CAMPAIGN NEWS, VISIT WWW.CAMPAIGN.EMORY.EDU/NEWS
Goizueta Grad Invests in Young Students

Middle school is a difficult time for many students, but for those who face additional challenges in their homes and communities it can be the most critical time of their lives.

To improve the academic performance of middle school students and boost their chances for success, New York business leader Rick Rieder 83B has made a $1 million gift to Emory University to help create a program that will address academic and community issues to lower high-school dropout rates.

Graduation Generation Atlanta, which is administered through the University’s Office of University-Community Partnerships (OUCP) and the Atlanta nonprofit Communities In Schools, was formulated by a group of community builders from higher education; philanthropic foundations; national, state, and local nonprofit agencies; and public schools. These partners are focusing on factors within the school setting, notably the engagement of parents, as well as factors within students’ communities. This holistic approach acknowledges the links between academic success and where and how children learn and live.

“We have a window in our society today to do something very special, given the current level of support for education at the national, state, and local government levels. We have the opportunity to develop the talent of so many of our kids who otherwise may not have had a fighting chance to succeed,” Rieder says.

“This is the most exciting thing that we can do as a collective community. We will win at this. The only question is on how large a scale. I am thrilled to be a part of this effort and have grand hopes for what we can ultimately accomplish.”

Rieder, chief investment officer of fixed income for fundamental portfolios with BlackRock, an assets and investments management firm, is a member of the Emory University Board of Trustees and the National Leadership Council of Communities In Schools. Passionate about urban educational improvement in the United States, he also chairs the board of trustees of North Star Academy Charter School of Newark. In 2005 he received the Goizueta Business School Distinguished Alumni award.

Graduation Generation Atlanta will begin in Atlanta’s Edgewood community, which—like many urban communities—has been hard-hit by the economic downturn yet has strong foundations and assets. Sammye E. Coan Middle School, part of Atlanta Public Schools, will be the center of much activity, with the intention to bolster Coan students’ success both in middle school and high school.

“This gift helps to forge a relationship between OUCP and Communities In Schools and to strengthen relationships each has established in local communities and with local schools,” says Emory Provost Earl Lewis. “The program it supports will benefit students in the adjacent neighborhood and Emory students and faculty who participate in the partnership. We thank Rick for his commitment to the dream we all share.”
CAMPUS LIFE
Malcolm Bruni 92C created a leadership fund in the Office of LGBT Life in honor of Physical Education Professor Dan Adame. The Adame Leadership Fund will create leadership opportunities for LGBTQ students and allies with a passion for healthy living.

CANDLER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
Dunwoody United Methodist Church in Atlanta is naming a group study room in phase II of the theology building. The church and its senior pastor, B. Wiley Stephens 65T, are longtime supporters of Candler School of Theology.

EMORY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
CNN has made a gift to Emory’s James Weldon Johnson Institute to create a series of public dialogues with the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. The program was conceived by the institute’s founding director, Rudolph P. Byrd.

EMORY HEALTHCARE
Norio Hirono of Shinjyo City, Japan, made a leadership annual gift to the Carlyle Fraser Heart Center at Emory University Hospital Midtown to honor his former teacher, Linton Bishop.

EMORY LAW
Former Woodruff Scholar Laura S. Huffman 08L, an associate with King & Spalding in Atlanta, is mentoring a third-year student and has made a gift to the Emory Public Interest Committee.

EMORY LIBRARIES
The Vasser Woolley Foundation has made a gift to the Paul B. Seydel Belgian Collection to purchase sixteenth- and seventeenth-century books from the Low Countries for the Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library.

EMORY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
The Jim Cox Jr. Foundation has given $50,000 to the Department of Neurology to further research and care with a focus on Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases.

A new facility befits the top-ten national status of the Rollins School of Public Health.

Claudia Nance Rollins Building Dedicated

Emory’s reputation has grown stronger with the opening of a second building for the Rollins School of Public Health.

Members of the Rollins family and the Emory community recently dedicated the Claudia Nance Rollins Building, which houses a growing body of students and faculty from around the world. The building is named for the mother of longtime Emory benefactor O. Wayne Rollins and his brother John, thus extending the family’s ties with the school to five generations.

The new building is connected by a glass-enclosed bridge to the Grace Crum Rollins Building, named in honor of O. Wayne’s wife. In 2007, the Rollins family made a $50 million commitment toward the $90 million cost to construct a second building and renovate the Grace Crum Rollins Building.

