Preparing campus for all disasters

By ELAINE JUSTICE

When Emory’s Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response (CEPAR) was established in 2007, it was a milestone in what has become the University’s commitment to creating “a culture of preparedness” on campus. The concept, articulated in a talk given at Emory last year by Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré, commander of Joint Task Force Katrina, is one readily embraced by Alex Isakov, executive director of CEPAR.

“A culture of preparedness” means that there is some level of commitment to prepare for disaster among members of the community, a commitment to be part of a response to a disaster, and to be part of the mitigation and recovery from those disasters,” says Isakov.

Preparing campus for all disasters

Getting into, out of economic meltdown

By ALLISON SHIREFFS

Years of shortsighted decisions dug the hole the U.S. economy finds itself in, and it will take long-term leadership to climb back out, according to a Goizueta Business School faculty panel. Moderated by Susan Gilbert, associate dean and director of the Evening MBA Program, the Oct. 30 panel discussion “The Economy: What Happened and What’s Next?” touched on the makings of the mortgage meltdown, its effects on the credit and stock markets, and what it will take for the economy to regain its footing.

Getting into, out of economic meltdown

Grants fuse scholars and community

By JENNIFER SOONG

Community partnership mini grants awarded by the Office of University-Community Partnerships support a sweeping range of activities around the Emory campus and metro Atlanta. Take the juniors and seniors in Ellen Spears’ “Service Learning in Environmental Studies” course. They interviewed 120 City of Atlanta workers last spring about their commuting habits and helped the city to design and develop sustainable alternatives.

Grants fuse scholars and community

Emory staff gathered on the Quad Nov. 5 for this year’s Candler Cup competition. The President’s Office took on the Provost’s Office in a game of kickball. The game, similar to traditional kickball, had a strategic twist: If a kicker made it to home base, he or she would have to answer a trivia question for the point to count. The added trivia element proved a disadvantage for the Provost’s team, who lost two point opportunities by missing questions after crossing home plate. The President’s Office, however, scored two points in the first and third innings, leading the team to victory.

SNAPSHOT

More than trivial pursuit for Candler Cup

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Grants fuse scholars and community

“Emory students have been helping the city learn things that will have a real impact on the carbon footprint,” says environmental studies lecturer Spears. “The mini grants provide invaluable practical support for engaged learning by Emory students.”

These kinds of opportunities can really open doors for students, she says. For example, two students from Spears’ class received paid summer internships with the City of Atlanta.

In another grant-funded activity, students from the class created lesson plans about botany and sustainability targeted at third-graders at the Drew Charter School in southeast Atlanta.

“We want to connect Emory teaching and scholarship with meeting community needs,” says Sam Marie Engle, senior associate director of OUCP.

The funding program has grown both in the number of grants awarded and the number of departments and academic units participating. For example, Emory School of Law students worked with at-risk youth organizations to inform youth of their rights within the juvenile justice system.

“We’ve been really pleased with how diverse the grant proposals are,” says Engle. “From monitoring wildlife in a fragile wetlands preserve to screening NASCAR fans at Atlanta Motor Speedway for cancer, Emory faculty really are creative and thoughtful about how they apply their teaching and research expertise to help our community.”

The OUCP typically awards $25,000 in grants each semester.
NEW ONLINE AT EMMORY.EDU
www. marial.emory.edu

The Emory Center for Myth and Ritual in American Life (MCRA) has created an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed, multimedia online journal called “Journal of Family Life.” Supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the journal will be a gathering place for ideas and information addressing all aspects of family life in the beginning of the 21st century. Submissions are welcomed for the inaugural issue scheduled for early 2009. The journal accepts traditional research papers and essays, as well as poetry, music, photo essays, video, short films and any other digital medium that investigates and explores any aspect of family life. “Journal of Family Life” is open access and there is no fee to subscribe. It is aimed at scholars, practitioners, students, journalists, and the general public. Send submissions or questions to marial.emory.edu.

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EMORY PROFILE: Michael Kloss

Michael Kloss is executive director of the Office of University Events and Convocations.

