Community rescue effort gets Grady off critical list

Intensive caring infuses metro Atlanta’s public hospital with hopeful future

By MARTHA NOLAN McKENZIE

A little more than a year ago, it looked as if Atlanta’s Grady Memorial Hospital was poised to follow in the footsteps of large public hospitals in Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles. Caught between spiraling costs and falling funding, those institutions were forced to close their doors.

However, Grady apparently had something the other hospitals lacked—a committed, visionary, and influential group of people, who were determined that the hospital must survive. They orchestrated a turnaround, and today the hospital has new leadership, an infusion of funding, and a plan for moving forward.

“The community stepped forward and rallied behind its hospital for the city’s indigent,” says Chancellor Michael M.E. Johns. “It was the first round of the initiative’s seventh garden at Yerkes National Primate Research Center.

Please see GARDEN on page 5

Employees’ Bright Ideas pay off in funds, satisfaction

By KIM UROQHART

Contribute to Bright Ideas at Emory paid off for three employees, whose plans for their $1,000 award money range from “green” investments to investing in education.

Julie Hale, Guy Mitchell and William Washburn were the grand-prize winners announced at Staff Fest, where 50 cameras were given away in a drawing to the 185 employees who submitted a Bright Idea and six honorable mentions received $300 each. (See page 5.)

It was the first round of awards for the new initiative that is challenging Emory employees to think about ways to save time or money and improve the quality of their workplace. Participating was easy, says Mitchell, a Campus Services carpenter whose winning idea involves recycling sprinkler water when draining the system.

The most promising ideas are forwarded for further review and possible implementation, but all employees who submit an idea are eligible for various awards and recognition.

After learning she was a grand-prize winner at Staff Fest, Hale promptly visited the booth collecting money for China’s earthquake relief fund. “I was able to make a more generous donation,” says Hale, project manager for engineering services in Facilities Management. Hale, who is earning an undergraduate degree from Emory, was also able to buy a new laptop.

Hale’s winning idea—recycling the water that is wasted during fire pump tests—was inspired as she was conducting fire pump tests and saw that water was draining down the system constantly.

Please see BRIGHT IDEAS on page 5
EMORY PROFILE: Timber Hines

By KIM URQUHART

Summer is anything but quiet at the Student Activity & Academic Center on the Clairmont Campus. At the center of this bustling hub of summer camps and swimming pools is Timber Hines, the SAAC’s associate director.

“In the school year we’re focused on academics and the students, but during the summer we really meet the needs of the community,” says Hines, who oversees programming, reservations, membership policies, upkeep and staffing of the 45,000-square-foot facility.

Hines recently trained this summer’s student staff, a critical support team for camps running every week until August, three pools popular with the family of Emory employees, eight tennis courts, three classrooms, a fitness center, and much more.

“I love to work with students,” says Hines. “Student staff are the core of this facility, and I feel like we see an extension of their education.” She approaches her own work at the SAAC with the same enthusiasm.

“I love being in an environment where people have the opportunity to have a good time and learn new leisure skills that they’ll have with them the rest of their life,” says Hines.

Clairmont Campus Director Frank Gaertner pops into her office to deliver a CD. “Frank is our D.J.,” Hines explains, and this music mix will serve as the soundtrack for their upcoming adventure. Gaertner and Emory teammates Mary Romestant and Christy Thomaskutty will race around the clock in the Madison-Chicago 200 Relay in early June.

“Our department has a lot of runners. We enter crazy races together,” says Hines. Like Hines’ team of Emory staff members who last year ran 200 miles from Vermont to New Hampshire in a 24-hour team relay race called Reach the Beach. “We did it in plenty of time to spare,” she laughs.

She just signed up for another race, the Nike Women’s Marathon in San Francisco, which she will participate in on behalf of Team-In-Training to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

When she’s not on the road or on the trail, Hines is likely to be in the water. The aquatics director by day, Hines is likely to be in the water. The aquatics director by day, Hines is likely to be in the water. She is the person you call when you need to get wet.

