Ancient Iraq comes to life in Mideast studies course

Professor Shalom Goldman takes his "Ancient Iraq" class to explore Mesopotamian artifacts in the Egyptian and Near Eastern collections at the Cloisters Museum.

**BY CAROL CLARK**

Middle Eastern music plays on a boom box as students gather in a Callaway seminar room for the course "Ancient Iraq: A Cultural and Religious History." The 30 undergraduates come from varied backgrounds and religions, including Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu.

Shalom Goldman, professor of Hebrew and Middle Eastern studies, has posed questions for today's lesson:

What are mythic stories? And what has been their function throughout history?

"They're a way to explain religion," offers Mehreen Punja.

"Often a religious practice has the same mythic component," agrees. "What's an example of that?"

"Muslims are forbidden to eat pork," says Dean Yzhak.

"Because when the Prophet Mohammed was walking in a field, he saw that lambs were eating pork," says Dean Yzhak.

Professor Shalom Goldman takes his "Ancient Iraq" class to explore Mesopotamian artifacts in the Egyptian and Near Eastern collections at the Cloisters Museum.

**Bright Ideas fosters innovative thinking**

**BY KIM URGUHAJT**

A new initiative is challenging Emory employees to think about ways to save time or money and improve the quality of their workplace. To encourage, support and reward innovation, the University has launched Bright Ideas at Emory to engage faculty and staff to propose creative solutions to workplace problems.

"The goal is to get people thinking not only about doing their jobs, but how to make their job better," said David Thurston, associate vice president of financial operations. "Thurston was a member of the Excellence Through Leadership team that in 2006 was tasked with creating a new initiative to promote and recognize innovation."

"The charge for the ETL team was how do we get people thinking, every day, of things they can do to improve the quality of life, or save time or save money, at Emory," explained Deborah Moyers, associate vice president for campus services administration.

**Issues of immigration explored at brown bag**

**BY ELIZABETH ELKINS**

A challenge by Atlanta immigration attorney Mark Newman to "ask tough questions" set the tone for "Still a Melting Pot? The Evolving Issues Around Immigration.", the school year's first President's Commissions-sponsored brown bag lunch. More than 100 people attended the Nov. 5 event in the Jones Room of the Woodruff Library. There, eight panelists spoke briefly about their personal and professional experiences regarding immigration before taking audience questions.


See Bright Ideas on page 5

See Immigration on page 4
A 'brilliant constellation of creativity' come to Emory, they are seeking a rigorous education that will prepare them not only for a full professional life, but also for a continued life of the mind and the heart. Many have training in the arts, and have participated in innovative science programs in their high schools. They expect and anticipate a dynamic, challenging environment that requires imagination and knowledge to work in tandem. This is exactly the way they embrace Einstein's theory: "Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere." Many pursue double majors in biology and dance, or chemistry and music, or sociology and creative writing.

The spring Rushdie reminded us that "we are all dreaming creatures. To dream is also to create." Our students are dreaming creatures in large part because our community has created a place for their ideas and expressions to take flight. There was a time, in the not too distant past, when creativity and the arts were undernourished on our campus. Now, while there is still need for further strengthening and growth, the prognosis is positive, the energy, contagion.

The University-wide strategic plan affirms the importance of the arts and the arts in all that we do. Collaborations with other strategic themes, including Religious and the Human Spirit and Computational and Life Sciences, recognize the centrality of the creativity and the arts. Other initiatives in the works include a first-rate creativity and the arts Web site that provides greater connectivity across the University; a new program, the "Emory Passport," that will provide undergraduate and graduate students with easy access to arts events at Emory and throughout Atlanta; and artists' commissions that will engage the upcoming conference on evolution.

