Sheth Lecture

Rushdie’s Sheth Lecture explores crowning achievement of Indian art

BY KIM URGUHART

In his Feb. 25 Sheth Lecture in Indian Studies, Salman Rushdie related tales of demons, dragons and “daring do” as depicted in 16th-century Mughal art. Taking his audience on a journey through the “highly fantasized space of the 16th-century imagination,” “The Composite Artist” was part art lecture, part history lesson and wholly entertaining storytelling.

The late 1500s, a “hinge moment in history” and the historical context for Rushdie’s next novel, marked the “half-century-long reign of one of the most remarkable rulers the world has ever known,” the “Grand Moghal” Akbar. At age 15, only two years after ascending the Moghal throne, Akbar commissioned his imperial workshop to create an extraordinary series of paintings known as the Hamzanama.

More than 100 Indian artists worked for several years to complete 14 large volumes containing 100 folios each. This “extraordinary collective act” resulted in a stylistic fusion that made an aesthetic statement of unity in plurality that exemplified the emperor’s desire to create a kingdom that transcended differences of religion and history. “The many-brushed composite artists of the Hamzanama stand before us as a sign of what human beings can achieve when their creativity is brought together in a common cause,” Rushdie said.

Steeped in mystical lore, the “astonishing sequence of paintings” depict the adventures of Hamza, a Persian legend based partly on the historical figure of the Prophet Muhammad’s uncle who led armies of Islam in battle against infidels. “Interestingly, despite the association with the prophet, the fictional Hamza’s adventures are almost entirely secular in nature,” Rushdie noted. The stability, prosperity, religious tolerance, cultural openness and artistic Renaissance that characterized Akbar’s reign was reflected in the Hamzanama. “History is a contested space,” Rushdie said, noting that the history of the Muslim conquest of India has become in recent times the subject of much bitter dispute. “India without this Muslim past would be much less Indian today,” he said. While “militant Hindu revisionists” have attempted to rewrite the past, Rushdie said the images of the Hamzanama are “important evidence” in the battle of the present. Following the decline of the Moghal empire, many of the paintings were lost or destroyed. In subsequent years, many of the images were defaced — the character’s faces erased — due to Islamic prohibitions on figurative art.

Today, less than 200 of the Hamzanama survive. Emory’s Michael C. Carlos Museum is currently home to some of them as part of the “Domains of Wonder: Selected Masterworks of Indian Painting,” on display until March 11. “The Composite Artist” was Rushdie’s first public lecture as Emory’s Distinguished Writer in Residence and the first of a series of events that will celebrate the arts and humanities at Emory and the greater community.

The 7th annual Sheth Lecture, sponsored by the South Asian Studies Program, MARBL and the Hightower Fund, was made possible by the support of Emory marketing professor Jagdish Sheth and the Sheth Family Foundation.

CAMPUS NEWS

Key VP searches shift into high gear

BY RON SAUER

A n intense search process for a successor to Senior Vice President for Development and University Relations Johnnie Ray has moved into the home stretch, with four finalists having visited campus in the past two weeks.

Meanwhile, a search consultant has been engaged, and an advisory committee has been constituted and early expressions of interest have been encouraging in the search for a successor to Michael M.E. Johns as executive vice president for health affairs and CEO of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center.

Johns has been named fifth chancellor of Emory and will assume his new position on Sept. 1, or when his successor in health sciences takes office.

Ray left Emory in December to become president and CEO of the Arizona State University Foundation.

“The early feedback we have gotten on both of these searches from our search consultants, prospective candidates and colleagues within the academic community has been positive,” President Jim Wagner said. “Both inside and outside the University, there is a shared perception that we are moving to a new level of accomplishment as we begin to implement our strategic plan. Emory is an exciting and appealing place to be because of our auspicious combination of research, vision and opportunity.”

Wagner said that based on their initial rounds of interviews, one or more of the development VP finalists could be invited back to campus in early March for an even wider range of interviews and interactions with the Emory community.

The development job has been advertised as senior vice president for development and alumni relations, a change in nomenclature signifying the fact that the communications and marketing functions are being integrated and broken out as a separate division of the administration, serving all other divisions of the University, including development and alumni relations and student affairs.

The development search is being headed by Johns. The search consultant is John Glier of the firm Grenzebach & Glier, who also is serving as a management consultant to Emory’s comprehensive capital campaign.

Other members of the advisory committee are University trustees Ellen Bailey, Sonny Doriso and Rusty French; Earl Lewis, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs; Rosemary Magee, vice president and secretary of the University; and Michael Mandel, executive vice president for finance and administration.

The search is being staffed by Gary Teal, s

The executive vice president for health affairs search is being headed by Mandel. The search consultant is Spencer Stuart. Other members of the advisory committee include Woodruff Health Sciences Center and University trustees Doug Ivester, Ben Johnson, William Kelly and John Morgan.

