Your guide to Emory's free side

By LESLIE KING

Open your calendar. Close your wallet. Emory's campus is a goldmine of free opportunities for fun and entertainment. The best place to start is the Events at Emory calendar at www.emory.edu.

Emory arts
Pay $3.50 for a movie or even matinee prices? Don't do it. There's an abundance of movies screened on campus at White Hall, the Harland Cinema and other locales. Film Studies' Annie Hall confirms their no-cost admission: "I'm happy to say yes!"

By listening carefully to and working closely with faculty," says Provost Karl Lewis. "Beginning with our undergraduate programs, we will work with department chairs and faculty to identify learning goals for their students; determine how best to assess the achievement of these goals; and then implement and evaluate a learning outcomes plan in fall 2009. From there we will eventually extend the assessment initiative to the graduate and professional programs and schools." The timeline for developing the assessment processes will dovetail with Emory's reports due to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting institutions of higher education in the United States. Since Emory's last reaffirmation of accreditation in 2003, SACS — reflecting the national interest — has added new emphasis on assessing educational outcomes.

To prepare for Emory's fifth year interim SACS report, due in March 2010, the University will focus initiative on establishing assessment plans for all undergraduate degree programs. Over the next four years Emory will develop assessment processes throughout the University — including graduate and professional programs, administrative, and educational support services — so that these will be ready for full accreditation review in 2014.

Lewis has assembled a committee to oversee the development of the SACS report. Committee co-chairs Makeba Morgan Hill, Tom Jenkins, Heather Mugg, Santa Ono, Daniel Toorncroes and Daniel Walls have worked with faculty and administrators across the University to prepare Emory for their final assessment report.
Inside the protein factory

Biochemist gets kick out of life-forming mysteries

By QUINN EASTMAN

Christine Dunham is assistant professor of biochemistry.

Christine Dunham is hunting for dinosaur bones. But she’s no archaeologist wading a pick and shovel. She studies ribosomes, the protein factories inside every cell of every living thing. Ribosomes can be thought of as dinosaur bones because they begin to answer biology’s ultimate chicken/egg question: the origin of life.

If proteins are the machines that make our cells run and nucleic acids such as DNA and RNA store the blueprints, which came first? The answer biologists are finding more and more evidence for is RNA.

The 1989 Nobel Prize-winning discovery that RNA can act as an enzyme, catalyzing chemical reactions and not just carrying information, has led scientists to postulate a primordial “RNA world,” before proteins took over and the genetic code came into being. Ribosomes, made mostly of RNA, are vestiges of this lost world, giving us hints of how “dinosaurs” might have lived on Earth, giving us hints of how new organisms are related to one another, and even hints of life outside of Earth.

Dunham arrived at Emory in the summer of 2008 with her husband Gramene Conn, also a biologist who studies antibiotics and taste receptors. A varsity soccer player at Columbia University, she still plays several times a week around Atlanta.

Dunham came from the Medical Research Council’s Laboratory for Molecular Biology in Cambridge, England. Her signature achievement as a postdoctoral fellow there, working with Venki Ramakrishnan and colleagues, was to assemble a detailed picture of a ribosome.

A varsity soccer player at Columbia University, she still plays several times a week around Atlanta.

Dunham says she is excited to be at Emory because of recent investment in equipment that makes it possible to gather good data here, says she. “Many universities don’t have facilities right here,” she says. “Many universities don’t have facilities like this.”

As an independent researcher, Dunham says she wants to investigate a feature of ribosomes found in retroviruses and bacteria called frameshifting, where a messenger RNA (instructions for making a protein) slips a step as it is being read. Frameshifting is required for making a protein.

Dunham was working in Cambridge, she had to bring her carefully grown crystals on the train to Grenoble, just to have a clue how much and which kind of salt encouraged formation of the best crystal.

“Now, I can screen crystals here and pick only the best ones to take to the synchrotron. And for many purposes, it’s possible to gather good data right here,” she says. “Many universities don’t have facilities like this.”

Her preferred tools are X-rays, which reveal the atomic details of how a ribosome’s parts are arranged. X-rays only reveal a ribosome’s or any other molecular machine’s secrets when the molecules are arranged in a crystal.

“A crystal structure is just a snapshot,” she says. “It doesn’t tell you how the machine moves. But we can use antibiotics to freeze ribosomes in one particular state and gain insight into that step.”

