Encouraging dialogue on difficult issues

By NANCY SEIDEMAN

The current crisis in the Middle East has sparked controversy around the world on how to resolve issues in the region. But in many cases, it has proven difficult for people to engage in meaningful discussion of these volatile issues, a fact that the Office of the Provost plans to address this semester through a series of activities designed to foster inquiry, and to help develop skills, knowledge and understanding.

For the past two years Emory has used this framework to tackle some of humanity's most vexing subjects, from evolution to predictive health, religious diversity to social isolation, HIV/AIDS prevention to conflict in the Middle East, with the overall goal of inviting broader communication and understanding of these issues.

“Recent events in the Middle East again underscore the importance of sustained conversation about difficult topics,” says Earl Lewis, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. “Universities can’t resolve conflict in the Middle East, but we can provide a forum in which all members of the community are invited to take part in the dialogue, to share their expertise and experience, and also to learn from others.”

One of the first activities in the new series is “Prayers for Peace and the Peoples of the Middle East,” which will take place 12–12:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 21, in Cannon Chapel. The service is sponsored by the Office of Religious Life. All students, faculty and staff are invited to gather for a time of reflection and prayer.

—Leslie King
A NOTE TO OUR READERS

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EMORY REPORT
JANUARY 20, 2009

EMORY PROFILE:
James Taylor

James Taylor is assistant professor of biology and math and computer science.

By CAROL CLARK

James Taylor’s office in the Rollins Research Center is clean and minimalist, with no papers cluttering his desk or shelves. “My work is almost completely computerized, and computers are really a general-purpose instrument,” says Taylor, an assistant professor whose work spans two departments: biology and math and computer science.

“Galaxy Technology magazine recently named Taylor a top young investigator, featuring him in a special edition of 30 rising stars in genomics research.”

“The information needed to build a complex organism like a human being is largely encoded in the genome. My lab is interested in trying to understand how that information is encoded,” Taylor says. “In a sense, we are trying to reverse engineer the genomic basis of the developmental program for a living organism.”

Taylor began his career as a software engineer, working for two firms that developed computer solutions for businesses, “I enjoyed finding ways to solve a problem,” he says, “but once the problem was solved, the projects moved into maintenance mode and things got boring.”

“By the time the first rough draft of the human genome was mapped in 2000, Taylor knew that he wanted to return to school for a Ph.D. and shift his focus to science.”

“The sequencing of the genome revealed all sorts of problems that could only be solved with computational skills,” he says. “It opened up a path to take something that I was good at and use it in ways that were interesting and fulfilling.”

Scientists have recently theorized that only a tiny percentage of the genome is involved in coding for proteins — the activity associated with genes. The role of the remainder of the genome remains mysterious and has been likened to the “dark matter” of the cosmos.

“Taylor is focused on exploring this dark matter. As he points out, the genes of a human being and a fruit fly are not that drastically different. ‘What’s really interesting is how and where and when those genes are expressed to create dramatically different organisms, and how the genes are encoded in the 95 percent of the genome that isn’t genes. That’s the grand challenge,’ he says.”

“The genetic code is written in letters, with each letter standing for a molecule called a base. Strings of data, such as sequence of letters, are an intuitive way for humans to think about data.”

“But the information within most of the genome is not like text. ‘The different ways that it’s encoded may not be so easy for the human mind to understand, the signals may be too subtle,’ Taylor theorizes. ‘Every way that information could possibly be encoded may be used in some way in the genome, because the chemistry and the biology is so random and evolution is opportunistic.”

In addition to his genomic research, Taylor’s lab is addressing the need to make high-throughput data analysis reproducible and easily shared among experimental biologists. In collaboration with Anton Nekrutenko at Penn State, Taylor developed Galaxy (http://galaxy.psu.edu) — an open-source software system that allows anyone with a normal laptop to analyze genomic data. Thousands of analyses are performed on the Galaxy Web site daily, and the application can also be downloaded free and installed in labs that have modest information support. The system is designed to handle multiple datasets and collaborative workflows. It automatically tracks and logs every step used in an analysis.

