How to make the season healthy, merry and bright

Howett offers these pointers to make your holidays eco-friendly:
- Avoid purchasing petroleum-based products (plastics).
- Make purchases from local sources, such as farmer’s markets.
- Take your own tote bag when you’re holiday shopping.
- Give “experiences” as gifts — things that don’t require consumption, such as tickets to the theater or movie passes.
- Shop at vintage and antique stores.

By Elizabeth Elkins

December can quickly become one of the busiest, most stressful times of the year. Here are a few ways to successfully navigate the season, keeping heart, health and the world around you intact.

Remember the environment

Atlanta and much of the Southeast is in the throes of an exceptional drought. While that may mean you’ll be paying more for a Christmas tree, it more importantly should be a constant reminder of the need to honor our environment and live each day with sustainability in mind. Georgia’s power plants are ranked 39th and 38th in the nation for greenhouse gas pollution, and have remarkably high outputs of ozone and mercury that have a measurable local public health impact.

“This is very sobering in light of the holidays. But you can make a difference in a very simple way: reduce, reuse, recycle,” explains Ciannat Howard, director of the Office of Sustainability Initiatives.

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Songs for Kids makes hospitals rock

By Carol Clark

When Josh Rifkind was growing up in Manhattan, he was terrified of needles, tubes and hospitals. “My father was a trauma surgeon,” he says, “and these medical magazines would come to the house with horrifying pictures of open-heart surgery on the cover. I was so afraid of seeing those images.

Rifkind graduated from Emory in 1995 with a degree in sociology and stayed in Atlanta to build a career as a music manager and promoter. In January, he used his music network to launch a charity called the Songs for Kids Foundation, which brings musicians to pediatric hospitals and to camps for children with chronic illnesses, where they perform and record with the kids.

“I usually go with them and perform, too, just because it’s so much fun,” says Rifkind, who has overcome his fear of hospitals by bringing joy to young patients.

At a November performance for Children’s Health-care of Atlanta at Scottish Rite, Rifkind strummed away on his guitar, leading the kids through the usual repertoire of songs such as “The Wheels on the Bus,” when 5-year-old Brady Cole took the stage. He wore leg braces, a catheter, and was attached by needles to some kind of machine, Rifkind recalls.

“He had to be helped up so he didn’t trip over all the tubes coming out of him. He’s clearly going through a lot, but he just got up on stage, took the microphone and started jamming, dancing and singing. He wasn’t thinking about the tubes in his body; he was just rocking out to the song. These kids are cool, hip and incredibly brave,” Rifkind says.

A health care worker at another facility informed Rifkind that a 14-year-old girl, who had just undergone a bone marrow transplant, loves the Georgia R&B group B5. Rifkind brought all five of the young male band members to the hospital. “They put on gloves, masks and gowns to go into the isolation unit to see her,” he says. “It lifted her spirits immensely to have her favorite band walk into her room.

Rifkind also arranges for musicians and recording engineers to visit children undergoing kidney dialysis. “The kids can sing along and record a song while they’re having dialysis,” he says. “We can burn a CD for them at their bedside.”

See SONGS FOR KIDS on page 3

By Kim Urquhart

Emory is committed to community. It understands the importance of partnerships and the potential for transformation that occurs when people and communities work together toward shared goals. Just ask the employee who donates a portion of her paycheck to Emory’s workplace giving campaign, the faculty member whose research addresses local concerns, the student whose community service activities prove that learning goes beyond the classroom.

The University has produced “Emory in the Community” to share its story with those who may not know the extent to which Emory applies engaged learning and scholarship to serve in the community — from its neighbors in Druid Hills and DeKalb County to Georgia’s philanthropic, public and private sectors.

The booklet describes some of the many ways in which Emory’s students, faculty and staff are reaching out to partner with communities all over the state. Organized into themes and issues, the publication provides a snapshot of the investments of time, intellect and effort faculty, students and staff have made in Georgia’s communities. Each example of community service is preceded by how the work is central to Emory’s mission, and the book concludes with a guide to offices across campus that devote resources in support of such projects.

Critical elements of the growing infrastructure of community resources include the Office of Community and Diversity and the Office of University-Community Partnerships, who coordinated production of the booklet.

Teaching, learning, research and service opportunities that have benefits beyond campus occur in pockets all over the University. The book will help faculty, staff and students understand the breadth of what Emory does in each school as much as it will educate Emory’s friends, neighbors and partners about its community service.

