

PEOPLE

Computer scientist James Taylor seeks to reverse engineer the program for life. **Page 3**



FIRST PERSON

King legacy inspires Carol Gee's commitment to service. **Page 7**



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'Singing archaeology' behind opera



Colossal statue of Amenhotep IV/Akhnaten

SANDRO VANNINI

By KIM URQUHART

At the Southeastern premiere of "Akhnaten" performed by The Atlanta Opera Jan. 23 and 25, Shalom Goldman will have the best seats in the house, and by his own admission, tears in his eyes. The professor of Hebrew and Middle Eastern Studies helped write the vocal text of Philip Glass' visionary opera, which imagines the story of the Egyptian pharaoh believed by many scholars to be the father of King Tutankhamun.

"I've gone to different countries and cities to see 'Akhnaten' produced, and it always knocks me out," says Goldman. The Emory performance celebrates the opera's 25th anniversary, and complements two Carlos Museum exhibitions on view through May 25: "Wonderful Things: The Harry Burton Photographs and the Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun" at the

museum and "Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs" at the Atlanta Civic Center.

Goldman first met the renowned composer in New York City in 1981. At a mutual friend's party in the East Village, the two began talking: Glass had just been commissioned by the Stuttgart Opera to create "Akhnaten," and Goldman, a graduate student at New York University studying the ancient Near East, had just returned from Egypt. Learning about Goldman's abilities to read hieroglyphics and translate ancient Middle Eastern languages, Glass recruited Goldman for the team developing the libretto.

Creating an opera about Akhnaten — the religious revolutionary whom subsequent pharaohs sought to erase from history — was a process based

Please see AKHNATEN page 8



Philip Glass (left) and Shalom Goldman at the 1984 world premiere of "Akhnaten" in Germany.

SHALOM GOLDMAN

King Week special with inauguration

By KIM URQUHART

Emory's King Week, an annual celebration of the life, work and interests of Martin Luther King Jr., features a range of service, education, entertainment and memorial activities Jan. 19–27.

"King Week this year is particularly poignant because of the inauguration of Barack Obama on Jan. 20," says Cynthia Shaw, chair of Emory's MLK Holiday Observance Committee, noting the parallels between King's vision and dream and the election of the nation's first African American president.

The keynote address "Civil Rights: Then and Now," by NAACP Chairman Julian Bond on Jan. 23, will highlight King's

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Watch history at viewing party

Catch some of this historic presidential inauguration at a viewing party Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Harland Cinema. Doors open at 9 a.m. and the official inauguration program begins at 10 a.m.

The Dobbs University Center will be providing popcorn throughout the day and a snack buffet will be available beginning at 11 a.m. There will be giveaways in the form of door prizes and mementos.

Harland has been reserved for the entire day and CNN will remain on after the inauguration activities and parade conclude.

Organizers note that this is organized as a drop-in event for members of the campus community as their schedules permit.

SGA College Council is coordinating the event with the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services, Center for Ethics, the DUC, the Center for Student Leadership and Service, the Office for Community and Diversity Transforming Community Project, Campus Life, and the Office of Student Leadership and Service.

—Leslie King

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.

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EMORY PROFILE: James Taylor



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

BRYAN MELTZ

Genome's 'dark matter'

Computer scientist propels research into new realms

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.

Genome 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 sequences 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 informatics 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 more fully understand both biology and computers and statistics. They are going to drive the next set of data."

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People

AAAS elects three faculty for their advancement of science

By HOLLY KORSCHUN

Jocelyne Bachevalier, Dale E. Edmondson and Barry D. Shur have been awarded the distinction of Fellow by 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 mon-



Jocelyne Bachevalier

keys 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



Barry Shur

the discovery, along with colleagues at the University of Pavia, Italy, of the three-dimensional structure of human MAO B, an enzyme important in age-related neurological disorders. These 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 interac-



Dale Edmondson

tions 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.

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. Hughston Physician of the Year Award from the Georgia Athletic Training Association.

As Emory team physician, Huey has provided medical attention to countless student-athletes since 2002. He is the executive director of Student Health and Counseling Services and a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.



Timothy L. Hussey, senior director of 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 prize honors scientists who are leaders in the advancement of understanding and treating genetic diseases.

Warren is the William Patterson Timmie 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.