“Galaxy provides an infrastructure for analytical methods that are accessible, understandable and reusable,” says Taylor, who is continuing to expand and refine Galaxy in his role as principal programmer. “As computer tools become more sophisticated, it’s critical to provide every detail of how an analysis is done, in ways that are verifiable. If you can’t reproduce the results, you can’t really trust them.”

“Taylor joined Emory last fall, and is currently recruiting both graduate and undergraduate students interested in the dual research areas of his lab. “We are just on the cusp of introducing more computer technology into science and more science into computers,” he says. “We are now developing students who are deeply interested in both biology and computers and statistics. They are going to drive the next set of data.”

James Taylor is assistant professor of biology and math and computer science.

Computer scientist propels research into new realms

EMORY PROFILE: James Taylor
AAAS elects three faculty for their advancement of science

By HOLLY KORSCHUN

Jocelyne Bachevalier, Dale E. Edmondson and Barry D. Shur have been named in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). They were elected to this honor by their peers because of their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. New Fellows will be recognized at a Feb. 14 forum during the 2009 AAAS Annual Meeting in Chicago.

Bachevalier, behavioral and cognitive neuroscientist, was honored for her “exemplary work on the role of specific brain structures in the regulation of social and cognitive behaviors in humans and in animal models.” Bachevalier is Samuel Candler Dobbs professor of developmental cognitive neuroscience and a faculty member in the psychology department and Yerkes National Primate Research Center. Her research has focused on neural substrates underlying the development, maturation and decline of learning and memory functions in nonhuman primates. Her lab also studies the nature of the memory decline in monkeys that accompanies normal aging. She has made a persistent effort to relate her basic research findings to normal and abnormal human behavior, such as autism and schizophrenia, and the development of memory processes.

Edmondson, professor of biochemistry in the School of Medicine and adjunct professor of chemistry, was honored for his “distinguished contributions to the field of physical biochemistry, particularly research that furthers our understanding of structures and mechanisms of flavins and flavoproteins.” In 2002, Edmondson reported on the discovery, along with colleagues at the University of Parma, Italy, of the three-dimensional structure of human MAO B, an enzyme important in age-related neurological disorders. Those discoveries are considered to be major advances in understanding of target enzymes, the subject of numerous studies aimed at developing new drugs for treatment of and protection from neurological diseases.

Shur, professor and chair of the department of cell biology in the School of Medicine, was honored for his “pioneering work on adhesion interactions in fertilization and early development with a focus on the role of cell surface glycosyltransferases.” Shur has been credited with opening up a new area of research with his work in the biology of adhesion and cell surface interactions. His research focuses particularly on the molecular basis of cellular interactions during mammalian fertilization and development. He and his colleagues identified a receptor on the sperm surface called galactosyltransferase that allows the sperm to bind to the egg coat and fertilize the egg.

By LESLIE KING

The award-winning poet, editor and professor Kevin Young has been named curator for Emory’s Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library. Young plans to focus further on Emory’s diverse strengths in modern literature, particularly Irish, Italian, American and British literature. He also wants to build a collection of poetry audio recordings to complement the University’s already strong holdings in the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library and throughout MARBL.

The literary collections curator position was previously held by Steve Enniss, who was also director of MARBL. Enniss was recently named the Eric Weinmann Librarian of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. A firm has been hired and a committee named in the international search for MARBL director. Young is the author of six poetry collections and the editor of four.

His fifth collection, “For the Confederate Dead,” won the 2007 Quill Award in Poetry. In addition to his work as literary collections curator, Young will continue teaching English and creative writing. He’ll also remain curator of the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library.

FOLLOW-UP

Actions taken following conflict-of-interest probe

Charles Nemeroff, the longtime chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the School of Medicine, agreed to step down as department head and to follow new restrictions on his outside activities. This was a result of an internal investigation prompted by allegations of conflicts of interest questions raised about his financial relationships with pharmaceutical companies by Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa). Nemeroff will remain in the department in a professorial role.

See www.emory.edu/home/news/special/conflict-of-interest-research.htm for more background.

