Convocation welcomed the Class of 2012 with pomp, ceremony and encouragement.

By CAROL CLARK

Convocation took the class of 2012 on a whirlwind trip through time, entertaining the freshmen with an ancient “fire-wrapped” dragon, a 1930s swing band and glimpses of what lies ahead as they embark on their collective journey into the realm of higher education.

"Dragons go by many names on Earth – but they are always the same dragon," said James Morey, associate professor of English, as he launched into a reading from the epic poem of “Beowulf.” The strange but powerful sounds of Old English rang through Glenn Memorial as the freshman followed the modern English text of the age-old tale of a hostile dragon, buried treasure and a man who dares to plunder it.

By JESSICA MOORE

Launch celebrates creative campus

For the first time in Emory’s artistic history, all of the major arts presenters will assemble simultaneously under the roof of the Schwartz Center on Friday, Sept. 5 for the “Creativity & Arts Soiree: Celebrate Emory’s Creative Campus,” the official launch party of the Emory College Center for Creativity & Arts.

Emory employees, members of arts-related Emory Friends groups and Emory’s neighbors are invited to mingle with fellow arts enthusiasts, preview the upcoming arts season and participate in hands-on activities.

Some of the evening’s programs include performances by Emory artist affiliate James Zellers, readings by poet Natasha Trethewey, and the opportunity to view open rehearsals of upcoming dance and theater performances.

Guests can also test their knowledge and artistic ability from Beowulf to Obama, freshmen enjoy epic launch

By KIM URRICHART

A new program at Emory will offer the Atlanta community a unique opportunity to learn from the best of Emory’s faculty.

Emory QUEST, a new partnership between Emory College and the Emory Center for Lifelong Learning, is a program of academically focused, intellectually stimulating courses designed to enrich the lives of curious and motivated adults.

Taught by Emory faculty, QUEST courses highlight current events and hot topics from the liberal arts and sciences.

Learn with the best at QUEST

By JON RICHON

Convocation took the class of 2012 on a whirlwind trip through time, entertaining the freshmen with an ancient “fire-wrapped” dragon, a 1930s swing band and glimpses of what lies ahead as they embark on their collective journey into the realm of higher education.

"Dragons go by many names on Earth – but they are always the same dragon," said James Morey, associate professor of English, as he launched into a reading from the epic poem of “Beowulf.” The strange but powerful sounds of Old English rang through Glenn Memorial as the freshman followed the modern English text of the age-old tale of a hostile dragon, buried treasure and a man who dares to plunder it.

James Curran, dean of the Rollins School of Public Health, delivered the address, titled "Our Future.” He contrasted the students with the stage party of faculty and administrators: "We’re really old. You on the other hand are really young. I mean, after all, some of you were born after 1989. We on the stage think Barack Obama is young, but by 1989, he was already editor of the Harvard Law Review and speculating among friends that he might someday run for office.”

Curran encouraged the students to start learning their own leadership styles. “Don’t be afraid to think of yourself as a future leader, like Barack Obama,” he said.

He described the twists and turns his own career took, from a dream of becoming a surgeon to a residency in obstetrics, and the discovery that he loved public health. Curran was working at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention when “some men started getting a funny disease that is now called AIDS — a very terrible disease that is now the fourth leading cause of death in the world. I was detailed to work on that for a short three months, but I have been working on it ever since, for 27 years.”

Curran offered the following advice: “Set some goals and..."
Jeremy Ackerman is assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine.

A life examined

Re-engineering a career in medicine

BY ROBIN TRICOLES

While on his way to earning a master's degree in engineering, Jeremy Ackerman woke one morning and realized he didn’t want a career designing missile-guidance systems. “I couldn’t see being proud of a career designing weapons or weapon control systems,” says Ackerman, now an assistant professor of emergency medicine at Emory.

Instead, Ackerman decided to pursue an M.D./Ph.D. “My parents discouraged me from going to medical school,” says Ackerman. “My father was concerned that I didn’t really want to be a doctor. So I volunteered in an emergency department. I went in every day and really started feeling that this is what I wanted to do.”

Ackerman now divides his time between the emergency rooms at Emory University Hospital and Grady Memorial. “Emergency medicine has a lot of things that are quite exciting,” he says. “You never know who the next patient is going to be, or what you’re going to be doing in half an hour.”