MARBL names curator, starts director search



Poet, editor and professor Kevin Young is now curator of literary collections for MARBL.

KAY HINTON

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, African American and British literature. He also wants to build an archive 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 as a professor.

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

—Staff reports

“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: ltking@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 throughout 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 values in private 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 pluses 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 WPEC. 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



JON ROU

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

Continued from the cover

spirit of activism and social justice.

"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 vis-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.

King Week calendar

Tuesday, Jan. 20

Cannon Chapel Service.

Candler Singers, performing. 11 a.m. Cannon Chapel. 404-727-6225.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

READING: "Words That Changed the World." Noon. Coca Cola Commons.

FORUM: "Women Talking With Women: Reflecting on Race, Ethnicity and Culture." 4 p.m. Center for Women. 404-727-2031.

FORUM: "Boys to Men: A Dialogue for Change." 6 p.m. Winship Ballroom. 404-727-4148.

Birthday Cake Celebration. Voices of Inner Strength, performing. 8 p.m. Coca-Cola Commons. 404-727-8425.

Thursday, Jan. 22

Cannon Chapel Service.

11 a.m. Cannon Chapel. 404-727-6225.

Community Service Awards. Xernona Clayton, keynote. 4 p.m. Boynton Auditorium, Goizueta Business School. 404-727-7697.

Jazz Vespers Service. Dwight Andrews, presenting. 7 p.m. Cannon Chapel. 404-727-6153.

Friday, Jan. 23

EXHIBIT OPENING:

"Slave, Soldier, Citizen: The Journey of William H. Scott." 1:30 p.m. Woodruff Library.

On view through April 6.

KEYNOTE LECTURE: "Civil Rights: Then and Now."

Julian Bond, presenting. 4 p.m. Cannon Chapel. 404-727-6847.

FILM: "Soul of Justice: Thelton Henderson's American Journey." 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Harland Cinema. 404-727-4636.

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

"Beggars and Choosers: Motherhood is Not a Class Privilege in America" and **"Interrupted Life: Incarcerated Mothers in the United States."** Schatten Gallery, Woodruff Library. On view through March 12.

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Campus

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REPORT FROM: The 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. To help eliminate the remaining cases, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) announced new commitments totaling \$55 million to support the historic Carter Center-led eradication campaign.

“Guinea worm is poised to be the second disease eradicated from Earth, ending needless suffering for millions of people from one of the world’s oldest and most horrific afflictions,” said former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. “The reduction of Guinea worm cases by more than 99 percent proves that when people work together, great positive change is possible.”

The \$40 million grant from the Gates

Foundation is the largest challenge grant in Carter Center history. It includes an outright contribution of \$8 million and encourages other donor organizations and individuals to provide an additional \$32 million, which the Gates Foundation will match one-to-one. The successful completion of the challenge will raise \$72 million to finish Guinea worm eradication. DFID generously pledged approximately \$15 million to support the Guinea worm eradication campaign, and its support will be matched by the Gates Foundation. Both the Gates Foundation and DFID grants will be shared between the Center and the World Health Organization.

A water-borne disease, Guinea worm is 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 a one-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 six African nations and have been reduced by 99.7 percent.

In the first 10 months of 2008, only 4,410 cases of Guinea worm disease 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 — already may have reported their last case. Southern Sudan, northern Ghana, and eastern Mali are the main foci of eradication efforts.

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.

Founders Week considers history Hope for future shapes mid-winter celebration



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

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-King, assistant vice president of the University.

A Jane Austen Book and Film Festival will screen popular Hollywood adaptations of “Pride and Prejudice”

and “Emma,” along with the biographical “Becoming Jane.” Faculty members Judith Miller and Michele Schreiber will offer their perspectives on how money, marriage and love appear in Austen’s novels and their contemporary film adaptations. First editions of Austen’s major works, from Emory’s Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, will be on view in Woodruff Library throughout the week.

Visiting lecturers include Paul J. Quirk from the University of British Columbia, speaking on the topic “Change We Can Believe In’ Meets Reality: The Obama Presidency and the Limits of American Politics.” Conductor and violinist Victor Yampolsky, from Northwestern University, will compare Russian music and English drama in his talk, “Shostakovich and Shakespearean Protagonists.”

