Emory strives to make every day Earth Day

A Sustainable Food Fair and Farmer’s Market kicked off Earth Week at Emory held April 13–22. The Emory community was treated to earth-friendly eats at fair and farmer’s market that featured local farmers, prominent chefs, environmental activists and musical guests. See page 5 for more about the week’s events.

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

Preparedness office created; Isakov named director

A new Emory University Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response (CEPAR) is expected to further improve the University’s ability to deliver a coordinated and effective response to catastrophic events. Alexander P. Isakov, associate professor of emergency medicine in Emory University School of Medicine, was named CEPAR director on April 12, with an official start date of May 1.

The new office, which will report to President Jim Wagner and other senior leadership, will integrate all relevant components of the University in an interdisciplinary approach to the challenges of a catastrophe. The office also will partner with the broader community, including local, regional and federal resources to improve outcomes during and after an event. The new center has a broad scope, addressing all hazards, including natural disasters, human-caused catastrophic events and public health emergencies.

The formation of this new office was a major recommendation last year of Emory’s Avian Influenza Task Force, which beginning a year and a half ago, examined the capacity of Emory University and Emory Healthcare to respond to pandemic flu or other threats that would severely tax student services and Emory Hospitals’ patient capacity at the same time. However, the scope of the new office will go well beyond pandemic flu to include a wide spectrum of possible crises.

Isakov, in a half-time position, will oversee three full-time staff members and two part-time support staff. University funding for the center will begin with the

CAMPUS NEWS

Compassion and caring important responses to tragic Virginia Tech shootings

Just hours after the Virginia Tech shootings left 33 dead, more than a dozen injured, and millions of people-stunned, Susan Henry-Crowe, Emory’s dean of the chapel and religious life, was on the phone to the Methodist chapellain at Virginia Tech.

“Things were still in chaos there,” Henry-Crowe said. “But I wanted to let the chaplain know that Virginia Tech was in our hearts and prayers and that Emory was available to help if there was anything we could do.”

Compassion and caring are not only important human responses to a tragedy like Virginia Tech’s, they may also hold the key to preventing at least some future episodes of violence elsewhere, say Emory faculty experts.

“The best security against campus violence is an alert and caring student body,” said Arthur Kellermann, chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Emory School of Medicine. Currently on sabbatical as a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow, Kellermann has spent more than 20 years researching gun-violence prevention.

“In many cases, alert peers may pick up cues from such statements and refer the individual for help or tip-off campus authorities,” Kellermann said. “Tragically in this instance, people knew the young man had problems, but no one realized how sick he had become.”

Nadine Kaslow, an Emory professor of psychiatry and behavioral science and chief psychologist at Grady Memorial Hospital, fielded nearly two dozen phone calls from journalistst late into the night following the shootings.

“What struck me was all the interviews from other countries – Australia, Ireland, South America — and Virginia Tech on page 5
Emory Report

Emory VOICES

How can Emory reach its sustainability goals?

The easiest way would be to increase recycling.

Daman Rawoot
junior
Political Science

The biggest obstacle in terms of sustainable food is supply. There is a lot of demand but not enough farmers.

Nora Kleinman
junior
Psychology

Sustainability starts with awareness.

April Dunson
computer support
Information Technology

A large student-run community garden.

Michelle McWilliams
junior
Nursing

It is happening already — it was inconceivable when I was at Emory that there would even be a department of sustainability.

Emily Saliers (’85)
singer/songwriter
Indigo Girls

CREATIVE GROUP

Emory Magazine gets ‘new’ editor

Paige Parvin has been named editor of the University’s award-winning alumni publication, Emory Magazine. Since arriving at Emory in 2000, Parvin has served as interim editor and associate editor of the publication and co-chaired the President’s Commission on LGBT Concerns. She previously covered local and national news for the Atlanta-based Southern Voice, and did public relations writing for American InterContinental University and the High Museum of Art. Parvin received her master’s degree in film studies from Emory in 1998 and completed her undergraduate studies in English at the University of the South. "Paige’s knowledge and skill as an editor, as well as her passion for the University, are unmatched," said Vice President for Communications Ron Sauder. "Paige has developed creative and compelling ways to tell the University’s stories in a way that conveys Emory’s strategic vision.”
Kendra Price is helping to solve world health issues. She is not a doctor or a nurse, but a senior administrative assistant in the School of Medicine who volunteers with MedShare International.