Also serving on the committee are William Bornstein and Susan Grant of Emory Health Care; Susan Donaldson from the School of Nursing; Eric Hunter, Nelson Oyusku, Carlos del Rio, David Stephens and Barbara Stoll from the School of Medicine; Michelle Lampl of Emory College; Richard Levinson and Ken Thorpe from the School of Public Health; and Lisa Tedesco from the Graduate School.

The search is being staffed by Peter Barnes, vice president for human resources, and David Hansen, associate vice president for administration.

AAIT hosts conference on information security awareness March 28

Protecting information confidentiality and preventing identity theft are top challenges in securing security in today’s cyber world. Emory’s 4th annual Information Security Awareness Mini-Conference, set for March 28 in Cox Hall, will offer faculty, staff and students the opportunity to learn ways to secure their digital information, protect their computing privacy, keep confidential information secure and avoid becoming victims of identity theft when using networked resources.

Sponsored by Academic and Administrative IT, registration is free but required by March 21.

For conference schedule and to register online, visit http://it.emory.edu/security_conference.
AROUND CAMPUS

PCSW calls for HERSE Institute applications

The President’s Commission on the Status of Women will select up to two women to receive funding to attend the 2008-2009 HERS-NEW England Management Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration at Wellesley College.

The HERS-New England program is one of the most distinguished leadership development programs in the country and prepares women to move into the ranks of senior leadership through focused study in planning and fiscal management, managing in organizations, and professional development.

The series of five intensive weekend programs is held on the Wellesley College campus on: Oct 18-20; Nov 16-17, Jan 25-26, 2008; March 13-15, 2008; and April 25-26, 2008.

The HERS participant profile consists of women who are striving for a career in higher education as administrators, deans, tenured faculty and other academic leadership positions. Women who are interested in gaining leadership skills, networking with other women from a variety of academic settings, and furthering their understanding of the management, legal and financial aspects of higher education are prime candidates for the HERS conference.

Deadline for submission of application materials is Friday, April 6. For more information, visit www.pcswe.emory.edu.

FIRST PERSON

Deepika Bahri is associate professor and director of Emory’s South Asian Studies Program.

Rushdie’s truth in fiction

Salman Rushdie is the greatest storyteller of our time. He is the author of nine novels, one collection of short stories and five works of non-fiction. But this is a world where the power of speech is the calculus of why he matters as a writer.

“Those of us who return to his books again and again — from “Grimus” to “Midnight’s Children” to “Shame” to “The Satanic Verses” and others — know that we read them to find a new map of the world, from a writer who understands that reality and the world leave a lot to the imagination. “Let me rescue you,” goes the refrain to a song Rushdie wrote for U2.

“Let me rescue you,” his fictions seem to say, and take you to another world, somewhat invented, and therefore maybe more true.

There was a brief time when we had forgotten to read his work, divested by the series of unfortunate events dubbed “The Rushdie Affair,” in 1989. The University rated with the arrival of a not-so-funny Valentine delivered on Feb. 14, 1989. The controversy, Rushdie so academically described, of “a category mistake” that takes “fiction for fact” while ignoring what is true in it.

During the stunned silence when we wondered if he was lost to us as a writer, Rushdie had begun writing “Haroun and the Sea of Stories” to keep a promise made to his son Zafar. He began writing to keep a refrain to a person, to return to us to ask “Is not the power of speech the greatest power of all?”

“We inhale the world and breathe out meaning. While we can,” he wrote, and added, “I must live until I die.”

adapted from Deepika Bahri’s introduction to Salman Rushdie’s Feb. 25 Sheth Lecture in Indian Studies.

EMORYVOICES

What are your plans for spring break?

Whitney Perry

sophomore

Biology

I’ll be in South Beach Miami.

Linda Nodine

human resources associate

Woodruff Library

I’m going to England in May with my daughter, so I’m putting everything off until then.

David Osley

sophomore

Computer Science

I’m going to be in Charleston, S.C., but it may be too cold for the beach.

Jonelle Moffet

senior

Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology

What are your plans for spring break?

Brandon Hedrick

sophomore

Biology/Math

Nothing, except going home to Washington, D.C.

EMORY REPORT

Campus forums discuss responsibilities of an ethnically engaged community

BY KIM URQUHART

Emory’s vision for ethical engagement is the focus of an ongoing series of campus forums led by President Jim Wagner and Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration Mike Mandl. In a Feb. 28 forum in the Winship Ballroom, Wagner used a “working definition” of ethics — “making decisions and taking actions based on moral principles” — to guide a discussion of what it means to live and work as part of a community built on integrity.

Wagner spoke of the need to adopt and apply a set of moral principles to “achieve a sense of aspiration among the community to be ethically engaged.” He asked the 50 or so employees present at the forum to write for the words that represent community trust. Honesty, joy, respect and understanding were just a few of the responses. Mandl urged the community to “think about these principles in the spirit of trust and service to be the best we can be.”

Each spring the two administrators choose a topic of broad interest to the community and host a series of informal exchanges that give Emory employees a chance to share ideas or air questions.

