

## PROFILE

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## CONVOCATION 2008

# From Beowulf to Obama, freshmen enjoy epic launch



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

JON ROU

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.

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

Please see CONVOCATION on page 7

## Launch celebrates creative campus

By JESSICA MOORE

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

Please see SOIREE on page 4

## Learn with the best at QUEST

By KIM URQUHART

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.

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## NEW ONLINE AT EMORY.EDU

[www.news.emory.edu](http://www.news.emory.edu)

The freshly redesigned News & Events Web site features Emory's latest press releases and event listings, daily updates of Emory 'In the News', an Emory faculty experts guide, journalist resources and campus publication listings. Current highlights include an in-depth look at Emory's political experts take on the 2008 election.

Pass along Emory news to family, friends and colleagues by sharing stories by e-mail or through Facebook, Digg and other social media outlets or keep yourself up-to-date with RSS feeds by subject matter.

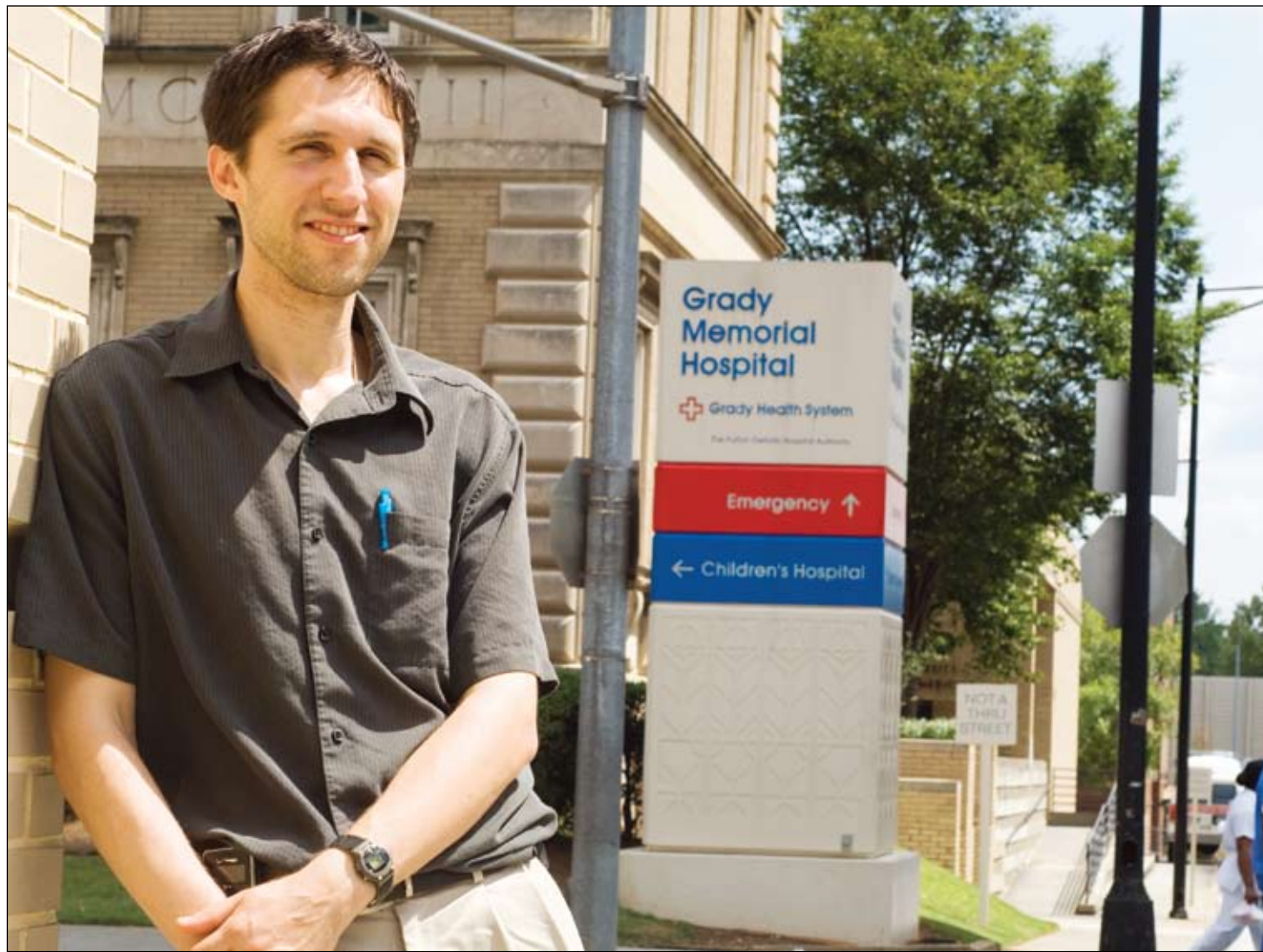
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## EMORY PROFILE: Jeremy Ackerman



Jeremy Ackerman is assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine.