Since construction of the new building began in 2008, the school has experienced record enrollment. What began as a master’s program with sixteen students in 1975 has evolved to become one of the nation’s top-ten public health schools.

Alumnus Makes Challenge Gift to Emory Law Fund

Emory Law alumnus and volunteer Lash Harrison 62B 65L has pledged $250,000 in challenge funds to encourage fellow alumni to support the Emory Law School Fund for Excellence. His gift will create the C. Lash Harrison Endowment to provide unrestricted support for the school’s greatest priorities.

In the coming years the endowment will support priorities such as scholarships, help recruit and retain faculty, purchase technology, maintain and renovate learning spaces, provide real-world practice experiences for students, and support other professional development activities.

To read more about Laurie and Art Vinson and their gift, visit campaign.emory.edu/news.
Building on the gift, the Emory Law Advisory Board is working to generate $250,000 in new gifts from alumni and $200,000 from Emory Law campaign and board leaders in the next three years. Harrison will match all new gifts at the Barrister ($1,000) and Dean’s Circle ($2,500) levels as part of the school’s “100 Barristers in 100 Days” program.

Harrison is a partner in the Atlanta law firm Ford & Harrison, which he helped found in 1978. He served on Emory’s Board of Visitors from 1999 to 2002. He is a member of the Emory Law Advisory Board.

Beloved Professor Supports Scholarship

If the measure of a teacher is a steadfast devotion to students, Harry Rusche ranks at the top. Rusche, former Arthur M. Blank Distinguished Teaching Professor of English at Emory College of Arts and Sciences, extends that dedication to his personal philanthropy.

He and his wife, Sue, invest in the Harry and Sue Rusche Scholarship Fund, which supports a rising senior majoring in English at Emory College. The fund was established by Sam Stahl 03C and the Stahl Family Foundation.

Longtime Donors Support Oxford Science Building

Oxford College alumnus Art Vinson 66OX 68C and his wife, Laurie, are supporting the fund-raising effort for a new science building on the Oxford campus.

By designating Oxford as the beneficiary of a fully paid life insurance policy, the Vinsons are able to make a leadership gift to the project, which is one of Oxford’s top priorities.

To learn about the creative options that gift planning offers, call 404.727.8875 or visit www.emory.edu/giftplanning.

Fighting Alzheimer’s Disease

The volunteer activities of Mary Rose Taylor have helped benefit the Emory Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center and its leaders, Emory neurologist Allan Levey and Emory neuroscientist Stuart Zola. Emory’s is the only comprehensive center in Georgia and one of few in the South.
**Campaign Progress**

**As of December 31, 2010**

- **Campus Life** Goal: $5 million
  - **$6.4 million raised**

- **Candler School of Theology** Goal: $60 million
  - **$36 million raised**

- **Emory College of Arts and Sciences** Goal: $110 million
  - **$70 million raised**

- **Emory Healthcare** Goal: $305 million
  - **$243.6 million raised**

- **Emory Law** Goal: $35 million
  - **$18.3 million raised**

- **Emory Libraries** Goal: $27 million
  - **$7.8 million raised**

- **Emory School of Medicine** Goal: $500 million
  - **$416.6 million raised**

- **Goizueta Business School** Goal: $75 million
  - **$36.5 million raised**

- **James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies** Goal: $10 million
  - **$7 million raised**

- **Michael C. Carlos Museum** Goal: $35 million
  - **$24.2 million raised**

- **Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing** Goal: $20 million
  - **$19.6 million raised**

- **Oxford College of Emory University** Goal: $40 million
  - **$27.1 million raised**

- **Rollins School of Public Health** Goal: $150 million
  - **$140.1 million raised**

- **Yerkes National Primate Research Center** Goal: $30 million
  - **$15.8 million raised**

*Progress chart does not include goals for general University and Woodruff Health Sciences Center initiatives.*

**CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP**

**Campaign Emory Chair**
Walter M. “Sonny” Deriso
68C 72L

**Cabinet**
Ellen A. Bailey 63C 87B
Chair, University Programs

Russell R. French 67C
Chair, Leadership Prospects Committee

M. Douglas Ivester
Chair, Health Sciences

Teresa M. Rivero 85OX 87B 93MPH
Chair, Alumni Engagement

**School and Unit Chairs**
J. David Allen 67C 70D 75DR
Beverly Allen 68C
Nell Hodgson Woodruff
School of Nursing

Courtlandt B. Ault
James H. Morgens
Michael C. Carlos Museum

James B. Carson Jr. 61B
Goizueta Business School

Ada Lee Correll
Emory School of Medicine

William L. Dobs Jr. 65C 69M 70MR
Yerkes National Primate
Research Center

William A. Brosius 85B
Crystal Edmonson 95C
Emory Alumni Board

J. Joseph Edwards 54Ox 56B 58B
Henry Mann 62OX 64C
Oxford College

J. Joseph Edwards 54Ox 56B 58B
Henry Mann 62OX 64C
Oxford College

**DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP**

Susan Cruse, Senior Vice President, Development and Alumni Relations
404.727.6061 | susan.cruse@emory.edu

