

PROFILE

Monica Capra believes neuroeconomics will change the discipline of economics, and all disciplines. Page 2



FIRST PERSON

Observations, fairy tales and painful truths about oil and energy issues from Ray Hill. Page 7



PEOPLE: Women Center's offerings 3

CAMPUS: WoodPEC offers payroll debit 5

DISCOVERY: Advances in quantum dots 6

FORUM: Connecting with millennials 7

EVENTS: Guest organists at recital series 8

The twinkle detective



"When you understand the nature of light, you can literally see back in time," says Horace Dale, astronomer and physics research associate.

BRYAN MELTZ

By CAROL CLARK

Cosmic sleuths' routine sky surveillance reveals celestial discovery

When most people look into the sky on a clear, moonless night, they just see a bunch of stars. Horace Dale sees individuals.

"Each star has its own personality, that's for sure," says Dale, an astronomer and physics research associate.

He's particularly fond of one that was previously listed in the General Star Catalog as GSC 4014-1629. This past fall, Dale

and students in his advanced astronomy class were the first to discover that it is a variable star — one that changes its luminosity over short periods of time. In layman's terms: It twinkles. And we're talking a true twinkle, as opposed to the false twinkle-effect that the Earth's atmosphere gives stars.

"It's cosmic detective work," Dale says of the find. "You have to understand the nature of light."

A little luck also helps. Dale freely admits that the discovery probably wouldn't have happened if he hadn't dozed off. "That was kind of serendipitous," he says.

The idea was to set up a routine lab exercise for his students to study a known variable star. It's a time-consuming lab procedure to measure changes in a star's brightness. A full

Please see DISCOVERY on page 6

Loan can be bridge for hard times

By LESLIE KING

The Emory community is not immune to the difficulties in the current economy.

"We're seeing more people dealing with financial challenges," says Paula Gomes, director of the Faculty Staff Assistance Program.

One avenue of help, open to Emory Alliance Credit Union members, is the Member Express Loan. Loan amounts, which can be used for emergencies or short-term needs, are for a maximum of \$750 with repayment via payroll deduction. Gomes says FSAP worked with Emory Alliance to get the amount of the loan raised from \$500 to \$750 last month and to get the interest rate lowered.

Sue Butner, vice president of lending, says the loan was developed so members wouldn't have to use payday lenders, "whose rates are exorbitant."

Butner says Emory Alliance had begun offering the Member Express Loan about a year and a half ago, noting that the loan was popular with members and some had used it more than once.

To qualify, a borrower must be employed for 12 months; the loan is no longer limited to only Emory employees. The employee must join the credit union but the loan can often be obtained the same day as sign-up. Payroll deductions can be arranged for the borrower; \$50 per biweekly paycheck is deducted or \$100 per monthly paycheck.

Please see LOANS on page 4

Oxford works to return a forest trail to its roots

By KIM URQUHART

When Erik Oliver '93C-'93G was a boy growing up at Oxford College, he enjoyed roaming the woods west of campus, exploring the 1.5-mile Hearn Nature Trail.

Yet Oliver, now special assistant to the dean for stra-

tegic initiatives, recalls that, until recently, visibility in the woods was often limited to 30 feet. Non-native plant species had overgrown an estimated 85 percent of the forest floor, the lesser-used parts of the trail engulfed by the likes of Chinese privet and *Elaeagnus*.

Despite the best efforts of

biology and botany classes to clear sections of the woods annually, without a sustained effort the areas continued to succumb to invasives.

Now Oliver is championing the Hearn Nature Trail's restoration with the help of students, faculty and staff. "I remember how beautiful these woods were

when I was a kid," says Oliver, the son of emeritus professor Hoyt Oliver. He recalls how the late Professor Curry Haynes, who led the trail's construction in 1978 with funds from a memorial gift to the college, continued personally to maintain the trail well into his retirement.

Since the project restora-

tion began in 2006, more than 100 students have joined Oliver, biology faculty Eloise Carter and Theodosia Wade, and facilities management staff to clear approximately eight acres of invasives.

Please see TRAIL on page 4

NEW ONLINE AT EMORY

www.photo.emory.edu
www.video.emory.edu

Emory University Photo and Video, part of Emory Creative Group, now has an online presence that showcases its best-of collection of images documenting the life of the University. Captured here are slideshows ranging from Commencement 2008 to the campus visit of His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama. Videos of students, faculty and special events provide a sampling of the department's increased multimedia offerings. Check back often: Portions of the Web site are still under construction.

<http://compass.emory.edu>

Project Compass is Emory's enterprise-wide initiative that will, over a two-year period, replace the separate University and Healthcare accounting systems (FAS and CODA) with a single, feature-rich solution: PeopleSoft Financials version 9.0. Learn more about informational meetings, training sessions, and updates as the project moves forward on the new Project Compass Web site, which includes information such as how to contact team leaders and the project's timeline.

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. Visit us online at www.emory.edu/EMORY_REPORT.

EMORY report

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Nancy Seideman
nancy.seideman@emory.edu

EDITOR
Kim Urquhart
kim.urquhart@emory.edu

DESIGNER
Christi Gray
christi.gray@emory.edu

PHOTO DIRECTOR
Bryan Meltz
bryan.meltz@emory.edu

STAFF WRITER
Carol Clark
carol.clark@emory.edu

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Leslie King
ltkings@emory.edu

EMORY REPORT (USPS705-780) is published and distributed free to faculty and staff of Emory University, 36 times annually by the Office of Communications and Marketing. Periodicals postage is paid at Atlanta, Georgia. Postmaster: Send off-campus address changes to Emory Report, 1762 Clifton Rd., Plaza 1000, Atlanta, Georgia, 30322. Send e-mail to emory.report@emory.edu.