BRYAN MELTZ

# 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 awoke 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 all 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 so 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.

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report

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## TRIBUTE: Helen Jenkins



At a 2005 banquet honoring her retirement, food service's Helen Jenkins receives a going-away gift from Dean for Campus Life John Ford.

JON ROU

## Longtime employee Jenkins remembered

By LESLIE KING

"A tireless worker, devoted licensed dietician, and mentor to students and young University staff and faculty," is how Associate Vice President for Campus Life Ron Taylor describes Helen Jenkins, who will be remembered by many staff, faculty and alumni for those attributes as well.

The 60-year Emory employee

died Aug. 7 in Franklin, Tenn., where she had been living in her last years of retirement.

Jenkins came to Emory in 1945 as assistant director of food services, one of Emory's first professional women administrators. She became director in 1955. When food services was contracted to an outside vendor, she became food service liaison in 1984, a position she held until she

retired.

Senior Vice President and Dean of Campus Life John Ford said the "hard-working, very professional" Jenkins was "responsible for many accomplishments and improvements over that long period of time" that she worked at Emory.

Taylor, Jenkins' supervisor of many years, said in a eulogy: "She was a teacher,

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."

Services were held Aug. 11 at First Baptist Church in Decatur where she had been a longtime and active member.

## 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.

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 selected by poet David Lehman.

Led by **Michael Kloss** 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 Circle of Excellence gold medal for "The Visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama."



The entry in the special events category was selected from among 115 entries. The event also garnered two regional Emmy's for Emory's event media partner, Turner Studios.

**Rex D. Matthews'** book, "Timetables of History for Students of Methodism," has been chosen as the 2007 Saddlebag 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.

## 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.

JACK KEARSE

By HOLLY KORSCHUN

Stephen Traynelis, professor of pharmacology at Emory School of Medicine, has earned an award from the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research for his laboratory's work on developing new therapeutic strategies for treating Parkinson's disease.

Traynelis' laboratory was one of nine research teams that will receive grants under the Foundation's Target Validation 2008 initiative, with his team getting \$100,000 per year for two years.

Using cultured cells, Traynelis and his co-workers have identified compounds that may be able to reduce symptoms and slow disease progression. The purpose of the award is to support further studies of the compounds' activities in neurons and animal models of Parkinson's disease. Traynelis' team 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 subunit, 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."

"Acclaim" recognizes the accomplishments of faculty and staff. Listings may include awards and prizes; 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](mailto:ltking@emory.edu).

## TAKE NOTE

### Same sex partner benefits improved

There is no longer a waiting period to add same sex domestic partners to Emory's benefit plans.

The change was initiated several months ago when a former member of the President's Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns asked the human resources department to consider changing the waiting period, which was one year.

A review of the policy determined that no waiting period should apply.

Theresa Milazzo, associate vice president of human resources, said faculty and staff are now able to add a new same sex domestic partner at any time as long as there is no existing same sex partner or spouse being covered by Emory's benefits.

For more information, go to [www.hr.emory.edu/eu/benefits/helpfulinformation/samesexbenefits/index.html](http://www.hr.emory.edu/eu/benefits/helpfulinformation/samesexbenefits/index.html).

### PCORE grants pay for development

Professional staff and junior tenure track faculty of color can apply for a limited number of grants of up to \$750 each. The annual grants are available from the President's Commission on Race and Ethnicity through its Professional Development Fund.

The grants are to be used to reimburse expenses for professional conferences or training. The conference or seminar must take place between Sept. 1, 2008 and Aug. 31, 2009. The deadline for submitting an application is Oct. 15.

Priority consideration will be given to those who previously have not received an award. For staff members, length of employment at Emory will be considered.