—Staff reports

ACCLAIM

Sanjay Gupta, assistant professor of neurosurgery in the School of Medicine, is under consideration by the Obama administration to fill the post of U.S. Surgeon General. Gupta is also a neurosurgeon at Emory University Hospital and associate chief of neurosurgery at Grady Memorial Hospital. He has a high profile through his position as CNN Medical Correspondent and as a contributor to CBS News.

Michael Huey is the recipient of the 2008 Jack C. Hughton Physician of the Year Award from the Georgia Athletic Training Association.

Timothy L. Hussey, senior advisor for marketing and communications for Emory School of Law, has been elected president-elect of the Georgia chapter of the Public Relations Society of America for 2009.

The Georgia chapter is the society’s second largest.

Stephen T. Warren was awarded the 9th annual Norman Saunders Jacob’s ladder International Research Prize. The honor recognizes scientists who are leaders in the advancement of understanding and treating genetic diseases.

Warren is the William Patterson Timme Professor of Human Genetics and chairman of the Department of Human Genetics. He is also professor of biochemistry and pediatrics and a professor in the Winship Cancer Institute.

“Acclaim” recognizes the accomplishments of faculty and staff. Listings may include awards and prizes, election to boards and societies; and similarly notable accomplishments at Emory or in the wider community. Emory Report relies on submissions for this column. Contact: iking@emory.edu.
**TAKE NOTE**

EHSO becomes University-wide

Emory’s Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHSO), formerly a division of the School of Medicine, is now a University-wide operation and based in the Office of Research Administration. The main office is at 1762 Clifton Rd., Suite 1200.

“Demands for EHSO services have grown through-out the Emory campus,” says David Wynes, director of research administration. “These services span everything from laboratory safety through many aspects of facilities services and into the hospitals and clinics as well.”

The four main divisions of EHSO are research/biological safety, environmental affairs, safety/industrial hygiene, and radiation safety.

For more information, visit www.ehso.emory.edu.

**Emory gets two top rankings**

Emory’s commitment to “need-blind” aid and merit scholarships was a major factor giving the University two top rankings.

Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine put the University ninth among the 100 best-reserve institutions universities that exemplify excellent academics while keeping costs to a minimum.

The Princeton Review also named Emory among its best values in private schools.

In addition to financial aid, Kiplinger’s cited Emory’s “range of programs, proximity to Atlanta, and relationships with the nearby Centers for Disease Control and the Carter Center” as plusses for most students.

The Princeton ranking, its 100 “Best Value” Colleges for 2009, specifically noted Emory Advantage grant and loan relief program.

**Woodruff PE Center offers free month**

The Woodruff P.E. Center is offering one month free to the first 50 people who join in January.

This is a $15 value, available to new, not renewing, members, says Megan Ahrens, assistant director of athletics. Also visit www.rec.emory.edu for the Fitness Emory class schedule, beginning Jan. 20 through April 24.

The membership office is located on the main level, which is the second floor of WRC. Hours are Monday–Thursday from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Level 7 reopens at Woodruff library**

Woodruff Library Level 7, which has been closed since May for renovation, reopened to the public Jan. 14. Level 7 books are now accessible. The goal of the work was to increase shelving capacity.

**Cover Story**

**King: Historic election refocuses dream**

Like the city’s statue of Martin Luther King Jr., Emory’s King Week commemorates the civil rights leader’s legacy.

“Given Obama’s inauguration the previous Tuesday, this will be a wonderful event, incredibly timely,” says Shaw, noting that Bond will likely gear his remarks to what the historic election means in terms of the civil rights movement and King’s dream.

Popular events taking place during King Week include a volunteer tree planting in the Martin Luther King Jr. historic district on the national holiday; Associate Professor of Music Dwight Andrews’ jazz vespers service; and the presentation of Community Service Awards sponsored by the Rollins School of Public Health and Goizueta Business School.

In “Words That Changed The World” Jan. 21, students, staff and faculty will gather to read from speeches and letters of prominent civil rights leaders from around the world, from King to Mahatma Ghandi to Cesar Chavez. “These individuals and their words helped move people from inactivity to activity via a-vis civil rights,” says Shaw.