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“Learning to play and have a good time is essential to a person’s physical and emotional health,” says Hines. “I will always work in recreation because it really improves everyone’s quality of life in some way.”

Join SAAC

Students aren’t the only ones who can take advantage of the many recreational opportunities at the Student Activity & Academic Center. The SAAC offers a variety of memberships options, including seasonal swim rates. A discount rate is available for Emory faculty, staff and alumni.

The SAAC is also one of the few campus recreation facilities in the country to offer memberships to those in the surrounding community.

For rates and more information, visit www.saac.emory.edu.
Cyclist pedals for healthy future

Mr. Van wants to go to Washington

The legislation “is the only recognition of the inventory of foreclosed homes and the impact on neighborhoods, communities and local governments.” — Frank Alexander, law professor, in an interview with Cox News Service, following his testimony at a House subcommittee on the proposed Neighborhood Stabilization Act May 22.

By CAROL CLARK

The toughest bike race of Julie Gazmararian’s life was also her most recent.

“For the first 21 hours, it was raining the whole time,” she says, describing the major challenge she faced during the “Heart of the South” event in April. The ultra cycling marathon through Alabama and Georgia covers more than 500 miles over two days.

“I was soaked. My skin became shriveled, like when you swim a long time,” says Gazmararian, 46, who has been bounced in and out of the family living room with his brother, “I’m going to try to be in five now states! I’ve seen mountains, but I’ve never seen the desert.”

Gazmararian’s family and other members of her support team followed her in a van and a recreational vehicle as she pedaled around-the-clock, taking only occasional cat naps, through temperatures that can range from 22 degrees to 104.

If she completes RAW, she hopes to up the ante next year by entering the Race Across America — a 12,300-mile transcontinental ride, billed as one of the toughest endurance events in the world. She has twice qualified for Race Across America and says RAW will be a test of her commitment.

Gazmararian was active growing up in Michigan and started competing in triathlons in graduate school. “It becomes a habit, like brushing your teeth,” she says of her intensive training. “After you get over the initial pain, you don’t feel good if you don’t do it.”

She rises as early as 4 a.m. for a group ride when Atlanta roads are quiet and before her son wakes up. She also rides with Sorella Cycling, an all-women coaching club, “It’s a juggle,” she says. “I don’t have much time for anything else but my family, work and training.”

The entire family enjoys mountain biking together — her husband uses an off-road unicycle. “Biking’s fun!” says Isaac, who took his training wheels off when he was 3. “You can get exercise and get your body moving.”

While his classmates study for the bar exam, Quoc Van ’08L is spending his summer running for Congress.

By TIM HUSSEY

Quoc Van ’08L can clean and jerk-lift 300 pounds. He’s also running for Congress in Florida's 8th Congressional District.

For Van, the son of Vietnamese immigrants and a two-time champion weight lifter, politics has been a driving force in his life for several years.

“I want to work on policies that benefit people at the macro level,” he said. “If you want to make systematic changes to help people, you have to work in the political arena.”

Van credits his parents and high school weight-lifting coach with inspiring him to run. His coach would talk about kids in Van’s high school who left school to work to help support their families.

“Sometimes at Emory we don’t realize that the education we’re getting is a luxury,” Van said. “We’re focused so much on extra rights, on civil rights. . . .”

After attending Georgetown University, Van chose to pursue a law degree. He said Emory offered him the opportunity to not only study law, but also to work as a strength and conditioning coach.

“In weight lifting, you have to keep your eye on the prize. You do everything in small increments. You learn to push your self to keep going,” Van said. “In politics, it’s the same thing. You can never look at the big number; you have to take things slowly.”

“My chances of winning are not real good because I am a hard worker,” Van said. “I’m going to outwork my opponents. Our campaign is so disciplined. We’re going to keep chipping away.”

Despite strong opposition for his candidacy at www.vanforcongress.com.

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

Susan Henry-Crowe, dean of the chapel and religious life, has been elected president of the Retreat and Spiritual Life Committee. She is the first woman to lead what is known as the “church’s supreme court.”

