Oxford institute is fertile ground for environmental education

BY BEVERLY CLARK

D

own in the backwoods of Newton County, the pristine waters of Bear Creek are yielding a treasure trove of critters for teachers Lindsay Wyczalkowski and Missy Snyder. Armed with nets, tweezers and glass jars, the teachers are on the hunt for hellgrammites, darters, fly larvae and the like. When they land the big prize — a massive crayfish — their whoops echo around the creek. It’s all in a beautiful morning at the Oxford Institute for Environmental Education, an intensive yet fun program designed to help teachers — regardless of background or grade level — develop lesson plans using their own schoolyards for scientific investigation.

“We both teach in a hands-on way — the dirtier the better,” said Snyder, a science teacher at Mary Lin Elementary School in Atlanta, who was attending the OIEE with her colleague and friend, Wyczalkowski. “We’re always looking for ways to enhance the experience of our students, and empower them, even as little kids, to know that they are part of the greater world around them and can make a difference,” she said.

They took part in OIEE with 20 teachers from across metro Atlanta, South Georgia and Florida who headed to Oxford College earlier this month for the two-week institute. The program, named the “Educator of the Year” by the Georgia Wildlife Federation in 2001, has brought the gospel of inquiry-driven learning through outdoor education to more than 250 teachers since it was founded in 1991. The program is run by an enthusiastic trio of ecologists — Oxford biology professors Steve Baker, Eloise Schroer and Missy Snyder. Armed with nets, tweezers and glass jars, the teachers are on the hunt for hellgrammites, darters, fly larvae and the like. When they land the big prize — a massive crayfish — their whoops echo around the creek.

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Under African skies: Reckoning in Kenya

Alan Cattier is director of academic technology services.

On May 15, I began a journey to return to Meru, Kenya, a location that had initially come to my attention four years earlier. At that time, Dr. Ron Schuchard, Goodrich C. White Professor of English, had come to me to ask what the University would do with its surplus computers. He went on to tell me the story of Emory pediatrician Dr. George Brumley and his wife Jean who, with ten members of their family, perished tragically in a plane crash on the side of Mt. Kenya in 2003. Dr. Schuchard was leading an effort to celebrate the life of the Brumleys by coordinating a gift to an all-boys boarding school—the Meru School in Meru, Kenya—and he wanted to know whether there would be any computers that could possibly form part of a gift.

From an initial donation four years previous, to a trip to Meru to set up an Internet connection for the school in 2005, I had seen this initiative evolve and take root. Now I was returning in 2007 to see what future shape our efforts might take alongside a larger University initiative to Meru which was being considered.

Some reflections

May 18: Travel to Meru. One of the things that strikes me immediately about being in Nairobi is the number of people. The sidewalks are filled, the sides of the road are filled, the roads are filled. There are donkey-pulled carts next to bikes next to trucks next to buses next to ubiquitous vans called “matatus” which carry passengers as surrogate taxis throughout the country. Very minimal traffic coordination—either officially or unofficially. As the road begins to climb out of Nairobi, into the Central Highlands, the traffic becomes less congested on the road, but everywhere around you, people walk alongside it. The countryside is lush, green with a fresh rain, and crops of coffee, tea and pineapple line the hillsides. Cows and goats graze along the road as we pass, an indication of the vastness of our van passes and climbs further along the flanks of Mt. Kenya.

May 19: To arrive in a large town of roughly 50,000 inhabitants. Our home this year, as in previous years’ expeditions, is the Three Sleepers Hotel that sits on the edge of town, adjoining one of the many open markets out separated from it by a very large and imposing gate. After settling in, it’s off to Meru School to meet the headmaster, David Karuki, and reacquaint with some of the teachers that have been working with us the past four years.