Steve Sanderson, former dean of Emory College and president of the Wildlife Conservation Society, will speak on “Conservation, Climate Change and the Human Prospect.” Taking the discussion beyond the Earth, the Emory planetarium plans to host a viewing of our nearest celestial neighbor, the moon, and the planet Saturn.

This year the Emory Distinguished Faculty Lecture will feature the law school’s Abdullahi An-Na’im addressing the topic of “American Muslims: Challenges and Prospects.”

Other Emory faculty members speaking during Founders Week include Susan Ashmore of Oxford College. Her talk is titled “Thoughts on White Supremacy: Atticus Haygood, White Southern Moderates and the New South.” Vice President Gary Hauk will speak on “The History of History at Emory,” and moderate a panel discussion on experiencing race, called “The Cost of Hope: No Small Change.”

A staged reading of a student work in progress called “Bones,” featuring college mascot Lord Dooley, will further explore the state of race on campus, from skin to skeleton.

Staged readings from the Brave New Works Play Festival will include “The Day of Murders in the History of Hamlet” by Bernard-Marie Koltès

and “Silverhill” by Thomas Gibbons. A gallery opening of Darwin-inspired works by Eve Andrée Laramée and performances by the St. Olaf Choir, the Atlanta Bach Ensemble, cellist Karen Freer and the Thamyris New Music Ensemble are among other highlights.

If the schedule gets too overwhelming, you may need to restore your balance. Enjoy traditional Chinese snacks and a demonstration of an ancient art by Tai Chi grand master Tingsen Xu, who will also deliver a lecture: “How Tai Chi Chuan Helps Relieve Stress.”

For a schedule of events, visit www.emory.edu/founders/.

Call for nominations: 2010 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer

The Faculty Council is soliciting nominations for the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for 2010. This lectureship recognizes the achievements of distinguished Emory faculty members. The faculty member selected will be invited to present a lecture that has broad appeal and that 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 Wagner for formal invitation.

Send letters of nomination, including a statement of 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.

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 life stories, according to international experts on memory who met at Emory in December.

Researchers from Germany, Denmark and American universities described their research on family narratives, “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 Emory Center for Myth and Ritual in American Life (MARIAL) and the Emory Cognition Project.

German scholar Harald Welzer talked about Germans who describe heroic acts of grandparents who were Nazis during World War II. “They do not deny the atrocities happened,” he said, “but they cannot accept the fact that their ancestors had anything to do with it.” Welzer’s research showed how Germans changed details of stories about their grandparents, often making them “good guys” during the Third Reich even though they were Nazis.

Dan McAdams, a Northwestern University psychology professor who studies life stories of adults, “focuses on the positive things,” especially in people who experience turning points that they recount as life lessons to younger generations. “They love to tell you stories about their lives,” he said, “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 his mother’s descent into dementia, and how that affects her identity. “Her new identity is that she is not herself,” he said, after describing his 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. “Oh, what a person becomes,” she says in a lucid, yet poignant moment.

The MARIAL Center plans to offer highlights of the conference in the new Journal of Family Life, www.journaloffamilylife.com.

—Beth Kurylo

CAMPAIGN EMORY

Up in smoke: \$14M grant targets China



A Gates Foundation grant and the Emory Global Health Institute-China Tobacco Partnership will help snuff out smoking in China. SPECIAL

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.

The Emory Global Health Institute will manage the partnership, which will collaborate with public health leaders in China to promote evidence-based approaches to reducing tobacco use that are tailored to the culture and circumstances of individual cities and provinces in China. The Emory Global

Health Institute will also provide funding and support to establish national tobacco control resource centers in China.

"This grant will allow Emory to 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 Sanfilippo, executive vice president for

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 have a major impact on global 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 leader and technical assistance provider in the United States.

Co-principal investigators for the partnership will be Kathy Miner, associate dean of applied 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 2003, 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 100 million tobacco-related deaths will occur among people currently age 0-29 if tobacco prevention and control efforts are not implemented.

Not only does China have the largest population of smokers, it also is the chief producer of 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 unique needs and challenges. 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 efforts 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 coordinate and collaborate 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, Georgia State, ACS and CDC.

The grant 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.

JUST PUBLISHED

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 CSLR'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: 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 either a toxic form of alpha-synuclein or more alpha-synuclein than normal.

"Somehow 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 overabundant alpha-synuclein interferes with CMA, causing MEF2D protein levels to rise. When CMA is disrupted, most of the accumulated MEF2D can't bind DNA. This may indicate that the protein is improperly folded or otherwise modified.