Maggi McKay, Vice President, Woodruff Health Sciences Center Development
404.727.3518 | mbmckay@emory.edu

Joshua Newton, Vice President, University Development
404.727.9627 | joshua.newton@emory.edu

**CAMPAIGN CHRONICLE STAFF**

Jason Peevy, Executive Director of Development Communications
404.727.7181 | jpeevy@emory.edu

Editor: Terri McIntosh (tgmcint@emory.edu)

Writers: Maria Lameiras, Jennifer Wheelock

Designer: Heather Putnam

Photography: Ann Borden, Annemarie Poyo Furlong, Kay Hinton, Jack Kearse, Bryan Meltz

Laura Hardman 67C
Campus Life

Ann Klamon 65C 69L
Lawrence P. Klamon
Rollins School of Public Health

John F. Morgan 67OX 69B
Emory Libraries

Philip S. Reese 66C 76B 76L
Chilton D. Varner 76L
Emory Law

Wendell S. Reilly 80C
Emory College of Arts and Sciences

Bishop B. Michael Watson 74T
Candler School of Theology
A Decade of Miller Ward

*The Miller-Ward Alumni House celebrates its tenth anniversary this year as the heartbeat of alumni gatherings and activity. Photo by Tom Brodnax 650x 68C.*

48 Emory Cares
50 Emory Medalists 2010
52 Alumni Ink
from the EAA

Emory Everywhere

“What’s new at the EAA?”
That’s a question I’m asked quite a bit—perhaps even more so at the beginning of the new year. And every year I’m pleased to say, “Quite a lot.”

The EAA recently completed a three-year strategic plan—the contents of which address, in large part, comments and requests alumni like you made in response to surveys we distributed in early 2010.

One area that figures prominently in our plan is alumni career services, and we are focusing our efforts on connecting alumni for professional networking on LinkedIn. We’ve moved several of our alumni groups, such as the Emory Alumni Consulting Group, to this easily accessible and very popular professionally oriented site. If you aren’t already a member of the EAA’s group (just search the site for “Emory alumni”), I encourage you to join today and connect to the more than four thousand fellow alumni who are already there.

We’ve also just launched our redesigned website (www.alumni.emory.edu), which enhances the online experience for our alumni by offering easier navigation, upgraded features, better connection, and faster service.

Not all of our connections are online, of course. If you’re going to be in Atlanta on February 18, I hope you’ll be our guest at our MWAH Open House. Like Emory itself, we’ll always be your home.

Allison Dykes
Vice President for Alumni Relations

Upcoming Alumni Events

Dallas, February 16 Dinner and Museum Tour
Los Angeles, February 16 Presidential Destinations
San Francisco, February 17 Presidential Destinations
Atlanta, February 22 “Voyages” Interactive Discussion
Houston, March 10 Alumni Networking Night

For more, visit www.alumni.emory.edu/calendar.

More than 1,500 community members volunteered for Emory Cares International Service Day in November. In Tuscon, Arizona (above), Matt Riley O6C and Mildren Johnson 72N got dirty at the Community Food Bank’s Marana Heritage Farm.

Alumni volunteers helped out at the Peace House for disabled men in Seoul, Korea (above); Lindsey Whitlock 08B pulled weeds and more at a community garden in Chicago (above right); and (in T-shirts, from left) Melvin Sheih 14C, Max Gomas, Jennifer Jang 14C, and Paoula Gueorguiva 13C worked at Atlanta’s Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services (below right). In all, the “day” encompassed seventy-six projects in twenty-seven cities and four countries.
Welcome home.

What makes Miller-Ward special?
- Available exclusively to the Emory community, including alumni
- Eight flexible function rooms for groups from 2 to 400
- Elegant and inviting indoor and outdoor spaces
- Convenient in-town location adjacent to the Emory Campus
- Built-in, state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment and capabilities
- Complimentary onsite parking

Let our expert staff help you host your special event at Miller-Ward.