Yet, Ackerman is still deeply interested in biomedical engineering, specifically, developing technologies for health care. “One problem in biomedical engineering is that engineers and physicians speak different languages,” says Ackerman. “Physicians may have a problem they want to work on, but they don’t necessarily know how to phrase it so an engineer can solve it. And the engineer may have technology that may have a medical or biological application, but it’s not clear how to relate it to clinical practice.”

Currently, Ackerman is working with a group of biomedical engineering undergraduates at Georgia Institute of Technology in the joint Georgia Tech/Emory Department of Biomedical Engineering. The students’ senior design project is aimed at improving the procedure for inserting central lines in emergency room patients.

“Central lines are these really large IVs that we put into people’s necks under their collar bones or in their legs,” he explains. “There are many complications associated with them; the most significant one is infections. This has been an international priority in health care: to reduce the incidence of central line associated infections.”

With the rapidly evolving technology available in today’s marketplace, Ackerman says he’s surprised that “we don’t have more devices that we can put into people that can do more for them.”

Ackerman knows firsthand about medical technology and its advantages and limitations. “I’ve been on an insulin pump for about 14 years. I have mixed feelings about it,” he confesses. “It’s not particularly technologically innovative. When you use a pump or some other medical device, the temptation is to say the device is going to take care of things, but you have to understand the device has limitations.”

Yet Ackerman seems to have few. When he was in medical school he took part in a diabetic mountaineering expedition to Argentina’s Cerro Aconcagua, the tallest peak in the western hemisphere at nearly 23,000 feet. Although he didn’t attempt to reach the summit, he did make it as high as 18,000 feet.

Ackerman urges young patients, those who are learning for the first time that they have diabetes, not to worry too much about limitations. “I’ve told patients and their parents, ‘I have diabetes, and a kid can grow up to be relatively normal, doing mostly what they want.’ The parents have told me that it was reassuring to see someone with the disease who has made it past 20, who’s married, who’s made it through medical school, and who seems as normal,” says Ackerman, with a smile.

Bioengineering Rx

The problem: Emergency medical procedures don’t always allow for optimal sterile fields. Likewise, emergency rooms can be cramped, especially when performing certain medical procedures, like inserting a central line. Yet, many patients who need one already have an overwhelming infection or have traumatic injuries. If they get a central line-associated infection, it’s potentially lethal.

A solution? The students in Jeremy Ackerman’s biomedical engineering class don’t have to invent anything. Instead, they’re working through a clinical problem by reviewing literature, searching patents, and proposing a solution that might fit into a competitive marketplace. “Working with undergraduates is great. They haven’t gotten their views of medical care colored by real world experiences so they’re unafraid to propose a fresh way of doing something,” Ackerman says.
Michael J. Fox foundation to support research

An award from the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research will support the work of Stephen Traynelis.

Traynelis, a professor of pharmacology at Emory School of Medicine, has been searching for compounds that selectively inhibit one type of glutamate receptor, the N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor. This receptor binds and responds to a chemical message (glutamate) released from neurons in the brain.

The brain makes several different types of NMDA receptors, and Traynelis has focused on the NR2D subtype, one particular subtype of NMDA receptor that is abundant in regions of the basal ganglia affected by Parkinson’s disease.

“We hypothesize that blocking this particular type of NMDA receptor will help rectify the imbalances in neuronal circuits that underlie many symptoms of Parkinson’s disease,” Traynelis says. “This should reduce the severity of symptoms, and possibly slow disease progression by preventing the death of cells that make and use dopamine.”

TRIBUTE: Helen Jenkins

A tireless worker, devoted to her job, was the hallmark of Helen Jenkins, who will be remembered by many staff, faculty and alumni for her long time at Emory.

By LESLIE KING

“A tireless worker, devoted to her job, was the hallmark of Helen Jenkins, who will be remembered by many staff, faculty and alumni for her long time at Emory,” said John Ford, director in 1955. When food services was contracted to an outside vendor, she became a businesswoman, and a dedicated, ethical and devoted professional staff member of Emory University.

Mrs. Jenkins leaves a legacy to Emory that very likely will never be achieved in the future, much less surpassed.”

By HOLLY KORSCHUN

An award from the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research will support the work of Stephen Traynelis.

During the upcoming year, he will help the association focus on key priorities including educating women about heart disease, preventing and combating childhood obesity, promoting physical activity, and empowering African Americans and Hispanics to reduce their risk of stroke.