Other activities during the week include a choral concert honoring King’s legacy and recognizing Emory scholars, a film, forums, exhibitions, worship services and Oxford College’s annual ecumenical celebration.

Visit www.emory.edu/MLK/ for details on King Week activities.

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**King Week calendar**

**Friday, Jan. 23**

**EXHIBIT OPENING:**


**KEYNOTE LECTURE:**

“Civil Rights: Then and Now.” Julian Bond, presenting. 4 p.m. Cannon Chapel. 404-727-6847.

**FILM:**

“Soul of Justice: Thelon Henderson’s American Journey.” 6 p.m. Wrocki Ballroom. 404-727-4148.

**Sunday, Jan. 25**

**Worship Service.** Rev. Calvin S. Morris, preaching. Voices of Inner Strength, performing. 11 a.m., Cannon Chapel. 404-727-6225.

**Tuesday, Jan. 27**

**Ecumenical Celebration.** 7 p.m. Old Church, Oxford Campus. 770-784-8392.

**Ongoing exhibits**


On view through March 12.

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**Continue from the cover**

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Family memory, narratives are story at conference

Family memories are fluid and subject to change, and individual memories are a powerful force that help to shape personal and collective memories, according to international experts on memory who met at Emory in December.

Researchers from Germany, Denmark and American universities described their research on family-based “life scripts” that set the stage for personal development as children grow, and how people change their memories to suit their own needs. The two-day conference on Culture, Family and Communicative Memory was sponsored by the Carter Center for Myth and Ritual in American Life (MARIAL) and the Emory Cognition Center.

German scholar Harald Welzer talked about how Germans change detailed accounts of their own and their grandparents’, often making them “good guys” during the Third Reich even though they were Nazis.

Dan McAmis, a Northwestern University psychology professor who studies lives of adults, “focuses on the positive things,” especially in people who recount as life lessons to younger generations stories about their lives, “and they often begin with the worst thing that happened to them. And then, as they tell the story, they overcome that event and often turn it into something positive.”

Psychologist Mark Freeman of the College of the Holy Cross talked about how memory turns to dementia, and how that affects her identity. “Her new identity is that she has Alzheimer’s disease,” he said, after describing her memories of the woman who nurtured him as a child, and the mother who now often calls him in a panic when she doesn’t know where she is.

Call for nominations: 2010 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer

The Faculty Council is soliciting nominations for the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for 2010. This lecturehip recognizes the achievements of distinguished Emory faculty members. The faculty member selected will be invited to present a lecture that broad appeal and displays exemplary scholarly work, usually during Founders Week.

Nominations are invited from members of all units and departments of the university community. They will be reviewed by a committee of past recipients, who will recommend a nominee to President Jim Wagoner for formal invitation.

Send letters of nomination, including a statement of why the nominee’s accomplishments and ability to convey her/his work to an audience from many different disciplines, and the nominee’s curriculum vitae to Faculty Council Chair-Elect Kenneth Carter, kenneth.carter@emory.edu. Nominations will be accepted through March 1.

Dooley inspires the “Bones” event on Feb. 4.

By CAROL CLARK

The 2009 Founders Week, set for Feb. 1–9, looks back at the history of Emory, and looks forward at what changes may be in store for the world with the Obama presidency and shifting societal attitudes about everything from the role of women to conservation and race. Concerts, art exhibitions, dramatic performances and lectures from distinguished faculty are among the highlights of the annual mid-winter event.

Founders Week celebrates the founding of the University, the role of the University in promoting inquiry and intellectual life, and the wide range of the arts and sciences,” says Sally Wolff-Ring, assistant vice president of the University.

A Jane Austen Book and Film Festival will screen pop culture Hollywood adaptations of “Pride and Prejudice” and “Emma,” along with the biographical film, “Emma.”

Festivals and new works in music and the arts include the Staged readings from the Brave New Works Play Festival on Feb. 4, and an opening of Barwin-inspired works by Éve Andrée Laramée and performances by the St. Olaf Choir, the Atlanta Bach Ensemble and Karen Freer and the Thamyris New Music Ensemble are among other highlights.