This meeting focused mainly on financial ethics.

In its efforts to promote the highest degree of financial transparency, the University has voluntarily adopted governance practices mandated for public institutions by investors.

“We have a responsibility to be good stewards” of the resources Emory is entrusted with, Mandl said.

“There are a whole host of ways we carry out our fiduciary duties,” Mandl said.

These include the Emory Trust Line, a confidential telephone resource that allows Emory University and Emory Healthcare enterprises to report a workplace concern; an enterprise risk management committee, formed last August to guide Emory’s response to risks; a fraud awareness program organized through Emory’s internal audit division; and a series of reports and tools to help managers and supervisors detect unusual activity. In addition, a report is due out later this spring from a group formed by Wagner to define how culture helps foster an ethnically engaged community.

Ethical engagement does not pertain only to financials, Wagner said, but is also important in research and in teaching. Wagner and Mandl closed the forum by thanking everyone for their input.

emory.edu and mandl@emory.edu. “Thank you for being engaged,” Wagner concluded, “and talk to us if we can help with anything.”

Next meetings:

Thursday, March 22
8–9 a.m.
Campus Services
Training Room, Building 8

Wednesday, April 4
8–9 a.m.
Tarbutton Theater, Oxford College

Campus forums discuss responsibilities of an ethnically engaged community

ER Spring Break

Emory Report will not publish on March 12 due to Spring Break. Emory will resume weekly publication on Monday, March 19.
Bruce Covey, senior director of technical services for campus life, also teaches poetry classes at Emory and edits an online poetry magazine.

“I was simultaneously doing differential equations and abstract algebra while writing poetry.”

—Bruce Covey, on his early years.

A sk Bruce Covey why he writes poetry and he’ll tell you it’s just who he is: “I eat, I sleep, I parent my daughters, I write poetry,” says the popular creative writing professor and accomplished poet. Often those poems are written late at night — Covey claims to need only three hours of sleep — and he always carries around a notepad so no time is wasted when inspiration strikes.

And Covey doesn’t have much time to waste. He juggles a dual career at Emory as a lecturer in poetry and senior director for technical services for campus life where he provides support for 23 campus life departments and oversees EmoryCard. Covey is also Emory’s in-house bookstore expert and in his free time edits an online poetry magazine. How does he do it?

“It’s a team effort, definitely. I have an awesome staff and a great team around me,” he says. “I always like to have a ton of things going on.”

Covey shares “the random path” that led him to the seemingly disparate world of words, computers and books. In college, he majored in both English and math. “It was simultaneously doing differential equations and abstract algebra while writing poetry,” he says. Equally adept at logic and creativity, he explains: “My parents are both chemists so I had that scientific side. I don’t know about the poetry side — maybe I was dropped on my head.”

Upon graduation, Covey took a job with IBM. He spent a year there as a technical writer before enrolling in graduate school at Yale. At Yale he shared a contemporary poetry class with “X-Files” star David Duchovny and the woman who would later become Covey’s wife — Catherine Nickerson, an associate professor in Emory’s Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts.

After receiving his master’s degree in English literature, Covey “got into the book business,” running an independent academic bookstore for Yale. He came to Emory in 1993 to manage the Candler Theology School Bookstore, a small operation still run out of a tiny basement room in Bishops Hall. He was later asked to join the Emory Bookstore team and in 1999 started the Druid Hills Bookstore. For four years, he managed what was at the time the largest independent academic bookstore in the Southeast. When the management of the bookstores were outsourced to the Follett Higher Education Group in 2002, Covey moved into a contract manager position as University bookstore liaison. In September, he began his new role as technical director.

“And all the while,” he says, “I was writing poetry.”

He was also teaching poetry, first at Atlanta College of Art and later at Emory. “Teaching is utterly joyful,” says Covey. He particularly enjoys the opportunity to introduce students to poetry “who don’t have a ton of experience with poetry and might have some negative preconceptions.” Covey delights in helping students “discover poems that in terms of voice. In terms of poetic traditions, the range is really quite broad,” he says.

He recalls soliciting for “Coconut” the work of one of his poetic heroes, Ron Padgett. “Padgett was one of the very first poets that I liked back in high school and his was one of the first books of poetry I ever bought 25 years ago,” Covey recalls. “And then I got to meet him, and he was not only an incredible poet but an incredibly nice person.”

As chair of the Emory Poetry Council, Covey also convinced Padgett to read his work at Emory, which he did during a campus visit last month.

Covey has been writing since he was a child, when he would create stories “on the vastness and smallness of love,” he says, “which somehow made me think — somehow made me think of love,” he says, “which always moves beyond boundary lines in ‘Nine Ball: A Love Poem.’ ”

“The meat — all that excess — somehow made me think of love,” he says, “which always moves beyond boundaries into the sublime.”