The poetry of Bruce Covey, lecturer in poetry and University bookstore liaison, and his editing of Coconut Poetry, an online poetry magazine, is being featured weekly on the Best American Poetry Web site from August through the end of October. Each week Covey will write an introduction to a “best of” Coconut poem, to be posted by poet David Lehman.

ACCLAIM

Robert Bachman, chief operating officer for Emory University Hospital, has been elected to the board of directors of the American Heart Association’s Greater Southeast Affiliate for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

During the upcoming year, he will help the association focus on key priorities including educating women about heart disease, preventing and combating childhood obesity, promoting physical activity, and empowering African Americans and Hispanics to reduce their risk of stroke.

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Led by Michael Klass in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, Emory’s Office of University Events received a Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) 2008 Gold Medal of Excellence for “A Woman of My Time,” a special events category that covered a time period of three years or more, with 115 entries.

The entry in the special events category that earned the award was Emory’s event media partner, Turner Studios.

Rex D. Matthews’ book, “Timetables of History for Students of Methodism,” has been chosen as the 2007 Saddleback Selection by the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church. The award honors the best book published during the year on United Methodism or its predecessor bodies.

Matthews is visiting assistant professor of historical theology at the Candler School of Theology.

EMORY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

People

3
Federal funding grows sustainable gardens

By KELLY GRAY

A grant from the United States Department of Agriculture and Georgia’s Department of Agriculture will help Emory’s educational food gardens expand.

The $2,000 grant will be used to buy additional seeds, transplants, and soil amenities for the gardens — all purchased from local farmers to strengthen sustainable ties.

“We are using the educational food gardens as another way to inspire the Emory community to buy and grow more local food, and this grant helps advance that,” says Chad Brommer, biology lecturer. “These food gardens are more than a sustainable practice; they reinforce the agricultural base that Georgia has worked so hard to establish over the years.”

Produce and fruits that are native to the state will be a part of the specialty crops grown in the gardens with federal funding. Emory’s Master Gardener Program will also allow for additional promotional materials such as signage to be created and marketed through several outlets for promoting Georgia-grown food.

The gardens are operated and maintained on a closed loop system by volunteer staff, student and faculty gardeners. We reuse water captured in nearby rain barrels or from campus cisterns. We also use composters at the gardens so nothing is thrown away,” adds Brommer.

Arts in Emory experience celebrated

SOIREE: Arts in Emory experience celebrated

Arts tickets on sale this week

Single tickets to Arts Emory events including the New York Philharmonic and Atlanta Opera’s “Ahkwaten” go on sale to all Emory employees, students and Arts & Rats Friends Group members on Wednesday, Sept. 3, and to the public on Friday, Sept. 5, through the Box Office (404-727-5050; walk-up and phone hours Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.).

Concert highlights

The season begins with free recitals:
- Melissa Plamann, organ: Sept. 7, 4 p.m., Glenn Memorial.
- Arnold’s “Sonatina for Recorder and piano” and poot’s “Sicilienne.”
- “Arts & Rats,” student group audience development events. The CCA also co-sponsors “Creativity Conversations” and the “Arts & Rats” lecture series. Details and additional information on arts, culture and food events can be found at the recently unveiled Web site, www.creativity.emory.edu.

Low-flow shower head at Turman Hall.

By KELLY GRAY

Even before Georgia’s statewide drought was issued in 2006, Emory was working on ways to conserve water on its campuses. Starting with a Statement of Principles on Sustainability by Facilities Use issued in 1995, Emory has been actively being identifying and implementing changes to conserve water.

These efforts and others led to the University receiving the 2007 Fox McCarthy Certificate of Recognition for its outstanding water conservation program. The certificate is awarded annually by the Georgia WaterWise Council, a section of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.

“We care, focus, please with the successful accomplishments that Emory has achieved to help conserve Georgia’s water resources,” says Mike Mandl, Emory’s executive vice president for finance and administration. “Emory is attempting to create comprehensive approaches for itself, which is responsible and sensitive to the region’s conditions, and ultimately one that can serve as a model for other institutions and organizations to follow.”

Since the drought was issued, Emory has gone beyond standard water conservation efforts. The University only uses rainwater collected in its cisterns or rain barrels to water its trees and ornamental food gardens, and has launched a water conservation awareness campaign that urges employees and students to consider ways to reduce personal water consumption.