The council, whose term is 2008-2012, is the top judicial authority of the United Methodist Church.

Patricia Hudgins, director of Yeat and Neck Radiology, was honored June 13 as Alumna of the Year by the University Alumni Association, San Francisco.

The ceremony will take place at the UCSF Resident Graduation Dinner. Hudgins received the honor for her accomplishments and continuous dedication to education.

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TAKE NOTE

Earthquake victims get Yorkes help

Employees at Yorkes Primate Center raised $4,136 to help earthquake victims in China's Sichuan province.

Earthquake-related fundraisers were held at the main center and at the Lawrenerville field station, where those impacted by the massive quake that struck May 12. Funds raised were sent to the American Red Cross Sichuan Province Earthquake Relief Fund.

University Vice President Mary Hauk has listed a number of avenues through which the Emory community can help the quake victims:

• Sichuan Medical University by way of the China Medical Board, 2 Arrow Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, www.chinamedicalboard.org
• Hong Kong Red Cross, www.redcross.org.hk
• United Methodist Committee on Relief, http://new.american.redcross.org/site/index.php

Farmers’ market comes to campus

June 10 is opening day for a weekly farmer's market that will be held on campus every Tuesday through Thanksgiving.

The market will take place on the Cox Hall Bridge from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. rain or shine, said Christa Essig, market manager.

Georgia farmers will sell local, organic fruits and vegetables. There will also be a vendor selling artisanal cheeses.

HIV/AIDS programs. And Grady is the training ground for future doctors, nurses and other health care professionals. Indeed, one out of every four doctors in Georgia trained at Grady through Emory or Morehouse.

All the services Grady provides, while critical, are costly, and getting more so. The number of uninsured is climbing. However, Grady’s funding from county and state government, as well as from Medicare and Medicaid — has shrunk dramatically over the past decade. As a result, Grady finished last year with a $55 million deficit, and a one-foot poised above the grave.

In an effort to save the failing institution, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce created a task force of prominent business and community leaders to develop a plan to resuscitate Grady.

In July, the task force issued a concise, 25-page report outlining its vision for the hospital. High on the list of recommendations was revamping its structure from the outdated hospital authority model to a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, governed by a nonprofit, private board.

The new 17-member board is chaired by Peter Correll, chairman emeritus of the Georgia-Pacific Corp, and includes Louis Sullivan, former U.S. Department of Health and Human Services secretary, prominent attorneys, CEOs of several large corporations, among others.

The idea of replacing the politically appointed board with a board whose primary fiduciary responsibility was to the hospital and its mission was a critical piece of the success of the plan,” says Johns. “These are people who have leadership ability, but also they have clout. People will listen to them.”

The change in management cleared the way for Grady to receive a life-saving pledge of $200 million over four years from the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation. The magnitude of the gift will make it easier to get others to contribute.

“We’ve committed to raise another $100 million over next four years, and I have every expectation we can do more than that,” says Correll.

However, some hoped-for funding has fallen through. Although the outlook for legislation to fund a statewide trauma care network was optimistic, the General Assembly ended its last session without approving the bill.

The hospital also needs to shave its operating costs by $50 to $60 million a year.

Despite the challenges ahead, Grady has managed to get off the critical list and is taking the first steps toward recovery.

The task force report clearly outlined the issues and the direction to go forward,” says Johns. “It rallied the entire community behind the value and contribution Grady makes to our city and state. Grady’s new board has the talent and commitment to make what needs to happen, happen. Now the hard work begins.”

More information

• A longer version of this article will appear in the summer issue of Emory Health Sciences, which is available online at emory.edu/grady.

Hall wins building energy competition

Turning off lights and unplugging electrical devices when not in use helped McTyree Hall win Emory’s first all-building energy competition. The conservation tips given by the sustainability representatives hit home for residents in McTyree Hall, who consumed 26 percent less energy compared to March 2007.

The Office of Sustainability Initiatives awarded $1,000 to the residents of McTyree Hall to use on a sustainable-related project.