Twice a month, Price heads to the Decatur headquarters of the nonprofit organization that sends surplus medical supplies and equipment from hospitals in the United States to clinics in developing nations. She joins other volunteers — many of them from Emory — to sort through boxes of surplus medical supplies donated by MedShare’s partner hospitals and medical centers such as those operated by Emory Healthcare.

“For many reasons, perfectly usable medical supplies — which could be used to save lives in poor countries — are required to be discarded by U.S. hospitals,” says Price.

“MedShare is the bridge that gets them to the people who need them most.”

Some medical products, such as those donated by medical supply manufacturers, are new and in the original packaging. Others may be an item that hospitals must discard, such as the unused portion of a multi-pack of gauze, Price explains.

Price often recognizes surgery tools from her previous position at Emory, where as administrative assistant to the chief of surgery she helped organize continuing medical education for surgeons. But volunteers need not have a medical background — an orientation and ample signage are provided to assist with identification.

Once evaluated, sorted, repacked and inventoried, the materials are shipped to recipients in 85 countries around the globe. The contents of each container are tailored to meet the needs list of each recipient, passed from tubing and exam gloves sent to a clinic in Western Africa to a neonatal resuscitation table that assisted doctors at a hospital in South America.

The contents of each container are tailored to meet the needs of each recipient, passed from tubing and exam gloves sent to a clinic in Western Africa to a neonatal resuscitation table that assisted doctors at a hospital in South America.

“Without MedShare we’d have tons of waste, so it’s great for the environment and the earth if we can recycle these unused surplus medical supplies and equipment instead of throwing them away,” says Price, who notes that MedShare has saved 300,000 cubic feet of landfill space.

Price first learned of the organization through a colleague, Kim Fugate. “I would watch as Kim would box up miscellaneous supplies from the CME course that we helped organize, and she explained that she donates the used supplies to MedShare,” Price recalls. “Then one day as I was driving home from the high school football field where my son had marching band practice, I passed by the MedShare office. That’s when I decided to get involved.”

Her son also plans to pitch in as a MedShare volunteer, and she encourages others in the Emory community to donate their time and talent.

“It’s a great humanitarian effort and shows that you care about the environment. It’s a great experience to help someone else, and this is one of the ways in which you can do so,” says Price, who is helping to “get the word out” as a public relations and marketing intern for MedShare.

Price balances her time at Emory and MedShare with courses at DeVry University, where she is pursuing a degree in marketing. “My classes at DeVry and my internship at MedShare provide me with additional skills needed to help people build and grow their businesses.”

Price recently joined Mentor Emory to get a “clearer direction” of her career goals. The program pairs staff participants with experienced mentors. Before joining Emory, the native Atlantan spent 10 years as an insurance supervisor. She says she’d eventually like to pursue marketing, or possibly human resources. “I just know that I want to be in a place where I can help people,” Price says.

Mentor Emory has inspired Price to develop a similar program aimed at helping young men in her own community. “I feel that so many of our young men need someone that they can confide in and look up to, and I know some quality adult men who would like to help our youth,” Price says. “I’m in the beginning stages of development, but I do see this as being a positive step toward reaching and teaching our young men how to grow and develop into great adults.”

Putting the plus in surplus

by Kim Urquhart

EMORY PROFILE KENDRA PRICE

Kendra Price, an administrative assistant in the School of Medicine, is helping clinics in poor nations get the medical supplies they need through her work with MedShare International.

“Without MedShare we’d have tons of waste, so it’s great for the environment and the earth if we can recycle these unused surplus medical supplies and equipment instead of throwing them away.”
Flannery O'Connor enclosed a self-portrait of herself with a pleasant in one letter to Hester. “I’m the one on the left,” O’Connor wrote.

By Carol Clark

S
d shortly after “A Good Man is Hard to Find” was published, a discerning reader in Atlanta wrote to author Flannery O’Connor, telling her she realized that God was the main subject of the short story collection.