EMORY PROFILE: Monica Capra



Monica Capra is a pioneer in the emerging field of neuroeconomics, probing decision-making at both the behavioral and neural levels.

BRYAN MELTZ

The conscientious economist

Exploring how choices drive people and policies

By CAROL CLARK

Monica Capra, assistant professor of economics, decided on her career when she was about 13 years old and hyperinflation rocked her homeland of Bolivia.

Hunger was not a problem for Capra. Her family lived in the capital La Paz, where her mother was a historian and her father was an engineer who held various political appointments over the years, including ambassador to Mexico.

"I didn't personally suffer, but I could see the effects," Capra says of the inflation, which rose to a phenomenal rate of 25,000 percent by 1985.

Money had virtually no value. Capra's mother began bartering for goods, exchanging sugar for flour or other staples. The supply of milk dried up, since farmers could not afford to produce it. "The government controlled the prices and did not allow importing," Capra recalls.

Meanwhile, drought struck the highlands of the country. Thousands of destitute people poured into the streets of La Paz, begging for food.

Realizing that poor fiscal policies had caused the hyperinflation, Capra decided that when she grew up she would become an economist —

a good one, who considers the impact of policies on people.

"The human suffering that bad economists generate can be as bad as the suffering caused by those who explicitly try to hurt people," she says.

Her upbringing was steeped in politics and policy. After one coup d'état, her father had to go into hiding due to his political views, and the whole family lived in exile in Mexico for several years.

Her worldview was further shaped by two years of high school at Pearson College of the Pacific in Canada, part of the prestigious United World Colleges program. These unique schools bring together high school students from around the world to study a rigorous curriculum designed to foster peace and international understanding.

Capra earned a PhD in economics at the University of Virginia before joining Emory, where her research focuses on experimental and behavioral economics. She studies questions such as: Can freedom of the press help get an economy out of a poverty trap? How do moods and emotions affect social interactions? Why are adolescents more prone to taking risks than adults? Can trust be measured and, if so, what's the best method to do so?

"In the real world, it can be

difficult to establish causality," Capra says. "The advantage that experimental economists have over natural economists is control. We can generate an experimental economy, setting the control parameters of the theoretical model, and then let people behave as they want."

In essence, she explores how people make decisions, along with the outcomes of those decisions.

"When you observe the choices that people make by themselves, there are a lot of biases," Capra says. Even if individuals are given new, relevant information that conflicts a prior belief, they often will not update their beliefs, she notes. "But if you put them in a group situation, where there is a market interaction and public information, they tend to behave more rationally."

In recent years, Capra has become a pioneer in the emerging field of neuroeconomics. She has published a series of important papers in collaboration with Emory colleagues Gregory Berns, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences; Charles Noussair, professor of economics; and other researchers. By combining functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) with established economic models, they are probing decision-

making at both the behavioral and neural levels.

One of their recent experiments looked at how people make decisions in terms of risk and pain, using varying degrees of electrical shocks on volunteer participants. The results suggested that some people are "extreme dreaders," who will opt to receive a bigger shock that is administered sooner, rather than wait longer for what would probably be a lesser shock.

"We now have the tools to better understand our brains in relation to decision-making and other behaviors, and that's a fascinating thing," Capra says. "No one knows exactly where this is going, but I believe it's going to change not only the discipline of economics, but all disciplines."

Bio-diverse Bolivia

When Monica Capra tells people about her homeland, many of them are surprised to learn of Bolivia's dramatic range of ecosystems. The country includes majestic Andean peaks, dry highland forests and dense, lowland tropical forests. The diversity of Bolivia's animal and plant life is among the greatest in the world.

People

Field work: Clinic brings free care to farmworkers



PHOTOS BY BRYAN MELTZ

Nurse Practitioner and undergraduate nursing students from Emory join dental hygiene, physical therapy and psychology students from other institutions to deliver 12 days of free health care to migrant farmworkers in south Georgia.

This is the 15th anniversary of what is known as the Farmworker Family Health Program.

The group partners with Ellenton Farmworker Clinic in Colquitt, Cook, Brooks and Tift counties, examining children at the summer school every morning and going to a different farmworker camp each evening.

Judith Wold, visiting professor in the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, said cavities in teeth, low back pain and dermatological problems such as skin rashes are the primary problems they see in adults they treat. With children, it's anemia and also cavities but "we have made a difference for the children with dental sealants on permanent teeth," she says.

"We would like to expand the research possibilities," Wold says, regarding the program's future. "For the past several years we have had an MS/MPH student with us doing research on this population. This year the study centered on pesticide levels in children of migrant farmworkers."

—Leslie King

ACCLAIM

Kent Alexander, senior vice president and general counsel, received the 2008 Community Leader Award from the 2008 National Conference for Volunteering and Service.



Alexander was honored as one of the founders of Hands On Atlanta. This is the first year that the host committee selected a group to receive this award, a spokesman said.

The Hands On founders sparked a local movement that led to the development of statewide and national infrastructure for supporting citizen-centered efforts for service and volunteering, he said.

Joseph Crespino, assistant professor of history, was honored by the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters for his nonfiction work, "In Search of Another Country: Mississippi and the Conservative Counterrevolution."



The book is a history of how white Mississippians responded to the moral and political challenge of the civil rights movement and implications that story had for Southern and national politics from 1964 to 1980.

Thomas Frank has been elected to the board of Partners for Sacred Places.

The Philadelphia nonsectarian, nonprofit organization focuses on older and historic sacred places.



Frank is professor of religious leadership and administration at Candler School of Theology.