The excitement of arrival is hearing the latest rankings for the school from David. Meru School, like any other school in Kenya, is judged based on the performance of its students. When the initial request came to provide computers in 2003, the school was ranked nearly at the bottom of the nation, close to 500th. In 2007, Meru, through the headmaster’s energetic leadership, the teacher’s dedication, and the boys’ hard work had climbed to be a top fifty school in the nation, number one in its region. To hear the headmaster talk about it, it is a miracle.
ElOISE cartEr

A Natural Teacher

B. Jones Scholars reunite to celebrate program's 30th anniversary

BY JOHN INGERSOLL

More than 100 Bobby Jones Scholars and others affiliated with the program convened on Emory June 19–22 for the 30th reunion of this unique exchange. Named for Robert T. Jones Jr., the legendary golfer who studied law at Emory in the 1930s, the scholarship is shared by Emory University and the University of St Andrews in Scotland. Starting with one student each in 1976–77, the program has now exchanged 244 British and American scholars.

During their stay on the Cl冈mont Campus, reunion participants attended lectures and tours at Emory, enjoyed a reception at East Lake Golf Club and a luncheon at Atlanta Athletic Club, and closed the week with a black-tie farewell banquet at the Carter Presidential Center. Dwight Andrews, Emory professor of music, ended the festivities by performing “Amazing Grace” on the saxophone, following comments by President Jim Wagner and Stephen Magee, vice president for the University of St Andrews and a performance by Bobby Jones Scholar Stuart Ambrose ’01C, currently Sir Lancelot on the national tour of the musical “Camelot.”

Wagner has stressed often that the Bobby Jones Scholarship is a jewel in Emory’s crown—a unique program in international friendship that has strengthened the ties between the University and St Andrews to the point where faculty members now regularly visit each other’s departments. The University of St Andrews was chosen as Emory’s partner partly because the town of St Andrews’ connection with Jones—who won the British Amateur there on his way to the Grand Slam in 1930—and bestowed upon him the citizenship of the royal borough of St Andrews in 1958. This was the first time in 199 years that an American had been so honored, the last being Benjamin Franklin.

The University of St Andrews mirrors Emory in many ways, as a strong research institution with strengths in the arts and sciences, and housing a divinity school. Bobby Jones Scholars are among the four most outstanding graduates of each institution and are free to pursue any course of study they wish at their host university. Having already received their baccalaureates, they need not seek a degree but may explore disciplines they did not have time for at home, or they may delve more deeply into their fields of interest.

The reunion featured lectures by Harriet Robinson, researcher professor and chief of microbiology and immunology at Yerkes National Primate Research Center, a leader in the development of an HIV vaccine; Catherine Lewis ’90C, professor of history at Kennesaw State University and curator of the “Down the Fairway” exhibition on Bobby Jones at Atlanta History Center; Patrick Allott, professor of American history and author of “I’m the Teacher, You’re the Student”; tours of the Michael C. Carlos Museum, the Math & Science Center, Candler Library and the Quadrangle; and visits to the Georgia Aquarium and the High Museum—as well as a round of golf for devotees of Jones’ celebrated calling.

Several Jones Scholars were featured speakers at various events, including Hamish Taylor ’84B, a St Andrean who earned an MBA on his scholarship at Emory and is now an industry leader in Scotland and winner of the Sir Donald Distinguished International Alumni Award.
Emory partners in nationwide quest for talented, low-income students

BY BEVERLY CLARK

Emory has joined a select coalition of universities and colleges that have partnered with QuestBridge, a national non-profit that links highly qualified, low-income students with full-four-year scholarship opportunities at some of the nation’s best colleges.

The QuestBridge College Match program includes Princeton, Yale, Stanford, Columbia and Rice universities, as well as small liberal arts colleges such as Bowdoin, Oberlin and Wellesley.

Scholarship winners are culturally and geographically diverse. This academic year, 79 percent of the Scholars are the first in their families to attend a four-year college. Students typically have family incomes under $62,000 a year, and 40 percent come from families with incomes less than $20,000. Nearly 90 percent graduated from the top 10 percent of their high school class, and 22 percent were ranked in the top 5 percent.

“QuestBridge will allow us to cast a wider net to find highly qualified, low-income students,” said Santa Ono, vice provost for academic initiatives.