“Emory is a place where students, faculty and staff make a daily commitment to learn from and contribute to the world around them,” said Senior Vice Provost for Community and Diversity Ozzie Harris. “When you learn and work in communities, sometimes it’s hard to tell who are the students and who are the teachers.”

“I love about this book is that it refutes the conventional wisdom that Emory is a bubble. This is a stunning example of how Emory is working everywhere,” said OUCP Senior Program Associate Sam Marie Engle.

From improving the health of Georgians to ways in which DeKalb County’s largest employer is enriching the community, the book highlights the myriad ways Emory advances the common good. As partners in educational excellence, Emory’s programs touch school children at all levels of their education by providing professional development for teachers, volunteers for afterschool programs and summer academic and sports camps. Preparing engaged scholar-leaders and strengthening neighborhoods are among the other areas high-lighted.

The book also includes profiles of alumni to show that student engagement doesn’t end with graduation. “These are examples to show how alumni are living the values that they learned at Emory,” Engle explained.

Engle and Harris emphasize that the booklet is not...
P.E. core component of an optimal education

Charles Raison is an assistant professor in the Mind-Body Program, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. He serves as clinical director of Mind-Body Program and co-director of the Emory Center for Collaborative Studies.

It took me a while to get to it, but there is no accident that I ended up spending much of my professional life studying links between mental and physical well-being in Emory freshman students. We are all drawn to the things that have impacted our own lives, and my freshman year in college left an enduring imprint on me.

I had crafted my high school identity around being a top student from a tiny town where the average graduating senior read at less than sixth-grade level. Suddenly tossed in with the rich, powerful and brilliant at an elite university, it took less than a couple of weeks to separate me from the grandiose self-assessment that had kept me aloof back home. With the loss of that illusion I sunk into depression and spent much of that year sleeping through class, sleeping all afternoon and moving across the landscape like a frightened ghost. Eventually, I recovered. But the experience soured me on college.

I would wish that I could go back and apply what I know now to what I needed then. One of the lessons that I would most insist upon for my adolescent self would be to engage in a program of regular exercise, preferably in the (self-selected) company of others.

Why? Because data have been piling up over a decade now showing that regular exercise improves mood if you are down and works as an antidepressant if you are depressed. Moreover, given that young adults are at increased risk for adverse reactions to antidepressants, exercise holds extremely relevant for people like the student I used to be. Of course, such an exercise program wouldn’t have saved me from all that freshman psychosocial stress

— or would have it?

Remarkably, recent studies suggest that — and gets you in shape — not just in terms of physical endurance, but also in terms of how you handle psychological stress. Indeed, people who exercise regularly can run further than those who don’t, but they also show reductions in the types of deleterious emotional responses to stress and the set-point for depression, as well as the types of deleterious physical responses that promote the development of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and dementia.

It is with these considerations in mind that I want to voice concern over a plan currently being considered by Emory College that seeks to reduce general education requirements, in part, by cutting the current undergraduate P.E. requirement. I think that the current P.E. program at Emory that, rather than being assailed, should be celebrated for its potential resource in the mandate to take root and flower later as activities embraced by choice. Moreover, as I know from my own difficult experience, it is precisely the students whose mental and physical health would be most likely to benefit from exposure to P.E. who are often least able to access an exercise program through their own volition.

It is my sincere hope that the College elects to continue being a standard bearer among its peers in holding that physical education into the lives of college students. We are repeatedly see a potent antidote to the current situation in action. You can see it, too. Just take a walk through the Woodruff Physical Education Center and observe the activities and demeanor of the students inside. You will see young people full of life, full of confidence, talking, laughing, working together in teams or conquering physical challenges on the solitude of the rock wall or in the silence of the pool water. If you could juxtapose this vision with a snapshot of the more representative students we see in our study, you, like me, would be powerfully converted to the notion that physical exercise holds almost unlimited potential for improving the lives of college students.

It is my sincere hope that the College elects to continue being a standard bearer among its peers in holding that physical education is a core, indeed, elemental component of an optimal education for students destined to tackle the unknowable stresses and challenges of the 21st century.

Happy Holidays from Emory Report


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BY LEILA BORDERS

On a typical Wednesday night, assistant professor of chemistry Justin Gallivan will crack up his students by playing trivia in his Virginia Highland neighborhood, perhaps even hosting the games at Joe’s and Joe’s. Writing questions for hosting the game at Moe’s and Gallivan can be found playing Gallivan is passionate about competition.

