

PHOTO CONTEST

Students, submit your best shot from a global health project. **Page 4**



FIRST PERSON

Chris Megerian reflects on his journey to a region mired in conflict. **Page 7**



PEOPLE: Sidney Perkowitz' sci-fi flick picks **3**

CAMPUS: Emory can help with your taxes **5**

DISCOVERY: Device detects Alzheimer's **6**

EVENTS: Golson headlines Jazz Fest **8**

SPECIAL FOUNDERS WEEK INSERT

A meeting of minds in the Middle East



At home with conflict: A Palestinian girl faces an uncertain future in a land where political and religious tensions dominate daily life.

CHRIS MEGERIAN

By CAROL CLARK

During the winter break, while many people were relaxing or traveling for fun, a group of Emory students joined a Journeys trip to the Middle East, to get up close and personal with some of the toughest problems facing the world today.

For Jonathan Endelman, a powerful moment was meeting Peter Nasir — a Palestinian, and an

Emory alumnus, who served the group lunch at his restaurant in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

“Someone asked him what he would do if all the Israeli checkpoints and soldiers went away,” Endelman recalls. “He said that he’d been living under that military control for so long that he couldn’t imagine what that would be like.”

Please see MIDDLE EAST on page 7

Endowment assets rise 14.2 percent in a year

By NANCY SEIDEMAN

Emory University’s endowment’s net increase was 14.2 percent for the year ending June 30, 2007, according to an annual review of university endowment performance issued by the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

The figures show that Emory’s endowment grew to \$5.6 billion, ranking 17th among all colleges and universities. The annual investment return was 19.9 percent (before taking into account gifts and spending), while spending represented 4.4 percent of assets.

The total net change in endowment value is determined

Please see ENDOWMENT on page 5

Raising IQ of Web searches

By CAROL CLARK

Eugene Agichtein was born in Moscow in 1976 — a time and place when access to information was not taken for granted. He recalls that illegal books by Solzhenitsyn and Bulgakov came to his family’s home in the form of loose-leafed, mimeographed pages that were quietly passed among friends.

“Of course, I wanted to read them all,” says Agichtein, who immigrated to the United States with his family when he was 13.

In 2006, Agichtein joined Emory, where he is assistant professor in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department and director of the department’s Intelligent Information Access Lab. He recently received a “Beyond

Please see WEB on page 6

LET US SHARE YOUR STORY

Emory Report is starting the new year with a new look, designed to serve you better. Each issue of ER chronicles the accomplishments, endeavors and aspirations of the Emory community, and we wanted to create a design that would best present that story.

We hope you'll tell us what you'd like to see within these pages. Please send your suggestions or feedback to kim.urquhart@emory.edu.

ABOUT US

Emory Report serves as an informative, lively and comprehensive resource for news and events of vital interest to staff and faculty. The weekly publication highlights the Emory community's accomplishments, endeavors and aspirations that reflect the University's identity and strategic vision.

SUBMISSIONS

Emory Report welcomes contributions from readers, including "First Person" opinion pieces, calendar items and story ideas in general. Contact the Emory Report staff by phone at 404-727-9507; by fax at 404-727-0646; or by e-mail to kim.urquhart@emory.edu.

DEADLINES

The deadline for copy is 10 days before the desired publication date.

EMORY report

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EMORY PROFILE: Michael Prietula



BRYAN MELTZ

Michael Prietula, professor of information systems and operations management and adjunct professor of psychology, blends innovative concepts into his research and teaching.

Diving into different fields

Professor perfects practice, comes up with new entities

By AMYE WALTERS

Before becoming a professor at Emory, Michael Prietula taught at a very different level: below the Atlantic Ocean's surface. With a family based in Jacksonville, Fla., Prietula was "always into water sports." His initial exposure to scuba diving was with instructors from the nearby Mayport Naval Station, and he soon became a certified PADI instructor. Prietula continues to dive recreationally, but focuses his teaching efforts on dry land.

Though well-known for its engineering program, Carnegie Mellon University has the country's oldest drama department. While teaching in the business school there, Prietula built an acting course to improve his students' communication skills. The course, which is still offered, was unique in that it truly was an acting class that developed all the skills needed to communicate, rather than a business communication class. Prietula had the vision that certain dramatic skills translated well to a life off the stage, whether that meant a boardroom, an interview or a research environment.

Since joining Goizueta Business School six years ago, Prietula has brought similar innovation to this campus. Last year he ran an international conference, gathering the world's leading social science computational modelers at Emory.

In addition to serving as a professor of information systems and operations management, Prietula is an adjunct professor of psychology. His "Psychology of Technology" course will be a component of the University's partnering with iTunes U. In remodeling the course, Prietula turned to his students. Their study project looked at the best uses to apply when iTunes U launches.

As evidenced in the courses he's created, Prietula has a habit of combining elements of differing fields into his own freestanding entity. He also takes this approach in his research endeavors. Prietula, along with Jim Buehler, a research professor and physician in the Department of Epidemiology, are members of a team that chase disasters to study the relationship between public health issues, information flow and technology. On another project, he is on a team studying emergency operations centers and building a "virtual EOC" computer simulation platform.

Reconnecting with his contacts at Carnegie Mellon, Prietula is working with an old friend, Don Marinelli, a co-director of the school's Entertainment Technology Center. The pair, along with Buehler, are bringing a novel approach to the One Laptop Per Child project. "We want Emory to be at the forefront in developing public health games for kids in developing countries," says Prietula.