Watch the archived webcast of “Zeroing in on Guinea worm” at www.cartercenter.org/conversations to hear Carter Center experts discuss the journey toward this public health achievement and the strategy to reach zero cases of the disease.

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Fuller scores as Carter Center grants push Guinea worm to all-time low

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter announced last month that cases of Guinea worm disease have reached an all-time low with fewer than 5,000 estimated cases remaining worldwide. Carter said this is due to the personal commitment and leadership of his wife, Rosalynn, who worked tirelessly to ensure the eradication effort received the support it needed.

Guinea worm disease is a water-borne disease, transmitted only by drinking contaminated water. The presence of Guinea worm disease (dracunculiasis) in a geographic area indicates abject poverty, including the absence of safe drinking water. The disease can be controlled through simple measures, such as filtering all drinking water and educating people who are infected to take precautions to prevent transmission.

Guinea worm disease will be the first disease to be wiped off the face of the Earth without a vaccine or medicine. However, the last cases of an eradication campaign are the most difficult and expensive to eliminate. Although infected cases become fewer and far between, surveillance of countries, including the smallest communities in the most remote areas, needs to be intensified to prevent outbreaks and setbacks. In the case of Guinea worm disease, which has an 8- to 12-year incubation period, there is a very high cost of maintaining a broad and sensitive monitoring system and providing a rapid response when necessary.

When the eradication campaign began in 1986, there were an estimated 3.5 million cases in 20 nations in Africa and Asia. Today cases remain in only eight countries and have been reduced by 99.7 percent.

In the first 10 months of 2008, only 7 cases were reported in Sudan, Ghana, Mali, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Niger. Cases are expected to remain below 5,000 for the year. Two countries — Nigeria and Niger — are expected to report their last case. Southern Sudan, northern Ghana, and eastern Mali are the main foci of eradication efforts.

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By CAROL CLARK

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Up in smoke: $14M grant targets China

By HOLLY KORSCHUN

Emory has received a $14 million, five-year grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help reduce the burden of tobacco use in China. The Emory Global Health Institute, in collaboration with the Tobacco Technical Assistance Consortium (TTAC) of Rollins School of Public Health, will establish the Emory Global Health Institute-China Tobacco Partnership, which will combine its significant public health expertise with that of health and government leaders in China to address a major international public health challenge, says Fred Sandilippo, executive vice president for global health affairs.

“Tobacco is the largest cause of preventable deaths globally and China has the most smokers in the world. There is a huge opportunity in this project to both impact a major international public health,” says Jeffrey Koplan, vice president for global health and director of the Emory Global Health Institute.

Koplan will serve as principal investigator of the grant and will lead the partnership along with Pamela Redmon, executive director of TTAC, a nationally recognized tobacco control lead and technical assistance provider in the United States.

Co-principal investigators for the partnership will be Kathy米尔曼, associate professor of public health at Rollins School of Public Health and principal investigator of TTAC, and Michael Eriksen, a noted expert in national and global tobacco control efforts and director of the Institute of Public Health at Georgia State University.

Nearly two-thirds of the world’s smokers live in 10 countries, with China having the highest tobacco use prevalence by far, according to the World Health Organization. Also according to WHO figures from 2005, there are more smokers in China than there are people living in the United States. In China, two-thirds of men are smokers, and it is estimated that 10 million tobacco-related deaths will occur among people currently age 0-29 if tobacco prevention and control efforts are not implemented.

Nearly 300 million Chinese have the largest population of smokers, which is in the shadow of the tobacco products in the world. The national tobacco monopoly is the leading manufacturer and seller of cigarettes, earning billions in tobacco profits and excise tax revenues.

According to research reported in the Jan. 8, 2009, New England Journal of Medicine, tobacco smoking was responsible for about 673,000 premature deaths in Chinese adults age 40 or older in 2005.

The Emory Global Health Institute-China Tobacco Partnership will support the development of effective, accountable and sustainable tobacco prevention and control initiatives that address China’s tobacco use and control. The program will be able to quickly and efficiently identify and mobilize global resources to assist China in reducing tobacco use.