A juggling act
Events director makes blockbusters happen

By DANA GOLDMAN

It’s hard not to be impressed with Michael Kloss. Since coming to Emory in 2005, he’s created and directed the Office of University Events, organized a multi-day visit with the His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama and planned the kickoff events surrounding the public launch of Campaign Emory.

And he’s only 31.

Needless to say, Kloss is a detail-oriented multi-tasker. As a full-time college student in Florida, he also worked 40 hours each week as a liaison between Universal Studios and outside production companies. “I never missed class,” he says, “but I got to be involved in lots of different productions.”

That experience would serve him well a few years later, when a campus job in the events office popped up at the University of Southern California, where he was getting his master’s degree in screen writing. Kloss took it, and soon after graduating worked his way up to being USC’s director of university events — overseeing festivals, graduation and events with up to 80,000 guests, in addition to the school’s multi-year 125th anniversary commemoration.

“I loved the complexity of these kinds of mega-events,” says Kloss, “where you are essentially building a small city: from transportation to emergency response, sanitation, and food supply for tens of thousands of people.”

And, he says, they’re not that different from the film studios where he got his start. “I call the things I do very large film productions except without the cameras. Events are a great outlet for creativity.”

Four years later, Kloss, wife Sheila, and baby son Ryan moved to Atlanta to take a job at Emory. “I came to oversee all Campaign Emory events,” says Kloss. “The other part was creating an office of University events, bringing together all the central University event managers under an umbrella.”

It wasn’t until after Kloss was settled in that he and the rest of Emory got the news that would dramatically shift his new job: the Dalai Lama was coming, and Kloss would need to plan a series of events for Emory and the larger community.

“Our lives really did take an entire direction change for that to happen,” he says now. “It was truly a year and four months of really intense work, with so many components and people involved in that process.”

Those components included transforming WoodPEC into a classy event venue with airport-grade security, and working with the city of Atlanta to arrange the Dalai Lama’s public talk in Centennial Park.

When Kloss found out his wife was pregnant with their second child and due the weekend of the Dalai Lama’s visit, his what-if plans expanded even more.

The Dalai Lama’s visit went off without any hitches — and Kloss’s daughter Katie was born three days later. “There was a lot of karma involved in making sure the baby didn’t come early,” he laughs.

By then, Kloss had clued in that the job he was bigger than he’d first thought. “Coming from a university twice the size of Emory, I expected to do events on a smaller scale,” he says. “That hasn’t been the case. In fact it’s been quite the opposite.”

That’s certainly true for the Campaign Emory Enquirer performance, the Cirque-style entertainment celebrating the beginning of the campaign’s public phase of fundraising. An unintended result of the show? “My now 4-year-old son had a lot of fun telling people his father works for the circus.”

With so much responsibility on his shoulders, Kloss’ focus at events isn’t where you might expect. “I’ve probably been to more than a hundred lectures here but couldn’t tell you what most of them said,” he says. “I’m listening for clarity of sound, watching for guests who look uncomfortable or are leaning forward to hear, the guest who’s fanning herself when nobody else is, who might be sick and at risk for fainting.”

That attention to detail has paid off. Kloss is a finalist for the prestigious 2009 Event Solutions Spotlight Award for Organizational Planner of the Year. But, his perfectionist planning is limited to Emory events.

“At just like police officers don’t watch ‘Cops’ when they go home, our house parties are very low key — it’s pizza and take-out and disposable plates,” says Kloss. After all, he says, “My wife would kill me if I put the level of planning into home events that I do at Emory.”

The work is written for soprano, string quartet and interactive computer and video. A mother grieves and sounds a dreamlike meditation on Ophelia, the skin-blackened subject of E. J. Bellocq’s pictorial collection of turn-of-the-century New Orleans women. Written by Parisian soprano Katherine Blumenthal, who interacts musically with the Vega String Quartet and with her own images reflected in video mirrors.

Emory Report: What elements of Trethewey’s “Bellocq’s Ophelia” inspired your composition?

Everett: As soon as I read this collection of poems, I had a fairly clear concept of how the work would be structured and how to merge my visual and aural images with Natasha’s text. I had a strong sense of this imagined character, Ophelia, and the physical and psychological world in which she existed. I felt empathy for this young girl and wanted to create a performance opportunity for her to speak, sing and dream.