Some of Emory’s innovative water conservation methods can be found in its many “green” buildings across its campuses. These buildings incorporate water saving measures like low-flow shower heads, dual flush toilets and waterless urinals, to conserve water. Efficient and water conserving heat wheels are found in Kresge, buildings that result in 4 million gallons of condensate a year for Emory’s chilled water system. By being an early adopter of these technologies, Emory has shown their effectiveness for other institutions and universities considering similar measures.

In the Carlous Museum’s “Tut Trivia” game and mask-painting station while viewing works on display from the Visual Arts Gallery, visitors engage the Emory community to buy and grow more local food, and this grant helps advance that,” says Chad Brommer, biology lecturer. “These food gardens are more than a sustainable practice; they reinforce the agricultural base that Georgia has worked so hard to establish over the years.”

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Continued from the cover

Emory recognized as wise with water

Low-flow shower head at Turman Hall.

By KELLY GRAY

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REPORT FROM: Health Sciences

Informatics advances health, quality initiatives

As a new semester gets under way, it's time to welcome some new faces to campus.

One we're excited about in the Woodruff Health Sciences Center is Joel Saltz, who joins us this week as director of the new Center for Biomedical Informatics. Saltz has been one of the most significant achievements in Emory Healthcare's chief medical information officer. In this capacity, he will chair the Comprehensive Informatics Leadership Committee, guide strategic planning for the Emory Medical Information Enterprise, and help launch a new joint Department of Biomedical Informatics between our School of Medicine and the College of Computing at Georgia Tech, analogous to our top-ranked Department of Biomedical Engineering.

Saltz is a pioneer in the fields of high-performance computing and biomedical informatics with more than 325 publications and 70 invited presentations to his credit, along with more than $47 million in NIH funding and some $70 million in active grant funding. Among his many noteworthy achievements is a leadership role in the Cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid (caBIG), an initiative of the National Cancer Institute Center for Biomedical Informatics and Information Technology. caBIG helps cancer researchers, clinicians and patients collaborate effectively, share relevant data and information, and speed translation of new cancer diagnostics and therapies from the laboratory to the community.

So what is informatics, and what does it mean to Emory? Look at it this way. Scientific advances, including the mapping of the human genome, have generated an almost unfathomable amount of data — billions of random, often disconnected bits of information. Informatics stores, catalogs and retrieves relevant data, turning it into knowledge that can be practically applied to make a significant impact on health and healing. It's more than just cutting-edge information technology; it's the application of that technology to solve complex medical problems.

Informatics also is key to advancing some of WHSC's major initiatives. For example, informatics is necessary to fully realize the unlimited possibilities of the Predictive Health Initiative. Ultimately, using data about each individual's biology, behavior and environment will help him or her maintain and restore health. Informatics can advance that goal by translating such data at the point of service to help predict and prevent potential disease, as well as to predict a patient's response to treatment for existing illness.

The impact of informatics on high-quality clinical care is obvious. By helping to predict the onset of disease and the treatments that are most likely to be successful, informatics is the optimal way to empower informed, effective decision-making for patients and providers. It will also support the ongoing development of the Emory Electronic Medical Record and aid in the development and management of clinical trials that lead to new, more successful therapies for patients.

The addition of Saltz is a significant milestone for the WHSC and its ability to continue transforming health and healing… together.

We welcome your feedback at evaphfedback@emory.edu.

Fred Sanfilippo is executive vice president for health affairs, CEO of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center and chairman of Emory Healthcare.

Emory Arts Competition to showcase creativity

By KIM URQUHART

The first annual Emory Arts Competition is an opportunity and an incentive for students, staff and faculty to showcase their creativity in music and the visual arts. Building on the popularity of prime time's "American Idol," the competition will take place virtually, through YouTube videos. Participants must be an Emory student, staff or faculty, or an alumni, and upload entries to be submitted as JPG or PDF files for each category.

Categories: music and visual/media arts.

The competition will feature two categories: music and visual/media arts. Contestants submit their work online at www.creativity.emory.edu/arts-competition.shtml. Visual arts entries are to be submitted as JPG or PDF file formats, music entries as YouTube videos. Participants must be an Emory student, staff or faculty member; visit the Web site for complete contest rules.

Elimination rounds of the competition will take place virtually, through the online submissions. The Center for Creativity & Arts, in cooperation with the Woodruff Arts Center, will select eight entrants, solo or ensemble, to compete in the final round in the music category, and eight works of visual/media art for the final round in the visual arts category.

