Path to peace in Congo

By CAROL CLARK

Not a lot of good news comes out of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a country known for its sexual violence and the world’s deadliest conflict since World War II. That’s one reason why Patience Kabamba, a native of the Congo, decided to seek out what is working well in his country.

Kabamba recently received his Ph.D. in anthropology from Columbia University, and is a visiting scholar at the Institute for Critical International Studies (ICIS) at Emory. For his dissertation, he studied a group of successful traders, known as the Nande, who live in eastern Congo, near the border with Uganda.

“I wanted to learn why these people manage to prosper in the midst of conflict,” Kabamba says. “Not only are they in a haven of peace that is surrounded by war, they are booming in terms of trade.”

His research is coming in handy in his current role as an ICIS initiative known as States at Regional Risk (SARR). The four-year project, begun in 2008 and funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, addresses the causes and remedies of instability and strife, by cultivating dialogue between local policymakers, humanitarian practitioners and scholars.

Kabamba is organizing a conference for SARR in June, which will bring together regional players that have a stake in the ongoing conflict in the Congo.

“Tense,” Kabamba says, summing up the state of relations between many people in the eastern Congo, and its neighbors, Rwanda and Burundi. Kabamba has worked hard to set the stage for fruitful dialogue between representatives of all three places, traveling extensively through volatile areas and building bonds of trust.

The eastern Congo is directly related to issues in Rwanda and Burundi, says Bruce Knauft, executive director of ICIS. “If you don’t have a regional perspective of a path to stability, then you have much lower likelihood of success.”

The June conference, which will likely be held in Burundi, will strive to take a long-term view of issues involving the eastern Congo and its farmland, but also has endured more than its share of regional upheaval.

“Just as many economic, social and military issues don’t stop at borders, the conflict in eastern Congo is directly related to issues in Rwanda and Burundi,” says Bruce Knauft, executive director of ICIS.

According to the Ways and Means (WAM) Committee, decisions are being made based on priorities outlined by President Jim Wagner (www.emory.edu/home/news/releases/2008/10/emory-and-the-economy.html) with the goal of maintaining and enhancing the quality of key programs, even if it means the reduction of other programs or no growth in certain areas.

The excitement was palpable at an eclectic group of international scholars, museum directors, students and the public gathered in Woodruff Library’s Jones Room for the conference celebrating the debut of the Web site “Voyages: The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database” (www.slavevoyages.org).

“Voyages is a wonderful example of how libraries and scholars can combine knowledge and skill to create knowledge that neither could create alone,” said Rick Luce, director of University Libraries, in opening remarks. Over time, he said, “multiple institutions have and will grow this database into a force of knowledge that none of them, either, could have created alone.”

Please see ICIS page 4

Please see BUDGET on page 4

Please see VOYAGES page 8
**EMORY PROFILE: Kim Wallen**

**Mentor to students and faculty**

**Scientist driven to make sense of the world**

*By CARY H. LEUNG*

What are the inherent differences between the sexes? If Kim Wallen could answer just one question, that would be it.

“One of the issues that still drives me is how and why males and females are different,” says Wallen, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Psychology and Behavioral Neuroendocrinology. “One of the earliest studies I did when I came to Emory was to demonstrate that the social environment could influence how the internal hormone state would affect behavior in rhesus macaques,” he recalls. “There were environments where hormones didn’t have any affect and other environments in which the female’s behavior was clearly strongly tied to her hormonal condition.”

Wallen conducted his research at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center, where he is a research professor of psychology. “I’ve come to strongly respect rhesus,” Wallen says. “They have a complex social structure and social life. They are compelling if you want to look at a species that shares a lot of physiological characteristics with humans and a social life that is as complex as ours.”

And the graduate students Wallen mentors respect him. He shows genuine interest in their research ideas as much as their recent vacation or the latest YouTube video. His responses are insightful and often give students a positive outlook.