Another poem, “Taking Too Long,” was inspired by “the vastness and smallness” of China, where Covey and his wife have visited twice to adopt each of their daughters. Now ages 5 and 7, Covey says that “parenting is the most joyful thing I do now.”

He continues to find gratification in his writing as well. Reading, writing and teaching poetry is “a way of interacting” for the naturally shy Covey. When he reaches out to a reader, and that reader “comes back and tells me they like a poem, it makes me really happy.”

EMORYPROFILE BRUCE COVEY

March 5, 2007

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EMORYReport

Kay Hinton

Bruce Covey

By Kim Urquhart

I was simultaneously doing differential equations and abstract algebra while writing poetry.”

—Bruce Covey, on his early years.
Food sustainability plan springs forth in campus gardens

BY CAROL CLARK

I t’s possible to plant the seeds of a new way of thinking at an organization in a way that allows people to actually touch it, smell it — even taste it. The team behind Emory’s Sustainable Food Initiative, and a Sodexo representative examine organic produce at the health food co-op Sevananda.

“...a lot of people these days don’t know what food looks like,” said Peggy Barlett, professor of anthropology, who is heading up the Sustainable Food Initiative for the Office of Sustainability Initiatives. “The goal of the gardens is to help people understand where food comes from and help them become more connected to the outdoors and our community through the fun of watching things grow.”

In the coming warm weather, watch for crops like broccoli, asparagus, peppers and peas to sprout amid the daylilies and daffodils at three small plots: along the frontage of The Depot; in front of the Rollins Research Building at 1510 Clifton Rd., and on the edge of the ravine by Cox Hall, along the wide path leading toward the Quad.

The Office of Sustainability Initiatives, directed by Cannatt Howett, was created in 2006 to actively support the infusion of sustainability principles throughout the University. The Sustainability Food Initiative is one part of this effort.

A few other leading universities are on the same track for sustainable food, “but we have especially ambitious strategic goals for our initiative here at Emory,” Barlett said. “We’ve made a commitment that the sooner we can get away from supporting production systems that pollute or harm local farmers, the better.”

Emory’s strategic plan calls for buying “5 percent of food for campus dining from local or sustainable agriculture sources by 2015.” The plan also includes starting a campus farmers market and an Emory/Oxford sustainable farm, along with campus gardens.

The three campus gardens are not designed to produce a substantial amount of food, but to serve as a hands-on educational and awareness tool. “When people walk onto the campus, we want them to see visible signs that we are doing something different here,” Barlett said.

A committee composed of students, faculty, staff and interested community members — including several master gardeners who are Emory employees — will oversee the gardens. Chad Brunner, lecturer in the department of biology, will supervise the planting and maintenance of the plots.

Each garden will have a slightly different character. Plaques and brochures will inform about the crops and sustainable food production.

“We’ve invited the garden team to ‘paint with plants,’” Barlett said. “This is the first year for the gardens, and we’re going to see how it works.”

Eventually, student groups will be invited to “adapt” an area and plant species representative of a particular region or purpose. One possibility Barlett cited would be a medicinal garden, featuring antioxidant plants to link the sustainable food effort to Emory’s health promotion activities.

Office of Sustainability Initiatives seeks proposals for innovation grants

The Office of Sustainability Initiatives announced a new incentives fund to support research, campus-based projects and the development of new tools to promote sustainability.

Proposals are welcome in all areas but especially in the 2007 priority areas of energy reduction, reducing waste, recycling sustainable food systems, alternative transportation and connection to “place.” Emory faculty, staff and students are eligible to apply for grants that will vary from $100 to $400. Funds may be used for supplies, materials, publicity and travel costs (excluding equipment).

Applications must be received by the Office of Sustainability Initiatives by Friday, March 9.

For more information, contact Wever at 404-727-9916 or ewever@emory.edu.
Carter defends Mideast book at news-making town hall

BY CAROL CLARK

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ormal U.S. President Jimmy Carter talked about his long efforts toward bringing peace to the Middle East, and the reasons he wrote his controversial book “Palestine Peace Not Apartheid” in a Feb. 22 Town Hall meeting at Glenn Memorial Auditorium.

Carter, a University Distinguished Professor at Emory since 1982, spoke for about 15 minutes and then spent an hour answering questions that had been submitted by students and faculty. About 600 members of the Emory community, along with representatives of major media, turned out to hear the former president speak.

The Middle East was one of his top priorities as president, said Carter, who organized the landmark 1978 Camp David accords, which led to the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. “I did all I could, and I left office thinking that Israel would soon realize its dream of peace with its neighbors,” he said.

Now, 82, Carter said that, next to his family, one of his life’s “few high priorities” remains working to bring peace to Israel and justice to Palestinians.” He added that his hope in writing the book was to spark “increased interest in this” issue.

Carter, 82, is “a best seller,” “Palestine Peace Not Apartheid” has itself become the center of heated discussion, with some reviewers and scholars saying that the book contains mistakes and misstatements that give a distorted view of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Fourteen members of an advisory board to The Carter Center resigned in protest following the publication of the book.