On his desk

Between his work in gaming competency and having a wife who is a computer scientist, Michael Prietula doesn't consider an old machine's destiny to be the landfill or recycling. He considers them collectibles and is proud of the "antiques" he's gathered at home and work. Here's what you can find on his desk at Emory:

1. Original Macintosh
2. iMacs
3. Mac II
4. Next Cube
5. Nextstation

From language to cultural differences to varying public health needs, much consideration is necessary during development. When designing these games, Prietula and his colleagues must contemplate what issues are at hand: safe drinking water or AIDS education; which characters appear within the game; should an elder or friends be the teaching mechanisms? The Entertainment Technology Center will work with the Emory team and implement it as a game.

These researchers are just getting started on this project and recruiting their team, Prietula says. Worldwide integration will take years. Where many would find this a daunting challenge, Prietula exudes obvious enthusiasm over the idea of "making a game and changing the world."

Much of Prietula's work is centered around the study of expertise and acquisition of skill. In an article published in the July/August 2007 issue of the Harvard Business Review, titled "The Making of an Expert," Prietula and his co-authors propose that expertise comes from time spent practicing, but practicing in very particular ways: "The journey to truly superior performance is neither for the faint of heart nor for the impatient. The development of genuine expertise requires struggle, sacrifice and honest, often painful self-assessment." Prietula has found the time to practice many fascinating concepts.

People

Stranger than science fiction:
A physicist's foray in Hollywood

By CAROL CLARK

What happens when you take years of scientific training and stir in a passion for art, movies and literature? It's the kind of experiment that could blow up in your face, unless you have the talent and tenacity of Sidney Perkowitz, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Physics.

"I have a lot of experience as a research physicist, but my career has turned in a different direction," says Perkowitz, whose writing oeuvre includes the pop science book "Universal Foam: From Cappuccino to the Cosmos;" the play "Glory Enough: Rosalind Franklin and DNA;" and provocative articles such as "Doughnuts Reveal Life's Secrets."

His latest nonfiction book, "Hollywood Science: Movies, Science and the End of the World," takes on the aliens, monsters and planetary disasters of the silver screen. Drawing from the earliest science-fiction movies to more recent hits, like "The Matrix," Perkowitz explores how scientific reality and Hollywood often collide, but occasionally coincide.

"I think the science-fiction movies I watched when I was a kid had a lot to do with me becoming interested in science," says Perkowitz, who grew up

Sidney Perkowitz's
picks and pans

Thumbs up

"Gattaca" (1997): "The premise of this movie is that, if I can know your DNA, I can know everything about you. Ultimately, it is about the triumph of the human spirit over this belief."

"The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951): "This movie is important because it's a warning against nuclear war and it explores the issues of where science will take us."

Thumbs down

"The Core" (2003): "The U.S. tests a way to create earthquakes, to use as a secret weapon. A side effect is it stops the core of the Earth from spinning. This movie is so contemptuous of science that you have to hold your nose to watch it."

"What the Bleep Do We Know?" (2004): "It seems to be saying that if you believe in quantum mechanics, you can change the world around you just by mind power."

The heroine uses this power to reduce her thighs."

in the 1950s and recalls the sense of wonder instilled in him by movies like "The Thing from Another World."

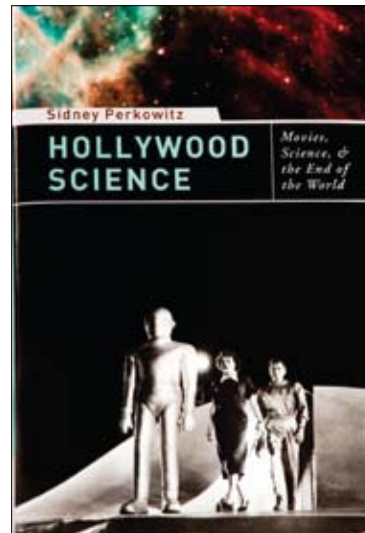
He gives the highest marks to sci-fi films that are as accurate as they are entertaining. "If you can make a movie funny or dramatic and exciting, then why can't you get the science right, too?" he asks.

And who better to take on that challenge than Perkowitz himself? Just two months after the publication of "Hollywood Science," he put the finishing touches on his first film script and sent it out to an agent in January.

"The working title is 'The Second Obsession' and it's about cloning," Perkowitz says. "Isn't that cool? To be realistic, the chances the script will get anywhere are one in 100,000. But it was a lot of fun to write."

The plot revolves around a geneticist who has been in love with the same girl since high school. "She ends up marrying his brother, who is a jock," Perkowitz says. "It's the nerd scientist lament."

The geneticist steals the woman's DNA and clones her. Unlike some movies about cloning, which distort the facts to make the cloned individual the same age as the subject the DNA



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS

came from, Perkowitz sticks to realism and has the clone emerge as a baby. The geneticist adopts the cloned baby and waits for her to grow up.

"This is more than just a rocket-ship-blasting-off science movie," Perkowitz says. "Obviously, the geneticist is doing something that a lot of people wouldn't agree with, although I do give him some redemption in the end, when he tries to make up for everything he did. I think the best science-fiction movies don't necessarily focus on the science, but more on the impact of science on people and society."

ACCLAIM

William Bornstein, chief quality officer of Emory Healthcare, has been named vice chair of the Professional and Technical Advisory Committee of the Joint Commission Hospital Accreditation Program.

The PTAC is composed of health care experts who advise and assist in the development of new and revised standards, and recommend improvements to the accreditation process.

Bornstein is a representative to the PTAC for the American Hospital Association. An independent, not-for-profit organization, the Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States.



Dana Sayre-Stanhope, acting associate professor and director of the Emory Physician Assistant Program, began her term at the first of the year as president of the Physician Assistant Education Association.