Thus, one side product of ribosome research could be new antibiotics. Ribosomes are particularly difficult to crystallize because they are large and have many parts compared to smaller protein machines. One of the biggest challenges in Dunham’s work is co-crystallizing ribosomes into crystals of sufficient quality.

Dunham says her is excited to be at Emory because of recent investment in equipment that serves as the next best thing to a giant “atom smasher.” A growing group of Emory crystallographers such as Xiaodong Zhang are taking advantage to speed up their work.

To obtain the best data, crystallographers sometimes have to bring their crystals to sources of the strongest X-rays: synchrotron accelerators such as the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois or the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility in Grenoble, France.

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Brian (left) and Kevin Duffy are supporting the race for a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Now a freshman at South Forsyth High School, Brian often has to explain to classmates what ALS is when they see the “Cure for ALS” bumper sticker on the family car. “My goal is to have ALS become as well-known as other diseases, so people will become more aware of it and do more to help and cure it,” Brian says.

For more information on the 2009 Run for Life, please visit www.curefinals.com.
TAKE NOTE

March 22 service to honor Eiesland

A memorial service to honor and celebrate the life of Nancy Eiesland ‘91T–’95G is planned for Sunday, March 22, at 2 p.m. in Cannon Chapel.

The associate professor of sociology of religion and disability studies passed away on March 10. The long-time Candler and Emory community member was known for her work in disability studies scholarship and the sociology of religion.

A reception, including an opportunity to greet the family, will follow the service. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Nancy Eiesland Fund to Support Students with Disabilities, Candler School of Theology, 1501 Drayton Drive, Atlanta, GA 30322. For more information, contact Nikki Jackson at 404-727-6324.

Please see the next issue of Emory Report for a special tribute article to Eiesland.

Add coffee to deals at Carlos book sale

The Carlos Museum bookshop is holding a three-day spring clearance sale, April 2 through April 4. All books and gifts will be discounted 20 percent, including the already price-reduced books located in front of the bookshop. For Carlos Museum members during the month of March: make a purchase over $20 in the bookshop and receive one coupon good for a regular cup of coffee or tea at Caffe Antico.

The bookshop stocks art, archaeology, history and mythology titles for adults and children. Jewelry, statuary, cards, world music, DVDs and other gift items are also offered.

The bookshop is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

SACS: Workshops next step for initiative

Continued from the cover

The accreditation process. To get a sense of the magnitude of their task, the SACS interim report alone includes 14 category items, only one of which is assessment.

In addition, an assessment team has been assembled to tackle the assessment requirement. Team members are Jill Jenkins, Ono, Teodorescu and Laura Patzon. Within this team, Jenkins, Ono and Teodorescu will work closely with department chairs and faculty to develop the learning assessment procedures that reflect their pedagogical goals and are consonant with the SACS reporting standards.

The next steps in developing the assessment program for 2009–10 begin this month. On March 17–18, the Emory School of Medicine will host Barbara Walvoord, professor emerita of English at University of Notre Dame, an expert on assessment practices. She will offer workshops on student learning outcomes for the accreditation process.

ADVANTAGE: Over 634 dreams realized

Undergraduate students at Oxford College, Emory College of Arts and Sciences, Goizueta Business School, and the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing are eligible for the Emory Advantage program, and more than 634 students have benefitted from the program since its inception. In addition, more than $11 million has been raised so far during Campaign Emory toward the University’s goal of building a permanent endowment.

In today’s economy, programs like Emory Advantage and other scholarship opportunities are critical to our mission of educating our best and brightest. I grew up on stories of Oxford, and I knew it was a special place. I was able to go there, too, because of Emory Advantage.”

—Willow Wood, junior

Emory Advantage is just one of many programs at Emory where gifts can be directed to help provide critical resources for current and prospective students. Regardless of area of interest, scholarship and fellowship funding opportunities exist in all corners of Emory’s campus. And each of these areas has identified student support as a high priority within Campaign Emory.

For information on how to support scholarships at Emory, please visit campaign.emory.edu/contact/index.php.

Swanson’s vibrant art graces Candler

By LAUREL HANNA

Visitors to the new building housing the Candler School of Theology and the Center for Ethics are noticing the finely detailed, brilliantly colored paintings and original prints gracing the new structure’s walls.