“QuestBridge does an excellent job of finding such students, and helps them overcome some of the most significant barriers they face in their pursuit of a college education, namely a lack of access to information and counseling.”

Earlier this year, Emory launched the Emory Advantage financial aid program, which reduces debt burden for families with annual incomes of $100,000 or less that demonstrate a need for financial aid. The program reduces the amount borrowed to pay for an undergraduate Emory degree. Students from families making less than $50,000 annually can graduate from Emory debt-free, and loans are capped at $15,000 for families earning more than $50,000 but less than $100,000.

The goal is to make an Emory education attainable for any qualified student, regardless of income, which makes QuestBridge an excellent match to help the University find students who can benefit from the program, said Jean Jordan, interim dean of admissions.

“QuestBridge begins working with talented, low-income students early in their high school careers, and works to guide them to some of the most selective colleges and universities in the country.”

Their connections in these students’ schools and communities will help Emory become more well-known as a choice for them,” Jordan said.

QuestBridge was founded by Stanford alumni to identify high-achieving, low-income students nationwide, assist them with their applications and help them identify competitive colleges they would like to attend.

“We are pleased to welcome Emory University as a QuestBridge partner. We are very thoughtful in choosing partner institutions, and we know that at Emory we have found a partner with both outstanding academic programs and a sincere interest in mentoring and supporting the nation’s most talented low-income youth,” said Mike McCullough, CEO of QuestBridge.

Through the College Match Program, high school seniors chosen as finalists have their names and applications submitted by QuestBridge to college “partners” during the early admissions cycle. Each of submitting their applications directly to schools.

The colleges then rank the students they are interested in, and the students rank their top-choice colleges. If there is a match, the student may attend the school and receive a scholarship package that includes full cost of tuition, books and room and board. Students who do not find a match during the early admissions cycle may apply to their choices during regular decision.

More than 100 full scholarships were awarded last year. QuestBridge estimates that an additional 500 were admitted to partner schools through the regular decision process with extremely generous financial aid packages. For more information, visit www.questbridge.org.

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Carol Froman, senior editor in the School of Medicine, as she introduced the day’s “Table Topics” discussions, seeking answers to that question led to the discovery of Toastmasters International, which has several local branches — including one at The Carter Center — but none that were active at Emory. “We know people needed this club,” Young said, “and I’m proud to be able to offer a part of this and get it started.” She used the celebration as an opportunity to thank those who “shepherded the club,” including long-time Toastmaster Kimsey Pollard. Pollard was Young’s mentor at the Georgia Tech Toastmasters chapter that inspired the Emory students to begin a branch at Emory. From the beginning, Young said it was a priority that the club be open to the community since Emory is such a resource.” The club grew from a handful of members to its current contingent of nearly 40 — a diverse group of Emory staff, students, faculty and neighbors. “The beauty of Toastmasters is getting to know people from across the campus and having the opportunity to learn from them,” said Pasackow. “It’s a real service to Emory.” Members say the skills developed in Toastmasters have helped them in their careers as well as in their daily lives, from taking leadership roles in business and community activities to making casual conversation. “Toastmasters can help you to be better understood when communicating with others on a daily basis, or to be more effective in working and communicating with large groups,” said club president Carol Tucker-Burden, a research supervisor in the School of Medicine. The Toastmasters program can be tailored to meet the needs of each member, from offering a training ground for seasoned speakers to providing a supportive environment for the less bold to build confidence. “The goal is to give everybody an opportunity to speak at each meeting,” explained...
BY CAROL CLARK

When a South African geneticist published a controversial paper on dolphin brains last year, “everyone went mad,” according to Vanhoose Miller, a New York-based genetics counselor. The paper claimed that dolphins have a 1.64-fold greater risk of suffering a heart attack and a 2.02-fold greater risk of suffering a heart attack early in life than those without the variant. Approximately 21 percent of individuals of European descent carry two copies of the genetic variation, found on chromosome 8p21.