The Emory Global Health Institute was established to advance the University’s commitment to improve health around the world through the creation of innovative global health programs. The TTAC, a trusted partner and collaborator with national tobacco control organizations, has developed and delivered training and assistance to all 50 states and the U.S. territories.

The Emory Global Health Institute-China Tobacco Partnership will collaborate and coordinate with the American Cancer Society and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office on Smoking and Health. The program’s advisory board will include representatives from Emory University, Georgia State, ACS and CDC.

The grant is part of the priority-setting process 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 Gates Foundation grant and the Emory Global Health Institute-China Tobacco Partnership will help snuff out smoking in China.

Moral disputes need judicial deference

By MARY LOFTUS

The most disputed constitutional issues of our times — abortion, capital punishment and same-sex unions — are examined in a new book by Emory Law Professor Michael J. Perry who argues that judges, especially U.S. Supreme Court Justices, should exercise deference in deciding whether a law should be declared unconstitutional.

“During this intensely political season when we focus on the Supreme Court, people tend to think, ‘I want [President-Elect] Obama to appoint judges who will favor the policy outcomes that I prefer.’ But even if the court, or a majority of it, believes that a law is unconstitutional, it does not mean that the court should rule that the law is unconstitutional,” says Perry. Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law and a senior fellow at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion.

Perry produced “Constitutional Rights, Moral Controversy, and the Supreme Court” (Cambridge University Press, 2009) in conjunction with the CSL’s Christian Jurisprudence research project, which is designed to provide a comprehensive analysis of the contributions of modern Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox figures to fundamental questions of law, politics and society.

“Instead of asking only ‘Is the law unconstitutional?’ Perry says the court should also ask: ‘Is it reasonable to conclude that the law does not violate the right it is claimed to violate?’

Toxicity mechanism identified for Parkinson’s disease research

By QUINN EASTMAN

Emory scientists have identified how a disruption of protein recycling can cripple brain cells in Parkinson’s disease.

The results were published in the Jan. 2, 2009 issue of Science. Neurologists have observed for decades that Lewy bodies, clumps of aggregated proteins inside cells, appear in the brains of patients with Parkinson’s and other neurodegenerative diseases.

The presence of Lewy bodies suggests underlying problems in protein recycling and waste disposal, leading to the puzzle of how does disrupting those processes injure the brain?

One possible answer: by breaking a survival circuit called MEF2D. Researchers led by pharmacologist Zixu Mao have discovered that MEF2D is sensitive to the main component of Lewy bodies, a protein called alpha-synuclein.

In cell cultures and animal models of Parkinson’s, an accumulation of alpha-synuclein interferes with the cell’s recycling of MEF2D, leading to cell death. MEF2D is especially abundant in the brains of people with Parkinson’s, the researchers found.

Most cases of Parkinson’s disease are termed sporadic, meaning that there is no obvious genetic cause. But some rare inherited forms of Parkinson’s can be linked to mutations in the gene for alpha-synuclein or triplications of the gene. The mutations and triplications cause the brain to produce a toxic form of alpha-synuclein or more alpha-synuclein than normal.

“HOWEVER, it’s toxic, but alpha-synuclein isn’t part of the cell’s machinery of death and survival,” Mao says.

He and his colleagues studied a process called chaperone-mediated autophagy (CMA), a disposal mechanism for alpha-synuclein.

In CMA, proteins are funneled into lysosomes, compartments of the cell devoted to chewing up discarded proteins. Mao’s team found that over- abundant alpha-synuclein interferes with CMA, causing MEF2D protein levels to rise. When CMA is disrupted, most of the accumulated MEF2D can’t be processed. The MEF2D can’t be processed may indicate that the protein is improperly folded or otherwise modified.

“By the process, a lot of it, something is making the MEF2D protein inactive,” Mao says.

Further research could identify drugs that regulate MEF2D, allowing brains cells to survive stresses that impair protein recycling, he suggested.
There's something that's happened in the world which we live, but those whom, like President Obama, possess the courage to act, and to persevere in the face of extremely challenging circumstances.

My membership on what is fondly called the MLK Committee, I've served my role as assistant to the founder and chair of the first-ever Rollins School of Public Health MLK Program in 1993. This initial program was conceived to provide the opportunity for the BSR to fulfill its goal to reflect and learn from the work and teachings of Dr. King.