ER: Describe your performers.

Everett: When I conceived of this work, I knew very quickly that Katherine was the ideal vocalist to develop this role. Her light, versatile voice and her youthful beauty were a perfect match for the ideal imagined of Ophelia. The Vega Quartet is a delightful group of people. Their cordial personae, aliveness, eagerness to make great music, passion for the ideas, qualities and spectacular playing make them one of the most enjoyable groups with whom I have ever worked.

ER: What’s the biggest challenge the piece faces?

Everett: In composing “Ophelia’s Gaze” I wanted to use visual and aural images and text for a unified presentation. I’m utilizing several new technologies — a motion capture, live video system and several types of new audio system platforms will be used, as well as live audio processing software to expand the colors of Katherine’s voice. I have composed for interactive computer music programs and live performers for more than 20 years, but the complexity and challenges of those systems rarely seem to diminish. At the same time, these technologies have developed into robust and expressive devices for contemporary music performance.

ER: What can audience members expect to see and hear during “Ophelia’s Gaze”?

Everett: Natasha’s poems should be front and center in this piece. Consequently, the poems are sung and read. In my composition and in Natasha’s poetry, there is a chronicle of sequences of events in which Ophelia moves. At the same time, each poem is an independent glimpse into her thoughts at a given moment. The listener is invited to experience each scene as a separate experience, but hopefully will understand the evolution of the character’s life by the end.

“Ophelia’s Gaze” premieres Nov. 15 at 8 p.m. in the Schwartz Center, Emerson Concert Hall. For tickets and information, visit www.arts.emory.edu.

Jessica Moore and Becky Herring

Study tracks teens at risk for psychosis

By CAROL CLARK

Emory’s Elaine Walker is playing a key role in the largest, most comprehensive study ever funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) of adolescents and young adults at risk for developing a psychotic disorder. The five-year study, budgeted for more than $25 million, joins the resources of Emory and seven other major research universities, with the goal of identifying more precise predictors for psychosis, along with a better understanding of the neural mechanisms involved.

“This is a watershed study,” says Walker, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience. “To date, no one has systematically studied brain development, patterns of electrical brain activity and changes in gene expression in response to psychosis.”

Schizophrenia is one of the most extreme psychoses, affecting about 1 percent of the population and can have devastating consequences. Most people diagnosed with schizophrenia are unable to hold a job or live independently for most of their lives. They often suffer from homelessness, major depression and anxiety disorders.

“Because schizophrenia is severely debilitating, usually chronic and very costly, preventing its onset has become a major area of emphasis of the NIMH,” says Walker, who has studied the origins and precursors of psychosis for 30 years.

The typical onset of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders is about 21 years of age, with warning signs beginning, on average, around age 17. Studies have shown that about 30 to 40 percent of preclinical teenagers — those showing warning signs — will develop schizophrenia or another psychotic disorder. About 25 percent of the preclinical youth continues to experience mild symptoms without getting worse, while the remaining 35 percent get better as they enter adulthood.

“We are hoping to get to the point where we can identify people who will cross the threshold into psychosis with 85 to 95 percent accuracy, instead of 30 to 40 percent,” Walker says. “Evidence has been accumulating that, not only are there different ways people with psychotic disorders interpret reality, but their brain abnormalities get worse the longer the patient goes untreated.”

While anti-psychotic drugs can be effective, they also have serious side effects, so physicians are hesitant to recommend them until someone enters the clinical stages of psychosis.

Walker recently completed a study that tracked changes in the stress hormone cortisol over several years in preclinical teenagers. The results found much sharper increases in cortisol levels in the participants who were eventually diagnosed with psychosis. “This suggests that youth who are vulnerable to psychosis may be especially sensitive to elevations in cortisol selection,” Walker says.

One hypothesis of the NIMH study is that changes in stress hormones that occur in at-risk adolescents are influencing gene expression in the brain. “All neurons in the brain have receptors for hormones and research on animals has shown that cortisol can change how these neurons function,” Walker says. “If our theory is correct, we should be able to identify what’s going on with this process, it’s possible that we could eventually modify cortisol secretion in a way that buffers teenagers against its effects, and get them through this critical risk period.”