In early 2008, recognizing the fifth anniversary of the opening of the University and Marvin Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts, Emory College will launch the Center for Creativity and the Arts, which will celebrate, nurture and study arts, and the arts Web site that provides greater connectivity across the University; a new program, the "Emory Pass-"

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Bryan Meltz

Emory: Anthony has taught Atlanta. He is a familiar face at youth and young adults at St. Mary’s Episcopal Community events. Anthony has been named Episcopal Chaplain Benjamin Anthony. He succeeds the Rev. Nancy Baxter, who is retiring after 25 years. Never-ending is the work of chaplains in the Emory community. Anthony is also well aware of the big shoes he has to fill. Anthony continues to serve as a pastor to the University’s students and faculty on behalf of the Diocese of Atlanta. Some of his tasks include developing opportunities for prayer and fellowship, working with other chaplains to foster an environment that encourages and benefits from religious expression. Anthony now has more than 600 people who have learned to perform life-saving CPR through CPR Anytime program. Emory Emergency Medical Services, a unit of the Emory Police Department, and the Student Government Association partnered with Emory Healthcare, the Faculty Staff Assistance Program and the AHA to offer the training, which set a record for the largest number of people trained in CPR Anytime in a single-venue event in the U.S.

“The community in CPR can essentially buy time for patients in cardiac arrest until EMS arrives,” said Josh Rozell, chief of Emory EMS, a student-run volunteer organization that provides around-the-clock emergency medical care to Emory students, staff and faculty. "CPR training is a prime example of the growing support for Emory's commitment to sustainability. Though we may tend to think of sustainability largely in terms of environment and resources, saving a life is the ultimate act of sustainability," said Deputy Chief of Police Capt. Ray Edge.

Benjamin Anthony grew up nominally Christian. Not to say that his family didn’t go to church on occasion. They did. But, it wasn’t until Anthony was an adult that he got serious about his faith or facing to be baptized at age 20.

Following his baptism, Anthony’s faith continued to blossom. He soon found himself on a path to priesthood. “My sense of wanting to be a priest was something I was first aware of during the spring semester of my junior year of college. I was studying abroad in Prague and had just been baptized two weeks before I left. The Anglican Church became my second home while I was there,” he says.

Now, at age 29, Anthony has been named Episcopal chaplain to Emory University. He says it is the exact type of work he has longed for since making the decision to pursue ordained ministry. “I wanted a vocation that allowed me to be exactly who I am in a way that allowed other people to be exactly who they are. I wanted to be someone whose primary responsibility is to be curious about the human heart,” he says.

In his new role as chaplain, Anthony coordinates the Episcopal Campus Ministry at Emory and serves as a pastor to the University’s students and faculty on behalf of the Diocese of Atlanta. Some of his tasks include developing opportunities for prayer and fellowship, working with other chaplains to foster an environment that encourages and benefits from religious expression. Anthony’s faith continued to influence his life, as he elected to be baptized two weeks before he was in college and had a group of friends who were also into electronic music. I was fascinated by the idea of using a playback device as a musical instrument.”

Additionally, Anthony is drawn to running, rock-climbing and reading, especially books that receive good reviews in The New York Times. He knows he has to live a balanced life if he intends to practice what he preaches. Anthony is also well aware of the big shoes he has to fill. He succeeds the Rev. Nancy Baxter, who is retiring after serving as Emory’s Episcopal chaplain for 25 years. Nevertheless, he says he is up for the challenge.

“I like to equip a community with the resources to be deeply religious, fiercely imaginative and passionately reasonable,” said Episcopal Chaplain Benjamin Anthony.

Institute for Advanced Policy Solutions hosts meetings on health care reform

O n Monday, Nov. 12, Emory’s Institute for Advanced Policy Solutions will host two meetings examining the critical issue of health care reform in the United States, the first in a series of colloquia probing critical policy issues confronting America. The first meeting, held in conjunction with the Center for American Progress, will convene local corporate leaders in a roundtable discussion examining employers’ experiences in providing health insurance coverage, including health care costs, employee-based coverage and strategies for change. The conversation will be facilitated by former Sen. Majority Leader Tom Daschle. This is an invitation-only event.

The second meeting will begin promptly at 1:30 p.m. Daschle and Thorpe will take questions from the audience following the presentation. “Factors generating the rise in health care spending are complex and require comprehensive solutions, not piecemeal policies,” Thorpe said. “Tom Daschle has a unique perspective on health care reform, and the myths that prevent meaningful progress. Anyone who is concerned about health, health care and health system change should make a point to attend this seminar.”