“Are you very kind to write to me and the measure of my appreciation must be to ask you to write to me again. I would like to know who this is who understands my stories,” O’Connor responded in a letter dated July 30, 1955.

It was the first of 274 letters O’Connor sent to Elizabeth, “Betty” Hester, sparking a friendship, and a deeply revealing correspondence, that would continue until the famed Southern writer’s death in 1964.

On May 12, Emory University unveils the complete collection of letters from O’Connor to Hester — an event that devoted fans and scholars of O’Connor have awaited for years.

“The letters were given to Emory in 1987 by the stipulation that they couldn’t be viewed until 20 years later,” explained Steve Enniss, director of Enniss and three library staff members have read the letters, in preparation for the public opening to researchers, but few other eyes have seen all of them in their unedited form.

William Sessions, a leading O’Connor scholar who knew both the author and Hester, has referred to the documents as “probably the most important collection of letters from an American literature in the latter part of the century.”

“This ro-opens a whole conversation about O’Connor as a writer and as a person,” said Rosemary Magee, Emory vice president and secretary and another longtime O’Connor scholar. “I’m anticipating that there will be many affirmations of what we already know, along with some revelations.”

Hester lived a reclusive life. She worked as a file clerk in an Atlanta credit bureau, but her real calling was esoteric reading and philosophy, as discussed in her voluminous correspondence with O’Connor.

“I think Betty Hester was the most important correspondent in Flannery O’Connor’s life,” Enniss said. “That’s borne out in the Flannery O’Connor letters, written when O’Connor was at the height of her creativity. It’s been a beautiful correspondence with great fullness the story of O’Connor’s own life that is so intertwined with her stories.”

The two friends discussed major events of the time — such as the lunch-counter sit-ins and the larger civil rights movement — and their thoughts on leading literary figures, including Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Lowell and Eudora Welty. They also exchanged books and recommended books to one another. “They each acted as a kind of intellectual guide for the other,” Enniss said.

O’Connor even occasionally enclosed typed drafts of some of her short stories to Hester, asking for feedback. “She had great concerns about her short story ‘Revelations,’” Enniss said, “but it went on to become one of her most acclaimed stories.”

Faith and theology are the dominant themes in the letters, he said. “Flannery O’Connor is clearly trying to help Betty in her understanding of the Catholic faith in hopes of being of some spiritual comfort to Betty, who was searching in her relationship with the church.”

Intermingled with all of these intense discussions are O’Connor’s hilarious observations about her family, friends and life in Milledgeville, where the writer lived on a dairy farm with her mother, Regina. “Flannery O’Connor was funny, and her correspondents were funny, and her comments in conversation out in abundance,” Enniss said. “She was a great stylist, not just as a short story writer and a novelist, but also as a letter writer.”

Hester was a lesbian and, at one point in their correspondence, she apparently comes out to O’Connor. “Flannery O’Connor responds to her in very human terms, in a very perceptive way,” Enniss said. “They have speculated about their relationship,” he added, but there’s no evidence they were anything but friends. “I’d characterize it as a spiritual relationship,” Enniss said.

The letters ended with O’Connor’s death from lupus, at the age of 39.

In 1979, expurgated versions of 195 of the letters were published in the Habit of Being: Letters of Flannery O’Connor; edited by Sally Fitzgerald, a mutual friend of the two women. Hester insisted on remaining anonymous, and she was identified only as “A” in the book.

Fitzgerald held a research appointment at Emory and was instrumental in getting the letters donated to the University by Hester, who stipulated that they remain sealed for two decades. Despite her reclusive lifestyle and occasional bouts with depression, Hester insisted on carrying a lengthy correspondence with British author Iris Murdoch. The closely guarded secret of her identity as “A” was finally revealed in 1998, when she committed suicide. She was 76.

Fitzgerald, who labored for years on a biography of O’Connor, died before finishing the book.

At least two other scholars are currently working on O’Connor biographies. Seasongood, a retired English professor from Georgia State University, and Brad Gooch, a professor of English at William Paterson University in New Jersey. Gooch is also the author of “Jailhouse and Other Stories” and “City Poet,” a biography of Frank O’Hara.