Weddings ~ Receptions ~ Meetings ~ Retreats ~ Banquets ~ Seminars

For more information or to schedule a tour, please visit us on the web at www.alumni.emory.edu/millerward or call 404.727.6400.
Emory Medalists 2010

NURSE PRACTITIONER, BUSINESS LEADER EARN EMORY’S HIGHEST ALUMNI HONOR

The 2010 Emory Medalists include a nurse practitioner and educator dedicated to teaching students close to home and helping some of the world’s most vulnerable populations abroad, and an Atlanta business and alumni leader who traces his family roots back to Emory’s beginnings and has worked tirelessly for six decades to improve his alma mater.

Those alumni, Twilla Haynes 80M and William Warren III 53B, received their Emory Medals at a ceremony on Thursday, October 7, in Cox Hall. Awarded by the Emory Alumni Association (EAA), the Emory Medal is the highest University award given exclusively to alumni.

In the aftermath of the earthquake that devastated Haiti in early 2010, an organization named Eternal Hope in Haiti (EHH) was tapped to help coordinate rescue services for thousands of earthquake victims in the second largest city in Haiti, Cap-Haitien. EHH was founded by Haynes, an Emory alumna, who has worked for more than a quarter century to improve the lives of Haitians of all ages.

In 1984, in response to a measles outbreak in Cap-Haitien, Haynes was asked to assist in providing health care and immunization services there. The impact of that trip has driven Haynes personally and professionally ever since.

“It was more than about health care,” Haynes said. “It was taking care of humans—humankind. There was starvation, lack of water, lack of housing—people were living in squalor. Even as much as the needs of the population, the people, I was also overwhelmed by the needs of the providers. They didn’t have basic working tools.”

In 1985, Haynes established a public health international nursing course that incorporated Haiti as part of the learning experience. “The students really drove it,” she said. “And I began to see the world through their eyes. They were excited about it. I also saw how little it took to save a life. I saw a twenty-cent box of Amoxicillin save little lives.”

Then, in 1993, Haynes, with the help of her daughters—Angela Haynes 91PH 08n 09M and Hope Haynes Bussewius 93M—founded EHH. In 1996, the Haynes family opened the Hope Haven Orphanage in Cap-Haitien.

Haynes, a nurse practitioner, also is cofounder of Health Connections, an Atlanta-based organization that serves the needs of the poor and underserved. Both of her daughters assist with care at the Health Connections Clinic in Jefferson, Georgia, which treats nearly 5,400 patients annually.

“I raised them with that notion that there are always those out there who have less, and it is our responsibility to share and help bring them up,” Haynes said.

Haynes has more than twenty-five years of teaching experience and has served on the faculty of several universities, including the Medical College of Georgia, where she was twice named Teacher of the Year. She also has assisted with the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing’s South Georgia Farm Workers Health Project and has served on Emory’s Nurses’ Alumni Association (NAA) Board.

Like Haynes, Warren is a longtime alumni leader, and he has deep family ties to the institution. When Warren graduated from Emory in 1953, his maternal grandfather, Charles Howard Candler 1898C, handed him his diploma. His paternal grandfather, William Chester Warren 1890M, was an alumnus, too. Warren’s father, William C. Warren Jr. 20C 22M, served as president of the Board of Governors (as the Emory Alumni Board once was known) from 1947 to 1948, and Warren’s son, William C. Warren IV 79M 82Mr, is an alumnus and trustee. That’s four generations of Warrens at Emory—it is no stretch to say that Billy Warren’s family helped build Emory into the institution it is today.

“I was born with a silver spoon in my mouth,” Warren said simply. “But my parents didn’t act that way and neither did my grandparents.” Warren grew up at Callenwolde and lived with both earlier generations of his family.
Even from a young age, Warren developed a remarkable work ethic and a sly sense of humor. When he stepped to the podium to receive his medal, he brought an athletic bag with him. Warren said he used the prop so he could keep the audience’s attention while he was speaking—everyone would want to know what was in the bag.

Just before stepping down, he opened the bag to reveal . . . an Emory shirt. Boisterous applause followed.

As a young man, he worked in construction and auto repair and, for a year, worked in south Georgia packing peaches. After graduating, he became a fixture of the Atlanta business community. Warren brought that hard-work mindset to Emory, where he has been a fixture at the University for six decades.