PAEA is a national organization representing physician assistant educational programs, whose mission emphasizes faculty development and the business of PA education.

Sayre-Stanhope, who was elected in October in Quebec, had served on the PAEA board for three years.



Jacob Wright, assistant professor of Hebrew Bible in the Candler School of Theology, is a winner of the 2008 John Templeton Award for Theological Promise. He earned the award for his book, "Rebuilding Identity: The Nehemiah Memoir and its Earliest Readers," published by De Gruyter in 2004.

The Templeton Award for Theological Promise was founded by John Mark Templeton, a billionaire philanthropist and promoter of the interplay between religion and science. It is specifically designated for junior scholars of religion.



"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: kim.urquhart@emory.edu.

Fellowship can guide students' life work

By BEVERLY CLARK

Emory's newest Community Building Fellows have wide-ranging backgrounds and career aspirations, from health care and law to education, politics and social work. They don't have much in common, except for a fundamental desire to bring positive change to their communities and gain the skills to do so.

A successful centerpiece of Emory's Office of University-Community Partnerships, the Emory Community Building Fellowship is a national model for engaged learning programs. It provides undergraduates with an intensive year of training, research and experience culminating in an intensive summer-long practicum working on community initiatives in metro Atlanta.

Junior Shari Sprosta, a political science major, is one of 11 students who make up the sixth class of fellows. With plans to

attend law school, Sprosta said she sees the fellowship as a fundamental asset to her future career.

"I have always wanted to make a difference in the lives of those who have been either marginalized or victimized by their environments, but I could never conceptualize fully my task," she said. "Because the fellowship makes it possible for me to truly delve into diverse communities, I expect to form valuable relationships and gain a clearer picture of my life's true purpose, and have skills by which to stimulate change."

Results of past fellows' work include the completion of 20 projects that have produced policy change and new programs and entities. Fellows also have expanded the capacity of existing community initiatives to effectively address issues such as HIV/AIDS, housing, public education quality, urban sprawl, citizen engagement and more.

2008 Community
Building Fellows

Christopher Brooks, senior, political science
Julia Cadwallender, junior, sociology
Johanna Elsemore, senior, sociology
Matthew Grinney, senior, political science
Chiemezie Ibekwe, junior, educational studies
Jim Lu, junior, biology
Tiffany McDonald, senior, sociology
Yae Park, junior, political science
Shari Sprosta, junior, political science
Maria Town, junior, comparative literature
Contessua Walker, junior, political science, sociology

"The fellowship is an excellent example of Emory's engagement with the greater Atlanta community. It provides our students with real world opportunities to learn and practice the skills needed to foster collaborative, cross-sector problem-solving and it provides our community partners with critical resources needed to move their work forward," says Michael Rich, associate professor of political science and director of the OUCP.

Emory launched the fellowship program, the first of its kind in the United States, in 2001 with a seed gift from fashion executive Kenneth Cole, an Emory alumnus and a former University trustee.

Students selected for the competitive program receive a stipend of \$3,500 for their summer community work, a summer housing allowance, 12 hours of academic credit and a summer tuition scholarship.

NEWSMAKERS



"Understanding the evolution [of syphilis] is important not just for biology, but for understanding social and political history."

— **George Armelagos**, chair of the department of anthropology, in "Add Syphilis to Columbus' Discoveries, Study Says," in the New York Times Jan. 15.

TAKE NOTE

Campus updates for severe weather

Severe weather conditions may cause the University to announce delays or cancellations of normal campus activities.

To obtain updated information, University community members can call the University's Weather Information Line at 404-727-1234; check the University's Web site at www.emory.edu/EMERGENCY; consult local radio and TV news broadcasts; and watch for all-Emory broadcast e-mail advisories.

The University's inclement weather policy is online at <http://policies.emory.edu/4.42>.

Humanitarian Award winners named

Emory College students Zain Ahmed, Alexander Kappus and Stephanie LaPointe; Anneliese Millones of the School of Medicine and Benish Shah of the School of Law are the University's 2008 Humanitarian Award winners.

The honor recognizes students who embody a spirit of volunteerism and sense of community, both on and off campus. Peers and faculty nominate students who demonstrate honesty, integrity, responsibility and a sense of community, perform special acts of courage and friendship; and commit an unusual amount of time and energy to service for others.

The community is invited to attend the reception that follows the award ceremony on Wednesday, Jan. 30, at 8 p.m. in the Winship Ballroom.

Luther E. Smith, associate dean, faculty development and professor of church and community in the Candler School of Theology, will give the address.

Kids' sports camp enrolling now

Emory Sports Fitness camp has, for 44 years, offered a safe environment for children to enjoy physical activity, including team sports, aquatics, gymnastics/tumbling and track and field.

This year's camp runs June 2-22 for boys and girls ages 5-12. It is held at the Woodruff Physical Education Center. Sessions from one to three weeks, half-day and full-day are available.

Emory's varsity coaches and physical education department faculty members will lead the program.

For more information, go to www.emorysportsfitnesscamp.com. E-mail Myra Sims at msims@emory.edu with questions not answered on the Web site.

Photos in new gallery tell stories of global health issues



A young Bangladeshi girl bathes in the pond near her farming village.

BILLY HOWARD

By ROBIN TRICOLES

The Emory Global Health Institute, a University-wide initiative that supports faculty, students and alumni in their work to find solutions to critical global health problems, opened a new photography gallery in its offices at 1599 Clifton Rd., 6th floor. The gallery features photographs by Atlanta photographer Billy Howard taken in Bangladesh, Nicaragua, Mexico and Ghana.