"Even though there's a lot of it, something is making the MEF2D protein inactive," Mao says.

Further research could identify drugs that regulate MEF2D, allowing brain cells to survive stresses that impair protein recycling, he suggested.

Forum

FIRST PERSON Carol Gee

Moved to serve by Martin Luther King Jr.



Carol Gee is a longtime member of the MLK Holiday Observance Committee that plans Emory's King Week activities.

ANN BORDEN

By CAROL GEE

As this year's Community Service Awards Program in memory of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. occurs, America will have installed its first African American president. For me in particular, and for many African Americans in general, the nomination of Barack Obama has demonstrated that while we

still have a ways to go before we can truly say that we have "overcome" as a race, it gives us hope that maybe we are moving in the right direction.

In adopting "Dreaming with the Courage to Act" as this year's theme, the King Week awards program will again recognize those individuals and organizations that not only envision solutions to the inequities that char-

acterize the world in 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 segued via 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 RSPH family 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 rallied faculty and students across the school to participate. Around that same time, I also became RSPH's representative to the University's MLK Holiday Observance Committee, which meant reporting on our school's activities and ensuring they were included on the University-wide Holiday Observance Calendar.

In 1999, the Rollins School of Public Health partnered with Goizueta Business School to co-sponsor what over the years transitioned into the Community Service Awards Program. The program recognizes those members in our community who raise

Carol Gee is an editor for Goizueta Business School.

awareness, and impel action that embody the values articulated 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 an 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 back 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 own personal commitment to fighting stereotypes, ageism 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 to serve. You only need 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 myriad 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.

SOUNDBITES

Shifting U.S. image on human rights

Can Barack Obama restore the reputation of the United States around the world? This question was tackled during a recent "Conversations at The Carter Center" panel discussion.

"I think the key to success going forward will be what we do as a people," said Larry Cox, executive director of Amnesty International USA. "Without tremendous support by the American people, there is a danger that President Obama, whatever his intentions, won't be able to do everything that needs to be done. The mountain of despair that was created over the last eight years is enormous and it will not be very quickly torn down and destroyed."

—Carol Clark

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" — portfolio, partners, profit, people and the planet — will position the company for sustainable growth into the future.

Kent's advice to students on finding a job in a down economy: Consider working 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 connection to the balance sheet is one of today's business world ills.

An optimistic Kent also believes the country will come out of the current financial crisis "quicker than people think" as long as "Brand America" continues to improve and remains strong.

—Allison Shirreffs

Exploring new frontier of predictive health

By ROBIN TRICOLES

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 Lackland, 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 were not born in the Southeast, but you're living here, you have a protective factor," explained Lackland, 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 jagged 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 biomedicine to emphasize health maintenance and health recovery — rather than the treatment of disease.

Although predictive health emphasizes quality of life through health 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,"



SPECIAL

focused on the biomedical factors that integrate biology, behavior and environment and emphasized maintaining health rather than treating disease.

Other topics at the symposium included new ways of defining and measuring health, economic benefits of health promotion and disease prevention, the metabolic determinants of health, pharmacogenomics and

personalized medicine, and predicting health all the way from the laboratory to large population groups. The Dec. 15-16 symposium attracted more than 350 attendees and included speakers from academia, industry, and government. The presentations will soon be available on the predictive health Web site at <http://predictivehealth.emory.edu>.

Nutrition truths to chew over

Cheryl Williams, clinical dietician for Emory Healthcare, busted some myths about eating for good health and weight control at a "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 and misinformation about food, dieting and meals, advising in particular not to cut out any foods but instead cut down on the portions. She also provided sources 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

Items are compiled from the University's master calendar, Events@Emory, and from individual submissions to Emory Report. Submit events at least two weeks prior to the publication date at emory.edu/home/events or christi.gray@emory.edu. Listings are subject to space limitations.

ADVANCE
NOTICE

Dean's Hours will
discuss economy

The Graduate School is holding two additional Dean's Hours to discuss the impact of the economic downturn on graduate education at Emory.

They will be 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 commitment of the whole Graduate School," says Dean Lisa Tedesco.

Tedesco says she and the graduate school staff will provide accurate information as available and lead an open dialogue about "how best to move forward in this changed environment."