“O’Connor is a perennial favorite of my literature students,” Gooch said. “There’s something about her work that seems so wholly contemporary, the way she takes an almost apocalyptic vision of religious extremism, and there’s the cinematic clarity of her writing.”

Gooch plans to come to Emory in May to study the letters, but he said, “I’m not sure what they’ve been sealed all this time adds to the suspension of disbelief.”

As to how O’Connor herself might feel about the hubbub surrounding the unveiling of her messages, Magee said: “I think she would find it very amusing.”

To celebrate the opening of the collection of Flannery O’Connor’s letters, the Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library will present a dramatic reading of some of the letters by actor Brenda Bynum. The free event will be held Tuesday, May 22, at 6 p.m. in the Jones Room of Woodruff Library.
Cyclists take action for vaccine research with long-distance ride

BY KIM URRQUHART

The hybrid bicycle that gets Ted Pettus to and from Emory each day will soon be making a longer trek. Pettus, a professor in the School of Medicine, is among the Emory faculty, staff and students participating in a 200-mile bike ride to raise funds for the Emory Vaccine Center.

ActionCycling 200, set for May 19–20, is the annual long-distance bike ride of Action Cycling Atlanta, a volunteer organization dedicated to building public awareness of HIV/AIDS, to raising funds to support HIV/AIDS vaccine research and providing services for people living with the disease.

In its fifth year, the AC200 event has raised more than $240,000 for the Emory Vaccine Center. It will be Pettus’ second year to ride. “After last year, I was so impressed with the motivation and inspiration and the energy that everyone put into make this happen that I wanted to do it again. They make it fun, with fun themed rest stops and a good meal at the end of the day,” he added: “I feel good about raising money because 100 percent of it goes to the cause.”

Rafi Ahmed, director of the Emory Vaccine Center, said that funds raised by events such as the AC200 are essential for the Center’s AIDS vaccine research program. The funds help fill “critical gaps in our federal grant funding and provide seed funding for innovative pilot projects,” said Ahmed. “Every participant is a valued partner in our quest for effective vaccines against this global killer.”

“AIDS affects all of us,” said David Hanson, associate vice president for administration. “Our vaccine center is one of the best in the world, and anything we can do to support our own center of excellence is worth our time.”

Chairperson of Team Emory and an avid cyclist, Hanson has ridden twice and served in various volunteer capacities in past rides. Hanson encourages the University community to join or support Team Emory. “Whether you’re a serious cyclist or just a novice, you can take part in this ride and do five miles or all 200 miles,” he said.

In addition to participants, volunteers and crew are needed to create a seamless safe ride experience. It was the support staff and volunteers who enabled Pettus “to ride further than I ever dreamed I could,” he said of last year’s ride. “I told people I was going to ride 100 miles, but I felt inspired by the incredible good energy among the support staff and riders that I actually rode 160 miles.”

Improvements to the 2007 ride include a new start/finish line — on Ashbury Circle near Dooley’s Den at The Depot — and a shorter route option of 75 miles. The AC200 will wind through scenic rural Georgia to an overnight stop in Rock Eagle 4-H Center near the Oconee National Forest in Eatonton. Ga. Riders can pedal all 200 miles. A celebration barbeque at The Depot will conclude the event.

Hanson said that this year marks the first time that Emory is the sole beneficiary of the AC200, and emphasized that Action Cycling Atlanta transfers 100 percent of the proceeds to Emory.

Participants must pay a registration fee and raise a minimum amount of funds for the cause. Rider registration is $90 with a commitment to raise at least $500.

Relay Team participants pay $90 and must raise a minimum of $350. Relay teams can divide the 200 miles amongst friends, which must have a minimum of two and a maximum of five riders. Crew members, who will work both days of the event, must raise $100 with a $25 registration fee. Volunteers are welcome with no requirements, but are encouraged to raise funds. All money is due to Action Cycling by May 12.

To register or to make a pledge in support of Team Emory, visit www.actioncycling.org. To learn more, contact Alex Brown, director of development at Emory Vaccine Center, at 404-721-4143.