“My sense as a mentor is to help students develop their inquisitiveness and find out what they are really interested in knowing,” says Wallen. “The thing that is completely unique about being a scholar is that you are allowed to pursue what you want to know. Nothing prevents you from taking an idea and shaping it to fit your own needs.”

Walten also finds time to mentor younger faculty. “I’ve always felt that part of my responsibility as a faculty member is to help younger faculty members as they go through the same process. Tenure doesn’t get any easier — its still a traumatic experience but sometimes you can provide feedback,” he says.

“I think one of the things that is hardest is that you don’t realize graduate school is the last time you’ll get direct and blunt feedback about what you do. Your adviser can tell you what you’ve written a poor paper. It hurts much more if a reviewer says that,” he adds. “You’re lucky if you find a colleague that will do that for you. You’re very much on your own.”

Deciding to pursue academia came naturally for Wallen, but today the idea that all his doctoral students will continue to do research is unrealistic. “There are really old-school faculty that think that if you don’t pursue academia you’re wasting your time,” he says. “I would like students to get the same thrill that I do, but people go one way and then change their mind.”

“I’ve had students that have gone into industry and not strictly academic positions. As long as it makes them happy, I think it’s great. We need people who are really good in industry.”

Yet Wallen’s passion for academic research and his desire to share that with his students is clear. “The whole thing about science is that you are seeing something that no one has ever seen before. And there are truths in the world that will be revealed if you pay attention,” he says. “That’s what drives you as a scientist — that you can make some sense of the world.”
Holiday spirit stocks church pantry

By KIM URGUHART

“We pride ourselves on trying to make the best cup of coffee around,” says Chad Hyatt, ‘90C–’93T, pastor of Mercy Community Church. “When it’s cold outside, it’s not only heart-warming but also body-warm ing.” That’s important to the Candler alumnus, whose congregation is 90 percent home less. On any given morning this winter, the church serves up several gallons of coffee – made possible by community support. “Like any group, we are always in need of donations and gifts,” says Hyatt, “but in this economy we are seeing not only increased need, but less giving.”

An Emory group is among those helping to stock Mercy’s food pantry. The Operations Division of Development and Alumni Relations Operations staff collected four bags of food at its “Between the Holidays” potluck breakfast on Dec. 3.

“When DAR Operations decided we wanted to do a philanthropy project, Mercy Community Church seemed like the way to go, as I know they need the help and it would be an all-Emory project,” says Holdizade commit tee member Leslie Hunter, a senior research analyst.

Hunter first learned about the work of Mercy Community Church through the pastor’s wife, Camille Hyatt, a senior billing specialist for IT Finance and Administration, whom she met on her commute to Emory on the North DeKalb Mall Park’n’Ride.

“We walk from Woodruff Circle to the 1762 Clifton build ing most days and have lots of time to talk,” explains Hunter.

She began to learn more about the non-denominational grassroots church that clothes, feeds, and worships with the homeless, the addicted and the poor. Three years ago, Mercy was a small circle of people gathered in the living room of the Hyatt’s one-bedroom apartment.

Mercy is now run out of a shared space in a Druid Hills church, yet Hyatt takes great care to retain that feeling of community. “In everything we do, we welcome friend and stranger alike in a come-as-you-are, make-yourself-at-home kind of way,” he says.

Mercy’s members serve each other through cooking and serving meals. “We believe that when we share our resources with each other, we are working to achieve at least a small measure of economic and personal justice in a broken world,” Hyatt says.

The church stocks a food pantry, regularly serving eight meals each week to hungry crowds. Because Mercy operates on a shoestring budget, staples such as butter and jelly, coffee, sugar and creamer; meats, one year the educational food garden at Yerkes has been producing a variety of edible herbs and flowers to nourish the non-human primates housed on Emory’s campus.

Many of the “green” concepts implemented by Emory have had a direct impact on the community and have come from Sustainability Grant Program suggestions. Past ideas have included adding rain barrels and compost bins to Emory’s educational food gardens and sponsoring a program to provide recycled eyeglasses to members of disadvantaged communities.

To learn more about sustainability grants, visit www.sustainability.emory.edu.
ER: What do the new economic realities mean for Emory?