“Unfortunately, science — ‘DNA chips,’” manufactured by NimbleGen Systems Inc. — the Emory project will screen a collection of 500 schizophrenic patients and 500 individuals without schizophrenia for the entire human genome. Scientists can array 2.1 million locations in the genome on a single chip. The project team will use the new Emory high performance computer cluster to analyze the data.

“By helping us identify cnVs, we believe this new kind of technology may lead to specific gefi and influence schizophrenia and other major psychiatric diseases,” said Warren.

Common genetic variation linked to substantial risk in heart attack

A new genetic variation on chromosome 8p21 is linked to a substantial increase in risk for heart attack, according to a new international research study published in Science. It linked the disease with the variation known as a 1.64-fold greater risk of suffering a heart attack and a 2.02-fold greater risk of suffering a heart attack early in life than those without the variation. Approximately 21 percent of individuals of European descent carry two copies of the genetic variation, found on chromosome 8p21.

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Quantum dot nanotechnology reaches clinical lab

Biocloned quantum dots — luminescent nanoparticles linked with protein conjugations — are being used as tools for disease diagnosis and treatment, but their medical use has been limited by the lack of specific instructions for usage. Now, new protocols detailing how to prepare, process and quantify these tiny particles will arm laboratory physicians with the information they need to translate biomarkers in cells and tissues. The new research guidelines and results were published in the May 3, 2007, issue of Nature Protocols.

The gene variant we have linked to heart attack points us to a major biological mechanism that substantially increases the risk,” said Emory cardiologist Arshed Quyyumi, one of the study authors.

New DNA tests advance treatment of lysosomal storage diseases

A new set of laboratory tests using gene sequencing is able to researchers to identify and potentially treat lysosomal storage diseases, according to Emory’s Genetics Laboratory, which developed the gene sequencing tests, offers the most comprehensive list of sequencing tests in the United States for lysosomal storage diseases, according to genetics counselor Vanessa Rangel Miller. For more information, visit www.genetilab. emory.edu.

Emory’s Lori Marino and her colleagues in the marine mammal research team have identified a new potential treatment for lysosomal storage diseases — a new protein that repairs enzyme deficiencies. Marino and her fellow researchers are currently working on a more technical, point-by-point analysis of the genetics underlying the genetic variations found in dolphins, whales and porpoises. Marino believes that dolphins and whales are more intelligent than previously believed, and that dolphins may be a model for human intelligence.

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The main thesis of “The Political Brain” is that emotion is more important than logic in determining how people vote. This explains why Democrats keep losing elections “despite polls showing that the average voter agrees with Democratic positions on most policy issues, from protection of the earth to fairness to middle-class taxpayers who want nothing more than a better life for their children,” Westen writes.

The book offers a scientific analysis of voter psychology based on Westen’s decades of research and clinical experience. It’s also a primer for Democrats on how to use emotional hawking and crafting compelling campaigns that grab the electorate in the gutter, he contends.

“Westen writes the response he Gore checked his emotions at the door because poll results showed that people didn’t like him.” Westen says Democrats have run such lackluster campaigns in past two presidential elections, “Winnie the Pooh could have beaten them,” he complains.

Westen joined Emory in 2002, where he specializes in personality disorders, psychotherapy research and political psychology. For 20 years, he has explored the role of emotions in how the brain processes information. A recent groundbreaking study he led at the University used functional neuroimaging to examine committed Democrats and Republicans, who were asked to evaluate negative information about their candidates just prior to the 2004 presidential election. The network of emotion circuits lit up in brain areas associated with the emotional brain.

“The reality is, if you can’t speak the truth and win elections, then you’re probably speaking the truth badly,” Westen says. In the political arena, he contends, facts and logic don’t necessarily speak for themselves — they need candidates who can step up to the plate and hit verbal home runs.

Al Gore lost it during a 2007 presidential debate by being dispassionate, Westen says. When George W. Bush accused him of being unpatriotic in campaign fundraising, Gore responded with statements like, “Look, Governor Bush, you have attacked my character and credibility and I am not going to respond in kind.”