Heather Zesiger, director of health promotion at Emory University Student Health and Counseling Services, was honored with an Affiliate New Professional Award at the American College Health Association's annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.



Zesiger was also elected chair of the Health Promotion section of ACHA for 2009-2010. She will serve the section as chair-elect in 2008-2009.

QUESTIONS FOR ... Sasha Smith

Center for Women still sizzles in summer

The resources available through the Center for Women at Emory are abundant, including confidential drop-in counseling, information on sexual assault, harassment and other concerns, a library, massage therapy, and the Nursing Nest, a lactation space for nursing mothers. Emory Report catches up with Assistant Director for Programs Sasha Smith to find out what's hot at the Center for Women this summer.

Emory Report: The Center for Women houses one of the largest and most diverse collections of books relevant to gender issues on campus. Which book is on your summer must-read list?

Smith: We have books by women and for women, from fiction to specific topics. I recently just read "Eat Pray Love" by Elizabeth Gilbert. It took forever because it was always being checked out from our library. So I was wondering what is this rave about? It's not what I expected and I feel like it was a very good summer read. I connected with the character: Themes in the book are about finding work-life balance, which is one of the main themes here on campus now.

ER: The Center for Women offers an onsite wellness program with licensed massage therapists. What's the best part about getting a massage through the Center's massage therapy program?

Smith: It's really nice in the middle or the end of the day, to not have to go somewhere far, and get a relaxing massage at a very reasonable price, \$1 minute. This year we started offering walk-in appointments, which have increased the use of massage therapy at the Center. Our therapists are requested at special events like Staff Fest and to visit other units, like Yerkes, who might not be able to make it to the Center during the day.

ER: What do you enjoy most about your work?

Smith: Working with students and being able help them shape and think critically about their feminist theory and putting it into practice. I love being a mentor. Another piece of my job I really like are the programs that help people, like the financial seminar and the women's health and wellness programs, where we have a professionals in specific fields who can answer detailed questions on specific topics.



Sasha Smith

BRYAN MELTZ

ER: What do you wish more people knew about the Center for Women?

Smith: I think sometimes people think that the Center for Women at Emory is only for women, or staff and faculty may think it's only for students – and that's not the case. It's here for everyone.

ER: What's on the horizon for 2008-09?

Smith: This fall we'll be getting a new director, and shifting under the umbrella of Senior Vice Provost for Community and Diversity Ozzie Harris. We're also hoping this year to expand our wellness programs to other parts of Emory, such as Crawford Long. Visit our Web site at womenscenter.emory.edu for more detailed information on programs and services.

—Kim Urquhart

"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: Itking@emory.edu.

TAKE NOTE

Candler academy seeks supplies

The summer academy of the Youth Theological Initiative at the Candler School of Theology needs help supplying the kitchens in its new living quarters at the Clairmont Campus Tower.

Specifically, the program seeks donations to help the 44 scholars and 20 staff members who will be living in apartments with kitchens. The wish list names new or gently used kitchen implements and small appliances; cleaning tools and supplies; gift cards; and foodstuffs.

The program can also take loans of appliances and cookware.

To drop off items, contact the YTI office at yti@emory.edu or 404-712-9160; or stop by 309 Bishops Hall.

For information on in-kind gifts, contact Paul Rasmussen at paul.rasmussen@emory.edu or 404-727-0058.

Cancer program helps children

Children whose parents have been diagnosed with cancer can get support through a new program at the Emory Winship Cancer Institute.

CLIMB, or Children's Lives Include Moments of Bravery, works to enable children ages 6 to 11 to deal with their feelings of sadness, fear, anxiety or anger in the wake of a parent's cancer diagnosis.

The next CLIMB program begins Aug. 19, and will run from 6 to 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday for six weeks.

"This program focuses on the children, and how they can express their feelings and learn more about what a cancer diagnosis means," says CLIMB's director Rebecca Sizemore, a social worker at Emory Winship.

Participants' parents don't have to be Emory patients.

For more information, contact Sizemore at 404-778-5926 or rebecca.sizemore@emory-healthcare.org.

Accreditation for research programs

Emory has received accreditation from the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs Inc., which accredits its biomedical or behavioral and social sciences research programs involving human participants.

"Accreditation is important to Emory because it validates our efforts to provide a safe and ethical environment for the conduct of human research," says David L. Wynes, vice president for research administration.

AAHRPP's standards exceed federal regulations by requiring organizations to address conflict of interest, to provide community outreach and education and to apply the same stringent protections to all research involving human participants.

TRAIL: Championing a restoration



Erik Oliver leads visitors through Oxford College's Hearn Nature Trail.

BRYAN MELTZ

Continued from the cover

Carter points out Oxford College's leadership role in Emory's sustainability vision to remove invasive species from all university forests and develop long-term restoration plans by 2015. "We want to be a model of best practices" for invasive species removal, she says.

Invasive plant experts provided initial consultation for the project, conducting workshops and demonstrations for

the faculty, staff and students who would provide the manpower. "With our goal for it to be educational as well as environmentally responsible, that was a great start for us," Carter says.

Invasive plants are easy to remove but hard to manage, she says. The project provides Carter many teachable moments for the students, who cut, pull, Weed Wrench and muscle out the offending plants. "You get a sense of how tenacious these plants are, once you get them out," she says.

The old-growth forest, logged heavily in the 1940s to save the college from financial ruin, is regenerating and is once again covered with oak, poplar, hickory, black gum and sycamores.

"We've attacked the problem because we are committed to have the forest back, and to what it takes to maintain it," says Carter.

Perhaps no one is more committed than Oliver, who has contributed more than his share of "sweat equity" to the project.