The format of Carter’s appearance at Emory also generated controversy. Eleven Emory professors wrote an editorial that appeared in The Emory Wheel prior to his talk under the headline: “What’s Jimmy Carter Afraid Of?”

The editorial writers complained that Carter should share the podium “with someone who could engage in a productive interchange and discussion on the topic.” The professors nominated Dennis Ross — who negotiated on the Middle East conflict in both the first Bush administration and the Clinton administration — as the best person for that interchange.

About two dozen students wearing T-shirts printed with “What’s Jimmy Afraid Of?” also protested in front of Glenn Memorial Auditorium before Carter’s talk.

President Jim Wagner, in his introduction of Carter, announced that Ross has agreed to speak at Emory on May 1.

During his talk, Carter reiterated many of the statements he made in his book.

“Israel will never find peace until it is willing to withdraw from its neighbor’s land and permit the Palestinians to participate in their own human and political rights,” he said.

Policies such as building a “huge wall and a fence” around Gaza, and the division of Palestinian territory into 200 settlements with hundreds of checkpoints “make the lives of Palestinians almost intolerable,” Carter said.

He added that he believes that “a minority of Israelis” is “the driving force” behind those policies, and suggested that a group of Emory students and professors “visit Palestine and determine whether I have exaggerated or incorrectly described the situation there.”

During the Q&A session, Carter fielded a complaint from the audience that he had laid the blame for the conflict entirely at the foot of Israel when the root of the problem lies in the fact that two different groups lay claim to the same real estate.

“I recognize plainly that many Arabs are also at fault,” Carter said. “Any sort of act of terrorism or violence against an innocent person is abominable to me. And, obviously, there are faults both ways.”

Carter thanked Carter for “the courage of his own convictions” and for his willingness to appear at the Emory event.

“Universities such as Emory are obliged by their history and by their mission to ensure that there is space to engage non-violently. It is hard work and you in this audience are doing it,” Wagner said.

Recognizing that no single event could cover the complexities of the Middle East conflict, Wagner said that several follow-up activities are planned at Emory. In addition to Ross’ May 1 appearance and an ongoing series of lectures on religion and peace-building, faculty involved in scholarship on Islam, Judaism and Christianity are collaborating on the development of a course on peace-building in the fall, which will bring together experts “representing a wide variety of views,” Wagner said.

“We will focus particularly on peace-building practices,” Wagner said, “and look at on-the-ground efforts of ordinary people with extraordinary ideas. We hope that students and members of the broader Emory community will participate.”

Co-president of Emory Hillel and Emory College senior Joe Greene, who had organized a student petition against Carter’s solo appearance, said he was glad that Ross is scheduled to speak at Emory, but disappointed that he did not stage the event with Carter.

“It’s good that [Ross] is coming, but presenting different viewpoints side by side, rather than two or three months later, would be better,” Greene said.

Provoast Earl Lewis said after the event that he would like to acknowledge the counsel and assistance of a group of faculty and administrators who have been working with him since late in the fall semester to design a series of programs, including lectures and the conflict and peace-building class, which will provide an intellectual context for consideration of the issues raised in Carter’s book.

Employees urged to expand roles at council meeting

BY CAROL CLARK

Employees urged to expand roles at council meeting

BY CAROL CLARK

Faculty and staff at the Employee Council Town Hall learn more about Emory’s strategic efforts.

“Cut off the leg of a spider and you have a wounded creature; cut off its head and the spider dies. But if you cut off the leg of a starfish, the starfish can simply grow a new one. In fact, the severed leg can also generate an entirely new starfish because starfish are decentralized organisms and replicate their major organs in each arm,” Carter said.

Think of Emory as a starfish organization, President Jim Wagner urged staff and faculty gather for the Employee Council Annual Town Hall on Feb. 28. Wagner used the metaphor from the book “The Starfish and the Spider,” by Ori Brafman and Rod Beckstrom, to emphasize that Emory needs to be driven by the power of shared principles and peer relationships, rather than rigid, hierarchical leadership.

“The responsibility, ownership, understanding and advocacy of Emory exists outside of the people sitting up here,” Wagner said, indicating the panel, which included Provost Earl Lewis, Executive Vice President of Finance and Administration Manflisl Wagn, Vice President and Secretary of the University Rosemary Magee and Vice President for Development Phil Hills.

The theme of the town hall, moderated by Employee Council President Linda Sheldon, was: “Do You Know Where Courageous Inquiry Leads?”

When giving campus presenta- tions about Emory’s vision and its strategy for achieving it, Wagner said he often gets asked: What’s my role? How can I help? He said that every employee should be a “student of Emory,” to learn about how the University is contributing to the community and to the world. And secondly, each employee should take responsibility and ownership for Emory’s success.