CPR: ‘The ultimate act of sustainability’

Emory now has more than 600 people who have learned to perform life-saving CPR following campus training sessions in the American Heart Association’s “CPR Anytime” program. Emory Emergency Medical Services, a unit of the Emory Police Department, and the Student Government Association partnered with Emory Healthcare, the Faculty Staff Assistance Program and the AHA to offer the training, which set a record for the largest number of people trained in CPR Anytime in a single-venue event in the U.S.

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By Laura Sommer

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**EMORYSNAPSHOT**

**New, cool offerings at Dooley’s Den**

Dean of Campus Life John Ford and Associate Vice President for Campus Life Ron Taylor join Swoop at the grand reopening of Dooley’s Den at the Depot. Dooley’s Den reopened after extensive renovations with a celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony and features new furniture and extended hours. The menu is the same, but the restaurant is planning some new features to appear soon, such as ice cream made right here on campus.

**UNITYMONTH**

**Judge Hatchett: Passion leads to unexpected path**

By Amye Walters

T he petite frame of Judge Glenda Hatchett ’77c cloaks an amazing mix of compassion, drive and intelligence. “Let’s not forget we owe a debt, and pay that debt forward,” she challenged those attending the first installment of Smith, Gambrell & Russell’s lecture series. The event was sponsored by the firm and the Emory Black Law Students Association as a part of November’s Unity Month.

Returning to Tull Auditorium was an “emotional” experience for Hatchett, whose first memory of the room was during student orientation in the fall of 1974. In the three decades since her graduation from the Emory School of Law, she has served as a bankruptcy manager for Delta Air Lines, presided over Fulton County’s Juvenile Court, authored a best-seller and currently helms her eponymous syndicated television show. “While you’re busy planning, God may have something else for your path,” said Hatchett. “In it she saw the opportunity to help others in her televised courtroom and Juvenile Court, authored a best-seller and currently helms her eponymous syndicated television show. “While you’re busy planning, God may have something else for your path,” said Hatchett. “In it she saw the opportunity to help others.”

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“Doesn’t a melting pot mean some of this goes to a little of this?” asked Hartford-Mendez, a senior lecturer in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. “English and our culture shouldn’t be a hegemony and exploration. It’s difficult to go to any playground in the United States where kids are being looked smilingly over by white parents. “It’s difficult to go to any playground in the United States where kids are being looked smilingly over by white parents.”

Panelists add voices to immigration debate

- Regine Jackson, assistant professor of American studies: “It is a false dichotomy to separate this issue by economics or by race. What I see is that the United States may not have a problem with illegals as workers, but we have a problem with illegals as citizens.”
- Flavia Mercado, medical director, Department of Multicultural Affairs, Grady: “There is talk of health care costs rising because of illegals. But it is the uninsured who have caused this problem, not all of whom are illegals.”
- Mark Newman, immigration attorney: “I don’t know of a single study that doesn’t conclude that immigration is a positive economic factor. We have the highest employment rate since World War II.”
- Vialla Hartford-Mendez, senior lecturer, Department of Spanish and Portuguese: “In politics, the complexity of the immigration often get reduced to ‘yes’ or ‘no.’ That kind of debate makes it impossible to explore the issues.”
- Kate Nickerson, associate professor, Institute of Liberal Arts: “It’s difficult to go any playground in the United States and not see an international child being looked smilingly over by white parents. People talk happily about the playground as melting pots. But we need to question this metaphor and look at the issues for these children.”
- Scott Titchaw, chair, Atlanta Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association: “Until 1990, nobody who worked at a playground could enter the United States. HIV-positive persons are still barred.”
- Leila Crawford, director, International Students and Scholars Program: “What happens to people who come to Emory on a student visa, but want to stay after graduation? Many universities and corporations want them to stay, but United States law often prevents it.”
- Paul Ficklin-Alred, assistant director, administration, John and Susan Wieland Center for Ethics: “My ancestors had no desire to assimilate to American culture and rules — but that was in the 17th century.”

**IMMIGRATION** from page 1

Economic impact of immigration, the incorrect assumption that most immigrants come from Mexico, the challenges for lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender couples face when one partner is not a United States citizen, the concept of language and the political implications of immigration issues.