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The OUCP will use data from the survey to inform the overhaul of its Community Partnerships database, which tracks all of the University’s community-based and community-focused efforts in teaching, research and service. The Web site and OUCP database will grow as creative faculty, dedicated staff and energetic students continue to contribute to the community.

Harris hopes the project will ultimately help Emory, which sees itself “as a partner among other partners,” develop closer relationships with the business community and other colleges and universities to better coordinate partnerships in teaching and research.

“The intention when we talk about engaged scholar is to provide obvious and meaningful opportunities for people to serve,” said Harris. “The idea is to partner in learning and share knowledge.”

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Data based on 2006 statistics.

Nanotechnology presents obstacles, opportunities

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semble “a giant candy store,” chemistry professor Dennis Liotta told participants in a Dec. 4 workshop. Liotta’s work with pediatrics professor Ray Schinazi has produced anti-HIV drugs taken by millions to stave off AIDS and sparked the creation of several start-up companies. But scientists hoping to follow in Liotta’s footsteps face a long road ahead. Challenges include obtaining patents, recruiting capable management and securing funding to last through the “marathon” of clinical trials, he said.

The Emory-Georgia Tech Center of Cancer Nano-
technology Excellence’s workshop was the CCNE’s first on the topic of turning medical inventions into viable products.

Nanotechnology refers to microscopic objects larger than conventional drugs that scientists think could be used to target tumors more specifically than harsh chemotherapy agents. However, because the properties of such “nanomaterials” within the body are poorly understood, they may have to jump more regulatory hurdles.

“Today, students and investigators can learn what are the obstacles, what are the procedures for commercialization,” said Emory-Georgia Tech CCNE co-director Shuming Nie.

The workshop’s panel of industry experts agreed that nanotechnology will find its way into commercial use first in laboratory tests and diagnostic imaging, and then possibly as a way to deliver existing drugs more effectively.

— Quinn Eastman

December 10, 2007

EMORYPROFILE JUSTIN GALLIVAN

Quiz whiz

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GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Board of Trustees wraps up year with eye to the future

BY KIM URQUHART

The November meeting of Emory’s Board of Trustees capped a productive year of engagement and planning.

“We have great leadership from the administration and a terrific spirit among trustees; consequently, we’re enjoying a lot of institutional momentum,” said Trustee Wendell Reilly ’80C.

Trustees reviewed the progress of key initiatives, evaluated current issues and planned for the future.

As the implementation of the strategic plan continues to move forward, the Board reviewed progress of strategic initiatives and assessed key indicators of the University’s performance.

As Emory continues to enhance its physical environment through the campus master plan, the Board approved several important construction projects this year, including new buildings for psychology, Candler School of Theology and the Rollins School of Public Health.

The public phase of the University’s comprehensive fundraising campaign is also coming into focus, and is an issue that will engage the trustees on several levels. “It’s not all about raising money,” Reilly noted, but about supporting the University’s vision and strategic plan. “The comprehensive campaign is really about finding people to invest in that vision.”

The Board also discussed at length current issues such as the future of financially troubled Grady Memorial Hospital.

New voices

The Board was further strengthened this year with new appointments. Emory welcomed two new alumni trustees: Teresa Rivero ’85Ox–97B–93MPH, senior program officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and C. Robert Henrikson ’72L, chair, president and CEO of Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

To lend another voice to decisions affecting the University, five new faculty counselors joined existing counselors from across the campus. Faculty counselors serve three-year terms as non-voting faculty representatives on the Board’s major committees. “We add a faculty perspective on matters and issues being discussed so the Board gets a sense of what’s happening on the ground,” said Professor Nadine Kaslow, who as president of the University Senate and chair of the Faculty Council serves as an ex officio member of the Board’s Academic Affairs Committee.

To further strengthen the connection between trustees and faculty, Kaslow has invited Board of Trustees Chair Ben Johnson III ’65C and Trustee Chilton Varner ’76L to upcoming meetings of the Faculty Council and University Senate. The Board hears regular reports from Emory’s governance groups, including the Student Government Association and the Emory Alumni Board. “The more you bring together different constituencies who all care about Emory but through different lenses, and figure out how to work together, you’ll move further forward when there are areas of difference,” Kaslow said.

Preparing for the future

To preserve the traditional stability and deep commitment of the existing Board while preparing for major changes to its membership over the next decade, the Board’s Governance, Trusteeship and Nominations Committee established a Governance Task Force to help it plan for the future. The task force’s report, “Preparing for the Board of the Future: Succession and Strategic Planning,” details next generation strategies.