Each of the eight institutions involved in the NIMH study will recruit 100 prodromal teenagers and 50 controls to participate in the project. Participants will undergo regular diagnostic interviews, measurements of their cortisol levels, magnetic resonance imaging to observe physical development of their brains, and electroencephalography to measure neural electrical activity. In addition, the researchers will regularly collect and compare genetic data of the participants.

Researchers are now undergoing training in the study protocol, to ensure data standardization. In January, recruitment for participants will begin. Harvard, Yale, UCLA, UC San Diego, Einstein Medical College and the University of Calgary are the other institutions involved.

Study tracks teens at risk for psychosis

ACCLAIM

John Altman, a researcher at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center and the Emory Vaccine Center, is one of 104 researchers worldwide to receive a $100,000 Grand Challenges Explorations grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

This award is part of the first round of funding for the Grand Challenges Explorations, an initiative to help lower the barriers for testing innovative ideas in global health. Altman will focus on creating new ways to prevent or cure HIV infections by using a drug proven effective in rodents against a rodent-borne viral infection.

Louis Martin, professor of radiology, was honored by the St. Charles Preparatory School with the Borromeo Medal for Distinguished Achievement.

The special recognition was presented commensurate with the Feast of St. Charles, acknowledges the alum’s contributions to the field of interventional radiology over the past four decades, especially to interventional radiology at Emory University.

Stephen Warren, William P. Timms professor and chair of human genetics in the School of Medicine, was honored with the Champion for Babies Award at the March of Dimes’ 2008 Gala Oct. 25 in Atlanta.

Warren and Georgia’s Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle were honored for their leadership in inspiring others to make a difference in the lives of children through volunteer service. Warren is one of the international team of scientists who in 1991 discovered the gene responsible for fragile X syndrome, the leading cause of inherited mental retardation.

Cynthia Willett, professor of sociology, was elected to a three-year term as co-director of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy at its 2008 annual meeting.

SPSP is a professional organization dedicated to advancing philosophical work in pluralistic and continental European traditions.

“Acclaim” recognizes the accomplishments of faculty and staff. Listings may include awards and/or election to boards and societies; and similarly notable accomplishments at Emory or in the wider community. Emory Report relies on submissions for this column. Contact: ltking@ emory.edu.
**TAKE NOTE**

'Tut' ticket discounts

Through Dec. 31, students, faculty, and staff are eligible to purchase up to eight discounted tickets to "Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs." The exhibition opens Nov. 15 at the Atlanta Civic Center and will be on view through May 25, 2009.

At the Ticketmaster Web site, www.ticketmaster.com/promo/tuthtml, select a date and type in a special code in the Promotions and Special Offers box for student tickets at $15, enter code EMOYFS and for faculty and staff tickets at $20, use code EMOYFT. An Emory ID will be required for entrance to the exhibition.

Even deeper discounts are available to Carlis Musuem members, and Emory faculty, staff and students will receive a 10 percent discount on any membership level.

Unity Month packs diversity of events

The University celebrates its community's diversity with a variety of Unity Month programs throughout November. Music, dance, discussions, films screenings are among events planned for almost every day of November, which highlight the different cultures within the community. There will also be a full week of activities the week of Nov. 22, a "Red Carpet Affair" and the Pink Ball for Breast Cancer Research Nov. 30.

For a complete list of events, being coordinated by the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services, go to www.unitymonth.com.

Worth a flu shot

Flu shots continue through Dec. 13. Relax, the flu vaccine remains for the preventative shots, not the preventative flu shots. Only flu shots remain for the preventative shots, flu shots are recommended for almost every day of November, which highlight the different cultures within the community. There will also be a full week of activities the week of Nov. 22, a "Red Carpet Affair" and the Pink Ball for Breast Cancer Research Nov. 30.

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An OUPC mini grant helped support this project to teach third-graders about the importance of plants and ecology.

More than 50 years after Brown v Board of Education, the nation's public schools are separate and unequal and becoming more so all the time.