Panelist Vialla Hartford-Mendez, who is married to a Mexican and has a bicultural child, summed up the event with a message of open-mindedness and exploration. "Doesn’t a melting pot mean some of this goes to a little of this?" asked Hartford-Mendez, a senior lecturer in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. "English and our culture shouldn’t be a hegemony and exploration. It’s difficult to go to any playground in the United States where kids are being looked smilingly over by white parents. “It’s difficult to go to any playground in the United States where kids are being looked smilingly over by white parents.”

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**Film:** “Romantico” is the final film in the Immigration Matters Film Series presented by the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program. The Mark Becker documentary will be screened on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. In Harland Cinema, followed by a panel discussion. For more information on this free event, call 404-727-6562.
The Bright Ideas initiative was conceived by the first graduates of Excellence Through Leadership, an intensive program designed to strengthen the performance of senior leaders from across the University. As part of the program, participants are required to complete a complex team project designed to address a specific need or issue at the University. "Bright Ideas is an example of how a group of very talented leaders tackled a problem and it is going to have direct benefit to Emory," said Associate Vice President for Administration David Thurston, who helped develop Excellence Through Leadership and serves as a member of the ETL selection committee.

The ETL graduates who worked on the Bright Ideas initiative agree that the team project — the practical component that follows the theoretical portion of the curriculum — was a powerful learning experience. "Anytime you work with a group of people you get to know them better," said David Thurston, associate vice president for financial operations and a member of the ETL group charged with creating Bright Ideas. "It really solidifies the fact that a team can accomplish so much more than individuals on their own."

The Bright ideas project is not the only concept that the University has implemented from ETL projects. Conservation efforts such as the freshman energy awareness competition and the initial ETL class, as are advances in emergency operations and employee development. The second class took a different approach, tackling one issue — creative transportation solutions to growth — as a large group. The project focus and framework for this year’s class is still being determined, Hanson said.

— Kim Urquhart

Tips for weathering Georgia’s drought

As Georgia’s drought continues, Emory’s Office of Sustainability initiatives want you to be aware of the steps that we can all take to conserve water.

• If you notice leaky faucets, toilets or leaks of any kind at Emory, report them to Campus Services at 404-727-7464.
• When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of your load.
• Turn off the water while you brush your teeth, shave or lather your hands.
• Check outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses for leaks.
• Replace your showerhead with a water-efficient one.
• Keep your showers under five minutes.

Paul Peterson is director of architecture & engineering, Network Communications Services, and Donna Price is coordinator of communications and marketing services, University Technology Services.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Communication efforts yield significant benefits

Over the past two years, the Office of Information Technology has undertaken a variety of foundation initiatives to improve the information technology landscape at Emory. Much of the work on these efforts goes on behind the scenes, as each objective is met, the benefits to the Emory community are becoming tangible. A significant milestone for the unification of e-mail and calendaring will be met on Dec. 7, when all 13,000 Emory Healthcare and School of Medicine clinical faculty and staff who use GroupWise for e-mail and calendaring will have their accounts moved from GroupWise to the Microsoft Exchange platform. GroupWise users who have Eagle e-mail accounts will also have their accounts migrated at this time. The approach used to migrate the accounts offers significant benefits, instead of having to conduct business with co-workers during a segmented migration that could extend over a three-month window, all employees in the EHC enterprise will immediately have common access to their new Exchange e-mail and calendaring accounts. It is the most commonly used strategy worldwide for efforts of this kind, leverages the experience of other institutions, and is expected to cut deployment costs by $200,000.

Another active foundation initiative is the Single Voice Platform project. The technology for Emory’s two voice systems is being consolidated in a way that allows for the integration of telephone and network communications into a single platform. The new system supports Voice Over Internet Protocol telephony and unified messaging, which brings e-mail, calendaring, voice mail, inbound faxes and instant messaging into one common medium (inbox or phone). The voice network technology has been installed in The Emory Clinic and the new School of Medicine and 1595 Clifton buildings and is planned for new building construction. To keep costs, labor and implementation time to a minimum, these projects required the reconfiguration of Emory’s core network architecture, a major project that was essentially completed this fall. The new architecture is scalable, highly available, and has increased throughput speed and stability. A key component of the virtualization is the model that maximizes the functionality of existing network components. Virtualization for core routers — the technology that provides connectivity for the exchange of information along network pathways — allows for geographic expansion of the network without increases in power, hardware or space. For example, extending the academic network to Emory Crawford Long Hospital for the new predictive health strategic initiative became a matter of configuring the software; no additional hardware was necessary. Designing the network core with this flexibility prepared Emory for future Campus Master Plan initiatives like those that call for the expansion of ECL to the Midtown campus.