“Flexibility in the number of trustees and regular assessment of strengths and needs of the Board will help assure an appropriate balance for the most effective governance as Emory continues to thrive and to excel,” said Trustee Laura Jones Hardman ’67C.

Another component of the strategic plan is to promote effective governance practices, enhance opportunities for informed advocacy and expand opportunities for meaningful engagement.

One such opportunity for engagement was a presentation at the recent Board meeting by professor Frans de Waal about his teaching and research on primate behavior at Yerkes National Primate Research Center, and a discussion with Pulitzer Prize-winning author professor Natasha Trethewey about his teaching and the impact of his work.

“Trustees have the benefit of the big picture that comes along with oversight responsibilities, but at the same time, we also have the opportunity to roll up our sleeves and work on specific projects with faculty, staff and students.”

— Trustee Wendell Reilly ’80C, on why he finds serving as trustee “gratifying.”

“I serve on Emory’s Board out of a sense of giving back, and being able to make sure that the quality of education and caliber of experience I’ve had at Emory is something that we keep improving and share for the next generation of students.”

— Teresa Rivero ’85Ox–97B–93MPH, on why she serves on the Board of Trustees.

“For future generations of graduates, trustees George Overend ’64C, Laura Jones Hardman ’67C, and J. David Allen ’67C–70D–75DOR are committed to supporting the changing needs of the institution.

“The length of the terms will be recalibrated from the current eight-year renewable term. Trustees will move to a six-year initial term, and a four-year renewable term may follow. Alumni trustees will continue to serve one six-year term.

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One such opportunity for engagement was a presentation at the recent Board meeting by professor Frans de Waal about his teaching and research on primate behavior at Yerkes National Primate Research Center, and a discussion with Pulitzer Prize-winning author professor Natasha Trethewey about his teaching and the impact of his work.

“Trustees have the benefit of the big picture that comes along with oversight responsibilities, but at the same time, we also have the opportunity to roll up our sleeves and work on specific projects with faculty, staff and students.”

— Trustee Wendell Reilly ’80C, on why he finds serving as trustee “gratifying.”

“I serve on Emory’s Board out of a sense of giving back, and being able to make sure that the quality of education and caliber of experience I’ve had at Emory is something that we keep improving and share for the next generation of students.”

— Teresa Rivero ’85Ox–97B–93MPH, on why she serves on the Board of Trustees.
GPS technology tracks Cliff’s moves to reduce the wait

The technology allows commuters to choose when to arrive at bus stops while minimizing their wait. The Web site continuously displays the location of the buses and shows their real-time movement against a map of recognizable buildings and landmarks familiar to riders. The shuttle locations shown on the map are approximately five seconds behind its actual live location, giving riders enough time to arrive at the bus stop.

“This eye-in-the-sky view of Cliff shuttles will help us increase ridership and deliver better service to our customers who are coming to and getting around the campus,” said Clements. Of the shuttle routes except for the Oxford and Lenox routes are equipped with the new tracking technology.

In November, Cliff marked its first anniversary at the Northlake Mall park-n-ride lot. Many of the more than 5,000 riders on the morning and afternoon route use the 30-minute trip to read or relax and enjoy the ride into Emory’s campus.

However, the greatest impact can be felt on the North DeKalb Mall park-n-ride route where ridership has grown steadily. In September this route included 20,000 commute trips on Cliff shuttle buses (more than 500 daily round trips). With such a high demand for ridership, this route also picks up commuters at the same stops as the Northlake shuttle.

Emory’s third park-n-ride lot at The Gallery at South DeKalb counted 4,700 commuters in September. Although not a park-n-ride shuttle, the Executive Park route is influencing traffic in the Clifton community as well. Making more stops than any other route in the system, the Executive Park route picks up neighborhood commuters at various bus stops and apartment complexes along its course.

Cliff park-n-ride routes are positioned along major thoroughfares throughout the community and shuttle stops are conveniently located near MARTA bus stops. In all, Cliff shuttles are helping to reduce short trips on and around Emory’s campus and in the community.

For specific stop information and schedules visit www.ridecliff.org or call Emory’s Transportation Office at 404-727-1829.