Warren has served on the Board of Trustees, Board of Visitors, Alumni Leadership Committee, Emory Healthcare Board, Woodruff Health Sciences Board, Emory Clinic Board, and much more. His work was instrumental in the creation of the internationally recognized Woodruff Health Sciences Center, and Warren also has been a significant supporter of Emory Wesley Woods Hospital (where Warren’s son Glenn is an emeritus board member).

“I hope my grandfather is looking down, seeing me, and saying he’s proud,” Warren said. “And my father, too. I hope they somehow know what is transpiring down here.”

The Emory Medal is awarded each year by the EAA, and recipients are recognized for their accomplishments in at least one of the following areas: distinguished service to Emory, the EAA, or a constituent alumni association; distinguished community or public service; or distinguished achievement in business, the arts, government, or education.

“Twilla Haynes’s and Billy Warren’s contributions to our community have been remarkable,” said Leslie Wingate 82C, senior director for alumni programs with the EAA. “Their engagement with Emory serves as an example for all alumni to follow. Fewer than 150 alumni have received the Emory Medal, and the EAA is proud to welcome our 2010 recipients into this exclusive group.”—Eric Rangus

**EM Classifed s**

**Beautiful Mountain House for Rent**
Comfortable, spacious, two-story home in a private, wooded community just 12 miles from all of Asheville’s famous charm and culture. On a mountain, at 3,450 feet the house offers one of the area’s most spectacular long-range views. Enjoy it from the 1,000-square foot, multi-level deck, the hot tub, or indoors, in front of the fire. www.chestnutforest.com

**Furnished Room for Rent**
Located one mile from Emory campus. Room has walk-in closet and private bath. Preference given to graduate student or Emory employee. $700/month includes utilities, wireless Internet, cable, and monthly maid service. Contact rrlago@aol.com.

**Notice Anything Different?**
Emory Magazine is now accepting classified ads! This section offers a new way for you to connect with more than 100,000 fellow alumni. For more information, contact 404.727.7146 or emclassifieds@emory.edu.

**Place your ad!**
Call 404.727.7146 or email emclassifieds@emory.edu
Mountain Majesty

A Blue Ridge mountain boy living in Atlanta, Charles Maynard 80T cherished the faint view of the ridges from the tenth floor of Woodruff Library while studying for his master’s of divinity at Emory. He was, he says, “homesick for the mountains.”

In his recent book, The Blue Ridge Ancient and Majestic: A Celebration of the World’s Oldest Mountains, Maynard and photographer Jerry Greer capture the life, culture, and natural and human history of the rocky stretch from Georgia to Pennsylvania through photographs and essays. As narrator and self-proclaimed amateur naturalist, Maynard tells of the people and places he’s come to know and love while living, traveling, and hiking in the mountains since childhood.

Maynard is a member of the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church, where he serves as director of development for camp and retreat ministries. He was also the first executive director of Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and later served as the director of advancement for the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, Tennessee.

Almost to Eden, June Hall McCash 67PhD’s debut historical novel set on Jekyll Island and in New York, presents the narrative of an Irish immigrant working as a chambermaid at the famous Jekyll Island Club. In search of liberty in a new Eden on the Georgia coast, Maggie O’Brien finds even freedom does not always win out over the power of money.

Pulling the curtain on a Southern banking family’s secrets and scandals, Miles DeMott 90C’s Family Meeting explores the inner workings of family dysfunction. In an effort to free themselves of the family’s defining asset, each member seeks personal salvation, hoping to redefine the reputation built over generations.—Alyssa Young 11C
The coming year brings opportunities to discover new places and fresh faces around the world while revisiting some old, beautiful favorites. We are dedicated to giving travelers like you enriching cultural experiences to enhance your lifelong education while strengthening your connection with faculty, other alumni and friends of Emory.

If you would like additional information about our upcoming trips or are interested in being added to our travel mailing list, please email alumnitravel@emory.edu or contact the Emory Travel Program at 404.727.6479.

The information and dates above are based on information provided by our travel vendors as of October 2010 and are subject to change. Individual trip brochures will be available to be mailed out approximately 9–12 months prior to the trip’s departure.

All Emory Travel Program tours require that participants be in good physical condition. Each traveler must be capable, without assistance, of walking a minimum of one mile over uneven terrain and of climbing stairs that may not have handrails. Participants should have sufficient stamina to keep pace with an active group of travelers on long days of touring. If you have any questions about your ability to participate in a tour, please call the Emory Travel Program at 404.727.6479.