Applications can be obtained at: <http://www.pcore.emory.edu/professionaldevelopmentfund.htm>.

For more information, contact Andrea Neal at [aneal@learnlink.emory.edu](mailto:aneal@learnlink.emory.edu) or Lisa Smith at [lisa.smith@emory.edu](mailto:lisa.smith@emory.edu).

### De Man memorial service on Sept. 7

A memorial service for Andrea De Man will be Sunday, Sept. 7, at 3 p.m. in Cannon Chapel on the campus.

De Man was the undergraduate program coordinator in the English Department. She died Aug. 14 following a battle with leukemia.

In addition to working in the English Department for a number of years, she was active in a number of campus organizations like Friends of Emory Forest.

## Federal funding grows sustainable gardens



Educational garden near the Quad.

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 flourish.

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 some of the specialty crops grown in the gardens with federal funding. The grant will also allow for additional promotional materials, like 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.

## Emory recognized as wise with water



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 for Water Use issued in 1995, Emory has been actively been identifying operational and building design changes to conserve water.

These efforts and others led to the University receiving the 2007 FoxMcCarthy Certificate of Achievement 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 are, of course, pleased 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 a comprehensive approach 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 educational 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 underground rainwater cisterns that capture 300,000 gallons of rainwater for reuse; water conserving plumbing fixtures like low-flow shower heads, dual flush toilets and waterless urinals; and energy-efficient and water conserving heat wheels to ventilate 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.

## SOIREE: Arts in Emory experience celebrated

Continued from the cover

in the Carlos Museum's "Tut Trivia" game and mask-painting station while viewing works on display from the Visual Arts Gallery. (Organizers encourage the Emory community to RSVP to 404-712-9214 or [creativity@emory.edu](mailto:creativity@emory.edu) by Sept. 2.)

The establishment of the CCA is the newest phase of transformation for the arts at Emory. The CCA's multifaceted approach to making creativity and arts central to the Emory experience includes awarding grants to Emory employees and students, commissioning, presenting, co-sponsoring and collaborating.

Leslie Taylor, executive director of the CCA, explains that the Center aims to "encourage student involvement with the arts, provide support for faculty and staff creative research projects, advocate for space and facilities on campus that allow for interdisciplinary exploration, engage a lively array of visiting artists, commissioned work and artists-in-residence, and explore the nature of creativity through research, symposia and conversations."

Since its internal launch in January, the CCA has already instituted several new programs and collaborations, many of which are also supported by

the Creativity & Arts Initiative of the University's Strategic Plan, led by University Vice President and Secretary Rosemary Magee.

"Emory's commitment to the Center acknowledges the important roles that creativity, imagination and the arts perform in a liberal arts education, and acknowledges artistic work as a vital component of the mission of a research university," says Taylor.

One of the CCA's inaugural programs relates to Emory's "Evolution Revolution" conference this October. Nationally known choreographers, visual artists, playwrights and Emory faculty have been commissioned to attend the conference and then respond with new work that will be presented in February as part of "Emory Evolving Arts: New Works Festival." In addition to the evolution project grants, the CCA also funds fall, spring and summer projects grants for faculty, students and College staff.

For student groups or faculty interested in taking their students to an off-campus presentation by any metro-Atlanta arts organization, the "Out There Arts" program provides funding for arts field trips.

Other unique programming of the CCA includes "Emory Arts Passport," a campus arts event coupon and participa-

tion incentive booklet; Arts Council of Emory, a forum for any interested Emory staff and faculty; Artist Survival Skills Workshops, career sessions for students; and "Arts & Eats," student group audience development events. The CCA

also co-sponsors "Creativity Conversations" and the "Artists & Critics" lecture series. Details and additional information about all of these programs can be found at the recently unveiled Web site, [www.creativity.emory.edu](http://www.creativity.emory.edu).

### Arts tickets on sale this week

Single tickets to Emory Arts events including the New York Philharmonic and Atlanta Opera's "Ahkntaten" go on sale to all Emory employees, students and arts-related 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 faculty recitals:

- **Melissa Plamann, organ:** Sept. 7, 4 p.m., Glenn Memorial. Program features Mendelssohn's "Sonata op. 65, No. 3" and Albright's "Pneuma."
- **James Zellers, flute, and Laura Gordy, piano:** Sept. 17, 8 p.m., performing classical and contemporary works by Torke, Bach, Copland, Hue and Schubert.
- **Jody Miller, recorder, and guests Jonathan DeLoach and Claire Rottembourg:** Sept. 21, 4 p.m. The Director of Emory's Early Music Ensemble and guests perform a program including Arnold's "Sonatina for Recorder and Piano" and Poot's "Sicilienne."