Emory is adding chilled water lines in order to accommodate several new developments on campus, including Freshman Residence Halls 2 and 3. Chilled water provides the necessary cooling required for most of the air conditioning in Emory’s campus buildings. Each building that ties into the system — nearly every building on campus — uses the chilled water to operate their individual mechanical systems. During installation of the first phase of the water line, pedestrian routes will be altered near WoodPec. Visit www.construction.emory.edu for updates.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Visions for Clifton corridor

Community members joined Emory and the Clifton Community Partnership on Nov. 27 to view newly drafted urban design guidelines. Following a year of public input, the guidelines help Emory and other local landowners create dynamic public spaces and streets around the Clifton Road campus.

The draft guidelines are based on the design expertise of design firm Goody Clancy. This collaborative effort, with input from Emory and local community members, included a series of workshops. The goal of the guidelines is to illustrate how pedestrian access, transportation and improved design elements could complement each other and improve the quality of life in the greater Clifton community.

View the guidelines and visuals, comment by Dec. 1, and see the comments of others by visiting www.cliftoncommunitypartnership.org.

Core principles of urban design
• Creating places of greater civic value;
• Promoting environmental sustainability;
• Expanding housing, recreation and retail choices;
• Improving accessibility and connectivity of commercial areas, natural areas and neighborhoods;
• Enhancing well-being;
• Fostering community-wide engagement.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Watch your step near WoodPEC

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Dolphin therapy is all wet, Emory scientists conclude

McCall uses history, humor and realism to tell local story

N

athan McCall's interest in race relations has drawn the African American Studies lecturer on a bi-coastal book tour for "Them," a novel about the gentrification of Atlanta's Old Fourth Ward.

By AMY WALTERS

“Them” combines McCall’s knowledge of Atlanta’s past with snippets of his own family’s stories to create a fictional, yet realistic tale of our state’s rocky journey from segregation to gentrification.

McCall’s debut novel tells the story of Barlowe Reed, a single, forty-something African American whose relative contentment is shattered by the sudden appearance of whites abandoning the suburbs for the inner city. When a white couple moves in next door, Barlowe develops a reluctant, complex friendship with Sandy Gilmore, the woman of the house, as they hold prayers — and often frustrating — conversations over a backyard fence.

McCall says he didn’t want the book to be too serious, even though it addresses a serious topic. He injects humor throughout the tome — for instance, he creates a scene where a group of whites dance to Motown music at a dinner party.

He also reminds readers the title is an ambiguous reference to the tendency of whites and blacks to regard each other as “them.”

McCall has seen both sides of the reporter’s notepad. He wrote for The Washington Post and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and got his start with the Virginian Pilot-Ledger Star. He says his literary calling did not crystallize during his troubled youth: “I was more inclined to throw a rock and break a window than to read a book.” He eventually discovered writing as an outlet for pent-up rage against a system he felt was racist and unjust.

His own journey has helped him connect with Emory students. Students filled McCall’s inbox with stories they think will spark his interest, and Emory alumni often turn up at his book signings across the country. One element of teaching he most enjoys is that “students come into class with open minds.” He confronts issues of race head-on in the classroom.

“I love the challenge of encouraging them to think outside the realm of their experiences and perceptions,” he says.

In an effort to “use the city as a laboratory,” McCall takes his students on field trips throughout Atlanta, especially to the mostly black Southside, where Emory students seldom venture. There the groups make observations about issues related to the courses.

McCall is working on other writing projects that explore America’s racial divide. He delves into one aspect of that divide by conducting forums throughout the country.

“The issue of gentrification needs to be aired with more public dialogue. People don’t know what to make of it,” he says. From California to New York, the Mid-Atlantic to here in Atlanta, it’s a hot issue.”

Locally, he points to the varying treatment of vagrants in Woodruff Park, who are considered a public nuisance, compared to vagrants in Little Five Points, who are characterized as eccentric. “The difference he says, stems from perception especially egregious, because the people who are being exploited are the most vulnerable — including desperate parents who are willing to try anything to help a child with a disability.

Many people are under the impression that dolphins would never harm a human. “In reality, injury is a very real possibility when you place a child in a tank with a 400-pound wild animal that may be traumatized from being captured,” Marino says.

Dolphins are bred in captivity in U.S. marine parks, but in other countries they are often taken from the wild, she says. Marino describes an annual “dolphin drive” in Japan, when pods of dolphins are herded into coves, where they are killed for food or captured for marine parks.

“If people knew how these animals were captured, I don’t think they would want to swim with them in a tank that they participate in DAT,” Marino says. “During the dolphin drives hundreds of animals are killed, or panicked and die of heart attacks, in water that’s red with their blood, while others are taken from facilities around the world pick out young animals for their marine parks. They hoist them out of the water, sometimes by their tail flukes, and take them away.