For more information, see <http://www.graduateschool.emory.edu/about/announcements.php?id=9>.

Debate on illegal
immigration set

"Responses to those in our midst: A debate on illegal immigration," co-sponsored by the Aquinas Center of Theology, will be held Tuesday, Feb. 3, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Candler School of Theology, Room 252. Catholic attorneys William Chip and Michael Scaperlanda continue face-to-face a debate 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 Charities of the 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 fairs are 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 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1599 Clifton Rd.

Eddie Gammill, 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 drugs and monitors — those covered by insurance at 100 percent — available to help treat the condition.

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

For more information, see <http://www.hr.emory.edu/eu/spotlight/newspotlight.html>.

Athletics

Friday, Jan. 23

Women's Basketball v. New York University. 6 p.m.*

Men's Basketball v. New York University. 8 p.m.*

Sunday, Jan. 25

Men's Basketball v. Brandeis University. Noon.*

Women's Basketball v. Brandeis University. 2 p.m.*

*Woodruff P.E. Center. Free. 404-727-6447.

Performing Arts

Tuesday, Jan. 20

AKHNATEN: Open Dress Rehearsal for College and High School Students. 7 p.m. Emerson Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050. *RSVP to jkmoore@emory.edu with number attending and school name.*

Friday, Jan. 23

Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta Noontime Series. William Fitzpatrick, violin, performing. Noon. Reception Hall, Carlos Museum. Free. 404-727-5050.

Sunday, Jan. 25

Vega String Quartet, performing. 4 p.m. Reception Hall, Carlos Museum. \$4. 404-727-5050.

Religion

Sunday, Jan. 25

University Service. 11 a.m. Cannon Chapel. Free. 404-727-6225. *Every Sunday.*

Seminars

Tuesday, Jan. 20

"Beer, the Bible and Archaeology." Michael Homan, Xavier University of Louisiana, presenting. 7 p.m. Reception Hall, Carlos Museum. Free. 404-727-4282.

Special

Wednesday, Jan. 21

Toastmasters @ Emory. 8 a.m. 231 Dental School Building. Free. 770-317-6285.

"Prayers for Peace and the Peoples of the Middle East." Noon. Cannon Chapel. Free. 404-727-6225.

BOOK SIGNING: "We Can Have Peace in the Holy Land." Jimmy Carter, author, signing. 5 p.m. Carter Presidential Library and Museum. Free. 404-865-7109.

Workshops

Wednesday, Jan. 21

Blackboard Training. 2 p.m. 215 Woodruff Library. Free. www.cet.emory.edu/ecit/events.

Thursday, Jan. 22

WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS: "Royal Class-African Art for the Classroom." Jessica Stephenson, curator, presenting. 5 p.m. Carlos Museum. \$15; \$10 members. 404-727-2363.

Visual Arts

Now Showing

"Min Kim Park: Zummarella." Visual Arts Gallery. Free. 404-712-4390. *Through Jan. 24.*

"Time and Silence: Photographs by Leslie A. Real." Chace Upper Lobby, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050. *Through Jan. 31.*

"Art by the Emory Visual Arts Faculty." Lobby and First and Second Floors, School of Medicine. Free. 404-712-9894. *Through Feb. 28.*

"Tutankhamun: The Golden King and The Great Pharaohs." Atlanta Civic Center. Ticket prices vary. www.kingtut.org/. *Through May 25.*

"Wonderful Things: The Harry Burton Photographs and the Discovery of the Tomb of Tutankhamun." Carlos Museum. \$7 donation; free, Emory students, faculty and staff. 404-727-4282. *Through May 25.*

Events surrounding Philip Glass' 'Akhnaten' visit

Friday, Jan. 23 & Sunday, Jan. 25 Philip Glass' "Akhnaten" performed by The Atlanta Opera. Arthur Fagen, conductor; Richard Kagey, director; John Gaston (Akhnaten), Mary Ann McCormick (Nefertiti), Kiera Duffy (Queen Tye), Brent Davis (Horemhab). **Jan. 23 at 8 p.m.** and **Jan. 25 at 5 p.m.** Emerson Hall, Schwartz Center. **Event is sold out.** (*Call to be put on a waiting list for tickets for Emory employees and students by calling 404-727-5050.*)

Thursday, Jan. 22 Colloquium on Philip Glass' "Akhnaten." Richard Kagey, Atlanta Opera, presenting. 2:30–3:50 p.m. Emerson Hall, Schwartz Center. Free.