Howard's work focuses on health, education and social themes. His photography has been exhibited internationally and is part of the permanent collections of the Library of Congress, the High Museum of Art, The Carter Center, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. His photographs were featured during the opening ceremonies of the 1996 Olympic Games in a tribute to Martin Luther

King Jr. They also appear in the book "The Unfinished Presidency: Jimmy Carter's Journey Beyond the White House," by Douglas Brinkley.

The gallery was supported by Atlanta gallery owner and philanthropist Robert Yellowlees. Yellowlees is the founder of Atlanta's Lumière Gallery and has collected photography and been a serious amateur photographer for more than 30 years.



Pets await their young playmate at the Hugo Chavez barrio outside Managua, Nicaragua.

BILLY HOWARD

Students: give contest a shot

The Global Health Institute is hosting its first student photography contest.

Who can enter?

Emory students can submit photographs taken during a global health field experience.

Prizes: Five winners will be selected per year and will receive a \$500 cash prize and a plaque. The 2008 winners will be announced in early October.

Deadlines: Submit photos by Sept. 5, to Suzanne Mason, at 1599 Clifton Road Building, Room 6.414, Atlanta, GA 30322.

For full contest details, visit www.globalhealth.emory.edu.

Get help filing for tax credit

By ELIZABETH ELKINS

For the first time, Emory is participating in the Atlanta Prosperity Campaign, an effort to increase wealth and assets among low-income working individuals and families through enrollment in the Earned Income Tax Credit program.

The EITC reduces the amount of federal taxes owed by a qualifying taxpayer. In many cases, qualified individuals do not know the credit is available to them, and fail to file their taxes correctly. To remedy this situation, Emory will offer tax help for individuals and families who qualify for the EITC.

Emory is screening all employees and will notify those who meet the qualifications for assistance.

Generally, employees with household incomes under \$40,000 annually will qualify. From Feb. 5 through April 10, those employees can receive step-by-step help with their Form 1040s, U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns.

The tax assistance will come

in the form of a cadre of 53 volunteers, which includes Emory faculty, staff, students and retirees (each of whom will undergo a day-long IRS training session).

"I've been doing my own taxes for years," says volunteer Laura Pokalsky of Emory College administration computing support. "I really enjoy the organizational part of it. It's challenging and fun. I'm excited to help people who can't do it themselves, and to help ease their anxiety."

Times for tax assistance

Confidential tax preparation for qualified individuals will be available Feb. 5 through April 10, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. (last appointment at 7 p.m.) and Wednesdays from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. (last appointment at 8 a.m.) at Human Resources, 1599 Clifton Road. Call 404-727-7611 to schedule an appointment.

Talk to explore Grady's history

By KIM URQUHART

The past, present and future of Grady Memorial Hospital provides the context for the Transforming Community Project's third annual "Experiencing Race at Emory" event. At a Founders Week panel discussion on Tuesday, Feb. 5, individuals representing Emory University and the Emory School of Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine and Grady Memorial Hospital will share their stories in "Three Part Harmony: Listening to the Voices of Emory, Morehouse and Grady." Vice President Gary Hauk, author of "A Legacy of Heart and Mind: Emory Since 1836," will moderate the discussion, which begins at 6 p.m. in Cannon Chapel.

A diverse slate of panelists offers the opportunity to "hear from people that are working at Grady, Emory and Morehouse day to day and who are working for positive solutions" to the tough questions facing the financially troubled hospital, says Jillian Ford, a doctoral student and member of the TCP steering committee.

"It's a perfect time to talk about Grady from a less controversial perspective [but rather from a] story-telling perspective."

— Jody Usher, Transforming Community Project

"It's a perfect time to talk about Grady from a less controversial perspective [but rather from a] story-telling perspective, looking through the lens of race," says Jody Usher, co-director of the TCP, a five-year initiative to document the University's past and confront current challenges around the issue of race.

The audience can participate in a question-and-answer session following the panel talk, which is co-sponsored by Emory College. "In the spirit of hearing from the multiple voices of the panelists," Ford says, "we want students, faculty and staff, as well as the wider community, to come and join in this conversation."

REPORT FROM: Emory Athletics

'Athletics for all' still the goal

The local Atlanta paper once had this to say about Emory's place in the world of intercollegiate athletics:

"The money being spent on major intercollegiate programs is phenomenal — maybe astronomical would be a better word. Of course, there's a move now in the National Collegiate Athletic Association to try and get things back into perspective.

The NCAA is holding a special meeting later this year to reorganize... King football was once able to subsidize other sports on campus, but this is increasingly difficult to do as profits are just no longer there. So maybe it might behoove some of the larger institutions to take time out from its busy schedule and take a look at the Emory campus. Probably the only institutions in America that even come close to Emory's concept of athletics is the Ivy League... Sports at Emory is viewed as part of the

general educational program for all students and not as something simply to be looked at while the experts do it."

The quotes from this article were published in 1973, but they couldn't be more appropriate today. Astronomical costs, reorganizing the NCAA, and a general discontent with the direction of college athletics are all topics that continue to challenge us in higher education. And through it all, Emory has maintained its status as "An Island in the Sea of Sports," as the 1973 article in the Atlanta Journal was titled.

Granted, some things have changed in the last 35 years, with the most notable being the addition of intercollegiate athletics at the University in the 1980s when Emory found a group of like-minded, academically prominent institutions — who later formed the University Athletic Association,

a conference of selective research universities — who would be similarly committed to athletics in a manner consistent with our longstanding philosophy.

And even with the addition of varsity sports, the Emory community has continued to support the notion imparted by Clyde "Doc" Partin Sr., longtime chair of the Department of Athletics, in his book "Athletics for All: The History of Sports at Emory."