That was the upshot of the Department of Sociology's recent conference "Re-examing Race, Ethnicity and Class Divides," with an emphasis on the fault lines in race and high schools.

Panelists also discussed the role immigration is playing in changing the face of Atlanta and the challenges confronting Latino families living here.

Panelists painted a sobering picture of African American and Latino students languishing in schools with too little funding money and qualified teachers.

"Race is never a finished product. It functions as a dynamic artificial and powerful category," said Amanda Lewis, associate professor of sociology.

in remedial classes where they don't belong or disproportionately tagged for detention. All students get the message that to be white is to be high achiev

Associate Professor of Sociology Amanda Lewis found room for hope. By approaching race as a social construction, not a biological category, her research focuses on how "race is made and remade" in classrooms, hallways and schoolyards based on the ideas students and teachers have about it.

She cited the example of a teacher who assumed that an African American student in baggy pants and a ball cap did not belong in her overwhelmingly white honors class. At the same time, racial attitudes can be changed.

"Race is never a finished product, it is a dynamic artificial and powerful category," she said. "In some ways, I think that that is the message of the story. None of this is fixed." "Everyone has the Human Difference Initiative," the Division of Educational Studies, American Indian Studies, the Transforming Community Project and the Highlighter Fund co-sponsored the conference.

**REPORT FROM:** University Technology Services

Reorganized, ready for the next wave

Emory Information Technology officially launched in 1965 with the establishment of the Emory Biomedical Data Processing and Analysis Center. Since then, the organization has grown and transformed several times to address the academic and business mission of the University by leveraging technological advances. Information technology is an enabling component to the Emory strategic plan and is integral to nearly every aspect of life at Emory, from using the telephone to medical research. Over the years, institutions and organizations that effectively use, align and realign IT to provide a competitive advantage soared ahead of their peers.

In August 2007, Brett Carroll joined Emory to lead a newly consolidated IT division, University Technology Services. UTs tramped two divisions — AAIT focused on applications and services and NT supporting telecommunications. This marked the first step toward the most recent IT alignment.

Under Brett's leadership, a cross-functional working group guided the needs and direction for a new organizational structure, our "Next Wave." Having just completed a multi-year wave of IT core funding, UTs is prepared to embark upon the next multi-year initiative of operational excellence, which will ultimately prepare the organization to better address the goal of innovation.

Working in conjunction with outside consultants, the group met with a cross-section of key customers including Emory College, Emory Healthcare, the Provost's Office, Rolls School of Public Health, Human Resources, and the Emory Libraries. More than 80 other stakeholders provided input and feedback and received continual communications throughout the entire process. Through a series of meetings and brainstorming sessions, very clear themes of improvement emerged.

The new UTs structure expressly addresses each key area.

Who do you call for IT support? How do you engage the division to address new needs? UTs is a large complex organization, but the goal is in the simplicity to the complexity transparent to customers.

One "front door" for project and service delivery.

The Next Wave organization eliminates duplication of effort, redeploys resources to expand services, uses proven industry standards to improve productivity, builds capability to deliver innovation and quickly execute projects, and creates new competencies to improve reliability and efficiency. These changes enable UTs to meet Emory's future vision.

The new leadership and reporting structure is already in place, with the changes detailed here, and more rolling out over the coming months. Everyone in UTs is excited and ready to put these important processes in place to better align services with customer needs.

For an introduction to the new leadership team, please see the most recent UTs newsletter at: http://it.emory.edu/outs/utsvol03_07.html.

A detailed organizational chart is available at: http://it.emory.edu/outs/utsvol03_07.html.

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**OUPC: Proposals diverse and creative**

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Disaster drill set for Nov.

CEPAR and Emory’s Department of Emergency Medicine conducted this Advanced Disaster Life Support exercise in June.

By KIM URQUHART

With the help of student and professional actors, an imagined disaster scenario will offer a very real opportunity to practice and test Emory’s emergency response.

The Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Emergency Response (CEPAR) is coordinating the full-scale disaster exercise on Tuesday, Nov. 11. On Nov. 11, the Emory Police Department Dispatch Center will receive an alarm alerting them to the presence of smoke or fire in the Alabama Residence Hall. Responders will be asked to visualize smoke billowing out of open windows and doors.