BY V . TECH from page 1

cycles to make better use of their college campus, anywhere in the world.”

For young people to be shot and killed like this, it really touches everyone’s heart,” she added. “Everybody feels so helpless and so outraged.”

On an individual level, it is important to “be mindful” of members of the Emory community who may have lost loved ones at Virginia Tech, Kaslow said. She added that people who have recently suffered some other trauma may have their grief stirred by the news of the shootings.

On the day of the shootings, the Virginia Tech chaplain told Henry-Crowe that the university was still in a state of shock, and the various chaplains were providing space for people to come in and pray and talk. “In any trauma, it takes a while to sort through the situation before you can begin the healing,” Henry-Crowe said.

Meanwhile, the Chaplain’s office was offering counseling to members of the Emory community who were personally touched by the tragedy due to friendships or other associations with Virginia Tech.

“It’s a small world and people are connected in lots of ways,” Henry-Crowe said.

Support the Emory Vaccine Center by signing up to ride in, volunteer for or make a donation to the ActionCycling 200 bike ride on May 19–20.

EARTHWEEK

Emory’s Earth Week, April 13–22, hosted by the Office of Sustainability Initiatives and other campus and community organizations, raised awareness of environmental issues and spotlighted Emory’s commitment to sustainability.

Top: Locally-grown produce and plants were available for sale at the Sustainable Food Fair and Farmer’s Market. Center: Bruce McQuain, executive chef of Sia’s, serves up salmon, one of the many samples offered by Atlanta area restaurants. Bottom: “Bike to Emory Day” geared up with free T-shirts and pizza for bicycle commuters and a “bike train” through campus.

Emory is a leader in RecycleMania competition

The results of this year’s RecycleMania competition show that Emory is once again a leading university in the push toward waste reduction. RecycleMania pits universities across the country against one another in various recycling contests over the course of the 10-week competition. Here are highlights of Emory’s results:

• 10th out of 175 schools with 56.8 pounds of recyclables per person in the Per Capita Classic, the original RecycleMania event
• Fourth out of 111 schools with 24.84 pounds of paper per person in the paper recycling competition
• 15th out of 112 schools with 8.49 pounds of bottles and cans per person in the bottle and can recycling competition
• Seventh out of 178 schools with 971,360 cumulative pounds in the Gorilla Prize, awarded to the school with the most cumulative pounds of recyclables over the 10-week period.
From Gandhi to Google: Class explores Indian identity

By Carol Clark

After earning a master’s degree in English literature, Rohit Chopra briefly worked in a publishing house in Mumbai, India, before switching to become a web writer for Rediff.com, India’s first Internet portal.

“I wanted to be involved in the Internet. It seemed more revolutionary,” Chopra said. “It’s really taken hold in India.”

As he surfed the Web in the Internet, it seemed more secular Indian media can be found on the Web than on Indian television. “People of different religious persuasions tend to stick to the same channel,” Chopra said.

In May 1991, Chopra was intrigued by his finding when he accessed the archives of the Web and downloaded a file of the June 1929 edition of the magazine Indian Opinion. The essay was titled “From Hindu to Hindu.”

“Chopra is exploring that relationship, both in his research and in an undergraduate class he developed called ‘From Gandhi to Google: Technology and National Identities in Indian History,’” said Tedesco, a professor in Emory’s Graduate School and the University’s teaching and research faculty is ready to grow. Tedesco discussed several pivotal moments that had shaped graduate education at Emory.

“Fusion” was started in 2004 with a grant funding. The program has been offering an innovative dance competition this Wednesday, April 25, at 8 p.m. in Glenn Memorial Chapel. Admission is free, but tickets are required and can be found at the Dobbs Center information desk or the Schwartz Center ticket office.

The show includes dance, vocal and instrumental segments written, choreographed and performed by competing teams comprised of two groups with distinctly different cultural styles and traditions. Numerous Emory student cultural performance groups are from step and breakdancing to traditional Asian, Persian and Indian dance genres—have spent months rehearsing to integrate their styles and create original, integrated works.

As an added bonus, short documentaries on each team will be shown before their performance to illustrate the work and collaboration that has taken place over the past several months.