Mandl: The level of resources we require will shift in how we fulfill our vision and mission, says Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Earl Lewis, who heads the WAM committee.

“With guidance provided by our core principles and values, and by focusing on strategic priorities, we anticipate that Emory will emerge stronger and in an even better position to realize its strategic goals,” says Lewis.

Wagner, along with Lewis and other members of the WAM committee — Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Mike Mandl and Executive Vice President for Health Affairs Fred Sanfilippo — have communicated with the Emory community about the new economic realities in a series of meetings, letters and focus groups over the past few months.

In this Q&A with Emory Report, the WAM committee leaders responded to questions regarding the FY10 budget process, and outlined what the Emory community can expect as the University moves forward.

Emory Report: What is the status of Emory’s budget process?

Lewis: We all know that the Emory community is exceptional in its collective spirit and commitment to our mission, but that fact has been even more apparent this fall as we have worked together to balance this year’s budget, and to prepare for FY10, which begins Sept. 1, 2009. As a nation, we are adjusting to a new economic environment that will be with us for the long term. This, we believe, is more than a short-term economic downturn. At Emory, that means we need to focus on balancing this year’s budget, and to prepare for FY10.

The single largest endowment spending reduction will come from the Emily and Ernest Woodruff Fund, an endowment fund that supports a broad range of activities across the institution including core support for the various schools. We also need to cut another $50 million from current year-endowment spending levels. In light of the endowment spending formula, this will take place over several years, beginning in FY10.

The senior leadership has also noted the importance of the institution’s current financial indicators — what we know now and what we can project given the current financial indicators — which we need to cut approximately $50 million from current year-endowment spending levels. In light of the endowment spending formula, this will take place over several years, beginning in FY10.

In order to present balanced budgets to the Board of Trustees for the next three fiscal years — based on what we know now and what we can project given the current financial indicators — we need to cut approximately $50 million from current year-endowment spending levels.

The level of resources we require will shift in how we fulfill our vision and mission, says Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Earl Lewis, who heads the WAM committee.

ER: How is Emory Healthcare affected by the economic downturn?

Sanfilippo: Emory Hospitals, Emory Clinics and Emory Healthcare activities are supported by different revenue streams than the University, and are not directly dependent on endowment spending, net tuition, or other University income sources.

Although Emory Healthcare is in a strong position, we are taking steps to adjust to the changing financial environment. Senior leadership has developed a focused strategy to prioritize the use of our resources, and we have identified opportunities to cut costs, for example by phasing construction activities, reducing meeting and travel expenses, and reviewing vendor contracts.

We're very much aware that our patients are facing health care challenges that are now compounded with new economic concerns. We all need to provide our support now, compassion and professional expertise for them now more than ever. Furthermore, it is too early to tell how Medicare and Medicaid aid payments to hospitals and doctors will be influenced. These issues will be closely assessed as conditions unfold.

ER: What is the status of Emory’s salary and benefits program?

WAM Committee: One of Emo- ry’s major priorities is to invest in our very best faculty and staff. Resources to support compensation increases in FY10 will need to come from existing budgets, and should be deployed carefully in the various schools. We also need to cut another $50 million from current year-endowment spending levels due to declines in short-term investment income, and approximately $50 million from the Strategic Planning Fund, primarily by eliminating various contingency provisions and slowing some activities — some substantially.

ER: What do you want the Emo- ry community to keep in mind as we plan for the future?

Lewis: The new economic reali- ties that we are dealing with as an institution will change as- pects of how we fulfill our mis- sion. That said, we want the Emory community to know we are absolutely committed to funding the priorities previously outlined by the president. And you'll notice that the first two in- volve investments in people — ensuring that we provide the fi- nancial aid required to retain and attract the best students, re- gardless of their economic stand- ing; and that we maintain com- petitive, merit-based salaries to reward, retain and attract the best faculty and staff.