The final round competition and awards assembly on Nov. 8 will be performed and showcasing their work in front of a live audience and a distinguished panel of judges — with a celebrity appearance likely, says Ono. The judges will offer critical commentary, "American Idol" style, and will select three finalists in each category.

"Come out and support your favorite finalist," Ono urges, as the enthusiasm of the audience, measured on an "applause-o-meter," will ultimately determine the winner.

Each category will reward a first, second- and third-place winner. First prize is $3,000 in cash.

Getting oriented

Greetings and signs point the way as Emory and Oxford students get down to the business of moving in, pausing for the traditional President's Coca-Cola Toast and other orientation weekend activities. Last week's orientation helped with the transition and gave students an introduction to life at Emory and Oxford.

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SEPTEMBER 2, 2008

EMORY REPORT
Music sociology course a big hit

By CAROL CLARK

Would you rather listen to a lecture on the dynamics of industry, or to one on rock-and-roll?

Timothy Dowd, associate professor of sociology, can cover both topics in one swoop. "Music gives you a window into industry, markets, technology, culture — all kinds of things. It allows you to talk about important ideas in ways that are really engaging," he says.

Dowd is an expert in the sociology of music, a field that has boomed in recent years. He teaches a course on the subject, which explores the social and cultural foundations of music, from the development of the musical system of notes and compositions up to the digital era.

The commercial recording industry began in the 1880s, shortly after Thomas Edison invented the phonograph — the first device to record and play back sound. The ensuing two big U.S. record companies — Victor and Columbia — were among the first major multinational firms. From the earliest molded-wax cylinder records and discs, from eight-track tapes and cassettes to CDs and MP3 players, the recording industry has undergone dramatic changes and yet somehow stayed the same.

"Big record companies didn't take radio seriously at first," says Dowd, "just the way big movie companies didn't take online music seriously."

The never-ending battles over profits and technologies, mixed with divisions in culture, gender, race and class make music an intriguing sociological world for Dowd to explore. The course also allows him to keep in touch with his first love: making music.

"I'm a keyboardist," says Dowd, "but I played a lot more instruments when I was younger: violin, tuba and some percussion. And a little bit of harpsichord, piano and double-upright bass."

Dowd spent his formative years in Arkansas. As a high school senior, he was selected to attend the Governor's School, a program for gifted students founded by Bill Clinton in 1979. "I got to attend for free," Dowd says, who was a member of the orchestra, and has found memoirs of playing everything from Stravinsky toAaron Copland on the tuba.

He loved the intensity of performing several concerts per week and briefly considered majoring in music in college. "I quickly realized that there are a lot of very, very good musicians who were very poor," Dowd says. As a sociology professor, he can enjoy the thrill of research while studying esoteric topics such as the in- ones of jazz musicians. "His research confirms that he made the right career choice." Last fall, Dowd took a sab- batical in Rotterdam, Holland, to teach at Erasmus University — which tapped him to serve as Erasmus Chair for Humanities due to his expertise on the complex relationships between culture and society.

At Emory, Dowd’s work on the sociology of music delves into questions such as whether the works of Beethoven deemed "high culture" while rhythm and blues is classified as "popular" music? What type of environ- ments foster musical diversity and innovation? How do iPods changing the way that people relate to music?

So what’s on Dowd's iPod? "I've been enjoying listening to the Swedish group Moon Safari — not to be confused with the album by that name," he says. "Partly, I'm listening to Pink Floyd — and Umphrey's McGee, a Chicago jam band. I'm a huge Peter Gabriel fan," Dowd adds. "He's famous for being a down-to-earth, nice guy."

Dowd's new music finds him on his latest album, "Big Blue Ball," in the 1990s.

"Music gives you a window into industry, markets, technology, culture — all kinds of things. It allows you to talk about important ideas in ways that are really engaging."

Timothy Dowd, associate professor of sociology, loves to play the keyboard when he’s not teaching or doing research.

Continued from the cover

This fall, learn more about election politics, evolution, Is- lam, dinosaurs, U.S. history, Japanese samurai, race and Hollywood, human nature or the ancient Egyptians from an Emory expert.

"It's like taking a short course from your favorite college professor," says Lynn Zim- merman, professor of biology and senior vice provost for aca- demic programs, "but the good news is that there will be no tests and no stress associated with this incredibly rich learn- ing experience."