Collectively, Emory’s building occupants saved 144,000 kilowatt hours of electricity when looking at March 2007 and March 2008. That is roughly equivalent to powering Goizueta Business School for one month.

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Earning their stripes

The now-infamous Oxford zebra incident will live long in memory — and on the backs of the Oxford community — with special commemorative T-shirts sold by students Adnan Rashid and Katie Larson. The black shirts feature a zebra printed in white on the front and on the back is emblazoned “I was there when the zebra took over Seney Hall.”

Profits from the sale raised $2,150, which was presented to Oxford Dean Stephen Bowen in May. Bowen praised the students’ creative initiative and said that the sum would cover most of the costs. Damages had included some broken furniture, repairs to the elevator, a half-eaten course catalogue and the biological consequences of large animal confinement.

For the record, no one has been caught and Barcode the zebra is doing well.

Snap shot

Dowman Drive to see summer closures

Due to several utility, maintenance, roadwork and construction projects, temporary closures started last month along Dowman Drive and will continue throughout the summer. Among the most visible changes will be a realignment of Emory’s campus entrance off North Decatur Road. The new one-way street into campus will pass through the Haygood Hopkins Gate, and will provide an aesthetically pleasing entrance reminiscent of the early years at Emory.

The road realignment will also provide easy access to the future roundabout at Emory Village. Work on the roundabout will begin late this fall, according to DeKalb County.

In July, the B. Jones parking lot will close permanently as site preparation begins for the new admissions building and campus bookstore located on that site. That project is expected to be completed in fall 2009.

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— David Payne
Continued from the cover

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Protein provides innate defense against HIV

By HOLLY KORSCHUN

Finding a protein that is able to stop the HIV-1 virus from releasing into cells may bring scientists closer to finding new approaches to treatment.

Most human cells contain a factor that regulates the release of virus particles, but until now scientists haven’t known what it was.

Now researchers from Emory, Vanderbilt and Mayo Medical School have identified CAML (calcium-modulating cyclophi-lin ligand) as the protein that allows cells to keep HIV particles hanging on the cell membrane. However, CAML’s protective ability is counteracted by the viral protein Vpu.

“This research is important because it identifies CAML as an innate defense mechanism against HIV,” says senior author Paul Spearman, an Emory pediatric infectious disease specialist. He and his colleagues are continuing to study how CAML and Vpu interact, and they hope to use this knowledge to develop new therapies.

The research was published online in the journal Nature Medicine.

Researchers develop first transgenic Huntington’s disease monkey model

By LISA NEWBERN

In the first study of its kind, researchers at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center, in collaboration with researchers from Emory’s Department of Human Genetics, have developed the first transgenic nonhuman primate model of Huntington’s disease, one of the most devastating human neurodegenerative diseases.

This development is expected to lead to greater understanding of the underlying biology of HD and to the development of potential therapies. In addition, this pioneering study is leading the way toward the development of nonhuman primate models of other genetic diseases.

HD is a genetic, neurodegenerative disorder that causes uncontrolled movements, loss of mental processing capabilities and emotional disturbances.

According to lead researcher Anthony W.S. Chan, “In the past, researchers have used transgenic mouse models to study the disease. These models do not completely parallel the brain changes and behavioral features observed in humans with HD, thus making the development of a transgenic nonhuman primate model critical to currently treating and ultimately preventing the disease.”

Chan noted, “The transgenic monkeys are providing us with unparalleled opportunities for behavioral and cognitive assessments that mirror the assessments used with humans. With such information, we are developing a more comprehensive view of the disease than currently available.”

The research team, who are continuing to assess the transgenic monkeys, believe their progress opens the door for developing transgenic nonhuman primate models of other neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer’s.
By KATE NEUHAUSEN and ANJLI AURORA

HealthSTAT, or Health Students Taking Action Together, is an organization founded seven years ago at Emory. With a mission to create a statewide community of health professional students crossing disciplines and engaging in education, advocacy and service, we are the only organization of this kind in the nation.