FY10 budget cycle

• January: Budget hearings week of Jan. 5 & 12; WAM reviews drafts of budget scenarios

• February: Tuition and fee presentation to Finance Committee and Faculty Council, Feb. 11 & 12 for approval; presentations to Faculty Council and Council of Deans, Feb. 17 & 18

• March: Budget finalized by WAM and reviewed with the president

• April: Budget presentations to Board of Trustees, April 1; and budget operating plans presentation approved by Finance Committee, Academic Committee, and Faculty Council (BOC) April 8 & 9; presented to Faculty Council, April 21

ICIS: Local model for stability key to project

Continued from the cover

Global health gets legal perspective

Sanfilippo noted the Global Health Law and Policy Project Funded by the Emily and Ernest Woodruff Fund, this project was established to address issues of global health, and provides a legal and policy perspective.

The project, directed by Chief of Global Health Law and Policy, Ronald H. Weisman, has introduced a number of innovations in teaching law that may have broader applications in the classroom as a whole.

Sanfilippo also noted the Global Health Law and Policy Project Funded by the Emily and Ernest Woodruff Fund, this project was established to address issues of global health, and provides a legal and policy perspective.

The project, directed by Chief of Global Health Law and Policy, Ronald H. Weisman, has introduced a number of innovations in teaching law that may have broader applications in the classroom as a whole.

Sanfilippo also noted the Global Health Law and Policy Project Funded by the Emily and Ernest Woodruff Fund, this project was established to address issues of global health, and provides a legal and policy perspective.

The project, directed by Chief of Global Health Law and Policy, Ronald H. Weisman, has introduced a number of innovations in teaching law that may have broader applications in the classroom as a whole.

Sanfilippo also noted the Global Health Law and Policy Project Funded by the Emily and Ernest Woodruff Fund, this project was established to address issues of global health, and provides a legal and policy perspective.

The project, directed by Chief of Global Health Law and Policy, Ronald H. Weisman, has introduced a number of innovations in teaching law that may have broader applications in the classroom as a whole.

Sanfilippo also noted the Global Health Law and Policy Project Funded by the Emily and Ernest Woodruff Fund, this project was established to address issues of global health, and provides a legal and policy perspective.

The project, directed by Chief of Global Health Law and Policy, Ronald H. Weisman, has introduced a number of innovations in teaching law that may have broader applications in the classroom as a whole.

Sanfilippo also noted the Global Health Law and Policy Project Funded by the Emily and Ernest Woodruff Fund, this project was established to address issues of global health, and provides a legal and policy perspective.

The project, directed by Chief of Global Health Law and Policy, Ronald H. Weisman, has introduced a number of innovations in teaching law that may have broader applications in the classroom as a whole.
Cancer patient family funds faculty chairs

By HOLLY KORSCHUN

Two endowed faculty chairs at Emory's Winship Cancer Institute and the Georgia Institute of Technology will support innovative research in cancer nanotechnology. Worth a total of $6 million, the chairs are the result of donations from Coca-Cola Enterprises Chairman and CEO John Brock, his wife Mary, and their children, Rebecca, John IV and Major, who have teamed up with the Georgia Research Alliance and the Georgia Cancer Coalition to boost cancer research in this groundbreaking field.

“These heartfelt gifts from the Brock family in honor of John’s late mother will contribute significantly to cancer nanotechnology research at Emory and at Georgia Tech,” says Brian Leyland-Jones, director of Emory Winship.

Brock’s mother, Anise McDaniel Brock, was an active member of her community in Miss Pont. Miss Anise Brock, who never smoked and who lived a healthy lifestyle, was stricken with lung and colon cancer in 2006. She was treated primarily in Massachusetts until her family brought her to Emory.

After her death in December 2007, the Brock family began looking for ways to help remember the loving grandmother, especially in the early detection and treatment of cancer. A Georgia Tech alumna, Brock talked with cancer researchers and physicians at Emory and Georgia Tech about their nanomedicine research program. In addition, he worked with the Georgia Cancer Coalition and the Georgia Research Alliance to help enhance the value of his donation. The result is the Anise McDaniel Brock Chair at Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Cancer Nanotechnology at Emory University, with a second chair at Georgia Tech.