FUSION is organized and produced by Emory’s President’s Commission on Race and Ethnicity and Soku DeNova Records, a record company founded and operated by Emory alumni Mike Li, currently a student at the Rollins School of Public Health, and Nabil Haque, a staff member in Emory’s biology department. The soundtrack of FUSION is being produced and arranged by Soku DeNova Records to create and integrate music tailored to each specific performance.

The organizers hope the documentary and recordings will inspire other universities to use the EMORY FUSION model.

By Ulf Nilsson

Graduate School faculty, senior administrators and others gathered April 17 for an address on the state of the Graduate School, delivered by Dean Lisa Tedesco. Tedesco reflected on her first year at Emory and discussed important priorities for the years to come.

Tedesco noted that the Graduate School has continued to develop in a number of directions. Among other things, a new doctoral program in computer science and information technology has been added, and several other programs are in different stages of development. The graduate writing program, which helps graduate students develop funding proposals for external grants, was significantly expanded, sub-sidies for graduate student health insurance was increased to 70 percent of the total cost; and the Graduate School worked with the School of Public Health, Council and graduate faculty on a new assessment of graduate students.

She also outlined important long-term changes in the Graduate School. In the past 10 years, the number of graduate students has grown by about 25 percent to the present 1,751. Along with the growth has come a change in the composition of the student body. In 1996, 27 percent of graduate students were enrolled in programs taught by faculty other than Emory College, but now those faculty members account for 46 percent of the graduate students. The change is primarily due to an increase in the number of students enrolled in programs taught by faculty in the schools of medicine, public health and nursing, which has almost doubled during the period.

Tedesco emphasized the growth both the Graduate School and the increasing involvement of the health sciences in doctoral education and to ensure that the Graduate School remains a balanced and consistently excellent institution.

Looking to the future, Tedesco discussed several important priorities for the Graduate School for the coming years:

• Grow with excellence: Emory’s graduate faculty is ready to grow. Tedesco said the school looks forward to working with programs to make sure that the growth helps sustain and enhance the quality of graduate education.

• Support student professionalism: Noting that a doctoral education is a significant investment of time and resources, Tedesco emphasized that graduate programs need to work hard to prepare students for a wide range of professional careers following their graduation.

• Engage complex problems: Tedesco reflected on the expanding role of interdisciplinary scholarship that engages public issues in bold new ways, and on how to build on that tradition to strengthen Emory’s place among great universities.

• Strengthen Graduate School funding: To ensure that the Graduate School stands on strong foundations that support lasting social, cultural and scientific progress, Tedesco seeks to reshape some of the ways that graduate education at Emory is funded, through recognition of the ways that graduate students contribute to the University’s teaching and research missions, and through development work to establish an endowment for the school.
Legacy of conceptual art pioneer lives on at Emory

By Mary Catherine Johnson

S ol LeWitt, the artist who created “Tower One,” a sculpture comprised of white concrete blocks situated outside of Emory’s White Hall, died on April 8 at the age of 78. LeWitt’s obituary appeared in every major newspaper throughout the world, and his death has inspired numerous tributes, both formal and informal, including an impromptu champagne toast to the artist at 54 Columns in Freedom Park, LeWitt’s only other public sculpture in Atlanta.

Joanna Marsh, curator at the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Connecticut, said of LeWitt: “It is not an overstatement to say that he was one of the most influential American artists of the 20th century. His work has had a profound influence on future generations of artists and will continue to have an impact.”

These accolades are given to a man who once explained to a photographer as he covered his face at a museum opening, “I am not Rock Hudson,” LeWitt’s avoidance of anything that would feed his celebrity status was not so much an attempt to be reclusive or mysterious as it was a choice to allow his work to speak for itself, as well as an effort to champion and mentor other artists instead.

Katherine Mitchell, an art critic and professor at the Visual Arts Program at Emory, was a beneficiary of LeWitt’s generosity. When she contacted LeWitt in 1977 for help with her graduate thesis, he replied with a handwritten letter that would be the first of many encouraging postcards and letters to Mitchell, several of which included original drawings.