Each live dolphin can bring a fisherman $5,000 or more, she says. “The marine parks make millions off of dolphins, so that’s a drop in the bucket. It’s an irony that dolphins are among the most beloved, and the most exploited, animals in the world,” Marino says.

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BY CAROL CLARK

A re you depressed? Suffering from a chronic illness? Do you have a child with a severe mental or physical disability?

Don’t turn to a dolphin for help, warns Lori Marino, senior lecturer in the Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology Program, who has teamed with Scott Lilienfeld, professor of psychology, to launch an educational campaign countering claims made by purveyors of dolphin-assisted therapy.

“Dolphin-assisted therapy is not a valid treatment for any disorder,” says Marino, a leading dolphin and whale researcher.

While swimming with dolphins may be a fun, novel experience, no scientific evidence exists for any long-term benefit from DAT, Marino says. She adds that people who spend thousands of dollars for a dolphin “healing” experience don’t just lose out financially — they put themselves, and the dolphin, at risk of injury or infection. And they are supporting an industry that — outside of the United States — offers dolphins from the wild, in a brutal process that often leaves several dolphins dead for every surviving captive.

Marino and Lilienfeld reviewed five studies published during the past eight years and found that the claims for efficacy for DAT were invalid.

Their conclusions were published recently in Anthrozoos, the journal of the International Society for Anthrozoology, in a paper titled “Dolphin-Assisted Therapy: More Flawed Data and More Flawed Conclusions.”

“We found that all five studies were methodologically flawed and plagued by several threats to both internal and construct validity,” wrote Marino and Lilienfeld, who conducted a similar review in 1998. “We conclude that nearly a decade following our initial review, there remains no compelling evidence that DAT is a legitimate therapy, or that it affords any more than fleeting improvements in mood.”

An upcoming issue of the newsletter of the American Psychological Association’s Division of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities will feature another article by Marino and Lilienfeld, titled “Dolphin-Assisted Therapy for Autism and Other Developmental Disorders: A Dangerous facade.”

“We want to reach psychologists with this message, because DAT is increasingly being applied to children with developmental disabilities, although there is no good evidence that it works,” said Lilienfeld, a clinical psychologist. “It’s hard to imagine the rationale for a technique that, at best, makes a child feel good in the short run, but could put the child at risk of harm.”

The Emory scientists have timed their campaign to coincide with a recent call by two UK-based nonprofit — the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and Research Autism — to ban the practice of DAT.

DAT started in the 1970s, when Florida researcher Betsy Smith began experimenting with interactions between dolphins and autistic children. A year later she stopped her research, citing ethical reasons, and has since denounced the commercialization of DAT.

Florida remains the stronghold of dolphin-assisted therapy, but the trend has spread around the world, fueled by the growth in marine parks and aquariums. “DAT facilities are popping up all over — there are now hundreds of them, and no end in sight,” Marino says. “DAT is a big money-making venture and it’s merged with the swim-with-dolphins industry.”

While Marino is against taking dolphins from the wild and holding them captive for any purpose, she finds DAT especially egregious, because the people who are being exploited are the most vulnerable — including desperate parents who are willing to try anything to help a child with a disability.

Many people are under the impression that dolphins would never harm a human. “In reality, injury is a very real possibility when you place a child in a tank with a 400-pound wild animal that may be traumatized from being captured,” Marino says.

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As it relates to gentrification, however, he is quick to point out that gentrification is something less obvious. The perception is race, but McCall’s sense is that it’s mostly about class. Ever the journalist, he cites the example of Cabbagetown, a white, working-class neighborhood nestled between Memorial Drive and the Old Fourth Ward. While the Ward has seen gentrification uprooting generations of African Americans, white Cabbagetown residents actually voice their support of the changes. Both races feel “outsiders” are coming into their area, taking over and imposing new values.

Race relations are a subject that perplex and sometimes shame him. However, McCall has an ability to put it out of his mind when discussing our color differences. Whether sitting across a table from him or reading his latest novel, it only takes a brief time to realize that life is not black and white, but a colorful shade of gray.
Media Sherton browses through the selections of a Vietnamese music and video store at an Atlanta Buford Highway. It’s not a store that Sherton — a junior his- torian major at Emory University — would likely have entered if he hadn’t enrolled in the American Studies course “New Immigrants in the New South.”