The National Cancer Institute and scientists at Emory Winship and Georgia Tech believe nanotechnology holds great promise for radically increasing options for prevention, detection and treatment of cancer. In 2006 the NCIC selected the Emory and Georgia Tech joint research program as one of seven National Centers of Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence. The CCNE’s goal is to function as a “discovery accelerator” to integrate nanotechnology into personalized cancer treatments and early detection. Nanotechnology deals with the engineering and creation of materials or devices that are less than 100 nanometers — 1-billionth of a meter — in size. These visionary gifts to Emory and Georgia Tech by John and Mary Brock in support of two chairs in cancer nanotechnology epitomize the collaborative and productive relationships between these two great institutions,” says William J. Todd, president of the Georgia Cancer Coalition.

Brock says the care his mother received at Emory Winship and the strength of the joint research programs at Emory and Georgia Tech led to the gifts.

“After she passed away, we started talking more about our interest in trying to help researchers get new leads in the early detection and treatment of cancer,” Brock says. ‘My mother was a caregiver in her community. She would be thrilled that some value can be created in the search for better ways to manage cancer."

This gift is part of the private support being sought for Campaign Emory, a $1.6 billion fundraising endeavor that combines private support and the University’s people, places and programs to make a powerful contribution to the world.

A world of holiday traditions

Drumbeats from professors Leroy Davis (pictured) and Lawrence Jackson set the upbeat mood for the Multicultural Holiday Party Dec. 9. Nagueyalti Warren’s African American Culture and Society class performed a Kwanzaa ceremony, and campus cultural groups like the Emory Chinese Student Association and Indian Cultural Exchange showcased their holiday traditions. The Office of Multicultural Programs and Services’ annual holiday event was co-sponsored by the Black Student Alliance, Latino Student Organization, African Student Association, Transforming Community Project, and the African American Studies Department.

SNAPSHOT
ER course puts students on front lines

By CAROL CLARK

It’s one thing to watch an episode of “ER” on television. It’s another thing to help clear a spot in the hallway for a gurney, as waiting ambulances pull up at Grady Memorial Hospital.

“It’s surprising by the volume of patients and the variety of problems you see on any given day,” says Hannah Kinkel, a pre-med student who plans to specialize in neurology. The 32 NBB undergraduates who enrolled in the new elective studied the fundamentals of clinical research — both in the classroom and at Grady.

David Wright, assistant professor of emergency medicine, leads a new elective that allows undergraduates to study the fundamentals of clinical research, in the classroom and in the ER.

David Wright, assistant professor of emergency medicine, leads a new elective that allows undergraduates to study the fundamentals of clinical research, in the classroom and in the ER.

“Strained” quantum dots show optical properties

By QUINN EASTMAN

Quantum dots, tiny luminous particles made of semiconductor materials, hold promise for detecting and treating cancer earlier. However, if doctors were to use them in humans, quantum dots could have limitations related to their size and possible toxicity.

Biomedical engineers at Emory and Georgia Tech have found a way around those limitations by exploiting a property of semiconductors called “lattice strain.” By layering materials with different chemical compositions on top of each other, the researchers can create particles with new optical properties.

A description of the “strained” particles is in the December Issue of Nature Nanotechnology.

In addition to their expected utility in biomedical imaging, the new type of quantum dots could find use in optoelectronics, advanced color displays, and more efficient solar panels, says biomedical engineer Shuming Nie.

Previous quantum dots contain cadmium, a toxic heavy metal. Strain-tuned quantum dots can be made mostly of the less toxic elements zinc and selenium. The particles can be between four and six nanometers wide, allowing them to pass through the kidneys — meaning less toxicity. The newer strain-tuned quantum dots have not been tested in living animals or people.

Strain-tuned quantum dots can be made that emit light at wavelengths in the near-infrared range, a “clear window” where the human body is relatively transparent, says author Andrew Smith, a postdoctoral fellow in Nie’s group.