That first year, I assisted with every aspect of sponsoring a program, for the very first time. This involved creating the invitation list which included inviting individuals from all over campus, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and individuals from the greater Atlanta community. I secured the program site, coordinated program logistics, oversaw the reception, and managed the program budget.

Still high from the success of that initial program, the following year I assumed even more responsibility (if that was possible) and a faculty and students across the school to participate. Around that same time, I also became the Rep. Rocker to the University's MLK Rollins School of Public Health Committee which meant reporting on our school's activities and ensuring they were included on the University-wide MLK Observance Calendar.

In 1999, the Rollins School of Public Health partnered with the Greater Atlanta Community Foundation to sponsor what over the years transitioned into the Community Service Award, which was named after the University-wide MLK Observance Calendar.

In 2009, the Rollins School of Public Health partnered with the Greater Atlanta Community Foundation to sponsor what over the years transitioned into the Community Service Award, which was named after the University-wide MLK Observance Calendar. The program recognizes those members of our community who raise awareness, and impel action that embody the valued articulate by Dr. King. Upon accepting my current position at Goizueta, I soon became its University representative as well.

Over the years, I've been called the “sustainability link” between the past and the present for the event that has evolved in reaching out to recognize those innovators of change within our community. I humbly accept this accolade, while a little voice inside wonders: hey, are they saying that I’m old?

As I reflect on the 15-plus years that I had the privilege of serving on both of these committees, my love and respect and commitment have remained steadfast. In truth, serving on these committees has renewed my personal commitment to fighting cynicism, apathy, and sexism, which I hope that I am doing by “paying it forward” as a mentor, and writing books and articles that empower girls and women to celebrate their humanity.

Dr. King once said, “Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don't have to have college degrees to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree. You need only a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

So, I invite each and everyone to serve on a committee like the MLK Holiday Observance, or attend or participate in the many programs on campus or in the Atlanta community. I guarantee that you'll be inspired, even energized. Perhaps you too will discover your own bliss. I have.

Carol Gee is an editor for Goizueta Business School.

Exploring new frontier of predictive health

By ROBIN TRICOLE

If you weren’t born in the Southeast and didn’t move here until you were 21, your odds of suffering a stroke are lower than your Southeastern born and bred counterparts, says Daniel Lacklind, professor and director of graduate training and education in the department of biometry and epidemiology and the division of cardiology at the Medical University of South Carolina.

“If you weren’t born in the Southeast, but you’re living here, you have a protective factor,” explained Lacklind, speaking last month at the fourth annual Emory/Georgia Tech symposium on predictive health.

“There’s something that’s happening in the early life that seems to make the difference.”

In fact, the Southeast includes a juggled geographic area known as the Stroke Belt.

What may be happening in stroke and other diseases has become an important area of interest among researchers and health care providers alike and is now part of medicine known as predictive health. Predictive health is a new paradigm that defines the unique characteristics that predict disease risk for individuals and populations. It uses new discoveries in biochemistry to emphasize health and disease prevention, rather than the treatment of disease.

Although predictive health emphasizes quality of life through lifestyle maintenance, predictive health also promises to bolster the economic fitness and quality of U.S. health care.

“We can all agree that the last few months are the beginning of a new economic as well as a new political era in the United States. And therefore, the time is right for some new solutions to our broken health care delivery system. It’s becoming increasingly clear that the predictive, personalized health approach is one of the innovative answers to our current health care crisis,” said Fred Sanfilippo, Woodruff Health Sciences Center CEO.

The symposium, “Human Health: Molecules to Mankind,” focused on the biomedical factors that integrate biology, behavior and environment and emphasized maintaining health rather than treating disease.

One of the highlights of the symposium included new ways of defining and measuring health, economic benefits of health promotion and disease prevention, the metabolic determinants of health, pharmacoepidemiology and personalized medicine, and predicting health all the way from the laboratory to large population groups.

The symposium attracted more than 350 attendees and included speakers from academia, industry, and government. The presentations will also be available on the predictive health Web site at http://predictivehealth.emory.edu.