James Meyer, Winship Distinguished Associate Professor of Art History at Emory, was instrumental in bringing Emory LeWitt project to fruition in 2003, working directly with the artist to select a site for the sculpture and spending countless hours eloquently defending the value of the sculpture’s presence on campus.

“When I was working on the project,” said Meyer, “I had the opportunity to speak directly to the artist about the value of his work and how it would impact Emory students.”

The resulting multi-disciplinary collaboration and capacity to engage our local, state, and federal partners with one voice affords a new opportunity for Emory to have regional and global impact in this discipline.”

Along with the formation of the new office, the University will make an accelerated investment in a variety of new communications technologies that will provide Emory with new ways of reaching out to students, faculty and staff in a campus crisis, said Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Mike Mandl. “The new tools will include a network of loudspeakers for public announcements, as well as an automated system for rapidly pushing out voice, e-mail and text messages to registered cell phones and PDAs.

“These recommendations and more were brought forward last semester by an emergency response task force headed by Chief of Police Craig Watson,” said Mandl. “We believe we have done our due diligence about the robustness and cost-effectiveness of these systems, which are being installed by a growing number of colleges and universities around the country.”

In addition to bridging the preparedness activities of all the University’s divisions and enhancing capabilities and opportunities for collaboration, CEPAR will serve as Emory’s integrated command and control center, orchestrating a unified and effective response to catastrophic events.

“CePAR will serve as Emory’s collaboration with its community partners, including Grady Health System, the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, The Carter Center and Clifton Community Partner- ship.”

Isakov brings broad and extensive experience in emergency medicine and pre-hospital and disaster response to his role as CEPAR director. He is a practicing emergency physician at Emory University Hospital and Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta’s only Level 1 trauma center. He is co-founder and co-director of the Emory Department of Emergency Medicine’s Section of Pre-Hospital and Disaster Medicine, which provides oversight and medical command for the 911 emergency ambulance responders in the county of Atlanta and Fulton County. Isakov is the founding medical director of Mercy Flight, Emory Healthcare’s emergency and critical care air ambulance service, and associate medical director for Grady EMS, the largest 911 ambulance responder in the state of Georgia. In that role he developed the Bio-Safety Transport Program, which supports Emory University’s clinical unit for serious communicable disease, the CDC and Hartfield-Jackson International Airport.

He is co-founder and co-director of Emory University’s post-graduate Fellowship in Emergency Medical Services, which provides training in emergency response systems and disaster preparedness for emergency medical technicians.

The program is nationally recognized by the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine. Isakov has served as an officer in the U.S. Navy, as a consultant for the CDC on the World Trade Center and Anthrax Investigation Emer- gency Response Team, as a physician deployed with the National Disaster Medical System, and as an Atlanta community leader in emergency and disaster response. He has provided international emergency medical services consultation in Central Asia, Africa and the Pacific in conjunction with USAID, CDC and WHO. He still serves as a commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Isakov completed his specialty training in emergency medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center and a two-year pre-hospital and disaster/emergency medical services fellowship at Grady EMS. He received his Master of Public Health degree in interna- tional health from Boston University’s School of Public Health.

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As the state’s largest health care system, Emory Healthcare is a key partner in research, education, and healthcare delivery. Emory Healthcare is a multi-disciplinary system including five hospitals, a health plan, a research institute, a cancer institute, and a health sciences campus in Atlanta. Emory Healthcare’s mission is to improve the health of the communities we serve and to lead the fields of health care and biomedical science through research, education, and patient care.

Emory Healthcare is committed to excellence in every aspect of care we provide. We are committed to a high standard of clinical excellence and a culture of continuous improvement. We are committed to providing the highest quality care and services to our patients and their families. We are committed to treating our patients with the utmost respect and dignity, and to providing them with the best possible care.

As a result of our commitment to excellence, Emory Healthcare is consistently ranked among the best hospitals in the nation. We are proud to call ourselves one of the nation’s leading health care providers, and we continue to strive to provide the highest quality care possible to all those who trust us with their health.

Emory Healthcare is committed to providing the highest quality care to all who seek our services. We believe that everyone deserves respectful, patient-centered care that is free from discrimination and that promotes dignity, privacy, and choice. We are committed to providing care that is safe, effective, and efficient, and that is delivered in a way that respects the individual needs and preferences of each patient.