Eighteen students and residence hall staff have either evacuated or are in the process of leaving the building. Several are finding it difficult to breathe, and a few have twisted their ankles and sustained other minor injuries while fleeing the smoke and fire. Responding police, fire and EMS representatives will establish a safety perimeter, assure the building is evacuated, establish triage and treatment area and assure the remaining injured building occupants are identified and are brought to Emory University Hospital’s emergency department for treatment.

Over the next hour up to 50 additional people will seek medical attention for minor ailments and breathing problems. Emergency department staff will respond to the surge of patients according to established processes and procedures.

In the meantime, Campus Life staff will implement their procedures to account for all drill participants. Campus Life staff will be fielding requests for information from the media and others.

Incident leadership at Emory University Hospital will interface and collaborate with the overall University’s incident leadership to address the pertinent issues. The magnitude of the situation will require notification of the President’s Cabinet and the crisis management fusion group interdisciplinary committee who will meet through conference call to work through the crisis.

“While the University and Emory Healthcare have various kinds of plans for how to handle or deal with such a crisis, this is an opportunity to assure that what is envisioned as a community nationalized,” says Robert Nadolski, CEPAR’s senior administrator. This drill employs as patients actors from a local production company, along with student volunteers, to simulate a realistic scenario.

“I would come up with all the plans in the world, but until you test it out in this type of environment with full-scale exercises, you can’t ever really be sure it’s going to happen,” says Jim Zerynick, CEPAR’s training and operations manager.

“General Emory is incredibly fortunate to have so many good people and resources and departments that do a wonderful job every day, on a normal basis,” says Zerynick, ranging from the full-service Emory Police Department to the student-run Emory EMS. The key thing, he says, is co-ordinating them to function effectively.

The Nov. 11 event is the first of two hands-on full-scale drills CEPAR will conduct through a federal grant (see related article, this page). The initial drill will help establish a preparedness baseline and identify specific gaps for improvement.

Throughout the 18-month grant period, CEPAR will use mini-drills and small-scale tabletop exercises to educate and familiarize University leadership with aspects of Emory’s emergency management plan.

Students train as crisis educators

Several dozen Emory students recently devoted an entire Saturday to undergo American Red Cross disaster training on campus. Some of the students learned how to set up emergency shelters and assist with case management of people affected by a crisis, while others focused on becoming certified disaster community educators.

“The University is developing a disaster preparedness plan, but it’s individuals who will be implementing that plan, so it’s important that students be prepared and know what they need to do during an emergency,” says Jennifer King, an epidemiology graduate student in Emory’s School of Public Health.

King is president of ReSPECT — the Response Preparedness and Emergency Communication Team — that organized the Red Cross event, along with SORT, the Student Outreach and Response team. The two groups are among the student efforts to promote Emory’s culture of preparedness.

ReSPECT formed in 2002, to enlist public health graduate students to assist with responses to public health emergencies. The students work in collaboration with the DeKalb County Board of Health and the CDC.

The group’s goal is to educate students who are going to be future public health leaders. We want them to receive training and hands-on experience in emergency response, from the local level all the way up to the federal level,” explains Shauna Mettee, SORT president, a graduate student in nursing and public health.

ReSPECT formed last year to focus on education and outreach for emergency preparedness. Although currently made up of public health students, the group hopes to expand in the coming year to include students from throughout the University.

“We’d like to get as many students as possible trained in disaster management, so that we will have more opportunities to share that knowledge throughout the Emory campus and the surrounding community,” King says.

— Ashante Dobbs
Bug hunters net clues to West Nile virus

By CAROL CLARK

If you've walked along Peavine Creek near campus this fall, you may have noticed a group of students stalking mosquitoes. For months, they have dipped up eggs and larvae from stagnant pools. They've also set traps in trees and vacuumed the air to snap flying adults, using a backpack aspirator that looks like the nuclear accelerator from "Ghostbusters."

"It's a bit of an adventure," says Gonzalo Vazquez Prokopec, a postdoctoral research associate, stepping from stone to stone in the creek.