As examples of Emory’s contributions to the local community, Wagner cited the creation of neighborhood activity centers, increased transportation choices, a pedestrian-friendly environment, partnerships with public schools and ongoing efforts to provide more affordable housing near the campus. Emory’s contributions to the world include its pursuit of sustainability, its preparation of scholar-citizens and its initiatives in global health, preventive health, religion and the human spirit, race and difference, neuro- science and human behavior and computational and life sciences.

“In the proud of Emory know about these things— have them on the tip of your tongue,” Wagner said.

A few of the issues raised by questions from the audience included:

 • The need for a single, central point of communications.

“Earlier this week, approval was given to move ahead on a major redesign of the Emory Web page,” Wagner said. “One of the goals will be to improve its role as a central focus of communication both within and outside the University.”

Wagner also urged every one to read Emory Report each week. “Even if you just read the headlines, that would help,” he said.

 • The problem of turnover caused by the end of grants and contracts.

“It’s a tough dynamic and it’s really a national issue (for universities), as well as an Emory issue,” Manflisl said, adding that Emory has formed a human resources task force to work with the research community to find ways to retain talented staff currently employed by “soft” money. The task force is “making strides, but it’s really a multi-year challenge,” he said.

Phil Hills added that office of Development is looking into “how we can search out donors for bridge funds to fill lulls between grants.”

 • The desire for more child-care and elder-care services for employees.

Child-care and dependent-care issues is currently a focus of the Emory Work-Life Task Force, said Magee, who co-chairs the task force. She urged inter- ested employees to “be part of the discussion” by submitting “thoughts and suggestions” via the Online Work-Life Forum Web site at www.admin. emory.edu/StrategicPlan/worklife.

The Town Hall can be viewed on the Employee Council Web site at www.employee.council. emory.edu.
Emory ranks first in survey of commercialized research

BY HOLLY KORSCHUN

A recent report released by the Association of University Technology Managers ranked Emory first in commercialization revenue in 2005 among reporting universities, with more than $585 million in licensing revenue. That year Emory sold its future royalties from the Emory-discovered HIV/AIDS drug Emtriva to Gilead Sciences and Royalty Pharma for a one-time payment of $525 million. Emtriva, along with another Emory-invented HIV/AIDS drug, Epivir, is among the most commonly used HIV/AIDS therapies, in combination with other drugs.

Emory also created four start-up companies in 2005, executed 30 licensees, filed 54 new patent applications, received issuance of 17 U.S. patents, and had total research spending of $345.7 million.

Over the past 15 years, commercialized Emory research discoveries have resulted in revenues in excess of $720 million to the University.

“Part of the mission of Emory is to create, preserve, and apply knowledge gained in the service of humanity, treatment of disease, as well as other consumer needs. The most recently used drugs for HIV/AIDS, diagnostic tests for genetic disorders, a technology to improve angio-plasty, and imaging software for diagnosing cardiovascular and the technology transfer program does exactly that,” said Todd Sherer, director of Emory’s Office of Technology Transfer.

“Our robust pipeline includes world-class products in all stages of development and regulatory approval.”

—Todd Sherer, office of technology transfer director

JDRF awards Emory $2.5M to research Type 1 diabetes

BY HOLLY KORSCHUN

Using a $2.5 million, three-year grant from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Emory transplant researchers plan to develop pig islets as an alternative to human islets for transplantation into patients with Type 1 diabetes. If their research is successful, clinical trials of the porcine islet transplants into humans could begin within the next three years. Christian Larsen, director of the Emory Transplant Center, is principal investigator of the grant.

Individuals with Type 1 diabetes, which usually develops early in life, are unable to produce their own insulin because their pancreatic islets do not function. Since 2003, researchers in Edmonton, Alberta, first reported that islet transplantation can produce a high rate of insulin independence with excellent metabolic control. This was followed over the next several years by a series of clinical trials focused on improving the islet transplant procedure. Emory was the first, and is still the only, center in Georgia thus far to transplant human islets. Emory researchers have performed 16 islet transplants into nine patients since 2003. Despite some success in helping patients fogo or cut down on insulin injections, the islet transplant procedure still faces significant challenges.

Transplant recipients must take toxic immunosuppressants to improve long-term survival of the islets. Emory scientists, based on research begun at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center and continued in human clinical trials, are leaders in a national effort to develop less toxic drugs for islet and solid organ transplants.

At the same time, researchers have realized the vast gap between the number of human islets available from current sources and the millions with Type 1 diabetes who could potentially benefit from an effective islet replacement therapy. Xenotransplants, which are transplants between two different species of animals, have been considered as an alternative that could provide much larger quantities of islets for human transplant.

“While support from the JDRF has allowed us to make considerable progress in improving immunosuppressants and in refining the islet transplant procedure, a significant problem remains with the availability of porcine islets,” Larsen said. “There simply will never be enough islets available for transplant if we must rely on human deceased donor pancreas. We are very optimistic that porcine islets may provide the answer to this difficult challenge.”