"Erik has done an amazing

job garnering resources and human capital," Carter says.

This summer, with the students gone, Oliver and groundskeeper Jeff Radovich are often the project's sole participants. When they can find time away from their regular responsibilities, they spend it fighting back the perpetual pests' advances.

There's kudzu, lots of it, and minefields of poison ivy. Oliver points out a wisteria vine creeping up a tree. "See how it tightens like guitar strings around that trunk? If we don't remove it, it will literally strangle the tree."

Trail maintenance is a constant battle. "There is no easy fix. It's like weight loss," Oliver says. "It takes a lot of patience and slow deliberate work."

The Hearn Nature Trail has served many generations of the Oxford community as an outdoor classroom, peaceful place of reflection, and, leading past a Civil War-era cemetery, a walkable history lesson. Oliver hopes that the majority of the trail will be ready, with new tree markers installed, in time for Alumni Homecoming Weekend this September.

"Thirty years ago this trail was dedicated for the first time," he says. "It would be great to be able to have a trail rededication ceremony on this anniversary. To do it in that timeframe, though, I'm afraid would take an army we just don't have."

Pitch in

Staff or faculty who would like to organize a group for a day of work in the woods at Oxford College during July, August or September should contact Erik Oliver at 770-784-4692 or erik.oliver@emory.edu.

LOANS: Workshops on financial basics

Continued from the cover

FSAP and Emory Alliance are also collaborating on a series of basic financial education workshops to help employees deal with the financial pressures they are facing. A pilot program is scheduled during the summer, says Robin Huskey, manager of education and outreach of FSAP, with a roll-out planned for fall.

Huskey said an Emory Alliance representative will present workshops on topics including building a basic budget; how to use credit cards wisely; and building a strong credit history.

At the beginning of each workshop, a clinician from FSAP will briefly address managing the emotional impact of financial pressures and getting beyond "financial paralysis."

"Once we cover some of the

basics, we hope to offer programs for targeted populations, such as 'women and money' and 'financial planning for retirement,'" Huskey says.

Get information

• Emory Alliance Loans: <http://www.emoryacu.com/loans-consumer.html> (Scroll down to Member Express)

• Interest rates on Emory Alliance loans: http://www.emoryacu.com/rates.html#consumer_loans (Scroll down to Consumer Loans)

• Faculty Staff Assistance Program: <http://www.fsap.emory.edu/>

Biostatisticians probe steroid use in baseball

By ASHANTE DOBBS

The major league batters accused of using steroids, as named in a report by former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell, appeared to have an advantage over their non-doping peers, Emory biostatisticians found. The researchers' findings were presented at the recent Society for American Baseball Research meeting.

The Emory team's analysis represents the first attempt to quantify the overall effect of performance-enhancing drug (PED) abuse on offensive performance in baseball.

Using information from the 409-page Mitchell Report, Rollins School of Public Health faculty members Brian Schmotzer and Patrick Kilgo, in collaboration with graduate student Jeff Switchenko, created a database to track various statistics. The team then modeled the effect

of PED use on offensive performance among those players mentioned in the Mitchell report compared to all other players from the steroid era, adjusting for age.

What they found was a significant and substantial performance advantage for players who allegedly used performance-enhancing drugs, particularly steroids, during the study period. It's estimated that offensive production among the accused steroid users increased by about 7 percent to 12 percent versus non-users. The effect of Human Growth Hormone was found to be minimal.

"Previous studies have focused on particular players and whether or not they abused steroids," says Kilgo, senior associate in the biostatistics department. "This analysis looked at all players during the steroid era and arrived at an overall estimate of the advantage to batters."

REPORT FROM: Health Sciences

Campaign to make more lifesaving 'firsts' possible

Three years ago, Marc Baskett lay dying at Grady Memorial Hospital. A catastrophic car accident had left him in a coma, and his parents prepared for the worst. But that was before their Emory doctors told them about ProTECT — a clinical trial that treats traumatic brain injury (TBI) with natural progesterone.

Emory is the only place in the world where this extraordinary work — the first successful new treatment for TBI developed in decades — is being done. Thanks to basic and clinical research at Emory's Woodruff Health Sciences Center, Marc was home with his family just seven weeks after the accident — happy, healthy and grateful to be alive.

Stories like Marc's are what make our donors passionate about supporting WHSC — and why we're confident about our ambitious new fundraising campaign being

launched this fall. Our donors get a great return on their investment by supporting groundbreaking advances with unlimited potential to save and improve lives not only here in Atlanta, but also throughout the nation and the world.

You might wonder what makes donors choose WHSC over other health institutions they could support. What differentiates us from other academic medical centers, health systems, universities and research institutes?

Very simply, it's the synergy among our research, education and clinical missions; among our departments and disciplines; and among people of varying professions and skills that makes us a model academic health sciences and services center. Our interdisciplinary programs assure that discoveries in the lab are translated into practical health applications and delivered to people in need by some of the best and brightest

health professionals in the country.

In sum, we work together across the breadth of health sciences and services in ways that other institutions can't or won't — resulting time and again in innovative "firsts" like the study that saved Marc Baskett's life.

Many examples illustrate the breakthroughs that result from our team approach. Emory was the first place in the country to offer 3-D breast mammography — a new technology that reduces missed lesions by 40 percent. We're also the lead of three centers nationwide using stem cells from a patient's own bone marrow to regenerate heart muscle and improve its function after a heart attack. Deep brain stimulation — pioneered here at Emory — is giving people with severe clinical depression a new lease on life. And our Yerkes National Primate Research Center was the first in the world to develop a transgenic nonhuman

primate model for neurodegenerative diseases — allowing us to more effectively study the devastating effects of Huntington's Disease.