Firewalls are the secure gateways into Emory’s network. All information passes through a firewall, or multiple virtual firewalls depending on the level of protection required. For example, information that is transmitted to a federal agency is isolated from the rest of the University’s network. Portability and Accountability Act privacy and security standards require stringent firewall rules that are not necessary for other kinds of information. During the transition to the new network pipeline, virtualization allows firewalls to be added relatively quickly because new hardware isn’t required. In the past, creating a separate core like that for HIPAA-protected information would have required purchasing and installing an entirely separate network infrastructure.

As part of the network upgrade and reconfiguration, the core network, firewalls and Emory’s connection to Internet2 have all been upgraded to 10 gigabits, which represents a tenfold increase from what was previously in place. The increased network speed allows Emory to be a full participant in important national initiatives like the Biomedical Informatics Research Network and lays the groundwork for future expansion in diagnostic imaging and other services that require high-speed connections. Already a number of buildings have been upgraded to connect to the new network at 10Gbps. Including the new School of Medicine building, the Whitehead Biomedical Research Center, the O. Wayne Rollins Research Building, the Grace Crum Rollins School of Public Health, the Atwood Chemistry Center and the Robert W. Woodruff Library. Many of these areas are also benefiting as connections to individual desktops are being upgraded to 1Gbps. As these local networks are renewed, in line with budget and planning cycles, it won’t be long before all members of the Emory community start to see a positive impact on their own computing experiences.
Blind ethicist takes hard look at reasons for cosmetic surgery

BY CAROL CLARK

The parents of a little girl with Down syndrome decide to have cosmetic surgery done to the child to make her appear more “normal.” Did those parents have the best interests of the child in mind? Or was the surgery more about the parents’ dream of having a child who looks more socially acceptable?

Adrienne Asch posed such thorny questions during a recent campus lecture titled “Appearance-Alttering Surgery: An act of social conformity or self-realization.”

“Why do we assume the best interests of the child in mind? Or was the surgery designed to approve appearance without improving physical health, including tummy tucks, face-lifts, nose jobs, limb lengthening, breast augmentation — even sex-change operations?”

“Tourette’s syndrome, a neurological condition that causes facial tics and other socially embarrassing behavior. His brother is now married, has two children and a good job. He endured a painful childhood, however, full of cruel teasing and embarrassment.

New medical techniques give an opportunity to lessen the symptoms of Tourette’s syndrome through deep-brain stimulation.

If my parents would have been able to offer that to him, I would say they would have been willing to take that chance,” the student said. He asked Asch how she could advocate that parents “simply provide love and strength to children suffering from socially abhorrent facial morphologies when medicine offers other options.”

“It may sound kind of hard-hearted for me to say I would like people not to do medical interventions for social acceptance,” Asch said, adding that she knows what it’s like to be teased. She said that if a child is able to participate in an informed decision, then a child should be allowed to opt for such a procedure. But she believes it is important for people to fully realize why they are having such surgery.

“Don’t think that you’re fixing yourself,” she said. “You’re fixing what other people don’t like about you.”

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

Yoga therapy appears to be safe for chronic heart failure patients and may improve quality of life, exercise tolerance and inflammation associated with adverse cardiovascular events, according to Bobby Khan, assistant professor in Emory School of Medicine.

Khan presented his findings Nov. 5 at the American Heart Association’s 2007 Scientific Sessions conference in Orlando, Fla.

Khan and his colleagues measured the effects of an eight-week yoga intervention to determine if it would improve symptoms of heart failure as reflected by exercise tolerance, quality of life and markers of inflammation associated with heart failure.

The incidence and prevalence of congestive heart failure continues to grow as our population gets older. The health problems and deaths from heart failure continues to be high in spite of excellent medical and device therapy, said Khan.

It is well known that increasing physical activity improves exercise tolerance in patients with heart failure. Yoga is a form of exercise that is well tolerated and easy to follow.