Curbing hormones in obese patients could aid against cancer

By QUINN EASTMAN

Once-promising drugs that were abandoned in the fight against breast cancer still could be effective in obese patients, work with Winship Cancer Institute researchers suggests.

Hormones produced by fat cells stimulate breast cancer cells to migrate and invade surrounding tissues. In laboratory tests, a class of drugs called “lattice strain,” a new type of quantum dot, could block the stimulatory effects of the hormones, oncologist Dipali Sharma and digestive disease specialist Nesaraj Saxena found.

“This group of compounds was basically written off as far as breast cancer goes,” Sharma says.

Her team’s results were published online in the December Issue of Cancer Research.

Obese people have high levels of leptin, a hormone produced by fat cells, and insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF-1), which is produced primarily by the liver. Leptin sends satiety signals to the brain, and IGF-1 is involved in the growth of blood vessels.

“The influence of obesity on breast cancer is more pronounced because most of the breast tissue is made of adipose tissue,” Sharma says. “There is an increasing amount of evidence for the importance of the obese environment in promoting breast cancer to grow more than either does by itself. Acting together, they activate the IGF molecule, the target of several anti-cancer drugs.

Various EGFR inhibitors such as erlotinib and cetuximab have been approved by the FDA to treat head and neck cancer, lung cancer, colon cancer and pancreatic cancer. One, lapatinib, was approved in 2007 for women with advanced breast cancer who had already received other therapies.

However, clinical studies did not find most EGFR inhibitors effective against breast cancer for a large enough proportion of patients for them to be approved by the FDA.

“Strained” quantum dots show optical properties

The team’s results suggest that EGFR inhibitors could be effective if directed specifically to obese patients. Sharma says the finding could be especially important for “triple-negative” breast cancer, a form that does not respond to common treatments such as tamoxifen.
FIRST PERSON Paula Gomes & Kathryn Carlson

Optimistic and walking for the cure

By PAULA G. GOMES

Paula Gomes is director of the Faculty Staff Assistance Program; and Kathryn Carlson is a nurse practitioner at Winship Cancer Institute.

In 2006, I received a phone call from The Emory Clinic that changed my life forever. The radiologist delivered the dreaded news that the results from the biopsy showed that I had breast cancer. Of course, the impact was devastating. It took a few months for me to regain my center after accepting the diagnosis and receiving extensive treatment at Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute (WCI).

The special support I received from my husband, family, friends, co-workers and colleagues assisted me on this journey. I met and bonded with many patients along the way, fighting to survive the challenges of cancer. During one WCI visit, I saw a flyer about the Atlanta Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk and I promised myself to try it one year.

This fall, I decided to take on the challenge to walk the Atlanta Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk and I promised myself to try it one year.

Why did I walk?

I walked this 60-mile walk on Oct. 24-26 for several reasons. First, I wanted to challenge myself physically, emotionally and spiritually to take on the training for the event. Before then, the longest walk I had participated in was a 5K walk in Conneticut some 20 years ago. Another reason I walked was for those who for various reasons were physically unable to walk. Also, I wanted to support the research efforts that are happening around the world to find a cure for breast cancer. Emory has many researchers who are giants in their fields, including my medical oncologist, Dr. North O’Regan, who has many clinical trials focused on finding ways to save lives. Finally, I walked to increase public awareness about this challenging disease and the importance of early detection.

On the final day, a Sunday, I started out walking with three childhood friends from Tennessee. They were walking in memory of a fourth friend who had died from breast cancer in March, at the age of 32. I enjoyed meeting them and hearing their story of friendship and dedication.

By midday, I caught up with members of my team. We walked the remainder of the 20 miles together. One special memory that I’ll always cherish is having the chance to care for a large pink and white flag with the word “Optimism.” This was very affirming for me because that word reflected my approach to my own healing.

On the second day of the walk, my teammates along with thousands of other walkers started from North Point Mall in Alpharetta. This was the most challenging experience of the three days because of the harsh weather, which was rainy and cold. We met wonderful support- ers who provided snacks and warm beverages along the route. We made it through those first grueling 20 miles by talking, laughing and encouraging each other in the rain.