Remarkable advances like these, resulting from interdisciplinary alignment and collaboration across departments, schools, centers, our health system, and the University, are what make WHSC unique as a true academic health center. When our campaign launches in September, we want all of our supporters to know about these and other innovations so that they can join us as we continue "transforming health and healing ... together."

Fred Sanfilippo is executive vice president for health affairs, CEO of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center and chairman of Emory Healthcare.



BRYAN MELTZ

WoodPEC to change fees, offer payroll deductions

By KIM URQUHART

The Woodruff Physical Education Center is implementing a new membership program for faculty and staff. Beginning Aug. 1, payroll deduction will be available as a new payment option to University employees. Also at this time, the yearly membership fee will increase to \$180.

Employees have until July 31 to join or renew at the current rate of \$120 — no matter when their yearly membership expires. "We're trying to be as customer service-oriented as possible," says Assistant Director of Athletics Meg Ahrens.

The fee increase is driven by the increased costs to maintain the facility, which includes an Olympic-sized pool, tennis courts, tracks, fitness equipment, basketball and volleyball courts, and a variety of intramural and recreational programming, explains Tim Downes, Clyde Partin Sr. Director of Athletics and Recreation.

"Unfortunately WoodPEC is not immune to an increase in operating costs. While we understand that this rate increase is a change to the price of a yearly membership, our rates still fall well below those of comparable fitness

facilities," Downes says. Importantly, he says, "we will be able to maintain this fee for at least four years."

Payroll deduction will not be mandatory, Ahrens says, but simply adds an affordable and convenient option for members. For now payroll deduction is available to University employees only, but is likely to be extended to Emory Healthcare in the future.

To sign up for this option, visit the membership office to authorize the monthly payroll deduction of \$15. Fees will continue to be deducted until the member proactively cancels their membership. Members preferring to pay a lump sum can continue to do so, at the membership office via cash or check, or with a credit card at www.wpec.emory.edu.

Despite the fee increase, WoodPEC is still the best bet in town, says Ahrens. "In terms of cost, we are the cheapest of the three fitness center options available to Emory employees and compared to other fitness options nearby," she says. "Our facility is the largest, we have the most space available. Our Fitness Emory classes, while they are an additional cost, are a great benefit, and our location, for the majority of people who work and teach classes here, is convenient."

SNAPSHOT



ANN BORDEN

Scene in an Emory parking deck

The views of the Atlanta skyline and Emory campus from the top of the Michael Street Parking Deck set the stage for Fish & Bicycle Theater's performance of "The Adventures of Jesitha and Andronikis: The Search for Love!"

The show begins just below the sixth level of the parking deck. A guide leads the audience from scene to scene in a loop around the deck.

"We really wanted to take the audience on an adventure and make it an immersive experience for everybody," says Nathan Green '08C, who directed the epic adventure tale that attracted about 250 spectators during its June run. "We're about telling a good story and having a good time."

This is the second such show presented by co-founder Green's fledgling theater company. "We're into creating traveling spectacles that are environmentally staged," he says. Green, a Theater Studies major who graduated from Emory in May, will soon serve as a directing intern at the Actors Theatre of Louisville.

—Kim Urquhart

HEARMe radio partnership speaks to refugee health



The Office of University-Community Partnerships and Sagal Radio are collaborating on a new program aimed at East Africans living in metro Atlanta: HEARMe, or Health Education via Airwaves for Refugees.

SPECIAL

By CAROL CLARK

When Hussien Mohamed's 82-year-old mother developed a cataract, he took her to an Atlanta physician for treatment. But she wouldn't go through with it. "She said, 'No, no, no, no! He's not going to touch my eyeball. I will die with my original eye,'" Mohamed recalls. "I've asked every friend and family member to talk to her, and she still refuses."

Mohamed and his mother came to the United States as refugees from Somalia. In 1998, he founded Sagal Radio Services in the Clarkston area, to serve the growing community of East Africans in metro Atlanta. The station, a partner of Emory's Office of University-Community Partnerships, broadcasts every weekend on AM 1420 in English, as well as Somali, Swahili and Amharic.

Mohamed hopes that a new radio program devoted to health, a collaboration of Sagal Radio and the OUCP, will help his mother and some of the other 17,000 East Africans in Georgia to overcome language and cultural barriers to keep improving their quality of life.

The program, called HEARMe, or Health Education via Airwaves for Refugees, is funded by a grant from the Benton Foundation, as part of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's New Routes to Community Health philanthropic portfolio.

"A lot of East African refugees don't know about preventative health. The only time they take care of themselves is when they are sick and have to go to the hospital," says Mohamed, who is a program coordinator for OUCP, in addition to serving as director of Sagal Radio and holding a "day job" as a translator and case worker for World Relief.

"The elders, especially, don't have much trust in doctors," he adds. The best way to reach them, he says, is by getting local medical and religious leaders who speak their languages on the air, along with people who have successfully undergone health treatments, and can share their stories.

"You don't need a passport to do global health – the global community is right here in Atlanta," says Sam Marie Engle, senior associate director

of OUCP, explaining the rationale behind HEARMe.

Sagal Radio has provided Emory students and faculty ways to serve the local refugee community, Engle says. HEARMe will offer another platform to expand that involvement – particularly for the schools of nursing and public health and the journalism department.

The full line-up of weekend HEARMe programming, set to debut in August, will feature experts along with real people who are dealing with everyday challenges, including home safety, family planning, navigating the healthcare system, mental illness, nutrition, obesity and diabetes.