Westen says Gore would have won a lot more votes by launching a feisty counterattack on Bush’s character, drawing on a huge store of ammunition. In “The Political Brain,” Westen writes the response he wishes Gore had made, including lines like: “When I enlisted to fight in the Vietnam War, you were talking ‘real tough’ about Vietnam. But when you got the call, you called your daddy and begged him to pull some strings so you wouldn’t have to go to war. So instead of defending your country with honor, you put some poor Texas mill worker’s kid on the front line in your place to get shot at. Where I come from, we call that a coward.”

Republicans have used emotional rhetoric in their campaigns as well. “It’s my editor. He can wait!”

Last September, The Atlantic Monthly magazine invited Westen to Washington to talk about the book he was writing, “The Political Brain: The Role of Emotion in Deciding the Fate of the Nation.”

When reason and emotion collide in voters’ minds, emotion invariably wins, explains Emory psychologist Drew Westen, in his new book, “The Political Brain: The Role of Emotion in Deciding the Fate of the Nation.”

Drew Westen’s ‘Political Brain’ gets Democratic candidates thinking

By Carol Clark

Oxford from page 1

Carter and Thedoisia Wade. Sallie Burn, a teacher in Decatur City Schools, also is an instructor in the program.

“What teachers have found when they return to their own schoolyards and use what they have learned, is that students are more motivated to learn,” said Baker, OEIE director. “Teaching through inquiry-based methods is one of the best ways to teach kids about the sciences. They’re not just learning things out of a book. The students get excited about science and about doing science, and that makes it all worthwhile.”

OEIE is housed at the Oxford Science Center of the Oxford campus. The 47-acre ecology laboratory includes a small lake and acres of forest, grassland and easy access to both pristine and polluted streams in the area. In addition to the field trip to collect samples in Bear Creek, the educators learned the basic principles of ecology in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, how to approach this knowledge in a lesson plan, and how to develop their schoolyards for environmental education.

“Science materials can be limited, so it’s been great to learn how to work with what you have. It’s been amazing to learn how many investigations you can do right in your own schoolyard,” said Jones, a science teacher at Havana Elementary School in Guntersville, Ala., near Tallahasse. Jones is a beneficiary of the OEIE’s new Live Oak Initiative, funded by a $150,000 grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations to extend OEIE recruitment to teachers in South Carolina and North Florida. The funding also is providing online schoolyard ecology lesson plans for teachers and a science education symposium where OEIE veterans can demonstrate how they have implemented concepts in their schools.

Past teachers report that the program has a profound impact on how they teach science and how their students learn it — while improving math and reading skills in the process. Some OEIE veterans have used the OEIE experience to help out of school programs and volunteers to build outdoor classrooms and nature trails, Baker said.

“We get teachers with every level of experience in science and ecology, and every one of them leaves with renewed confidence and enthusiasm for teaching environmental education,” said Baker, who attributes the program’s success to its emphasis on investigation.

“This has been the best teacher education program I have ever participated in. It’s like summer camp,” said Wyczalkowski. “The instruction has been incredibly relevant and is helping us focus on ways to teach children to understand that, while the urban areas we live in are in human hands, we are all part of — and need to have a respect for — the ecologic picture.”

The institute is free for educators accepted to the program, plus each receives a $369 stipend and six professional learning units required for their certification. Once teachers complete the program, they also receive $100 to use for classroom supplies provided by a grant from Chevron Texaco Corporation.

The program is funded annually through the Improving Teacher Quality Grants Program, the Georgia Power Foundation, the Georgia Wild Life Foundation and Oxford College.

For more information, go to www.emory.edu/OXFORDB/Academics/oiee/
**EMORY REPORT**

**Thursday, June 28**

**Discussion**


**Wednesday, July 11**

**Learning Services Workshop**

“Communicating For Results.” 8:30 a.m. 100 Human Resources Center. Free. 404-727-7617

**Thursday, July 12**

**Surgical Grand Rounds**

“Dangol Collier Elkan, Rom Ace Fernandez, Thomas Dodson, surgery, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-778-1903.