Last year more than 550 students participated in our 20 sponsored club sports and we had more than 4,000 in the Emory community involved in intramurals; since 2000, the University has produced 43 NCAA post-graduate scholarship recipients, the highest total of any school in the nation (Stanford University is No. 2 with 36); and physical education has remained an important educational

component (for as Doc was quoted in the 1973 article, "the elementary and secondary schools are not providing the necessary program for the students").

Athletics at Division III institutions should be a personal experience and it's the responsibility of the Department of Athletics and Recreation to carry on the legacy of Doc Partin and provide a program that embraces "athletics for all." So come out to see your hall mate playing basketball against Wash U., sign up for that Tai Chi P.E. class, dust off your cleats and join the Ultimate Frisbee club, play in a softball intramural league, or take advantage of the wonderful facilities in WoodPEC for a workout. We're looking forward to seeing you.

Tim Downes is Clyde Partin Sr. Director of Athletics and Recreation.

SNAPSHOT



CHRIS MEGERIAN

Singing King's praises

The Voices of Inner Strength gospel choir paid tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. at a King Week concert Jan. 23. Sponsored by the Dobbs University Center, the Black Students Alliance, the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services and the Nu Alpha Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the celebration also recognized Emory's Martin Luther King Jr. and Benjamin E. Mays scholars.

ENDOWMENT: Diversification has boosted returns

Continued from the cover

by netting the rate of investment return, withdrawals for spending, and gift contributions.

"Our rate of return is more competitive than ever with comparable institutions among the nation's top 20 endowments," says Mary Cahill, vice president for investments and chief investment officer.

"Diversification of our investment pool has moved us closer to the average of our peers, defined as institutions

with assets greater than \$1 billion. As our investment program continues to mature, we expect the portfolio to gain momentum and provide above average results over the long term."

"Our rate of return is more competitive than ever with comparable institutions...."

— Mary Cahill, chief investment officer

Goizueta series aimed at local leaders

STAFF REPORTS

Emory Executive Development has expanded its program portfolio for mid- to senior-level executives with the Goizueta Executive Series, one- and two-day programs designed for individuals with demanding schedules who require quick bursts of topical, high-level, knowledge and inspiration in a time-efficient format.

Goizueta faculty will lead participants through dynamic, multifaceted learning experiences. Using pre-work, interactive sessions and follow-up application, the Goizueta Executive Series

will infuse learning into the overall experience, engaging participants within the classroom, and beyond.

"The Goizueta Executive Series provides a much needed forum for leaders of the local Atlanta business community to take a quick time-out to be exposed to knowledge, learn together and generate new thought," says series host Jeff Rosensweig, associate professor of finance and director of the Global Perspectives Program.

The Goizueta Executive Series schedule begins this spring. Visit www.emoryexeced.com or call 404-727-2200 to learn more.

Web: Making search engines look better



"I think that improving Web search is a powerful way to change the world," says Eugene Agichtein, assistant professor in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department.

BRYAN MELTZ

Continued from the cover

Search" award from Microsoft Research, in conjunction with Charles Clarke of the University of Waterloo.

The award — including \$82,000 in funding and data from more than 100 million actual consumer Web searches — is the latest boost for what Agichtein describes as his life's work: helping people get whatever information they need online, in ways that are both efficient and intelligent.

"How can we allow people to gain access to these areas of knowledge that used to be closed off to them? I think that improving Web search is a powerful way to change the

world. It's a key transformational technology," he says.

Google, Microsoft and Yahoo are the big three names in search engines — Google alone fields 1.2 billion search requests each day. So how do the search engines sort through millions of Web pages and determine how to rank the responses to this vast number of queries? A sophisticated system of analyzing the content of the pages and the link structure of a Web page is one method, but it is far from foolproof.

"The Web is kind of a wild place. People are always trying to come up with ways to game the system," says Agichtein, citing "click spammers" and "link spam farms" as two such strategies. "It can be difficult

to pull out the true information from the noise."

The experience of the person doing the searching, along with the person's native language and culture, also must be considered by scientists working to advance search engine technology. Some searcher habits have become ingrained. For example, more than half of Internet users will click on the top link of a search engine response, whether it's relevant or not, Agichtein notes.

He breaks down his research into three basic components: the content on the Web, the link structure, and what he calls "the third dimension" of the Web — the users.

One focus of the Intelligent Information Access Lab is analyzing actual user data, to

Google yourself

It could be important to your career — not to mention your personal life.

"Web search is the way that many other people learn about who you are," says Eugene Agichtein.

Keeping track of your online search results could give you an opportunity to correct any wrong information about you on the Web. Fewer than half of regular Internet users have ever googled their own names, he says, adding: "In this case, vanity could be a virtue."

discover patterns of behavior and how people find information in various contexts.

"It's fascinating, delving into how the human mind works," he says. "Exploring how millions of people create content and search for information on the Web provides a unique window into cognitive processes."

Search personalization, coupled with advances in wireless handheld devices and biometrics such as eye-tracking, will further speed changes in the already rapidly evolving field of Web search, Agichtein predicts. "Ten years from now, computerized searches will look much different than they do today — you won't be just typing words into a box on a screen," he says.

Portable device detects early Alzheimer's signs

By JENNIFER JOHNSON

The latest medications can delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease, but none are able to reverse its devastating effects.

This limitation often makes early detection the key to Alzheimer's patients maintaining a good quality of life for as long as possible.

A new device developed by Emory and Georgia Tech may allow patients to take a brief, inexpensive test that could be administered as part of a routine yearly checkup at a doctor's office to detect mild cognitive impairment — often the earliest stage of Alzheimer's. The device is expected to be commercialized later this year.