The Vietnamese-American store clerk, Luong, hopes to attend Emory next year and is happy to discuss Vietnamese culture with visitors from the University. “The Vietnamese movie industry is having a tough time right now,” he says. He points to the rows of glam- orious actresses smiling on the cover of the videos. “A lot of them are here working in nail salons.”

**Political hot potato**

Sherton and his fellow students who have been exploring Asian Square pile back into a van to continue their field trip through metro Atlanta’s Buford corridor. A hodge-podge of new immi- grants have built up a dizzying array of small businesses along the highway through Doraville and Chamblee.

Although she is an Atlanta native, Kristin Shelton says she rarely sets foot in the Buford corridor. “Immigration is such a political hot potato,” says the junior linguistics major. The class “is a chance to see, on the ground, the impact it’s having.”

The new course is taught by Mary Odem, associ- ate professor of history, and Regine Jackson, assistant pro- fessor in the Institute of Liberal Arts. Jackson’s research has focused on Haitian immigrants, while Odem has been exploring Hispanic immigration in metro Atlanta and the South.

**Anti-immigrant hot spot**

Beginning around the 1996 Olympic Games, Atlanta has expe- rienced the fastest immigrant growth rate of any major met- ropolitan area and the trend shows no signs of stopping. Odem says: “The ’90s and the first part of 2000 were peri- ods of tremendous economic growth for metro Atlanta and immigrant labor has been criti- cal to that.”

Atlanta is not a traditional immigrant gateway, and immi- grants here have not followed the traditional pattern of set- tling in the inner city. Instead, their impact is being felt in suburban areas. While many people find the ethnic mix enriching, others find it intru- sive.

“Georgia has become a hot spot of the immigration resis- tance movement,” Odem says, citing the state’s 2006 Security and Immigration Compliance Act, one of the strictest state laws in the nation aimed at undocumented residents.

**Soccer, church, nightclubs**

The van rolls past a bus station advertisement for stop tickets to Monterrey and Matamoros, and a 10-foot-tall green, plastic Statue of Liberty. The students talk about the research papers they are working on for the class. Shelton wants to delve into the effects that the surge of immi- grants is having in the African-American neighborhood where he grew up. “The barbershop talk is that people are con- cerned about job competition, political power and economic loss;” he says. “When immi- grants come here and are suc- cessful, where does that leave a community that’s already here and still struggling to find its niche in the mainstream?”

Rachel Rosenberg, a reli- gion major, is looking at how immigration has affected Catholicism. The Catholic demographic has shifted in Atlanta to a Hispanic major- ity — although many of the Hispanic practitioners are not officially on the church rolls, Odem says.

A Cleveland, Ohio, field prac- tical, a senior eco- nomics major, plans to attend practices of soccer clubs for refugee youth — including the Fugees of Clarkston — to learn how sports help immigrants build a community. “I’ve played soccer my whole life and I wanted to do a project that combined my personal interest,” he says.

Senior Brendan Dolan, a music buff, is researching how Latino immigrants are influencing Atlanta’s music scene for an American Studies class, “New Immigrants in the New South.”

**Tortillas and tacos**

The class stops for lunch at Plaza Fiesta, where a food court is nestled amid booths selling alligator-skin cowboy boots and banandas printed with multi-colored Madonnas.

Dolan sits at the coun- ter of a taqueria, beneath dangling plastic skulls left over from November’s Day-of-the-Dead celebration. The server does not speak English so Dolan, who is majoring in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, orders in Spanish. As a woman puts out tortillas by hand, the server tells Dolan that he has lived in the United States for 10 years, but has not been able to visit his parents in Guatemala because of the expense of the trip.

The mall, which serves as a community-gathering place for Latinos, as well as a shopping center, is relatively empty. “It’s usually packed on a weekend,” Odem says. She asks some of the merchants why there are so few customers. They tell her that people are afraid to go out: since the new state law went into effect, arrests and deportations of immigrants have increased and the police have been more aggressive in stopping Latinos in the streets.

**From religion to reggaetón, immigrants reshape Atlanta**

By Carol Clark

Image credit: Emory Report

Senior Brendan Dolan, a music buff, is researching how Latino immigrants are influencing Atlanta’s music scene for an American Studies class, “New Immigrants in the New South.”