As they slowly wave through closer inspection, they’ll discover a unique feature of the new structure: it now holds the largest collection of works — some 38 pieces — by internationally renowned artist John August Swanson.

“Candler is quite privileged to have a collection from one of America’s great artists who evokes deeply religious and human themes through his remarkable paintings and prints,” says Candler Dean Jan Love.

Candler will host Swanson for a series of events March 22–26 that will give the Emory community an opportunity to meet the artist, hear about his creative process and tour the collection. Events are sponsored in part by the University’s strategic initiatives on Creativity & Arts and Religion and the Human Spirit.

Swanson’s finely detailed, brilliantly colored paintings and original prints are in the permanent collections of such prestigious venues as the Smithsonian Institution and the Vatican Museums’ Collection of Modern Religious Art.

Though Swanson’s work portrays both religious and secular subjects, there is an overarching theme of embracing life and spiritual transformation. Optimistic but rarely sentimental, his pieces offer new perspectives on familiar scenes and stories.

“The rich colors, glorious skies, lively landscapes, and fascinating people depicted in Swanson’s art reflect both the beautifully divine yet often quite mundane character of everyday life — for us as well as for those in Bible stories we have heard so often,” says Love. “We experience them anew when we encounter these vibrant, gripping pieces of art.”

The associate professor of sociology of religion and dis-
Emory Crawford Long Hospital celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2009, and we made plans to begin our next century of caring with a new, but familiar name. In conjunction with the comprehensive Midtown Campus facility re-development strategy, designed to increase patient volume, clinical research and clinical trials at Emory Crawford Long Hospital (ECLH), on Feb. 12, the Emory University Trustees approved repositioning and renaming our hospital Emory University Hospital Midtown (EHUM). As a result, Emory Healthcare will now be positioned as one academic hospital brand with multiple locations: • Emory University Hospital • Emory University Hospital Midtown • Emory University Orthopaedics & Spine Hospital Those who have witnessed the hospital's explosive growth over the last decade will not be surprised that we are making our long-standing Emory relationship more visible. We are very proud of our heritage and plan to maintain the historical presence of Crawford W. Long Memorial Hospital by keeping the name on key hospital signage, upgrading the quality of the museum and keeping the name on the Davis-Fischer building. However, there are several reasons for taking this initiative: • The general public and especially neighbors new to Atlanta do not understand that our 511-bed Emory Crawford Long Hospital has been affiliated with Emory University since 1939! • The Emory University Hospital (EHUH) brand is associated with such attributes as: finding new cures; the most advanced clinical care; state-of-the-art medical technology; and nationally recognized research. • The word “university” in the name was crucial for achieving governance between ECLH and EHUH, and supports alignment of all Emory University owned and operated Emory University Hospitals. At EHUH, our 3,000-plus employees and Emory Healthcare physicians cover 28 medical specialties, providing our community an unparalleled range of clinical strengths that include: • Accreditation by the Society of Chest Pain Centers • Patient- and family-centered care • Affiliation with Emory Winship Cancer Institute and Emory’s Predictive Health Institute • A comprehensive heart failure research center • Specialists that helped put Emory’s urology department first in the nation for heart procedures • Accreditation by the Society of Chest Pain Centers...
Rheumatoid arthritis cells age chromosomes

By QUINN EASTMAN

Telomeres, structures that cap the ends of cells’ chromosomes, grow shorter with each round of cell division unless a specialized enzyme replenishes them. Maintaining telomeres is thought to be important for healthy aging and cancer prevention.

By this measure, T cells, or white blood cells, from patients with the autoimmune disease rheumatoid arthritis are worn out and prematurely aged, scientists at Emory School of Medicine have discovered. Compared with cells from healthy people, T cells from patients with rheumatoid arthritis have trouble turning on the enzyme that replenishes telomeres, they found.

The results were published online March 2 in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

In rheumatoid arthritis, T cells are chronically over-stimulated, invading the tissue of the joints and causing painful inflammation. This derangement can be seen as a result of the loss of the immune system’s ability to discriminate friend from foe because of a limited T cell pool, says immunologist Cornelia Weyand.