"With this device, we might be able to pick up impairment well before serious symptoms occur..."

— David Wright, emergency medicine

Called DETECT, the device gives individuals a roughly 10-minute test designed to gauge reaction time and memory — functions that, when impaired, are associated with the earliest stages of Alzheimer's disease.

"With this device, we might be able to pick up impairment well before serious symptoms occur

and start patients on medications that could delay those symptoms," says David Wright, assistant professor of emergency medicine and co-director of the Emory Emergency Medicine Research Center, who helped develop the device with Michelle LaPlaca, an associate professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory.

Preliminary analysis of the first 100 patients of a 400-person clinical study being conducted at Emory's Wesley Woods Center has shown that the DETECT test has similar accuracy to the 90-minute "gold standard" pen and paper test.

Angiogenesis may hold key to treating leprosy

By ROBIN TRICOLES

Scientists are hoping to treat leprosy by taking advantage of one of its most distinctive characteristics — the richly vascularized skin lesions that typify this disease.

Led by Jack Arbiser, professor of dermatology at Emory School of Medicine, the scientists found that different stages of leprosy vary widely in the number of blood vessels they contain. Results are published online in the Archives of Dermatology.

"Our findings demonstrate a significant increase in angiogenesis — blood vessel

formation — toward the lepromatous spectrum of lesions, thus raising the possibility that angiogenesis inhibitors, drugs that prevent the growth of new blood vessels, may be useful in treating leprosy," says Arbiser.

Although treatment for leprosy is available, the disease requires long courses of multiple antibiotics, which can decrease compliance and increase resistance to antibiotics used to treat the disease.

"If we use an angiogenesis inhibitor, such as interleukin 12 or thalidomide, we may be able to shorten the length of therapy," says Arbiser.

Forum

FIRST PERSON

Learning to listen in a divided land

By CHRIS MEGERIAN

My true introduction to the complexities of the Middle East came during a Shabbat dinner in Jerusalem. I was one of 14 members of a trip organized by Emory's Office of Religious Life, and our group had been divided up among several Israeli families for dinner on our first night in the city.

The family I visited lived in a small ground-floor apartment with four children. After prayers were spoken and the challah was portioned out, we were graciously served a large meal of chicken, rice, potatoes and vegetables. About halfway through the meal, trying to make conversation, I asked where the wine was from.

Before the mother could read the Hebrew label on the bottle, the father cautioned me. "If you find out, you may have to stop drinking it," he joked. After all, wine made by Jews in the Golan Heights — territory captured by Israel from Syria in 1967 — would be undrinkable to some consumers. "Everything is political here," he said.

Luckily the wine was made inside the internationally recognized 1948 borders of Israel, circumventing any potential squabbles. The conversation soon turned to the U.S. primaries, but the father's words stuck in my head.

Over the course of the trip — which wound its way through Israel, Jordan and the West Bank



Chris Megerian is an Emory College senior and editor in chief of *The Emory Wheel*.

— my 13 fellow travelers and I spent nine days struggling to understand a region mired in conflict. It was the 25th educational trip to a center of conflict organized by Emory Religious Life.

If I learned anything, it's that the cliché is true: You really don't know anything until you see it for yourself.

For one thing, the language used to describe the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is woefully inadequate. The term "settlements" does not sufficiently describe the apartment complexes and shopping centers that are home to hundreds of thousands of Jews in the West Bank, and seeing the communities firsthand reveals not only why they are so offensive to Palestinians, but also why Israel is so reluctant to forfeit them.

And terms like "pro-Israeli" and "pro-Palestinian" lose all meaning when some Israelis (including Prime Minister Ehud Olmert) are saying that the survival

of the Jewish state is dependent on the creation of a Palestinian homeland.

During the trip, we met with Israeli and Palestinian politicians, peace activists, a think tank director, a Bedouin family, an Iraqi refugee and an Armenian priest. With each interaction, I felt like I was entering a parallel dimension. Everyone was talking about the same conflict, but with almost opposite narratives.

Sometimes the conversations took a turn for the morbid, but they almost never brought clarity. Mustafa Barghouti, a doctor who ran against Mahmoud Abbas for the presidency of the Palestinian Authority, said Palestinian women were sometimes forced to give birth at checkpoints in the West Bank because Israeli soldiers would not let them reach the hospital. Three days later, Israeli Knesset member Yoel Hasson told us the checkpoints were necessary because terrorists once placed a bomb under a pregnant woman in an ambulance in order to kill Israelis.

Even if the truth is somewhere in the middle, this is not the kind of conflict where you can split the difference and expect everyone to walk away happy. After 60 years of fighting, very few people are willing to step across the green line to enter a constructive dialogue.

Perhaps the most inspiring story we heard while in the Middle East was told by Gershon

Baskin, a Jewish activist and analyst who was willing to cross these boundaries. He had been working toward a two-state solution for some time, but he had never really spoken with Palestinians until the First Intifada broke out in 1987.

Realizing he was missing a large part of the story, he hopped on his Vespa and motored over to a nearby Palestinian city in the West Bank. There, Baskin, an American-born Jew who considers himself a Zionist, began a series of interactions that would eventually lead to the creation of the respected Israeli-Palestine Center for Research and Information.

That kind of openness is rare in a region rife with such deep-rooted ethnic and religious divisions. Far too often, listening is equated with weakness and orthodoxy is considered strength.

During the meeting with the Armenian priest, I asked him whether there was any interfaith dialogue between Jews, Christians and Muslims in Jerusalem, an ancient city holy to all three faiths. He shrugged. "We already know what they believe, what is there to talk about?"