Coke CEO not down on economy

“Vision without execution is daydreaming,” says Coca-Cola Company President and CEO Muhtar Kent.

Kent told the audience at Goizueta’s Dean’s Leadership Speaker Series that the “Five Ps” — people, products, profit, people and the planet — will help the firm for sustainable growth into the future.

Kent’s advice to students on finding a job in a down economy: Coca-Cola is hiring for a small business. Not only would they be more involved in all aspects of the business, they’d learn to respect cash. “In big business, you never touch cash,” Kent notes. He said business leaders’ lack of concern for sustainability is the sheet is one of today’s business world.

An optimistic Kent also believes the country will come out of the current economic crisis “quicker than people think” as long as “Brand America” continues to thrive and remains strong.

—Alison Shireffs

Nutrition truths to chew over

Cheryl Williams, clinical dietitian for Emory Healthcare, busted some myths about eating for good health and weight control at the “Nutrition Myths” session Dec. 17.

Did you know that skipping meals or fasting is not a good way to lose weight? That eating after 8 p.m. does not cause weight gain? That fresh produce is not always healthier than frozen or canned? Williams discussed common misconceptions about food, diabetes and obesity in particular not to cut out any foods but instead cut down on the portions. She also pointed out resources for reliable nutrition information.

Her top tip: The best way to lose weight — and enable good health — is to cut back on calories and be more physically active.

—Leslie King
**Advance Notice**

**Dean’s Hours will discuss economy**

The Graduate School is hosting an additional Dean’s Hour to discuss the impact of the economic downturn on graduate students’ training. They will be held on Friday, Jan. 23, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Thursday, Feb. 19, from noon to 1 p.m. Locations will be announced later.

“It is important that we fashion a response to the current difficulties by engaging the collective wisdom, imagination and enthusiasm of the whole Graduate School,” says Dean Lisa Tedesco. “These sessions and the graduate school staff will provide resources and information as available and open an dialog about ‘how to best move forward in this changed environment.”

For more information, see http://www.graduateschool.emory.edu/about/announcements.php?id=494.

**Debate on illegal immigration**

“Keep em to those in our midst: A debate on illegal immigration,” co-sponsored by the Arts Center of Theology, will be held Tuesday, Feb. 3, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Candler School of Theology, Room 252. Catholic attorneys William Schmalack and Mark Scarpalander continue face-to-face debate as they began in print.

Free and open to the public, event co-sponsors include the Department of Religion, Center for Ethics, and the Parish and Social Justice Ministries of the Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta. For more information, call 404-727-8860.

**Diabetes fairs explain risk factors**

Two opportunities are offered to learn if you have diabetes or are at risk for the disease. The first is Friday, Jan. 23, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Classroom D on the second floor of Emory University Hospital and Friday, Jan. 30, from 7 to 9 a.m. at 1599 Clifton Rd.

Eddie Garmill, manager of wellness programs, says participants can talk with a wellness coach, have their finger pricked and get immediate results from the blood test. Learn what lifestyle changes are beneficial and about Tier Zero and Tier One premium discounts — those covered by insurance at 100 percent — available to help pay for medication.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 23-25 percent of those who are diabetic don’t know they have the disease.

For more information, see http://www.emory.edu/about/force/emory-emory spotlight/news/splight/news/diabetes.html.

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**Events surrounding Philip Glass’ “Akhnaten” visit**

**AKHNATEN: Open Dress Rehearsal for College and High School Students.** 2 p.m. Emerson Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050. RSVP to jmoro@emory.edu with name and school name.

**Performing Arts**

**AKHNATEN: Open Dress Rehearsal for College and High School Students.** 2 p.m. Emerson Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050. RSVP to jmoro@emory.edu with name and school name.

**Religion**


**Seminars**

**Beer, the Bible and Akhnaten: A Dialogue with Michael Homan, Xavier University of Louisiana, presenting.** 7 p.m. Reception Hall, Carlos Museum. Free. 404-727-4822.

**Workshops**

**Biblical Art and Akhnaten:** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 1599 Clifton Rd. Free. 404-727-8860.