A feature called "Coffee Shop Chat" will air the conversations of East African men who gather at a local café to discuss politics, along with policies affecting their health and well-being. "Listen to Your Elders" will focus on the personal stories of older men and women, while "YouthSpeak" will give local high school students from the East African community a chance to report on health issues important to teens.

Quantum dots deliver gene silencers better

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Emory and University of Washington scientists recently reported one of the first applications of nanotechnology known as quantum dots to drug delivery.

They described a method for introducing gene-silencing tools made of RNA into cells that is 10 to 20 times more effective than existing methods.

Smuggling genetic material in the form of RNA into cells potentially could be used to treat conditions ranging from breast cancer to deteriorating eyesight.

The discovery that short pieces of RNA can silence a stretch of genetic code, a process known as RNA interference, earned a Nobel Prize in 2006, but applying it in living cells has been difficult.

"This work helps to overcome the longstanding barrier in the field: how to achieve high silencing efficiency with low toxicity,"

co-author and Emory/Georgia Tech bioengineer Shuming Nie says.

Emory postdoctoral fellow Maksym Yezhelyev, breast cancer expert Ruth O'Regan and Nie collaborated with postdoctoral fellow Lifeng Qi and assistant professor Xiaohu Gao at the University of Washington. Their results were published online in the June 21 issue of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.

The team's method marries quantum dots, which Nie has already made famous for their light-emitting properties, with chemical sensors called "proton sponges."

The proton sponges cloak the RNA so that it can pass through the cell membrane and then release it upon reaching the endosome, a fatty bubble that surrounds incoming material. The RNA then accumulates in the cell, where it can do its gene-silencing work.

Key to the new approach is that researchers can adjust the chemical makeup of the quantum dot's proton-sponge coating, allowing the scientists to precisely control how tightly the dots attach to the RNA.

Also, fluorescent quantum dots allow scientists to watch the interfering RNA's movements. Previous trackers gave off light for less than a minute, while quantum dots, developed for imaging, emit light for hours at a time. In the experiments the authors were able to watch the process for many hours to track the gene-silencer's path.

"Looking forward, this work will have important implications in in-vivo therapeutics, which will require the use of nontoxic iron oxide and biodegradable polymeric carriers rather than quantum dots," Nie says.

Quantum dots are not yet approved for use in humans. The authors are now transferring their techniques to particles of iron oxide, which have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. They are also working to target cancer cells by attaching to specific markers on the cells' surface.



Shuming Nie

BRYAN MELTZ

DISCOVERY: Twinkle earns star a new designation

Continued from the cover

night's worth of data must be gathered and tested beforehand for comparison purposes. Dale pulled the necessary overnighter to get it.

He chose a variable star in the constellation of Cassiopeia and aimed the observatory's telescope at it. He attached a digital camera to the scope and set up shop in the control room below. A computer and special software allowed him to measure the changing brightness of the variable star over time, using the brightness of five nearby stars that were not variables as references

for constant luminosity.

All went well until around 2 a.m., when Dale fell asleep for about 80 minutes. When he awoke, he realized that the telescope had drifted, leaving only a single reference star, GSC 4014-1629, in the field of view. One reference star was enough for his purposes, but Dale needed to pull another night at the lab, to fill in the missing minutes of data.

He later compared the data from both nights on his laptop, while sitting at home in his La-Z-Boy. His wife was in the room when Dale had his eureka moment — he saw that the reference star had slightly changed its luminosity during

that brief gap in time. "I knew right away we had a variable," he recalls. "I said, 'Wow! Look at this!' My wife said, 'Yeah, hon. That's nice.'"

Dale's students responded with more enthusiasm. "It was an incredible teaching tool," he says, explaining that he presented the students with the comparative data to use in the lab. Through their own analyses they recognized that the reference star was actually a variable.

Dale and the students submitted their results to the International Variable Star Index which confirmed the discovery, and gave the star the new designation of

J001528.0+602037.

Further study showed that the star is one of only 400 known Delta Scuti pulsating variables — an older star with gases that are rapidly expanding and contracting in both spherical and oblong shapes. The star is slightly hotter than the sun, one-and-a-half times as big, and located about 2,000 light years from Earth.

"It's amazing to me that we can come up with all of these conclusions just through our knowledge of light," Dale says. "Light is the only thing astronomers have to work with, but when you understand the nature of light, you can literally see back in time."

Out of the billions of stars in our galaxy, only about 43,000 variable stars have been identified and classified, although many more are out there. You can bet Dale and his astronomy students will be scoping the night skies for another one.

"It's really important that we study them," Dale says, explaining that variable stars have helped us learn about stellar evolution and the size of our galaxy. "The more of them we have to study, the more we can know. It tells us something about who we are and why we're here."

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

Guest artists enliven organist recital series

Emory's annual University Organist Recital Series organized by University Organist Timothy Albrecht features an array of guest artists and the popular presentation of Bach's "Musical Offering" on Superbowl Sunday with the Atlanta Bach Ensemble.

Organist Melissa Plamann kicks off the 2008-09 organ season of free one-hour public concerts with a performance on the Casavant organ in Glenn Memorial Auditorium. Plamann received her Master of Music degree under Albrecht's tutelage at Emory and returns for the fall 2008 semester as an instructor.

Plamann's recital will feature works by some of the best known composers in history such as Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) and Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), as well as newer works by living composers Petr Eben (b. 1929) and William Bolcom (b. 1938). Her program features Bolcom's 1987 composition *From Gospel Preludes*, "Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child"; Brahms's *Chorale Prelude and Fugue "O Traurigkeit, o Herzeleid"* (1856); Mendelssohn's *Sonata Op. 65, No. 3*; "Pneuma" by William Albright (1944-1998); and "A Festive Voluntary: Variations on Good King Wenceslas" by Eben.