2011 JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY

Insider’s Japan
May 11–23, 2011
From $4,895 (airfare included)
Odysseys Unlimited

Treasures of China and Tibet
May 27–June 11, 2011
From $4,095 (plus air)
Alumni Holidays International

Cultural Treasures of Central Europe
July 14–27, 2011
From $3,835 (plus air)
Thomas P. Gohagan and Co.

Family Adventure in Switzerland
July 25–August 2, 2011
From $2,695 (plus air)
Alumni Holidays International

Scotland, featuring the Edinburgh Military Tattoo
August 15–23, 2011
From $2,595 (plus air)
Alumni Holidays International

Chicago: An Insider’s Perspective
September 20–25, 2011
From $1,995 (plus air)
Alumni Holidays International

Tuscany—Cortona and Florence
September 28–October 6, 2011
From $2,795 (plus air)
Alumni Holidays International

Portrait of Italy
October 1–17, 2011
From $4,595 (airfare included)
Odysseys Unlimited

Treasures of East Africa
October 10–24, 2011
From $5,595 (plus air)
Alumni Holidays International

Crossroads of the Classical Mediterranean
October 10–19, 2011
From $2,995 (plus air)
Thomas P. Gohagan and Co.

Journey through Vietnam
October 22–November 6, 2011
From $3,995 (airfare included)
Odysseys Unlimited
Stellar Duo

Merideth Kaye Clark 00C was born singing. She’s been told that she lulled herself to sleep as a baby, and remembers her parents’ frustration when ordering her to her room as punishment just meant more “private studio time,” she says.

At five, Clark was cast in her first musical, Pinocchio, and she recently completed a two-year stint as the Elphaba understudy in the first national tour of Wicked, a musical retelling of the story of the witches of Oz. She performed the role about 150 times in more than thirty cities, but still spent a lot of time “waiting backstage for the chance to be painted green.”

The experience of living on the road informed her new folk-pop solo album: Young Stellar Object (a term borrowed from astronomy, which describes a star not yet fully formed). The album was produced, engineered, and mixed by Emory classmate Ricky Marson 00C.

“We both have such amazing memories of our time at Emory—and if we hadn’t met and become friends while in college, none of this music would have ever happened,” says Clark, who majored in neuroscience and behavioral biology but also studied classical voice at Emory.

This summer, the duo returned to play at the Atlanta Room at Smith’s Olde Bar and Java Monkey in Decatur.

Clark and Marson previously teamed up to create Girl Robot, a concept album and YouTube series (www.girlrobot.tv).—M.J.L.
What you’re looking at is a surgically repaired heart. What you don’t see is equally impressive.

ATLANTA – Heart repair without traditional heart surgery. To many patients, it seems unlikely. However, at the Emory Heart & Vascular Center it’s a reality, thanks to hundreds of innovative procedures performed by Emory’s skilled cardiovascular team. As part of a groundbreaking clinical trial for heart valve replacement, Emory doctors can implant a tiny transcatheter device without stopping the heart or even opening the chest. In fact, finding proof you had heart surgery could be the toughest part of the entire process. With a much shorter recovery time, you will soon be back doing what you like to do – only with a better heart.

To learn more, visit www.emoryhealthcare.org/heart or call 404-778-5050 or 1-800-22-EMORY.
CHECK IT OUT! LOG ON AT
www.alumni.emory.edu
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SERVICES AND BENEFITS OFFERED TO ALL EMORY ALUMNI

Social Events in Your City
Alumni Travel Program
Emory Career Network Database
Alumni Career Coaching
Insurance Benefits
Emory Credit Card
Free Lifetime Email Address
E-Class Notes
Online Alumni Directory
Kaplan Test Prep Discounts
AllLearn Online Courses
Lifelong Learning Discounts
Banking at Emory Credit Union
Young Alumni Activities
Emory Speakers in Your City
Intramural Sports
and much more!

Find it all on our website at www.alumni.emory.edu/privileges, or call the Emory Alumni Association at 404.727.6400.

Emory Magazine reply form

Submit Class Notes. Mail to: Alumni Records Department, Emory University, 1762 Clifton Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30322. Fax 404.727.4876. Please mark address corrections directly onto your current Emory Magazine mailing label. eurec@emory.edu; www.alumni.emory.edu

Name __________________________ Degree(s) __________________________ Class year(s) __________________________

College/School __________________________ Major(s) __________________________

Title: ☐ Dr. ☐ Mr. ☐ Ms. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss ☐ Rev.