On the second day of the walk, I left later than the rest of my team, and as a result met many people along the way. I met walkers from states across the Southeast, including Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia. There was a strong spirit of camaraderie and purpose among the participants. I met many survivors, as well as walkers with family histories of breast cancer, who were walking in memory of mothers, aunts, daughters, nieces and grand- mothers.

We talked, laughed, shared stories, and even danced the electric slide at one of the pit stops. We connected as if we had known each other for a lifetime due to the special bonding that occurs when you take on such a challenge as this.

The weather was certainly not agreeable on the first day of the walk, leaving us all wet, cold and grumpy. In spite of the tough weather conditions, we continued to walk for our sisters, as a symbol of the adversity that many have experienced through treatment. I felt that walking 60 miles was only a small demonstration of what my patients have to face and overcome on a daily basis. The other days of the walk, I interacted with many people including some Emory colleagues walking with different teams, some of my patients, and walkers from throughout the Southeastern states.

What did I learn from the walk?

This is my second Breast Cancer 3-Day to participate in and lead. I am a nurse practitioner at Winship Cancer Institute specializing in breast cancer, and I choose to walk each year in honor and support of every woman who has fought her battle with breast cancer. I am also walking for my grandmother and great aunt who both are ovarian cancer survivors, and another great aunt who is a breast cancer survivor. Each day, I am inspired by the strength and courage that my patients demonstrate despite what the day may have brought them: nausea, fatigue, pain. They continue to fight for themselves and for each other. They form friendships and support each other through survivorship and end-of-life issues. They become advocates for breast cancer research and form support groups and attend research meetings. They walk 60 miles for themselves and for others.

What did I learn from the walk?

My hope for the future is that a cure for breast cancer will be found in my lifetime.

By KATHRYN CARLSON

Why did I walk?

This is my second Breast Cancer 3-Day to participate in and lead. I am a nurse practitioner at Winship Cancer Institute specializing in breast cancer, and I choose to walk each year in honor and support of every woman who has fought her battle with breast cancer. I am also walking for my grandmother and great aunt who both are ovarian cancer survivors, and another great aunt who is a breast cancer survivor. Each day, I am inspired by the strength and courage that my patients demonstrate despite what the day may have brought them: nausea, fatigue, pain. They continue to fight for themselves and for each other. They form friendships and support each other through survivorship and end-of-life issues. They become advocates for breast cancer research and form support groups and attend research meetings. They walk 60 miles for themselves and for others.

What did I learn from the walk?

The weather was certainly not agreeable on the first day of the walk, leaving us all wet, cold and grumpy. In spite of the tough weather conditions, we continued to walk for our sisters, as a symbol of the adversity that many have experienced through treatment. I felt that walking 60 miles was only a small demonstration of what my patients have to face and overcome on a daily basis. The other days of the walk, I interacted with many people including some Emory colleagues walking with different teams, some of my patients, and walkers from throughout the Southeastern states.

My hope for the future is that a cure for breast cancer will be found in my lifetime.
ADVANCE FOR THE WEEK
Emory’s week-long celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 19-27 will have forums, worship services, concerts, lectures, exhibits and community service events. 

To celebrate King Day, volunteers will plant trees in the Martin Luther King Jr. historic district in conjunction with Trees Atlanta. 

Julian Bond, NAACP board chairman, will speak Jan. 23, on “Civil Rights: Then and Now.” 

Benjamin E. Mays Scholars Chapel.

Chief, will speak Jan. 23, on “Civil Rights: Then and Now.”

with Trees Atlanta.

Emory’s week-long celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 19-27 will have forums, worship services, concerts, lectures, exhibits and community service events. 

To celebrate King Day, volunteers will plant trees in the Martin Luther King Jr. historic district in conjunction with Trees Atlanta. 

Julian Bond, NAACP board chairman, will speak Jan. 23, on “Civil Rights: Then and Now.”