The season continues as one of America's leading organists, Paul Jacobs, will perform a repertoire spanning five centuries on Emory's Jaekel Opus 45 organ in the Schwartz Center's Emerson Concert Hall.

In the spring noted organist John Scott, the director of music and organist for the St. Thomas Church in New York, will close out the organ season.

For information call the Arts at Emory box office at 404-727-5050, or visit www.arts.emory.edu.

2008-09 schedule

Melissa Plamann,
Casavant organ
Sunday, Sept. 7, 4 p.m., free,
Glenn Auditorium

Paul Jacobs
Sunday, Nov. 2, 4 p.m., free,
Emerson Concert Hall

Bach's "Musical Offering"
and More from the 1740s
Timothy Albrecht, organ,
with the Atlanta Bach
Ensemble
Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, 4 p.m.,
free, Emerson Concert Hall

John Scott
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009, 8
p.m., free, Emerson Concert
Hall

Seminars

Thursday, July 10

"Wounded Warrior Network."
David Feliciano, Emory surgery, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory University Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-778-1903.

Laser Treatment for Varicose Veins Seminar. 6:30 p.m. Glenn Auditorium, Emory Crawford Long Hospital. Free. 404-778-7777.

Thursday, July 17

"Abdominal Imaging: Indications and Risks."
Diego Martin, Emory radiology, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory University Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-778-1903.

Thursday, July 24

"Updates in Sarcoma."
Gina D'Amato, Emory oncology, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory University Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-778-1903.

Thursday, July 31

"Mixing Oil and Blood: A Look at Surgery and Art."
Bahair Ghazi, Emory surgery, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory University Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-778-1903.

Special

Monday, July 7

Salman Rushdie Reading: "The Enchantress of Florence." 7 p.m. Ivan Allen Pavilion, Carter Center. \$28, includes book. 404-681-5123. To purchase tickets, visit www.acappellabooks.com.

Tuesday, July 8

Farmers Market. 11 a.m. Cox Hall Bridge. Free. Every Tuesday.

Visual Arts

Thursday, July 10

ARTIST TALK: Nubian Monuments and the Land and People of Sudan Photography. Chester Higgins, photographer, presenting. 7 p.m. Reception Hall, Carlos Museum. Free. 404-727-4282.

Now Showing

Lost Kingdoms of the Nile: Nubian Treasures From the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Carlos Museum, Third Floor. \$7 suggested donation. 404-727-4282. Through Aug. 31.

Workshops

Tuesday, July 15

Endnote Introduction Workshop. 1 p.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-6863.

Thursday, July 24

Learning Services Workshop: Influential Leadership. 8:30 a.m. 1599 Clifton Road. \$60 for workbook. 404-727-7607.

Tuesday, July 29

Learning Services Workshop: Working Through Conflict. 8:30 a.m. 1599 Clifton Road. \$60 for workbook. 404-727-7607.

Wednesday, July 30

Learning Services Workshop: Creating a Service Culture. 8:30 a.m. 1599 Clifton Road. \$60 for workbook. 404-727-7607.

'Picking Cotton' reveals layers of history



"Picking Cotton...Mississippi to Detroit" is on display at the Visual Arts Gallery through July 31.

By MARY CATHERINE JOHNSON

For many people, the phrase "picking cotton" summons images of African slaves toiling against their will on the plantations of the American South. In the Visual Arts Gallery's exhibition "Picking Cotton...Mississippi to Detroit," that deeply rooted conjuring from our national psyche has been expertly woven by Nancy VanDevender into a multifarious installation of staged interiors that are at once beautiful and haunting, historical and fictional.

Comprised of layer upon layer of furniture, photographs, videos, hand-drawn tattoos,

intricately designed wallpaper, and a racially diverse cast of characters that includes the artist herself, VanDevender's "parlours" offer a glimpse of her life journey from a pre-Civil Rights childhood in Meridian, Miss., through her recent completion of the MFA program at Cranbrook Academy of Art near Detroit.

"Having been reared in Mississippi I had been told in spoken and unspoken terms of the differences in people accentuated by class structures and appearances," says VanDevender, who will present an artist's talk on July 23. "Making assumptions through facades proved inaccurate.

Years later, in Detroit, I found a shared history with African Americans whose roots were also in the South. These discovered qualities of sameness are what interest me."

That shared history is enshrined within VanDevender's interiors, which draw visitors into spaces filled with lush wallpaper and furnishings. Once inside, close examination of the wallpaper reveals an elaborate collage of fabric, photographs and hand-drawn tattoos primarily depicting elements of cotton picking and processing. Large, vivid photographs of the same tattoos, this time depicted as body ornamentation on models, adorn the walls

alongside intimate prints of two women grooming themselves at a dressing table. Every detail carries its own history as well as the history of a specific time, and collectively they tell a story that becomes increasingly resonant for the viewer.

'Picking Cotton'

The exhibit runs through July 31 at the Visual Arts Gallery (700 Peavine Creek Dr.). The artist will speak Wednesday, July 23, at 7 p.m. at the gallery.

For more information, call 404-727-6315 or visit visualarts.emory.edu.

SPECIAL

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

Guest artists enliven organist recital series

Emory's annual University Organist Recital Series organized by University Organist Timothy Albrecht features an array of guest artists and the popular presentation of Bach's "Musical Offering" on Superbowl Sunday with the Atlanta Bach Ensemble.

Organist Melissa Plamann kicks off the 2008-09 organ season of free one-hour public concerts with a performance on the Casavant organ in Glenn Memorial Auditorium. Plamann received her Master of Music degree under Albrecht's tutelage at Emory and returns for the fall 2008 semester as an instructor.