Panel discussion: "Historical and Imagined Akhnaten." Melinda Hartwig, Georgia State University; Shalom Goldman, Emory; and Richard Kagey, Atlanta Opera. 7 p.m. Reception Hall, Carlos Museum. Free.

Friday, Jan. 23 Pre-Opera Talk with Carter Joseph, Atlanta Opera. 7–7:30 p.m., Emerson Hall, Schwartz Center. *For Jan. 23 "Akhnaten" ticket holders only.*

Sunday, Jan. 25 Public Pre-Opera Conversation with Composer Philip Glass and Shalom Goldman. 3:30–4:30 p.m. Glenn Memorial Auditorium. Free.

Monday, Jan. 26 Creativity Conversation with Philip Glass. 4 p.m. Carlos Museum, Reception Hall. Free.

Philip Glass Introduces Public Screening of Martin Scorsese's "Kundun." 6:30 p.m. introduction; 7:15 p.m. screening. 208 White Hall. Free. www.filmstudies.emory.edu.

For more information on "Akhnaten" events visit www.arts.emory.edu.

AKHNATEN: Goldman places era in aria

Continued from the cover

upon fragments from ancient texts that Goldman describes as "singing archaeology." Goldman inspired Glass to visit Egypt to discover the pharaoh's story.

In the beginning, Goldman served as "the research guy," the resident scholar and guide who helped the team form a picture of who Akhnaten might have been. He was responsible for collecting, and sometimes translating, material gathered from stone inscriptions and burial sites in the "lost city" of Akhnaten. "This was, of course, long before the Internet," laughs Goldman, who spent "days and days in the old libraries of New York, finding photographs and texts from Akhnaten's time."

Glass later asked Goldman to help fashion the texts he unearthed into a story, and Goldman became an official writer for the opera, shaping the libretto along with Glass, Robert Israel and Richard Riddell. For example, a love poem uncovered on a gold leaf

found in a royal sarcophagus of the Armana period perhaps written by Akhnaten's queen, Nefertiti, would inspire the second act. The goal was to create a living work out of dead languages, Goldman explained.

In keeping with the opera's authenticity, Goldman wrote the vocal texts in three languages spoken during Akhnaten's time: ancient Egyptian, Biblical Hebrew and Akkadian. In addition, the opera would feature an actor reciting ancient Egyptian texts in English, or the language of the specific performance's audience.

Performed worldwide, "Akhnaten: An Opera in Three Acts for Orchestra, Chorus and Soloists" has also become "a very beautiful and successful CD recording," notes Goldman. He had been a "passionate lover of music and of opera, but this was my first real connection to a performance production," says Goldman, who still recalls the excitement of the opera's 1984 premiere in Stuttgart, Germany.

Goldman will again engage with his friend Glass, who will be on campus to participate in several public events in conjunction with the sold-out "Akhnaten" performances, at a pre-opera conversation on Jan. 25. On Jan. 26, Glass will discuss how his collaborations with artists ranging from Woody Allen to Allen Ginsberg have fed his own creativity in a "Creativity Conversation" with Emory's Rosemary Magee, and introduce a free screening of Martin Scorsese's "Kundun" (Glass, active in Tibetan causes, composed the Academy Award-winning score for the film about His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama.)

Glass' Emory visit is made possible by co-sponsorship from the Carlos Museum, the Emory Coca-Cola Artists-in-Residence Program, the Emory University Creativity & Arts Initiative, the Emory College Center for Creativity & Arts, an anonymous friend of the arts at Emory, and the Flora Glenn Candler Concert Series.

Akhnaten podcast

Learn about Akhnaten in the Carlos Conversations podcast, "The Shock of the New: Akhnaten, Tutankhamun, and the Religious Imagination." Carlos Curator of Egyptian Art Peter Lacovara, Professor of Middle Eastern Studies Shalom Goldman, and Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Art History Gay Robins explore the radical changes to Egyptian religion and art brought about by the "heretic" pharaoh Akhnaten, the restoration of the traditional religion during the reign of his son, Tutankhamun, and the place that both these kings, despite their rather short reigns, hold in the popular imagination.

Listen at carlos.emory.edu/podcasts.