T cells are some of the very few cells in adults that can turn on the enzyme telomerase when stimulated, probably because they have to divide many times and stay alive for decades. Telomerase is active in embryonic development but is usually switched off in adult cells.

Many cancer cells activate telomerase to enable runaway growth, thus any treatment to reactivate the enzyme would have to be carefully targeted.

Experience more with multimedia

Native American Literature: Bridging Communities Online

Watch and listen to an audio interview with professor Craig Womack, and view a video discussion with the tribe. Also, learn about the relation to the tribe’s relocation and the Native American people of the Muscogee Creeks.

By QUINN EASTMAN

Vaccines against H5N1 influenza will be critical in countering a possible future pandemic. Yet public health experts agree that the current method of growing seasonal influenza vaccines in chicken eggs is slow and inefficient.

Scientists at the Emory Vaccine Center have developed an alternative: virus-like particles (VLPs). VLPs are made by introducing three separate viral genes into baculoviruses, which only infect insect cells.

The results are described in the February issue of PLoS (Public Library of Science) ONE. In mice, VLPs appear to deliver several times more potency per microgram than other vaccines, such as the chemically inactivated subunit viral vaccine currently used in the United States or a single viral protein produced in baculovirus.

“This extra potency is important because these other types of vaccines require relatively high doses to be effective for most people, and in a pandemic demand might run up against production capacity. VLPs could offer more bang for the buck,” microbiologist RichardCOMPAS says.

Several worldwide influenza outbreaks have occurred during the past century, with the worst being the Spanish Flu of 1918, which killed more than 50 million people.

The H5N1 variant of influenza, found among birds in Asia in the 1990s, has killed the majority of the several hundred people known to have been infected with it. Public health officials fear that H5N1, to which the human population has not developed immunity, could evolve to be transmissible between humans and cause a global pandemic with very high mortality.

Making influenza vaccines in chicken eggs poses several disadvantages. First, the vaccine takes months. Making enough for millions of people could severely stress the world’s vaccine-making capacity, especially if the poultry industry was endangered and should only be performed in the event of a global pandemic.

VLPs are made by introducing three separate viral genes into baculoviruses, which only infect insect cells.
I was talking to Sasha’s center director, Tiana Smith. She had a loving, supportive, and knowledgeable family and community to support her efforts to help save the next woman’s life. For other victims, it was not enough to save the next woman’s life. For some, it was not enough to save the next woman’s life. For others, it was not enough to save the next woman’s life.

The pain Sasha and her family and friends are facing is for most of us unimaginable. But the ripple effect is felt by many in abusive relationships, ones that have not yet come to our attention.

But we can take heart that this ripple effect also brings with it some hope. My hope is that all who have been affected by Ti-ana’s death — even if they did not know her personally — will redouble their efforts to end this violence.

Tiana’s family has already put in motion this new ripple, this new hope, by establishing the Tiana Angelique Notice Foundation to help women with restraining orders and to prevent domestic violence. Many at Emo-ry have already given to the foundation, and I invite the rest of you to give.

Imagine what we could do if everyone who has heard about Tiana gave something to help save the next woman’s life. For someone who gave so much to make the world a better place, there can be no better memorial.

Help end intimate partner violence. Send checks made out to the Tiana Angelique Notice Foundation to:
The Tiana Angelique Notice Foundation
314 Leo Drive
Gardner, MA 01440
You may also drop your check by the Center for Women on the 3rd Floor of Cox Hall. For more information, e-mail honortiananotice@gmail.com.

The important work of the Center for Women has suffered. Our student workers and volunteers, who put forth so much effort to help women be safe and successful, are left confused and dismayed.

The women’s center director at Hartford told me that Tiana had an unforgettable, infectious smile, and she asked if Sasha had the same kind of smile. Does she, I wonder? I wonder if the ripple effect is flowing over them, their friends, their work places? How is it affec-ting their children, their children’s children, their children’s children’s children?

In their talk, IPV Working Group presenters Paula Gomes and Sheryl Heron noted that for the last five years, there has been a huge increase in domestic violence death per year in the Emory com-munity. The ripple effect of these deaths is the ripple effect is flowing over them, their friends, their work places? How is it affec-ting their children, their children’s children, their children’s children’s children?

The day before she died, Cart-er called Tiana three times at work and left a letter, which she took to the police department before she was killed. The letter, which appears as an example of current laws and practices, is another example of how current laws and practices are victimizing intimate partner vio-lence.