Plamann's recital will feature works by some of the best known composers in history such as Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) and Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), as well as newer works by living composers Petr Eben (b. 1929) and William Bolcom (b. 1938). Her program features Bolcom's 1987 composition *From Gospel Preludes*, "Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child"; Brahms's *Chorale Prelude and Fugue "O Traurigkeit, o Herzeleid"* (1856); Mendelssohn's *Sonata Op. 65, No. 3*; "Pneuma" by William Albright (1944-1998); and "A Festive Voluntary: Variations on Good King Wenceslas" by Eben.

The season continues as one of America's leading organists, Paul Jacobs, will perform a repertoire spanning five centuries on Emory's Jaekel Opus 45 organ in the Schwartz Center's Emerson Concert Hall.

In the spring noted organist John Scott, the director of music and organist for the St. Thomas Church in New York, will close out the organ season.

For information call the Arts at Emory box office at 404-727-5050, or visit www.arts.emory.edu.

2008-09 schedule

Melissa Plamann,
Casavant organ
Sunday, Sept. 7, 4 p.m., free,
Glenn Auditorium

Paul Jacobs
Sunday, Nov. 2, 4 p.m., free,
Emerson Concert Hall

Bach's "Musical Offering" and More from the 1740s
Timothy Albrecht, organ,
with the Atlanta Bach Ensemble
Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009, 4 p.m., free,
Emerson Concert Hall

John Scott
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009, 8 p.m., free,
Emerson Concert Hall

Seminars

Thursday, July 10

"Wounded Warrior Network."
David Feliciano, Emory surgery, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory University Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-778-1903.

Laser Treatment for Varicose Veins Seminar. 6:30 p.m. Glenn Auditorium, Emory Crawford Long Hospital. Free. 404-778-7777.

Thursday, July 17

"Abdominal Imaging: Indications and Risks."
Diego Martin, Emory radiology, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory University Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-778-1903.

Thursday, July 24

"Updates in Sarcoma."
Gina D'Amato, Emory oncology, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory University Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-778-1903.

Thursday, July 31

"Mixing Oil and Blood: A Look at Surgery and Art."
Bahair Ghazi, Emory surgery, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory University Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-778-1903.

Special

Monday, July 7

Salman Rushdie Reading: "The Enchantress of Florence." 7 p.m. Ivan Allen Pavilion, Carter Center. \$28, includes book. 404-681-5123. To purchase tickets, visit www.acappellabooks.com.

Tuesday, July 8

Farmers Market. 11 a.m. Cox Hall Bridge. Free. Every Tuesday.

Visual Arts

Thursday, July 10

ARTIST TALK: Nubian Monuments and the Land and People of Sudan
Photography. Chester Higgins, photographer, presenting. 7 p.m. Reception Hall, Carlos Museum. Free. 404-727-4282.

Now Showing

Lost Kingdoms of the Nile: Nubian Treasures From the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Carlos Museum, Third Floor. \$7 suggested donation. 404-727-4282. Through Aug. 31.

Workshops

Tuesday, July 15

Endnote Introduction Workshop. 1 p.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-6863.

Thursday, July 24

Learning Services Workshop: Influential Leadership. 8:30 a.m. 1599 Clifton Road. \$60 for workbook. 404-727-7607.

Tuesday, July 29

Learning Services Workshop: Working Through Conflict. 8:30 a.m. 1599 Clifton Road. \$60 for workbook. 404-727-7607.

Wednesday, July 30

Learning Services Workshop: Creating a Service Culture. 8:30 a.m. 1599 Clifton Road. \$60 for workbook. 404-727-7607.

'Picking Cotton' reveals layers of history



"Picking Cotton...Mississippi to Detroit" is on display at the Visual Arts Gallery through July 31.

By MARY CATHERINE JOHNSON

For many people, the phrase "picking cotton" summons images of African slaves toiling against their will on the plantations of the American South. In the Visual Arts Gallery's exhibition "Picking Cotton...Mississippi to Detroit," that deeply rooted conjuring from our national psyche has been expertly woven by Nancy VanDevender into a multifarious installation of staged interiors that are at once beautiful and haunting, historical and fictional.

Comprised of layer upon layer of furniture, photographs, videos, hand-drawn tattoos,

intricately designed wallpaper, and a racially diverse cast of characters that includes the artist herself, VanDevender's "parlours" offer a glimpse of her life journey from a pre-Civil Rights childhood in Meridian, Miss., through her recent completion of the MFA program at Cranbrook Academy of Art near Detroit.

"Having been reared in Mississippi I had been told in spoken and unspoken terms of the differences in people accentuated by class structures and appearances," says VanDevender, who will present an artist's talk on July 23. "Making assumptions through facades proved inaccurate.

Years later, in Detroit, I found a shared history with African Americans whose roots were also in the South. These discovered qualities of sameness are what interest me."

That shared history is enshrined within VanDevender's interiors, which draw visitors into spaces filled with lush wallpaper and furnishings. Once inside, close examination of the wallpaper reveals an elaborate collage of fabric, photographs and hand-drawn tattoos primarily depicting elements of cotton picking and processing. Large, vivid photographs of the same tattoos, this time depicted as body ornamentation on models, adorn the walls

alongside intimate prints of two women grooming themselves at a dressing table. Every detail carries its own history as well as the history of a specific time, and collectively they tell a story that becomes increasingly resonant for the viewer.

'Picking Cotton'

The exhibit runs through July 31 at the Visual Arts Gallery (700 Peavine Creek Dr.). The artist will speak Wednesday, July 23, at 7 p.m. at the gallery.

For more information, call 404-727-6315 or visit visualarts.emory.edu.

SPECIAL