Let's hope world leaders take a different approach to making peace in the Middle East.

*This essay originally appeared in *The Emory Wheel*.*

SOUNDBITES

'Manifesto' decried intolerance

Retired United Methodist Bishop L. Bevel Jones III was one of 80 white pastors from the Atlanta area who challenged segregationists in the deep South by signing what came to be called "The Ministers' Manifesto." Jones helped write the appeal for peace, issued on Nov. 3, 1957, after a segregation showdown at Central High School in Little Rock, Ark.

"The work of human relations is forever foremost on the agenda of history — never finished, and in constant need of repair and reconciliation," said Jones, trustee emeritus and Candler's bishop in residence, at a King Week worship service Jan. 27.

— Kim Urquhart

Culture, identity on table at King Week

"Issues of culture and identity are close to the heart" and people find it difficult to talk about them, said Emory Counseling Center Associate Director Pamela Epps, who facilitated "Women Talking with Women," the 13th annual open discussion Jan. 23, celebrating King Week.

Career women and students shared when they first became aware of their culture, what sparked pride and strength from it, the persistence of stereotypes, and what people of one race admired about another.

One participant said stereotypes were like an unseen structure that keeps a discourse alive, "to keep some locked in to the discourse and some locked out."

Another participant said cooking created cultural pride for her. Having learned from her grandmother, "there was a cultural piece to everything she cooked...I'm really proud...to have that knowledge of how to prepare foods that clog your arteries but taste amazing," she said, prompting laughter.

— Leslie King

True wealth cares for God's creation

Jon Gunnemann, professor of social ethics at Candler School of Theology, addressing the attendees of the Spring 2008 Convocation at Cannon Chapel Jan. 17, said: "True wealth is created by an economy that is responsible to the holiness of life [which means] working for a common well-being in which we are responsible to and for each other, and responsible to God's creation."

In his address, titled "Take No Thought for the Morrow," Gunnemann spoke of the importance of understanding abundance, not as a means toward wealth, but as a means for caring for God's creation in all its many forms.

— Kelly McLendon

COVER STORY

MIDDLE EAST:
Views broadened

Continued from the cover

The group of nine students and five staff members on the trip spanned Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths. During eight days, they visited 24 sites and talked with dozens of people from a vast spectrum of viewpoints in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories.

"It was rigorous," says Susan Henry-Crowe, dean of the chapel and religious life, who heads up the Journeys program. "The students were wonderful and definitely engaged. They would get up and watch the sunrise almost every morning."

"It deepened my understanding of the conflict," says Endelman, a sophomore majoring in Middle Eastern studies. "It's not just one side against the other — there are a lot of intricacies and perspectives."

Surabhi Agrawal was both saddened and buoyed by a visit to a Palestinian refugee camp. "All the children rushed

over to meet us and try to understand what we were doing there," says the Oxford sophomore, who is majoring in international studies. "Amid all the conflicts and problems it was amazing to see the smiles on their faces."

Jeffrey Schram was moved by visiting a Holocaust memorial, then witnessing the hardships of Palestinians. "Both sides are making a lot of mistakes," said the junior psychology major. "The big thing I learned is you can be pro-Israel but disagree with some of its policies."

Since it started the Journeys program in 1986, the Office of Religious Life has taken nearly 500 students, faculty and staff to troubled regions around the world to explore the root causes of conflict and efforts of peacemakers. The trips "help people fall in love with the world," Henry-Crowe says. "When you see things with new eyes, it helps you see the life you live differently."



A man prays at the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem; a Bedouin boy bikes past a mosque near the camp where his family lives.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS MEGERIAN

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 www.events.emory.edu or christi.gray@emory.edu. Listings are subject to space limitations.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Walker to lecture on teen brain

"Adolescent Brain Development, Risk-taking and Mental Health" is the topic of this year's Distinguished Faculty Lecture.

Elaine Walker, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor and Chair of Psychology and Neuroscience, will present the talk Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 4 p.m. in the Winship Ballroom of Dobbs University Center. A reception will follow.

The Faculty Council sponsors the series, which is part of Founders Week. For details, contact Nadine Kaslow at nkaslow@emory.edu.

Shedding light on depression

Depression and its treatment is the topic of the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing's annual Virginia Lee Franklin Memorial Conference.

Nurses, physicians, clinicians and researchers will discuss the signs and symptoms of depression, explore innovative treatments in depression, examine current research on depression, and discuss the patient and family experience of depression.

Also sponsored by Emory Healthcare and co-sponsored by Wesley Woods Geriatric Hospital, the conference will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8 at TWELVE Atlantic Station.

Major depressive disorder affects an estimated 14.8 million American adults, or about 6.7 percent of the U.S. population age 18 and older in a given year, the National Institute of Mental Health says. It is also the leading cause of disability for people ages 15-44.

To register, contact Cathy Jones at 404-712-9633 or cejones@emory.edu.

Canada's health care in U.S.?

Can the United States take a cue from Canada and adopt its northern neighbor's model of delivering health care?

Senior policy-maker Roy Romanow leads an exploration of that question Tuesday, Jan. 29, from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Rita Anne Rollins Room, 8th floor, of Rollins School of Public Health.

Romanow, the former premier of Saskatchewan, heads the Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada. The commission has recommended specific policies and measures to ensure Canada's universally accessible health care can be sustained for the long term.

For more information, contact Lydia Ogden at 404-727-4393 or logden@emory.edu.

Athletics

Friday, Feb. 1

Women's and Men's Basketball v.s. New York University. 6 and 8 p.m., respectively. Woodruff P.E. Center. Free. 404-727-6547.