QUEST courses are open to all members of the Emory com- munity and will be of particular interest to Atlanta profession- als and Emory alumni. "This is a way for the Atlanta commu- nity to come together with other like-minded adults and be part of what's going on at Emory," says Philip Wainwright, associate dean for international and continuing education.

"Our goal was to line up top teachers and scholars," ex- plains Wainwright, "to show case Emory's strengths while connecting with the commu- nity.

The fall course roster offers "a terrific blend that should interest a lot of different kinds of people," says Zimmerman. Many of the courses were de- signed around significant events happening at Emory or in the nation this fall — from the 2008 presidential elections to the Carter Museum's King Tut exhibition to Emory's "Evo- lution Revolution" conference.

The QUEST courses pro- vide an intellectual framework for understanding these events, says Wainwright.

"When you combine the calendar and to register, visit EmoryQUEST.org.

Learn more

By EMILY RIOS

Researchers at Emory's Yerkes National Primate Re- search Center have shown capuchin monkeys, just like humans, find giving to be a satisfying experience. This finding comes on the coattails of a recent imaging study in humans that documented ac- tivity in reward centers of the brain after humans gave to charity. Empathy in seeing the pleasure of another's fortune increases in both humans and monkeys, for sharing, a trait this study found in capuchin monkeys.

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Emory’s Dowd, director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes Research Center, and Kristi Lehman, research specialist, led a team of re- searchers who exchanged to- kens for food with eight adult female capuchins. Each capu- chin was paired with a relative, an unrelated familiar female from her own social group, or a stranger (a female from a dif- ferent group). The capuchins then were given the choice of two tokens: the selfish option, which rewarded that capuchin food with an apple slice, or the prosocial option, which re- warded both capuchins with an apple slice. The monkeys predominantly selected the prosocial token when paired with a relative or familiar in- dividual, but not when paired with a stranger.

"The fact the capuchins predominantly selected the prosocial option must mean seeing another monkey receive food is satisfying or rewarding for them," Dowd says. "We believe prosocial behavior is a survival tool. Empathy in- creases in both humans and animals with social close- ness, and in our study, closer partners made more prosocial choices. They seem to care for the welfare of those they know," continues de Waal.

De Waal and his research team next want to determine whether giving is self-rewarding to capuchins because they can eat together, or if the monkeys simply like to see the other monkey enjoying food.

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In case you haven’t heard, spirituality is all the rage. It seems everywhere you look someone is offering personal testimony to being “into” spirituality. And according to news reports, many formerly unfettered Americans are filling the pews in houses of worship in record numbers.

This is neither a surprise nor on the face of it a negative phenomenon. Religious observance, with its emphasis on tradition and ritual, can be a true comfort — especially in a world that feels increasingly out of our control.

But what exactly is spirituality? Is it something you can join an organization to acquire? Is it as simple as purchasing a library of esoteric literature and musingizing a mantra? Can you get it from a Wednesday night prayer meeting, a Saturday morning Torah reading or Sunday morning sermon? But perhaps most important of all, is spiritually something you get into, or does it come from inside of you?

Throughout my life I have felt the need for connection to something greater than the physical world around me. I have attended conventional services at a variety of churches and synagogues, joined religiously based organizations and researched the faith that I was born into (Judaism) as well as others that sounded either interesting or exotic. I even served as the religious chairman for a high school co-ed choir, but it never felt more spiritual than the theatre than the faith I’d heard so much about. The sad result: I was more lost than ever. All I had learned was what I didn’t want. What was a seeker to do?

Happily for me, I was led by a friend to a local educational center—Facebook, a senior research analyst in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

Leslie Hunter is a senior research analyst in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. Her field of interest is spirituality, which focuses on something I was hungry for but had yet to acquire, and it has both locale — the development of that incommensurable, non-corporeal entity we call the spirit.

The name of this organization, in which I could participate as an individual within a supportive human collective — is less important than the discovery that it brought to my attention. That is, that while we live on planet Earth and must experience much of our growth in this tricky and magnificent universe, our spiritual work must be accomplished internally. Often referred to as a process of “awakening,” the result of this work is only occasionally visible to the human eye, as it takes place on the innermost levels of the heart and soul.

There are many “systems” available to do this work, but most include the studies of psychology, philosophy and metaphysics as well as the sacred books from a variety of cultures. Ah, I can see the question marks forming in your heads as you read those words. Whatever do they mean? Is it possible to be religious with religion, you want to know? My reply would suggest a Zen Buddhist koan: “Nothing and everything.”