Benjamin E. Mays Scholars Chapel.

Chief, will speak Jan. 23, on “Civil Rights: Then and Now.”

Events surround professor’s opera

The Atlanta Opera and Emory’s Flora Gillen Candler Concert Series present a chor al production of Philip Glass’ opera “Akhnaten” on Jan. 23, at 8 p.m. and Jan. 25, at 5 p.m. in the Schwartz Center’s Emory Conference Center. 

Related events include an opera dough regimen for college and high school students, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.; Emerson Hall; public access on “The Historical and Imagined Akhnaten” Jan. 22, 7 p.m.; Carols reception hall; pre-concert “Conversation with Composer Philip Glass” Jan. 23; Emory director of digital innovations, David Brion Davis, Sterling Professor of History Emeritus at Yale University and one of the foremost experts in the field, spoke to an overflow crowd on “Putting American and British Slave Trade Abolition in Broader Perspective.” He called the “Voyages” launch “by far the most significant and productive breakthrough in slavery research in the last century.”

David delivered a tour de force on the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the complex path that led to its abolition. He illustrated its magnitude, which only hints at the extent of human suffering: By 1820, enslaved Africans constituted “some 80 percent of all people who embarked for the Americas since 1600.”

He also revealed the “pathological consequences of a world view that subordinates all human relationships to free-market choices.” Davis said the value of Southern slaves in 1860 equalled “80 percent of the Gross National Product, or what today would be equivalent to $9.75 trillion.” There were good reasons why, in 1860, “two-thirds of the richest Americans lived in the slaveholding South.”

David Eltis, co-director of the “Voyages” project, said that the effort to launch the site had been a true collaboration of scholars and the discipline. Eltis and his team at University Libraries for providing the technical expertise and vision that enabled the project to secure funding and move forward.

Aggregating information and curating it in new ways to make it broadly available “is really the wave of the future,” said Halbert, director of digital innovations for Emory Libraries.

“What we and others are seeing in ‘Voyages’ is a model for scholarship and research in the 21st century.”

“The conversation sparked at this gathering and the explorations of ‘Voyages’ that began during the conference will continue far into the future,” said Luce.

Leslie Harris, associate professor of African American studies and history, chaired a graduate student panel and noted the number of people — non-academics — from Atlanta who attended “and were highly interested in the research and its meaning for society today.”

The conversations we had at the conference were informed by a true diversity of opinion, from within and outside academia, and that really made for a stimulating, thought-provoking experience.”

One result of the conference is that the University of Hull in England will “mirror” the Web site. Eventually, says Eltis, the plan is for the “Voyages” site to be mirrored in locations around the world, which will safeguard against bandwidth overloads or server crashes and help improve the site’s performance.

Just one day after its debut, “Voyages” Web site had its busiest day ever, with 183,957 pages viewed by 7,901 visitors on Dec. 6. From Dec. 1-9 the site had 454,280 pages viewed by 22,929 visitors.

For those who missed the conference, a recording of sessions will be available at Emory’s iTunes U. An emergency exhibit on “Voyages” is currently on display in the hallway outside the Jones Room, and will be on display through March 15.

Two recent books based on the project are published by Yale University Press: “Extending the Frontiers: Essays on the New Transatlantic Slave Trade,” edited by Eltis and David Richardson of the University of Hull (September 2008) and the forthcoming “Atlas of the TransAtlantic Slave Trade” featuring 170 maps that draw on data from the project.

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database has information on nearly 35,000 slaving voyages.

VOYAGES: Breakthrough in slavery research

Call for action against trafficking

Despite the abolition of one of the largest human trafficking movements in recorded history, the practice continues illegally around the world,” said Rick Luce in his opening remarks at the “Voyages” conference, marking the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

The U.S. State Department has estimated that at least 600,000 to 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across international borders each year. As we explore the trans-Atlantic slave trade of two centuries ago, let us resolve at the close of this important anniversary year that we will do what we can to bring an end to human trafficking in our own time, as well.”