Our focus is on HIV/AIDS prevention and policy, child obesity prevention, and health disparities and access to care. Public health indicators in these areas are abysmal in Georgia, and millions of Georgians struggle to access health care every day. As Georgia’s future professionals, we are determined to improve these statistics and to make our mark on the future of health care.

One major effort is the Grady is Vital campaign that HealthSTAT initiated last fall in response to students’ concerns over the future of the Grady Health System. We brought together more than 200 health professional students and residents from across Georgia including those at Emory, Morehouse School of Medicine, Medical College of Georgia, Mercer, Georgia State and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

When students first learned of the crisis surrounding Grady, many people told us to watch and wait. We watched, and we listened. We heard our patients telling us that they were praying every night for Grady to stay open. They shared their fears that they would have nowhere to go for health care if Grady closed.

Because so many of us came to medical, nursing or pharmacy school because of our desire to support Grady, a year-long battle with breast cancer that disproportionately affects African American women.

Winship Cancer Institute’s inaugural Jean Sindah Scientific Symposium on Triple Negative Breast Cancer honored the scholar and human rights activist, who died in 1996 after a 14-year battle with the disease.

A study of more than 800 breast cancer cases in Atlanta found that African American women were more than twice as likely to have triple-negative tumors, Emory public health researcher Mary De Land told the group.

Triple-negative breast cancer’s aggressive pathology contributes to African American women’s higher breast cancer mortality rate, she said. Statistics don’t show a split in mortality until 1980, when health care disparities became more apparent with the widespread introduction of mammography.

“Black women today have the survival rate of white women from 25 to 30 years ago,” Lund said. “We’ve got to do better than that, and we’re going to do better than that.”

Triple-negative breast cancer lacks three biological markers that can help doctors identify and treat breast cancer, researchers agree. In testing, researchers say, that includes tamoxifen and Herceptin.

On top of that, triple-negative breast cancer strikes women younger and decades before other forms of breast cancer — on average, and can come back quicker after surgery, according to keynote speaker Funmi Olopade.

No wonder we’ve had such a debate about the effectiveness of mammograms, said Olopade, director of the Cancer Risk Clinic at the University of Chicago. “We’ve really been looking at two different kinds of cancer.”

Olopade described a mother of two from Brownsville, Texas, who came to her with breast cancer at age 27. Follow-up work with the family prevented the progression of cancer in two of the daughters, who inherited the mutation their mother carried.

Although chemotherapy can be effective against triple-negative tumors, researchers said a variety of experimental antagonists agents show potential as well.

Breast cancer, probed, activist honored

By QUINN EASTMAN

Cancer researchers and oncologists from across the country gathered in Atlanta May 16 to focus their attention on a form of breast cancer that disproportionally affects African American women.

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**Seminars**

**Thursday, June 12**

“Emory Endosurgery Unit: The Changing Face of Minimally Invasive and GI Surgery Fellowships.” Edward Lin, endosurgery, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory University Hospital. Free. 404-778-1903.

**Thursday, June 19**

“Terrorism, Turbulence and Trauma: An Analysis of the Past and Prognostic Implications for the Future.” H. Leon Fichter, New Your University Medical Center, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory University Hospital. Free. 404-778-1903.

**Special**

**Wednesday, June 11**

Lullwater Suspension Bridge Dedication. 10 a.m. Lullwater Preserve. Free. RSVP to nvp@emory.edu.

**Visual Arts**

**Friday, June 20**


Now Showing


**Advance Notice**

**Rushdie reading set for July 7**

Emory, A Cappella Books and the Carter Presidential Library present Salman Rushdie, as part of his national book tour, for a special evening lecture at 7 p.m. Monday, July 7 at the Carter Presidential Center. Emory’s Distinguished Visitor in Residence will read from and discuss his new novel “The Enchantress of Florence.”