Ken Brigham is director of the Emory/Georgia Tech Predictive Health Institute. 
DON’t fall into the trap that ‘no’ to events that add stress. Year is about: joy, peace, balance and make sure the stress level doesn’t outweigh what is important to you and how you reflect what you want out of the holidays. “It’s okay to say ‘no’ to events that get handled by a lot of people (such as parties, sheets and towels, and fruit),” Blevins says. “Fresh fruits and vegetables are the best source of vitamins — the chemicals our bodies must have for cell repair and operations,” Banks says.

Keep the spirit of the season intact.

It’s easy to get caught up in the stress of the season and forget exactly why we celebrate. It’s important to find time to take a deep breath and remember what this time of the year is about: joy, peace and love.

“Tis the season for giving opportunities around campus.”

For online event information, visit www.events.emory.edu.

TUESDAY, DEC. 11 Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration 4 p.m. Harris Parlor. Free. 404-727-6847.

SUNDAY, DEC. 16 Hindi Urdu Poetry Night 6 p.m. 208 White Hall. Free. 404-727-2108.


RELIGION

SUNDAY, DEC. 16 University Worship Rev. Susan Henry-Cornell, religious life, preaching. 11 a.m. Cannon Chapel. Free. 404-672-6225.

HOLIDAY TIPS from page 1

• Recycle your Christmas tree (visit www.earth911.org for locations near you).
• Purchase LED holiday lights, which are 90 percent more energy efficient. If you’re not using LED lights, minimize the time your lights are on.
• If you purchase electronics, consider how much that product increases your power consumption. Consider offsetting that consumption in another way (begin carpooling to work, turn your thermostat down another degree).

Open your heart and empty your closet. There are many ways to give this holiday season that don’t require boxes or bows. Here is a sampling of holiday giving opportunities around campus.

Atlanta Children’s Shelter Charity Drive: The Office of Communications & Marketing is holding a holiday charity drive Dec. 3-14. Bring children’s items, bed and bath supplies, sheets and towels, and fruit and vegetables as general household items to 1762 Clifton Drive, Plaza 1000. Contact Monica Partlow at 404-727-0334 or visit www.AtlantaChildrensShelter.com for more information.

Books for Africa Collection Drive: Volunteer Emory, in conjunction with Alpha Phi Omega and others, are collecting used books to benefit literacy efforts in Africa. Collection boxes are located at the Dobbs Center, Cox Hall, Eagle Row and other areas of campus until Dec. 21.

Census Life Pet Supply Collection: Campus Life is collecting donations for PAWS Atlanta at its annual holiday luncheon Thursday, Dec. 13 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Cox Hall ballroom. Requested items include dog and cat food, newspapers, cat litter, bleach, dog leashes and dog and cat toys. Non-Campus Life employees are welcome to drop off donations at Cox Hall from 11 a.m. to noon.

Emory College Food Drive: In conjunction with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, the College will continue its food drive through Dec. 19. Collection barrels are located on the second floor of White Hall, first floor of the Rich Building and first floor of the Candler Library.

All contributions of canned goods or other packaged staples are being accepted. The Food Bank is particularly in need of peanut butter, canned beans, canned soups, stews, pastas, 100 percent fruit juice, canned fruits and vegetables, macaroni and cheese, and whole grain, low sugar cereals.

‘Think Pink’ by giving Emory Eagles merchandise: That Emory Eagles and the Eagles’ Nest have teamed up to sell “Think Pink” merchandise to benefit breast cancer research at Emory. Just in time for the holidays, the special edition merchandise is now available at a new online store. Visit www.ezpromostore.com/ emory_eagles_think_pink to buy.

PERFORMING ARTS

MONDAY, DEC. 10 Concert Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony, performing. Scott Stewart, directing. 8 p.m. Emerson Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

SATURDAY, DEC. 15 Concert “15th Annual Atlanta Celtic Music Festival.” 8 p.m. Emerson Hall, Schwartz Center. $25; $20 seniors, $10 students. 404-727-5050. Also Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 16 Concert “Messiah Sing!” The Chancel Choir of Glen Memorial, performing. 4 p.m. Glenn Auditorium. Free. 404-634-3936. Public invited to sing along.

ARTS

ON GOING:


WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12 PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDIES LUNCHEON “The Incest Prohibitions: Anthropological and Psychoanalytic Perspectives.” Bobby Paul, Emory College presenting. 4:30 p.m. 110 White Hall. Free. 404-727-1444.

THURSDAY, DEC. 13 MEDICAL SCIENCE LECTURE “Surgeon Grand Rounds: Update on Mechanical Ventilation.” Rahul Bhardra, medicine, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-774-1903.


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