"No mosquitoes," he reports, as he checks a trap baited with a chemical that mimics the scent of human sweat. "This site is pretty pristine. When we go to our other research sites, along Tanyard Creek, we can easily find 500 females in one of our traps. Here, we get only 150 of them, max."

Prokopec is a leader of the Emory team that is collaborating with the CDC, the University of Georgia, and health officials from the state and Fulton County to solve a mystery surrounding West Nile Virus. Why have clusters of human cases in Atlanta occurred near streams that occasionally get raw sewage runoff, known as combined sewer overflows?

Luis Chavez, another postdoctoral researcher, and Uriel Kitron, chair of environmental studies, are also leading the project. Seven students, and two research assistants, are doing fieldwork and getting hands-on experience.

"It's amazing how much you can learn when you work on a project like this," says Alexander Van Nostrand, a senior majoring in environmental studies.

West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne virus that was first detected in the United States in 1999 during an outbreak in New York. The virus gradually spread to other states, carried by infected birds. Georgia reported its first human case in 2001. The Tiger mosquito is the common backyard pest in Georgia that attacks any bare patch of skin. But it's a different type of mosquito, Culex quinquefasciatus, that is the main vector here for West Nile virus.

"The Culex mosquito bites birds that are infected with West Nile Virus, and it also bites humans," Prokopec explains. "That creates the bridge, that carries the virus to people."

The researchers are doing a comparative analysis of mosquitos and water samples from sites along Peavine Creek, which does not get combined sewer overflows, and Tanyard Creek in Buckhead, which does. Their preliminary results have confirmed that the Culex mosquitoes are more prevalent in the sites with sewage runoff.

Emory researchers hope to use their data to predict future outbreaks.
**FIRST PERSON**

**‘American Wake’ gets remembrances into play**

By VINCENT MURPHY

Vincent Murphy, resident artist of Theater Emory, was recently promoted to full professor, Department of Theater of Studies.

Vincent Murphy, resident artist of Theater Emory, had the pleasure of going to several alumni weddings, some right here in Atlanta and others scattered from California to London. As memorable and joyful as weddings are, it is a funeral that stays most vivid in my healing experience of sharing with one of my favorite alumni.

Dan Colman came to Emory as a Woodruff Scholar back in 1994 (at the time, I was an assistant professor in financial market studies and artistic producing director for Theater Emory and the Playwriting Center). Dan’s honor was a two-person adaptation of Hamlet that I directed as the inaugural production in our Black Rose Elizabethan Playhouse that Theater Emory built on campus to research Elizabethan performance styles. It was highlighted by National Public Radio and the New York Times. My Phi Beta Kappa daughter Ariel, a double major in French and theater at Emory, played Ophelia.

In 1995 Dan played a major role for Theater Emory’s world premiere of Tim McDonough’s “American Wake.” Developed and published in the acclaimed Theater Emory Playwriting Center, this is a story of Ireland of the famine years, where families — including Tim’s — had to leave their homes and travel to the United States. This production was so popular that it was invited to a funeral in a local church. At the reception, Dan told me his story of the Irish eulogy poems. He recited the poem as I let him know his story.

Now, Dan is doing a production for his MFA in acting at the Yale School of Drama. I go to see it. His supportive parents are there too, and after the show they drive me to Providence, R.I., where I’m meeting a poet friend. On the way I mention that we’ve published “American Wake,” and Dan’s dad says that it is his favorite play. I promise to mail him a copy, and a few days later when I return to Emory, I do.

About a week later I get a call from Dan. His dad has suddenly passed away from a heart attack. I fly up to Cape Cod for the funeral. At the reception, Dan tells me that the night before he passed his dad called him and read a favorite speech. It was from “American Wake.”

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**Healthy approach to responsible alcohol use**

By BEVERLY CLARK

Creating a “community of care” around the use — and abuse — of alcohol in the Emory community is an underhanging binge drinking on campus to the struggles faculty and staff may face, was the topic of an energetic panel discussion Oct. 10 moderated by President Jim Wagner.