**Special**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

**Women’s Health and Wellness Lecture**


**Thursday, June 28**

**Surgical Grand Rounds**

“Surgical Options in Advanced and Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma.” Viraj Master, urology, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-778-1903.

**CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY**

**Bicycle raffle first in series of Bike Emory initiatives**

Congratulations to Kevin Wu (pictured), a senior research specialist at the Emory School of Medicine, who was randomly selected from more than 500 participants in the Bike Emory raffle at Staff Fest. Wu is now the proud owner of a Fuji Crosstown 1.0 Hybrid Bicycle.

This is the first in a series of bike raffles that will be given away to employees and students at events in the coming months. Bike Emory, a new program designed to promote a healthier, more sustainable community, is designed to promote cycling and the bike community.

Bike Emory is a new University partnership with Fuji bikes and Bicycle South. Sign up now for the Bike Emory listserv by e-mailing BikeEmory@listserv.emory.edu and be the first to learn about upcoming events, special incentives and giveaways.

**Corces from page 1**

disadvantaged backgrounds to study biology. As part of the program, promising students from Baltimore public schools worked in Corces’ lab under the supervision of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. He will continue a similar program at Emory with students from Atlanta’s public schools.

Corces is principal investigator of a National Institute of Heart health grant studying factors involved in the regulation of nuclear architecture. He received his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Autonoma University of Madrid, where his research focused on the biochemistry of microtubule-associated proteins and the specificity of their interaction with DNA. He completed his postdoctoral work in 1982 in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Harvard University.

Corces has been a member of the Genetics Study Section and Biomedical Sciences Study Section of the NIH, and the Science and Technology Research Center Reviews Panel of the National Science Foundation. Corces received the Johns Hopkins Alumni Association Excellence in Teaching Award in Arts and Sciences.

Emory’s Department of Biology includes 30 faculty, 369 undergraduates, 18 graduate students and 27 postdocs. The department’s sponsored research base for the 2006 calendar year exceeded $4.3 million in total grant funding.

**Marbl Exhibition**

“Crade of Christianity”


**Tuesday, July 10**

**Carlos Museum Lecture**

“Cradle of Christianity”

Julie Galsamb, College of William and Mary, presenting. 7 p.m. Reception Hall, Carlos Museum. Free. 404-727-4262.

**Surgical Grand Rounds**


**CAMPUSCONTEST**

**Novel-writing contest aimed at Emory’s aspiring authors**

Emory’s Creative Writing Program, in conjunction with faculty member Neil Shulman, is sponsoring a University-centered contest for would-be novelists. All members of the Emory family, including staff, faculty, current students, alumni and members of Emory Friends organizations, are eligible to participate in the competition, which will result in publication of the winning novel.

Authorship of the novels to be entered in the contest can include up to two collaborators. Writers who have already published a book-length work of literary fiction, non-fiction or poetry are not eligible to enter. To register go to www.cradiance.com.

Entries must submit, via cradiance.com, at least 30 and up to 50 pages of their manuscripts by Feb. 1, 2008. Ten finalists will be announced April 2 and will have two weeks to submit completed manuscripts of their novel by April 16. Winners will be announced in mid to late May.

The prize for the contest will be publication of the novel; all rights will remain property of the author. One hundred printed copies of the novel will be part of the writer’s prize.

“There are so many would-be novelists out there. This will give them the impetus they need,” said Jim Grimsley, director of Emory’s Creative Writing Program and senior resident fellow in creative writing.

Shulman, author of “Doc Hollywood,” said he hopes to inspire others to write and that this contest provides an opportunity to do so. Everyone has a table of contents inside them that can add to the knowledge of the world,” said Shulman, associate professor in the School of Medicine whose book and Web site “Get Between the Covers” offers tips and resources for writers.

—Kim Urquhart