Spouse/partner's name and class year(s) __________________________

Home address (☐ check if new) __________________________ City __________________________

State __________________________ Zip __________________________ Country __________________________

Home phone __________________________ Email __________________________

My firm, employer, or professional specialty (☐ check if new) __________________________

Title __________________________ Prefer contact at ☐ home ☐ work

Business address __________________________ City __________________________

State __________________________ Zip __________________________ Country __________________________

Business phone __________________________ Fax __________________________ Email __________________________

Please include the following news in Emory Magazine __________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

(Your class note may not appear for up to six months following submission. Please do not resubmit. Emory Magazine does not publish engagement announcements; submit wedding announcements after the ceremony has taken place. For birth announcements, include the names of both parents. Please provide a daytime telephone number in email submissions.)
VOLUNTEER TO ASSIST WITH GEORGIA’S DISASTER RECOVERY

SERVGA is a statewide secure database of pre-credentialed healthcare professionals and other volunteers who want to help in case of a public health emergency.

SERVGA integrates government-sponsored local, regional and statewide volunteer programs to assist emergency response and public safety organizations during a disaster.

Registering at [www.servga.gov](http://www.servga.gov) is quick and can be done within minutes. Name, address, contact information and occupation type completes the initial registration process. In order to be eligible, Responders are also encouraged to complete a Profile Summary.

To register for SERVGA, go online to: [www.servga.gov](http://www.servga.gov).

When you register, you will need to agree to the terms of service, and then will be asked to provide information specific to you and your skills. This information will be used to establish your emergency credentialing level and to contact you in the event of an emergency.

REGISTER TODAY . . . READY FOR TOMORROW

For additional information e-mail the SERVGA system coordinator at servga@dhr.state.ga.us

Emory leader, parent, dies at 101

Carolyn Carson Moore Schaible, who died on August 3, 2010, at age 101, was Emory’s first director of women’s housing and later assistant dean of women after Emory became a coed university. She also was involved in initial planning and development of Wesley Woods Geriatric Hospital, where she received care in her later years.

“On occasion, she would talk about the experiences that she was offered as the newly appointed person doing a job that had never been done before,” says Douglas Moore 57C, her eldest son. “That, to me, was significant—that she was chosen.” Reflecting on his mother’s accomplishments at Emory, Douglas Moore believes she was selected because of her reputation in the community as hardworking and passionate.

Carolyn graduated from Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina, and did graduate study at the University of Georgia and at Emory. She went on to teach in public schools in South Carolina and at Decatur and Druid Hills High Schools. She served as the first female chief probation officer for the DeKalb County Juvenile Court, dealing most of the time with social work and adoption cases.

After more than a dozen years of dedication to University women and coed housing, she retired from Emory at age sixty-five. According to her son Benjamin Moore 61C 6T, “She was by no means interested in retiring,” and began working as manager in the Office of Aging Georgia. In seventeen years of service, she built awareness of poor nursing home conditions and founded Georgia’s Retired Senior Volunteer program.

“There she was, a classic citizen in her eighties, willing to promote and help senior citizens,” Douglas Moore says.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Donald Moore and Maynard Schaible, and her daughter Donalyn Elich. Carolyn is survived by children Douglas Moore 57G, Benjamin Moore 61C 63G, Laura Hauser 67C 81G, and Kent Moore 71C 73G; ten grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Carolyn Schaible with (from left) Emory colleagues Don Moore, William McTier, Scott Houston, and President Walter Martin.
Evolving Empathy
BY FRANS DE WAAL

ASKED BY A RELIGIOUS MAGAZINE WHAT I would change about the human species “if I were God,” I had to think hard. Every biologist knows the law of unintended consequences, a close cousin of Murphy’s Law. Anytime we fiddle with an ecosystem by introducing new species, we create a mess. Whether it is the introduction of the Nile perch to Lake Victoria, the rabbit to Australia, or kudzu to the southeastern United States, I am not sure we’ve ever brought improvement.

Each organism, including our own species, is a complex system in and of itself, so why would it be any easier to avoid unintended consequences? In his utopian novel Walden Two, B. F. Skinner thought humans could achieve greater happiness and productivity if parents stopped spending extra time with their children and people refrained from thanking one another. They were allowed to feel indebted to their community, but not to one another. Skinner proposed other peculiar codes of conduct, but those two specifically struck me as blows to the pillars of any society: family ties and reciprocity. Skinner must have thought he could improve on human nature. Along similar lines, I once heard a psychologist seriously propose that we should train children to hug one another several times a day, because isn’t hugging by all accounts a positive behavior that fosters good relations? It is, but who says that hugging performed on command work the same? Doesn’t we risk turning a perfectly meaningful gesture into one that we can’t trust anymore?