The panel, which included Provost Earl Lewis, Paul Early, a nationally recognized addiction specialist, and representaives from student government, Counseling and Psychological Services, and the Office of Student Health Services, focused on the progress and the challenges in establishing a healthy campus approach to alcohol use.

Since the 2005 Presidential Task Force on Alcohol and Other Drugs, more programming and resources are now in place but the general consensus of the discussion was that reducing the stigma in seeking help and accessing resources remains one of the biggest obstacles in establishing a community of care. Changing the culture where excessive drinking is an expected rite of passage as a student also remains a challenge.

A healthy campus has to be a place where people can care about themselves and they care about each other, where you can reach out…without being afraid of the stigma or the rebuke,” said Michael Hauey, executive director of student health and counseling services.

“Emory has that unique distinction of being a place of care. Emory should be the model of the healthy campus. Are we there? We’re getting closer, but we’re not there yet.”

The panel was the final event in a series commemorating National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week, which included a forum on the Amethyst Initiative that drew a large crowd for a discussion about the legal drinking age and responsible alcohol use.

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**SOUNDBITES**

**‘Social death’ a cruel sentence**

Our prison systems are undermining our democracy, said Justice Price. The former federal judge and school of Emory’s James Veldon Hall Professor of Law recently authored a continuing colloquium, “Prisons are factories of social death. They create a class of individual who faces social discrimination after they’ve been released,” he said.

“I’m not advocating some Ludke scheme of taking a hammer to the granite walls of prisons and jails,” Price added. “To do that would only be to attack the outward manifestations; where selective indictment, processing and the execution of ‘crimes’ sentencing maintains inequity in a racist caste system.”

Instead of focusing on dismantling the inner working-some system, “we need to focus on empowering those practices that are humiliating, violent and exclusionary.”

— Carol Clark

**Next steps for world’s hot spots**

Hans-Ulrich Kloeck thinks Europe and America have grown apart from each other. “We are polarized,” he noted, particularly on “three big issues:” Afghanistan, Iran and Russia.

The Claus M. Halle Institute specialist noted that to stop narcotrafficking, “we need to cooperate with Iran, which has been waging a drug war against Afghanistan for 10 years.”

Kloeck, vice chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the German Bundestag, also said Germany is “95 percent convinced Iran is trying to be a nuclear power.”

The British, French and Germans are mostly negotiating with Iran, but need the U.S. Europe is trying to transform Russia step by step to be a reliable partner. “Nothing is more dangerous than a former super-power that feels humiliated,” Kloeck said.

— Leslie King

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**Composing poems into play**

The process that melded Steve Turner’s poetry into the chamber opera “Dynamo Elizabeth’s” was the subject of a Nov. 5 Creativity Conversation.

“Creations of the remaining inhabitants and business generally fear this element of political leverage, says Greg Waymire, Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Real Estate, sponsored enterprises like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were junct professor of real estate,Continued from the cover countries finance that deficit. “This is about the bigger picture than a market correction. Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Real Estate, the financial market meltdown,” ex - which was dur - "Uncertainty is always in the air with both U.S. Congress and presidency, controlled by Democrats, he says. “Rightly or wrongly, they think this could lead to a severe government spending. In this unique case, such fears may be unfounded.

First, the outgoing administration is one of the most profligate in U.S. history, to the dismay of many Republican fiscal conservatives,” says Rosens - saying Germany is “95 percent convinced Iran is trying to be a nuclear power.”

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Symbol of memory in Berlin art

Conceptual artists Renata Stih and Frieder Schnick explore how memory functions in the social sphere and how it is reflected symbolically in urban spaces and public art.

The Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts is sponsoring their visit Nov. 11-12, which features two slide presentations and discussions with the artists: "Reflections on Art, Space and Remembrance," is on Nov. 11 at 11:45 a.m. in Callaway 8423; and "Who Needs Art, We Need Potatoe-Public Space and Social Sculpture," Nov. 12 at 4 p.m.

Stih has taught art and technology, film and media at the University of Applied Sciences, Berlin. Schnick received his Ph.D. in art history and is a former curator at the Museum Fridericianum in Kassel. He also teaches art history to film students. Together they have taught at numerous American universities, including Princeton and Harvard.

For more information, call 404-727-7601.