In Khan’s study of heart failure patients with appropriate medical therapy, he observed that an eight-week regimen of yoga improves exercise capacity and overall quality of life. Furthermore, it may be that yoga has an impact on the mechanisms of action involved in the progression of heart failure, he said.

Nineteen heart failure patients either received treatment with yoga or standard medical therapy. Measurements included graded exercise test to VO2 peak, blood pressure, flexibility, waist/hip ratio, the Minnesota Living with Heart Failure Questionnaire and blood-soluble levels of interleu- kin-6, C-reactive protein and extra-cellular superoxide dismutase.

“Our results were very positive,” Khan said. “All of the patients completed the yoga therapy with no complications.”

EMORYSNAPSHOT

Capitol trip for climate change

Just months before the first presidential primaries, thousands of young people from across the country converged on the nation’s capital for the largest conference on climate change, PowerShift 2007. With the help of a grant provided by the Emory Office of Sustainability Initiatives, students from Emory Environmental Alliance representing the Georgia Students for Sustainability Coalition were able to attend workshops and learn about solutions to global warming and how they can put those solutions into practice on their campuses, in their communities and in the political arena.

By JeNNiFer JoHNsoN

CAMPUSNEWS

Faculty and staff encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts

Beginning the week of Nov. 19, all faculty and staff members will be asked to provide Emory with their mobile phone number and the name of their wireless provider.

“The alerts are intended to improve the awareness and safety of all members of the campus community,” said Alex Isakov, executive director of the Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response. The text messages will be sent only in the case of a campus emergency, and will be based on a pre-defined protocol, he added.

The information will be collected in the Employee Self Service section of the human resources Web site (http://leo.cc.emory.edu). Faculty and staff will be presented with the Emergency Alert Information Collection page when they access any of the self-service options such as view paycheck or selected benefits.

— Elaine Justice
Emory make strides for heart health

$23.7M NIH award places Emory in elite vaccine research group

Emory Healthcare and Emory University helped fight cardiovascular disease at the 2007 Metro Atlanta Heart Walk on Nov. 3 in Piedmont Park. Emory earned the top spot in company categories with 260 teams raising $275,000 and $6,250 still rolling in, said coordinator Sheryl Marbach. This was the sixth year that Emory has supported the signature fundraising event for the American Heart Association.

SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH

BY HOLLY KORSCHUN

Emory and its physicians/ scientists will play a leading national role in evaluating promising new vaccines and therapies for infectious diseases in adults and children as one of the newest members of a group of Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Units. The VTEUs are funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, one of the National Institutes of Health.

Along with designation as part of the eight-member VTEU group, Emory has been awarded a seven-year contract of approximately $23.7 million. The award has subcontracts to other institutions, including the University of Colorado and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The VTEUs were established in 1962 as a vital research component of the NIH. The units conduct clinical trials for all diseases, from viral, bacterial, and parasitic diseases, to vaccines and therapies. The centers have conducted hundreds of clinical studies over the past four decades. The NIH awarded eight new seven-year contracts this year to expand and strengthen the VTEUs and enhance the ability of NIH to respond quickly to emerging public health needs.

“Emory’s strong basic and translational science programs within the Emory Vaccine Center and our infectious diseases programs in the Emory Children’s Center, combined with our track record in clinical trials and infectious diseases treatment and research in adults and children, presented a very strong portfolio to the NIH,” said Mark Mulligan, principal investigator of the Emory VTEU, professor of medicine and executive director of the Hope Clinic of the Emory Vaccine Center. As a VTEU site, Emory and its partner institutions will design and conduct clinical trials of candidate vaccines and therapeutics and related studies in surveillance, epidemiology, policy and education, and innovative laboratory analyses of immune responses. Participants in the clinical trials will include children and adults of all ages, as well as special targeted population groups.

The Georgia Research Alliance, a partnership of research universities, industry and state government, will provide a $3 million matching grant to the Emory VTEU.

“The Emory VTEU initiative highlights our outstanding progress in vaccine research and development in the region and will engage the Atlanta community,” said David Stephens, executive associate dean for research of the Emory School of Medicine. “Emory’s participation and national research leadership should be of direct benefit to the citizens of Atlanta and Georgia as important vaccines and therapies are moved from the laboratory into patient care.”