Tickets can be purchased at A Cappella Books or online at www.acappellabooks.com. The ticket price of $26 includes an autographed first edition of “The Enchantress of Florence.” For more information, contact A Cappella Books at 404-681-5123. Rushdie’s lecture will be in The Carter Center’s Ivan Allen Pavilion. Doors open at 6 p.m.

**Buddhism forum to be June 23–28**

Emory is sponsoring an international forum for scholars of Buddhism on June 23–28. The XVth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies is held once every three to four years.

This year’s conference features over 260 presenters. Panels and sections are offered on a variety of historical and contemporary topics in Buddhism across all the major traditions. Exhibitors whose products support the study of Buddhism will be on hand.

Performances include a Tibetan sand mandala, Tibetan music and dance (public tickets available at www.arts.emory.edu). For more information, visit www.religion.emory.edu/iabs2008/.

**Photos, lectures on ancient kingdom**

Two events, in conjunction with the Carlos Museum’s exhibition “Ancient Kingdoms of Nubia,” will take place this summer.

On Sunday, June 29, at 4 p.m., archaeologist Charles Bonnet, author of “Nubian Pharaohs: Black Kings on the Nile,” discusses 40 years of Swiss Mission of Archaeology excavations at Kerma and Dukki Gel in Sudan.

On Thursday, July 10, 7 p.m., photographer Chester Higgins discusses his photographs, described as “brilliantly evocative.” Higgins’ photographs, “Nubian Dreams: Images of the Sudan by Chester Higgins,” will be on view in Woodruff Library’s Schatten Gallery through July 20. Both will be held in the Carlos Museum’s Reception Hall.

For more information, visit, http://www.carlos.emory.edu.

**Events**

**Crawford Long tours 100 years**

By LESLIE KING

Emory Crawford Long Hospital got a jump on celebrating its 100th anniversary officially Oct. 21, with a historic exhibit and historical tours.

And the tours of the hospital are being offered on Wednesdays, June 11 at 1:30 p.m., and June 25 at 3:30 p.m. The tours are being led primarily by Ren Davis, a project manager in Emory Healthcare; author of “Caring for Atlanta: A History of Emory Crawford Long Hospital;” and grandson of one of the hospital’s founders.

Edward Davis and his former student, Luther Fischer, founded the hospital’s forebear, the St. Marys Davis-Fischer Sanatorium, on Crew Street near present-day Turner Field in 1908. Three years later, they moved the facility to its present site in Midtown, opening an 85-bed building on Linden Avenue that now houses the hospital’s museum. Davis and Fischer exhausted their own personal funds and took out a loan to open the facility.

The hospital was rechartered as a nonprofit in 1931 and renamed in honor of the Georgia physician who discovered sul- furic ether as an anesthetic. In 1939, Fischer deeded the hospi-tal to Emory, which became its proprietor when Fischer died in 1953.

To schedule a free tour of the hospital, call Emory Health Connection at 404-778-7777. The historical display can be viewed at any time without a reservation.

**SNAPSHOT**

**Hillel Center will be home and headquarters**

The Marcus Hillel Center is a big step closer to reality with a recent groundbreaking ceremony for the building that will serve as a center for Jewish life at Emory and headquarters for Hillels of Georgia, which both serve thousands of students each year.

Located on Gatewood Road next to the Woodruff Residential Center, the facility, named in honor of Atlanta philanthropist and Home Depot co-founder Bernie Marcus (left), will include a lounge and café, conference facilities, student meeting and work spaces, event space, chapel and patio areas for social gatherings. The Billi and Bernie Marcus Foundation provided a lead gift of $3 million to build the center, which is expected to open by fall of 2009.

**Blood drive**

Rollins School of Public Health and the Employee Council are sponsoring a blood drive Tuesday, June 10 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Rita Ann Rollins Room, School of Public Health.

All donors will be entered into a drawing for a $750 gas card. Before you donate:

- Drink extra caffeine-free fluids, like water or juice.
- Eat a good meal or snacks.
- Get plenty of sleep the night before.
- Remember to bring a photo ID.

For an appointment log on to donate-emory.org and type in sponsor code: emory.

**Byline**

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