With the JDRF grant, the Emory scientists will use a nonhuman primate model at the Yerkes Transplant Center to develop their porcine islet transplant strategy. This will include successfully preparing the porcine islets for transplant; circumventing the potent rejection barrier of the xenograft; and understanding and minimizing the risk of transmission of porcine pathogens to human transplant recipients and the general population.

In 2002, the JDRF awarded Emory scientists $4.1 million to build the Emory JDRF Center for Islet Transplantation to address large-scale strategies for islet replacement. One of only a handful of such centers, it was renewed with an additional five-year grant of $8.5 million in 2006 with the goal of advancing islet transplantation to a mainstream therapy for Type 1 diabetes.

Hughes keynotes calls for worldwide collaborations to detect, manage disease

BY ROBIN TRICIOLES

Managing future outbreaks of infectious diseases worldwide will depend critically on increased collaboration across a broad range of specialties in both human and veterinary health, said James Hughes, director of the Emory Program in Global Infectious Diseases and Emory School of Medicine professor.

Hughes recently delivered the keynote address at the International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance in Vienna, Austria. In his address, he stressed the importance of collaborations and networks that include clinicians, researchers and public health workers. These collaborations, he said, can improve monitoring of infectious diseases and facilitate implementation of the World Health Organization’s International Health Regulations.

Implementation will allow for rapid recognition of outbreaks and prompt communication of unusual symptoms, signs or laboratory results that may signal an impending outbreak in both humans and animals, Hughes said.

These networks and partnerships can facilitate proactive communication of critical information from those managing the outbreak to a wide audience, including policymakers, media and the public, as well as help address the critical need for increasing laboratory capacity; that is, the equipment and people needed to run specific tests quickly and efficiently,” said Hughes.

Increasing laboratory capacity optimizes early detection and response to disease outbreaks, allowing health workers and scientists to better prepare for future disease trends, he notes.

“Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases remain a major threat to public health, claiming more than 15 million lives each year. Emerging zoonoses — of particular importance,” he said.

“Recent cases of avian influenza in Asia have brought concerns of pandemic influenza and its potentially catastrophic effects to the forefront of public health. The avian influenza vaccine has uncovered both strengths and weaknesses in local, national and global public health efforts, providing important lessons for improving our ability to detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.

One way to improve the detection and response to outbreaks less is through improving the world’s public health infrastructure through organizations such as the International Association of National Public Health Institutes, said Hughes, who is IANPHI senior advisor for infectious diseases.
A sold-out crowd of Emory alumni welcomed the Emory Chamber Music Society to Carnegie Hall in New York on Saturday night, Feb. 24, for a concert that featured some of the University’s most gifted musicians stretching the boundaries of their art.

An event sponsored by the Emory Alumni Association, “Jazz Meets Classics” featured the Gary Motley Quartet (the Motley jazz trio augmented by saxophonist and Emory professor Dwight Andrews), the Vega String Quartet (Emory’s first resident quartet and a world-renowned chamber ensemble), and Emory Professor of Piano Will Ransom.

All nine musicians shared the stage in Weill Recital Hall (located on the third floor of Carnegie Hall), where much of the venue’s chamber music is performed. Selections ranged from classical composers who needed just one-name identification — Bach, Mozart and Stravinsky — to jazz greats from more modern times — Fats Waller, George Gershwin and Herbie Hancock.

Concluding the show was the premiere of an original composition by Motley called “Suite Odyssey” that combined the talents of both quartets. At other times the jazz musicians (Motley, Andrews, Moffett Morris on bass and Lorenzo Sanford on drums) and classical musicians (Wei Wei Le and Jessica Shuang Wu on violin, Yinzi Kong on viola and Guang Wang on cello) had their genres to themselves.

Interwoven among the performances was commentary by Ransom, Motley and Andrews that focused on the ways the two diverse musical genres intersected. Ransom and Motley also traded off playing the one piano located stage left.

The concert was a return engagement between Emory and Carnegie Hall. The last time the Chamber Music Society performed in the Weill Recital Hall was in April 2005. That event focused on the chamber music of Johannes Brahms.

Many of the concert-goers came from an EAA-hosted reception for New York alumni that was held at a hotel a couple of doors down from Carnegie Hall. That reception featured more than 150 attendees who heard brief addresses from President Jim Wagner, Emory Alumni Board President Walker Ray and Student Alumni Association Co-President Ben Corley, a senior in Emory College.

The reception and concert provided a chance for Emory alumni in New York to reconnect to their alma mater. The EAA sponsors several events there each year and the EAA local regional chapter — Emory’s largest outside Atlanta — organizes several others on its own. But because such a large contingent was visiting Atlanta, many alumni took advantage of the opportunity to get close.

“Professor Andrews was one of my instructors,” said one of the concert-goers, a 20-something man, to his companion as they walked down the stairs from their balcony seats after the show. “Tonight I felt like I was back in class,” he continued.

Upon reaching the ground floor, he took a step toward the exit then reconsidered. “I think I’ll go say hello,” he said, changing direction toward the stage and a reconnection with his former instructor.