The family said that Carter installed outside her home were not enough to save her life, for other victims, it was not enough to save the next woman’s life. For some, it was not enough to save the next woman’s life. For others, it was not enough to save the next woman’s life.

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ADVANCE NOTICE
Davis speaks on women in prison
One of the most well-known of the U.S. prison system, Angela Davis, will give the keynote address of Emory's Women's History Month.

The civil rights and women's rights leader will speak about women, prison, and activism at Ebenezer Baptist Church on Tuesday, March 24 at 7 p.m.

Davis' long-standing commitment to prisoners rights dates to her involvement in the campaign to free the Soledad brothers, which led to her own arrest and imprisonment in 1970. On the "90s "I Most Wanted List," Davis spent 18 months in jail before her acquittal in 1972.

For more information about this free community event, visit womenscenter.emory.edu.

Political Islam’s future
"The Future of Political Islam" is the next topic of the Life of the Mind lecture series.

Political science associate professor Carrie Wickham will speak Thursday, March 26, at 4 p.m. in the Jones Room, Woodruff Library.

Wickham discusses the dynamics of Islamist movement change, looking at how the goals and strategies of Islamist opposition groups have been affected by the popular participation in the electoral process.

For more information, contact the Office of the Provost at 404-727-4632.

Commemorate war in Iraq
Members of the Emory community will mark the sixth anniversary of the war in Iraq on Tuesday, March 24, from noon to 1 p.m. in the event set for Ashbury Circle (rain location: Dobbs Center outdoor steps), will feature a reading of the names of the more than 4,200 U.S. military personnel who have died in the war, as well as the names of Iraqis killed in the war.

For more information, contact Free Smith, 404-727-0636 or theem@emory.edu.

Islamic, English law compared
The stark differences between Islamic law and English law are the subject of a Virgina 
Hospital lunch lecture by Islamic studies and public understanding professor Mona Siddiqui.

The lecture, "Islamic Law in Britain: A Minor Problem or a Problem for a Major System?" outlines her experiences as an expert witness in American court cases.

Part of Center for the Study of Law and Religion's lecture series on "Law and Religion's Lecture and Religion Meet," it will take place at Emory Law's Tull Auditorium.

Visit www.law.emory.edu/cslr for more information.

Events

Athletics
Thursday, March 19
Baseball v. Atlantic Christian College. 3 p.m. Chappell Park.

Friday, March 20
Track and Field Invitational. 10 a.m. Woodruff FE. Center.

Seminars
Monday, March 16

Tuesday, March 17
"Combating Heritage Loss in Cambodia." Eva Fettner, Canadian Parliamentarian and Former Minister of Justice, presenting. 7:30 p.m. Tull Auditorium, Gambrell Hall. Free. ccai@law.emory.edu.

Wednesday, March 18
"Cultural Interactions and Violence." Marilyn Nelson, poet, presenting. 4 p.m. Jones Room, Woodruff Library. Free. mnelson@emory.edu.

Performing Arts
Monday, March 16
Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony with Scott Stewart, directing. 8 p.m. Emerson Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

Wednesday, March 18
DANOWSKI POETRY READING SERIES: Campbell McGrath. 6 p.m. Jones Room, Woodruff Library. Free. marb@law.emory.edu.

Thursday, March 19

Saturday, March 21


"Corporations, Corruption, and the Modern Lobby: A Gilded Age Revisited." Richard White, Stanford University, presenting. 4 p.m. 111 White Hall. Free. malexan@emory.edu.

"Austrian’s Black Sheep: the Case of Antonius of Fusella." Neil Mclyn, University of Oxford, presenting. 5:30 p.m. 122 Candler Library. Free. jblack2@emory.edu.

Sunday, March 22
Atlanta Youth Arts Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta Family Series. 4 p.m. 208 White Hall. Free. 404-727-5050.

For Faculty and Graduate Students: Exploring Possibilities for Employing fMRI in Future Research.

Monday, March 16

Sunday, March 22
"People’s Movements: The State and Civil Society." Medha Patkar, environmental and human rights activist, presenting. 4 p.m. Tull Auditorium, Gambrell Hall. Free. kpalumb@emory.edu.

Special
Tuesday, March 17

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