Emory Healthcare is committed to improving the health of our communities and to reducing health disparities. We are dedicated to creating a culture of health and safety, and to providing care that is accessible, affordable, and equitable for all who need it.

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PERFORMING ARTS

MONDAY, APRIL 23
Jazz Masterclass
Kenny Barron, piano, presenting. 8 p.m. Tharp Rehearsal Hall. Free. 404-727-5050.

Concert
Ensemble of the City of Atlanta, conducting. 8 p.m. Emerson Concert Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22
Chamber Music Series: The Stimmung Quartet
7:30 p.m. Schatten Gallery. Free. 404-727-5050.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22
Film
"Bend It Like Beckham" 8 p.m. Emory Student Union, Kirkwood Hall. $6; $4 students. Special screening with overview by Gunia Mehta. Free. 404-727-4683.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24
Jazz Improvisation Class
Kenny Barron, piano, presenting. 10 a.m. Rehearsal Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

Concert
Kenny Barron and Gary Motley, piano, and Emory Big Band, performing. 8 p.m. Emerson Concert Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25
Play
"The Time of Your Life." Richard Garner, director; William Sarnian, playwright. 7 p.m. MacGone Theater, Dobbs Center. $15; discount category members $12, students $6. Extras available at door only. 404-727-5050.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25
Film
"Playtime." Jacques Tati, director. 8 p.m. 203 White Hall. Free. 404-727-6761.

Dance Performance
"FUSION" Azazidi, BAM, KARMA, Sitara, Skeleton Crew, Zebah and more performing. 8 p.m. Glenn Memorial Auditorium. Free. 404-727-5050.

Also on 26-28 at 7 p.m.; and April 29 at 2 p.m.

VISUAL ARTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 26
Student Art Exhibition Opening

May 14.

Schatten Gallery Exhibition

May 16.

Schatten Gallery Exhibition

Through August 15.

LECTURES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25
Women’s Health and Wellness Lecture

THURSDAY, APRIL 26
Technology Commercialization Seminar

RSVP required.

MID EAST STUDIES

Conference to explore poetry in present-day Israeli politics, religion

H owever, the construction and structure of Israeli poetry relates to recent political and religious trends will be explored in a conference April 25-27 at the Emory Conference Center. “Poetry, Politics and Religion in Contemporary Israel” will analyze significant poetry emerging from the younger generation of Hebrew poets.

Throughout the history of the state of Israel, poets have influenced public opinion and have played a central role in Israeli politics. “Hebrew literature is an anomaly in literary history,” said conference co-organizer Shalom Goldman, professor of Hebrew and Middle Eastern studies. “Usually literature grows out of a country. In the case of Israel, because of the Zionist effort to create a national literature, you had literature before the country.”

The conference will “sample the different ideologies of Israel” with poets and publishers representing the political right, left and center to present “an in-depth and multicultural look at Israeli literature,” Goldman said. Among the featured speakers is Ambassador Reda Mansour, the Israeli consul in Atlanta. Mansour, a poet, is one of the first Israeli diplomats with a Jewish name.

Goldman also pointed to the participation of female poets and scholars in the conference. “The culture of Israeli literature had been dominated by men, but has been changing over the last few decades. That’s one of the things we want to mark at this conference,” he said.

Poems will be read in their original language, said Goldman, who will lead a poetry reading in Hebrew following the opening reception on Wednesday evening. Free and open to the public, the conference is aimed at both an academic and general audience. Goldman encouraged the Emory community to attend. “In light of the Israel and Palestine question, and especially the controversy generated by former president Jimmy Carter’s book, it would be good for us to put politics aside for a few days and look at the cultural questions,” he said. “This is what Emory does best — looking at culture and looking at the politics in the context of culture.”

The conference is sponsored by the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies, Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, the Graduate Division of Religion, and the Institute for Comparative, Religion and Women’s Studies. International Studies are among the sponsors of the conference. For more information contact Goldman at 404-727-2694 or slgodm@emory.edu.

— Kim Urquhart