Emory specialists prepare for allergy season

While many Georgians long for spring to arrive, most do not look forward to the pollen-induced allergies that it brings. According to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, as many as 40 to 50 million people in the U.S. suffer from allergies.

The new Emory Sinus, Nasal and Allergy Center at Emory Crawford Long Hospital is already gearing up for a very busy allergy season, said Alpen Patel, assistant professor in Emory’s Department of Otolaryngology and a specialist in allergy, sinus and rhinology — the branch of medicine dealing with conditions and structures of the nose.

Nasal congestion can be one of the key symptoms of an allergy. It is a natural part of the inflammatory response to histamine — a compound released by cells of the immune system during an allergic reaction.

“Beginning in March, we can expect to see a variety of allergens in the air,” Patel said. “Some of those early allergens, which coat everything in our region green and yellow, are tree and grass pollens.”

The Emory Sinus, Nasal and Allergy Center provides skin and blood tests to identify the substances or allergens that cause sensitivities. Treatment programs include allergy shots, medications, antihistamines, decongestants and corticosteroids.

The Center also specializes in a broad range of disorders of the nose and sinus including: allergic rhinitis (irritation and inflammation of the nose), deviated septum, chronic and acute sinusitis, rhinoplasty (nose reconstruction), nasal polyps, sneezing, sinusitis and neck trauma and general ear, nose and throat problems.

Maria Aaron, assistant professor of ophthalmology at Emory School of Medicine and a physician at Emory Crawford Long Hospital, said the allergy season also impacts the eyes, causing allergic conjunctivitis — a red, inflamed eye due to allergy.

Those with contact lenses have an even tougher time during the season, as allergens can coat the lenses.

General remedies may include eye drops (prescription or over-the-counter, which should always be preservative-free), anti-inflammatory medications, antihistamines, environmental control (removing offending pollens from the air and bedding, for instance), and washing hair when bathing.

Using eye drops liberally after outside activities is also highly recommended. During the day, rinse the face with water and using a cold compress over the eyes can help.

—Janet Christenbury

Jazz meets classics at sold-out New York City alumni event

“Jazz Meets Classics” featured Will Ransom. (Located on the third floor of New York City alumni event Jazz meets classics at sold-out Carnegie Hall), where much of Carnegie Hall in New York on Saturday night, Feb. 24, for a Chamber Music Society to String Quartet (Emory’s first Saturday night, Feb. 24, for a Motley jazz trio augmented by the venue’s chamber music is performed. Selections ranged by renowned chamber ensemble), the Vega resident quartet and a world- renowned quartet and a world- renowned chapter — Emory’s largest outside Atlanta — organizes several others on its own. But because such a large contingent was visiting Atlanta, many alumni took advantage of the opportunity to get close.

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Flag football foes play for cup

University administration met the Student Government Association Feb. 26 on McDonough Field to vie for the first annual Dooley Cup in a game of flag football. The students claimed the trophy, shutting out the administration 18-0.

The administration’s Jace Rogers prepares to stop an SGA run down the field.

SGA members dump water on their coach as the ceremonial end to a victorious game.

Despite the loss, President Jim Wagner is still smiling at the end of the competition.
**Monday, March 5**

**Film Screening and Discussion**


**Film**

“Remembered Rwanda” ("Rwanda pour Mémoire"). Samba Félix N’Diaaye, director. 6 p.m. 200 White Hall. Free. 404-727-2240.

**Tuesday, March 6**

**Concert**

DuoATL, with Brian Luckett, guitar, and Nicole Randall, flute, performing. 8 p.m. Emerson Concert Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

**Wednesday, March 7**

**Film**

“Rashomon.” Akira Kurosawa, director. 8 p.m. 205 White Hall. Free. 404-727-6761.

**Thursday, March 8**

**Concert**

Appalachian Spring.” Emory Symphony Orchestra, performing, Richard Prior, conductor. 8 p.m. Emerson Concert Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

**Thursday, March 15**

**Italian Studies Film**

“Big Night.” Scottucci and Stati Tucci, directors. Giovanni Bibulco, Italian trade commissioner, Riccardo Ulio, Sotto Sotto Restaurant, and Giancarlo Pirrone, archivist, presenting. 7 p.m. Callanwolde Fine Arts Center (off campus). $10. RSVP to rsVp@italy (off campus). $10.

**Monday, March 19**

**Concert**

Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony and Georgia State University Wind Ensemble, performing. 8 p.m. Emerson Concert Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

**Concert**

“Songs of the Americas.” Giovanni Bifulco, Italian studies Film

**Thursday, March 22**

**International Coffee Hour**

Celebrating International Women’s Day. 3:30-6 p.m. Winship Ballroom, Dobbs Center. Free. 404-727-7401.

**Tuesday, March 27**

**Feminist Founders Reading Series**


**March 28**

**Candler Women’s Week Keynote Address**

Candace Reiter, associate professor of theater, speaking. 7 p.m. Tull Auditorium. Free.