We have seen in Romanian orphanages what happens when children are subjected to the baby-factory ideas of behaviorist psychology. I remain deeply suspicious of any “restructuring” of human nature even though the idea has enjoyed great appeal over the ages. In 1922, Leon Trotsky described the project of a glorious New Man:

There is no doubt whatever but that the man of the future, the citizen of the commune, will be an exceedingly interesting and attractive creature, and that his psychology will be very different from ours. Marxism founded on the illusion of a culturally engineered human. It assumed that we are born as a tabula rasa, a blank slate, to be filled in by conditioning, education, brainwashing, or whatever we call it, so that we’re ready to build a wonderfully cooperative society. Have you ever noticed how the worst part of someone’s personality is often also the best? You may know an analytically retentive, detail-oriented accountant who never cracks a joke, nor understands any, but this is in fact what makes him the perfect accountant. Or you may have a flamboyant aunt who constantly embarrasses everyone with her big mouth, yet is the life of every party. The same duality applies to our species. We certainly don’t like our aggressiveness—at least on most days—but would it be such a good idea to create a society without it? Wouldn’t we all be as meek as lambs? Our sports teams wouldn’t care about winning or losing, entrepreneurs would be impossible to find, and pop stars would sing only boring lullabies. I’m not saying that aggressiveness is good, but it enters into everything we do, not just murder and mayhem. Removing human aggression is thus something to consider with care.

Humans are bipolar apes. We have something of the gentle, sexy bonobo, which we may like to emulate, but not too much; otherwise the world might turn into one giant hippie fest of flower power and free love. HAPPY we might be, but productive perhaps not. And our species also has something of the brutal, domineering chimpanzee, a side we may wish to suppress, but not completely, because how else would we conquer new frontiers and defend our borders? One could argue that there would be no problem if all of humanity turned peaceful at the same time, but no population is stable unless it’s immune to invasions by mutants. I’d still worry about that one lunatic who gathers an army and exploits the soft spots of the rest.

So, strange as it may sound, I’d be reluctant to radically change the human condition. But if I could change one thing, it would be to expand the range of fellow feeling. The greatest problem today, with so many different groups rubbing shoulders on a crowded planet, is excessive loyalty to one’s own nation, group, or religion. Humans are capable of deep disdain for anyone who looks different or thinks another way, even between neighboring groups with almost identical DNA, such as the Israelis and Palestinians. Nations think they are superior to their neighbors, and religions think they own the truth. When push comes to shove, they are ready to thwart or even eliminate another. In recent years, we have seen two huge office towers brought down by airplanes deliberately flown into them as well as massive bombing raids on the capital of a nation, and on both occasions the deaths of thousands of innocents was celebrated as a triumph of good over evil. The lives of strangers are often considered worthless. Asked why he never talked about the number of civilians killed in the Iraq War, US defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld answered: “Well, we don’t do body counts on other people.”

Empathy for “other people” is the one commodity the world is lacking more than oil. It would be great if we could create at least a modicum of it. How this might change things was hinted at when, in 2004, Israeli justice minister Yosef Lapid was touched by images of a Palestinian woman on the evening news: “When I saw a picture on the TV of an old woman on all fours in the ruins of her home looking under some floor tiles for her medicine, I did think, ‘What would I say if it were my grandmother?’ ” Even though Lapid’s sentiments infuriated the nation’s hard-liners, the incident showed what happens when empathy expands. In a brief moment of humanity, the minister had drawn Palestinians into his circle of concern.

If I were God, I’d work on the reach of empathy.
AS A PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR at Emory, Dusty Porter 85C was involved in a plethora of activities, from fraternity life and undergraduate theater to serving as a resident assistant and campus tour guide.

During his junior year, Campus Life staff suggested a career in student affairs, advising him on graduate programs and showing him pathways into the profession.

Now vice president of student affairs at Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Porter has named Emory College a beneficiary of his estate in appreciation of Emory’s influence on his life. “Every day Emory touches the lives of students like me,” he says.

For more information on ways you can support Emory with a planned gift, visit www.emory.edu/giftplanning or call 404.727.8875.

Plan to share your experiences.
Emory hosted a display of more than 1,400 panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt on World AIDS Day, December 1. Presented annually by Hillel at Emory since 2005, the quilt’s panels tell stories of lives cut short by HIV/AIDS. Photo by Bryan Meltz.