With the orthodoxy of organized religion as it is practiced today, there is little room for anything other than traditional theologically based texts. But beautiful and well-meaning as they may be, read on their own they leave little room for interpretation in terms of each individual’s life. Spirituality is another animal entirely. At least that is what I found.

The phrase “being on a path” is often used to describe the variety of spiritual growth systems available, and it has both a literal and figurative meaning. Certainly there are classes to take, discussions to participate in and meditations to perform. In my case, I have spent three years studying the Kabalah, the Old and New Testaments, the writings of Helena Roerich and Carl Jung and everything in between. (And I have only just begun.)

There are papers to write and study guides to answer. But the most challenging and rewarding work is accomplished on a personal level, where there are lessons to learn that take you from dealing with life in black and white to finding the deeper meaning of our daily existence. Alternately stumbling and soaring, we face the stresses and triumphs of the contemporary world as we look for the light at the end of the dark night of the soul — often calling upon that most indecipherable ingredient of all: the sense of humor. Our goal is always to grow in spirit.

Some days the growth spurt produces a non-pharmaceutical “high” that faith assures me will eventually transmute, associate professor of music theory, then take you and see how you feel. “Fiddler on the Roof” when he cries: “I know we are the chosen people, but once in a while, could you choose someone else?”

Even spirituality looks genuinely can be distorted when in the hands of misguided individuals working from the up rather than the heart. Many who have chosen to take this journey have been led astray by pretenders more proficient at marketing than mysticism. But if you keep your eyes open, ask lots of questions and most important, listen to the voice within, you’ll find your way if this is the journey you seek.

And then like Dorothy on her way down the Yellow Brick Road, even though you may meet an occasional apple tree with a mood disorder, a wizard with something to offer everyone but you, or a witch with anger management issues, you will become intimately acquainted with someone you never knew existed even closer than your own backyard. And from whom you’ll never want to stray again. Your self.

**CONVOCATION: ‘Enjoy your career at Emory’**

**First person**

Seeker of spirituality finds a way

By LESLIE R. HUNTER

In case you haven’t heard, spirituality is all the rage. It seems everywhere you look someone is offering personal testimony to being “into” spirituality. And according to news reports, many formerly unfettered Americans are filling the pews in houses of worship in record numbers.

This is neither a surprise nor the face of it a negative phenomenon. Religious observance, with its emphasis on tradition and ritual, can be a true comfort — especially in a world that feels increasingly out of our control.

But what exactly is spirituality? Is it something you can join an organization to acquire? Is it as simple as purchasing a library of esoteric literature and musingizing a mantra? Can you get it from a Wednesday night prayer meeting, a Saturday morning Torah reading or Sunday morning sermon? But perhaps most important of all, is spiritually something you get into, or does it come from inside of you?

Throughout my life I have felt the need for connection to something greater than the physical world around me. I have attended conventional services at a variety of churches and synagogues, joined religiously based organizations and researched the faith that I was born into (Judaism) as well as others that sounded either interesting or exotic. I even served as the religious chairman for a high school co-ed choir, but it never felt more spiritual than the theatre than the faith I’d heard so much about. The sad result: I was more lost than ever. All I had learned was what I didn’t want. What was a seeker to do?

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ADVANCE NOTICE

Cognition meets culture at center

The Center for Mind, Brain and Culture will hold a reception on Tuesday, Sept. 16, from 4-6 p.m. in the Jones Room of Woodruff Library, to introduce its interdisciplinary mission to faculty of Emory College and graduate students in the arts and sciences.

The Center supports dialogue and collaboration to obtain richer explanations of phenomena associated with cognitive and social behaviors and processes of humans and other species. The Center’s mission embraces perspectives ranging from neuroscience and psychology to disciplines such as philosophy, religion, history, languages and literature.

Artist brings the war home

On the eve of the 2008 presidential election, the Visual Arts Gallery will present a series of events surrounding the politically charged exhibition “Martha Rosler: Bringing the War Home.”

An outgrowth of Rosler’s involvement with anti-war activists, her photos, montages infuse familiar scenes of American life with stark, disturbing images of war.

The series begins with a screening and discussion of Rosler’s performance pieces on Sept. 9 from 6-8 p.m. followed by an opening reception for the exhibition on Sept. 11 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., and concluding with Rosler in conversation with Emory faculty on Oct. 17 at 7 p.m.