An important strength of the VTEUs is their ability to rapidly recruit, enroll and retain volunteers and vaccinate them in a manner that is safe, effective and quick to yield results. This rapid-response capability is especially important for testing vaccines designed to counteract emerging public health concerns, such as pandemic influenza.

“We are excited to have this opportunity to make a major contribution to our nation’s vaccine development efforts,” said Harry Keyserling, professor of pediatrics and a co-director of the Emory VTEU. “Vaccines have always been our most effective weapons in battling diseases that readily affect public health.”

The Emory Vaccine Center will play a key role in the Emory VTEU. The Vaccine Center, located at multiple sites including the Yerkes National Primate Research Center, is one of the largest and most successful academic vaccine centers in the world, with more than 27 faculty and over 200 staff focused on vaccine development and testing. The Vaccine Center’s Hope Clinic has been one of the top-enrolling sites for clinical trials of HIV vaccines sponsored by the HIV Vaccine Trials Network sponsored by the NIH.

Rafi Ahmed, director of the Vaccine Center and a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar, will serve as the Emory VTEU’s associate director for vaccine immunology. Emory Children’s Center, directed by Barbara Stoll, chair and professor of pediatrics in the Emory School of Medicine, is a national leader in infectious diseases prevention and treatment. Keyserling and Paul Spearman, professor of pediatrics and chief of pediatric infectious diseases, are co-directors of the Emory VTEU. Walter Orenstein, professor of medicine and associate director of the Emory Vaccine Center, will serve as the VTEU associate director for policy and education.

Emory Report

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CAMPUS NEWS

Conference set to map religion and health

Emory is hosting a groundbreaking conference, “Maps and Mazes: Critical Inquiry at the Intersection of Religion and Health,” on Nov. 26–27 at the Emory Conference Center. The event is sponsored by Emory’s Religion and Health Collaborative in partnership with the African Religious Health Assets Program of the universities of Cape Town, KwaZulu-Natal and Witwatersrand.

“Ecology is a think-tank conference, to share ideas and experiences about how religion affects health, and how faith affects religion,” said Susan Landskoeter, project coordinator for the RHC. “We want to get people throughout Emory and around the world talking about the importance of the intersection. We want to explore religious and health experiences through dialogues.”

Supported by grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Ford Foundation, the RHC is collaborating with other students and faculty from nursing, public health, theology and religion committed to an interdisciplinary approach to exploring the intersections of religion and health.

This is a learning event for the faith communities of understanding between religious and state government, will provide a $2 million matching grant to the Emory VTEU.

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TUESDAY, NOV. 13
Emory Dance Company, forming. Andrew Litton, Bergen Philharmonic and Boston Symphony Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

THURSDAY, NOV. 15
Emory University Symphony Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. Emory University School of Medicine, Auditorium. Free. 404-727-7804.

THURSDAY, NOV. 16
Emory School of Medicine. "Freeing the Brain," lecture. 12:15 p.m. 113 Founders Library. Free. 404-727-0096.

FRIDAY, NOV. 17

SATURDAY, NOV. 18
Emory Early Music Ensemble. 8 p.m. Emerson Hall. Free. 404-727-5050.

SUNDAY, NOV. 19
Emory University. "The Reformation and the Catholic Church," lecture. 4 p.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-7504.

TUESDAY, NOV. 20

THURSDAY, NOV. 21

THURSDAY, NOV. 22

THURSDAY, NOV. 23

FRIDAY, NOV. 24

SATURDAY, NOV. 25

SUNDAY, NOV. 26

TUESDAY, NOV. 27

THURSDAY, NOV. 28

THURSDAY, NOV. 29

FRIDAY, NOV. 30

SUNDAY, DEC. 1

TUESDAY, DEC. 3

THURSDAY, DEC. 5

FRIDAY, DEC. 6

SUNDAY, DEC. 8

TUESDAY, DEC. 10

THURSDAY, DEC. 12

FRIDAY, DEC. 13

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

TUESDAY, DEC. 17

THURSDAY, DEC. 19

FRIDAY, DEC. 20

SUNDAY, DEC. 22

TUESDAY, DEC. 24

THURSDAY, DEC. 26

FRIDAY, DEC. 27

SATURDAY, DEC. 28

SUNDAY, DEC. 29

TUESDAY, DEC. 31