Sunday, Feb. 3

Men's and Women's Basketball v.s. Brandeis University. Noon and 2 p.m., respectively. Woodruff P.E. Center. Free. 404-727-6547.

Film

Tuesday, Jan. 29

"Golden Rule Politics." 7 p.m. 311 Bishops Hall. Free. 404-727-6350; dkey@emory.edu. Panel discussion following.

Thursday, Jan. 31

"Dance for Reel: An Evening of Dance on Camera — 'The Cost of Living' and 'Alt I Alt.'" 7:30 p.m. Performing Arts Studio. Free. 404-727-5050.

Performing Arts

Thursday, Jan. 31

Jazz Improvisation Class. Benny Golson, tenor saxophone, performing. 10 a.m. Tharp Rehearsal Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

"Perspectives on Performance." Benny Golson, tenor saxophone, performing. 2:30 p.m. Emerson Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

Friday, Feb. 1

Annual Jazz Fest Concert. Benny Golson, tenor saxophone; and Gary Motley Trio, performing. 8 p.m. Emerson Hall, Schwartz Center. \$15; \$10, discount categories; Free, students. 404-727-5050.

Saturday, Feb. 2

Annual Jazz Fest Big Band Night. Emory Big Band, performing; and Gary Motley, directing 8 p.m. Emerson Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

Sunday, Feb. 3

Musical Offering by the Atlanta Bach Ensemble. Jun Ching Lin, violin; Carl Hall, flute; Peter Lemonds, cello; and Timothy Albrecht, harpsichord and organ, performing. 4 p.m. Emerson Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

Religion

Sunday, Feb. 3

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

Seminars

Monday, Jan. 28

"An Archaeological View of Medieval Aghmat." Ron Messier, Vanderbilt University, presenting. 7 p.m. Reception Hall, Carlos Museum. Free. 404-727-4282.

Tuesday, Jan. 29

"Pre- and Post-Synaptic Mechanisms of Synapse Formation and Plasticity." Lin Mei, Medical College of Georgia, presenting. Noon. 5052 Rollins Research Center. Free. 404-727-5983.

"Should the U.S. Adopt the Canadian Model?" Roy Romanow, Head of the Canadian Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care, presenting. 4 p.m. Rita Anne Rollins Room, School of Public Health. Free. 404-727-4393. logden@emory.edu.

"The Small Golden Shrine of Tutankhamun." Gay Robbins, Egyptian art history, presenting. 7 p.m. Reception Hall, Carlos Museum. Free. 404-727-4282.

Wednesday, Jan. 30

"The Healthiest Nation." Julie Gerberding, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, presenting. 4 p.m. Jones Room, Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-4393.

"What Comes After Annapolis?" Kenneth Stein, Middle Eastern history and Israeli studies, and Shibley Telhami, Brookings Institute, presenting. 4:30 p.m. 208 White Hall. Free. 404-727-2798.

Thursday, Jan. 31

"Surgery in an Extreme Environment." Lindsey Sharp, surgery, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-778-1903.

"Mad Yeast Disease and Protein-Based Inheritance." Yury Chernoff, Georgia Institute of Technology, presenting. 11:45 p.m. Ground Floor Auditorium, Whitehead Building. Free. 404-727-5960.

Friday, Feb. 1

"New Covenants in Special Collections: A Symposium on Obligations and Opportunities." Salman Rushdie, Rosemary Magee, Ronald Schuchard, Rudolph Byrd, and Erika Farr, Emory; and Laura Clark Brown, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; David Pavelich, University of Chicago; Matthew Kirschenbaum, University of Maryland; and David Stam, Syracuse University, presenting. 9:30 a.m. Jones Room, Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-7620.

"Kant and the Critique of Cosmopolitanism." David Rasmussen, Boston College, presenting. 4:15 p.m. 111 White Hall. Free. 404-727-4108.

Special

Wednesday, Jan. 30

Stalking on a College Campus Discussion. 7 p.m. Turman Residential Center Lobby. Free. 404-727-5662.

Visual Arts

Thursday, Jan. 31

"Focus the Nation: A Presentation of Photographs by Peter Essick." 7 p.m. Williams Hall, Oxford. Free. 770-784-8395.

Now Showing

"Images of Reconciliation: Visual Reflections of the 2006 Journeys of Reconciliation trips to South Africa and India." Dobbs Center Main Gallery. Free. 404-727-6225; bridgette.young@emory.edu. Through Jan. 31.

"Robert Rauschenberg's Currents: Features and Surface Series." Carlos Museum. 404-727-4282. Through Feb. 17.

"Thomas Merton: The Monk and His Pen." Durham Reading Room, Pitts Theology Library. Free. 404-727-1218. Through March 10.

"Democratic Vistas: Exploring the Danowski Poetry Collection." Schatten Gallery, Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-5050; www.arts.emory.edu. Through May 9.

"From the Poet's Desk: An Exhibition of Poems in Process from MARBL's Literary Collections." Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Woodruff Library. Free. marbl.library.emory.edu. Through May 21.

SNAPSHOT



Benny Golson

SPECIAL

Jazz Fest to feature Benny Golson

Renowned tenor saxophonist Benny Golson joins the Gary Motley Trio for Emory's Annual Jazz Fest Concert on Friday, Feb. 1, at 8 p.m. in the Schwartz Center's Emerson Concert Hall.

An Emory Coca-Cola Artist in Residence, Golson will lead a jazz improvisation class on Thursday, Jan. 31, at 10 a.m. in the Tharp Rehearsal Hall and will give a demonstration and lecture at 2:45 p.m. in Emerson Concert Hall. The morning and afternoon sessions are free and open for public observation.

— Jessica Moore