Visit www.visualarts.emory.edu for more information.

Exhibit documents Temple bombing

The personal papers and letters of Rabbi Jacob Rothschild are displayed in the Manuscript, Archives & Rare Book Library’s Room of Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-4291. carlos.emory.edu.

The impact of The Temple bombing on Atlanta’s Jewish community and on the civil rights movement is documented in “The Bomb that Healed: Rabbi Jacob M. Rothschild, Civil Rights and The Temple Bombing of 1958,” on display at Emory’s Manuscript, Archives & Rare Book Library through Jan. 5, 2009.

The influence of the bombing was not what the bombers might have expected, says curator Ellen G. Rafshoon.

“The bombers had intended to intimidate Jews, who were seen as co-conspirators along with blacks in the civil rights struggle, but this act of terror had the opposite effect,” says Rafshoon, a history professor at Georgia Gwinnett College.

“When The Temple’s spiritual leader, Rabbi Rothschild, returned to his office the following day, he was greeted with mailbags filled with sympathetic messages from Atlanta and from across the nation.”

The overwhelming support extended to the congregation gave Atlanta-Jewish community the chance to become more active in bridging the divide between whites and blacks, Rafshoon notes. That is why Rothschild’s widow, Janie, has referred to the otherwise tragic event as “the bomb that healed.”

The exhibition, which draws on Rothschild’s personal papers and on letters, photographs and published clippings, will show how the rabbi worked openly to build support for desegregation among Atlanta’s religious and civic leaders.

With Rothschild’s encouragement and the more accepting environment they found in the wake of the bombing, many Atlanta Jews found they could confront discrimination, both against themselves and African Americans, and even become leaders in the cause, explain Eric Goldstein, associate professor of history and Jewish studies at Emory.

One of the most rewarding moments in Rothschild’s career will be highlighted in the exhibition to reflect the valuable organizational role of the South’s first racially integrated Integrated, which honored Martin Luther King Jr. after he won the Nobel Peace Prize.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. For information on Rothschild’s career commemorating the bombing, including the Jews in A Changing South” conference hosted by Emory and the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, visit www.emory.edu.

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Events

**Athletics**

**Tues., Sept. 2**
Women’s Soccer v. Agnes Scott College. 7 p.m.

**Friday, Sept. 5**
Women’s Volleyball v. Haverford College. 4:30 p.m.

Women’s Volleyball v. Southwestern University. 7 p.m.

**Saturday, Sept. 6**
Women’s Volleyball v. Mt. Union College. Noon

**Sunday, Sept. 7**
University Organist Recital. Melissa Hamann, Casavant Organ, performing. 4 p.m. Glenn Memorial Auditorium. Free. 404-727-5050.

**Performing Arts**

**Thursday, Sept. 4**
"Pediatric Trauma: They Are Not Just Small Adults." Carte Stalling, Emory Surgery, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-778-1903.

"Hormonal and Second Messenger Regulation of the Sodium Chloride Cotransporter." Robert A. Lefkowitz, Duke University, presenting. 9 a.m. 600 Wingate Building. Free. 404-727-7491.

**Wednesday, Sept. 3**
“My Beautiful Laundrette.” 8 p.m. 205 White Hall. Free. 404-727-5050. www.film.studies.emory.edu

**Wednesday, Sept. 10**
"Venus." 8 p.m. 205 White Hall. Free. 404-727-5050. www.film.studies.emory.edu

**Tuesday, Sept. 11**
"Divided We Fall: Americans in the Aftermath." 7 p.m., Center for Ethics, Room 102. Free. 404-727-2575. www.emory.edu/ethics/research/philosophy.

**Thursday, Sept. 9**

**Thursday, Sept. 11**
"Oncomythology: How Standard Are Our Standards of Practice?" N. Volkov-Aksen, Emory Pathology, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-778-1903.

**Friday, Sept. 12**

**Special**

**Thursday, Sept. 4**
"Tasting the Teas of India." Reenu Reed, presenting. 7 p.m. Reception Hall, Candler. Free. 404-727-4291. carlos.emory.edu. Indian tea, cookies and cakes provided and registration required.

**Friday, Sept. 5**

**Cinematic Arts**

**Monday, Sept. 8**

**Visual Arts**

**Monday, Sept. 8**