The Candler Series kicks off with **Los Angeles Guitar Quartet**, Sept. 26, 8 p.m. (see Web site for pricing), presenting popular standards and contemporary works.

**Pianist Jonathan Shames and the Vega Quartet** open Emory Chamber Music Society's season with Brahms' "Quintet in F Minor" Sept. 26.

For additional events visit [www.arts.emory.edu](http://www.arts.emory.edu).

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 Comprehensive Informatics and as 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 \$4.7 million in NIH funding and some \$70 million in total 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 [evphafeedback@emory.edu](mailto:evphafeedback@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 both 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" and Hillel of Georgia's "Campus Super-Star," the Emory Arts Competition will showcase amateur talent but with its own twist.

The competition is "a celebration of the arts," says Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives Santa Ono, and is a way to promote engagement in the arts across the University. Sponsored by the Emory College Center for Creativity & Arts and the Office of the Provost, the idea for the event grew out of the Creativity and Arts component of Emory's

strategic plan.

"Creativity surprises, awakens and inspires us," notes Rosemary Magee, vice president and secretary of the University. "Together, as a community, we will have the opportunity to come together to share some surprising and inspirational moments."

The competition will feature two categories: music and visual/media arts. Contestants submit their work online at [www.creativity.emory.edu/arts-competition.shtml](http://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 amateur; visit the Web site for complete contest rules.

The elimination rounds of the competition will take place virtually, through the online submissions. The Center for Creativity & Arts Committee plans to

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 finalists who continue on to the Final Round Competition and Awards Assembly on Nov. 8 will be performing 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.

"There is a tremendous amount of talent here, not only in the student body, but among faculty and staff. This hopefully will be a catalyst for more participation in both music and visual arts," says Ono, adding: "It should be a heck of a lot of fun."

### Important dates for entrants

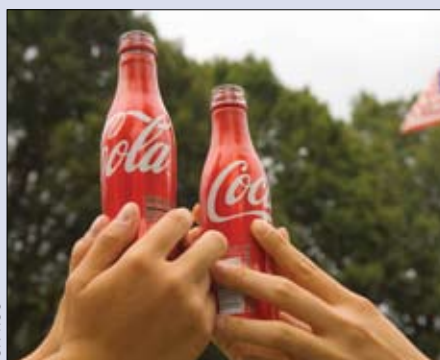
**Oct. 15:** Deadline to e-mail application and upload entries

**Oct. 20:** First round adjudication

**Oct. 2:** Finalists announced

**Nov. 8:** Final Round Competition and Awards Assembly, Schwartz Center's Emerson Concert Hall, 8 p.m.

## 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.

## Music sociology course a big hit



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

BRYAN MELTZ

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 multi-national firms.

From the earliest molded-wax cylinder records and discs, from

**"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

eight-track tapes and cassettes to CDs and MP3 players, the recording industry has undergone dramatic changes, and yet somehow stayed the same.

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

The never-ending battles over patents, profits and technologies, mixed with divisions in culture, gender, race and class make music an intriguing sociological world for Dowd to explore. The subject 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. "It was a nerd school," says Dowd, who was a member of the orchestra, and has fond memo-

ries of playing everything from Stravinsky to Aaron 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 a stable paycheck while studying esoteric topics such as the incomes of jazz musicians. (His research confirmed that he made the right career choice.)

Last fall, Dowd took a sabbatical in Rotterdam, Holland, to teach at Erasmus University — which tapped him to serve as Erasmus Chair for Humanities due to his groundbreaking work on the complex relationships between culture and society.

At Emory, Dowd's course on the sociology of music delves into questions such as: Why are the works of Beethoven deemed "high culture" while rhythm and blues is classified as "popular" music? What type of environments foster musical diversity and innovation? How are 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. "Also, Porcupine Tree — the heirs 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 perfectionist. He started working on his latest album, 'Big Blue Ball,' in the 1990s."

## QUEST: Community gets access to Emory faculty on hot topics

Continued from the cover

This fall, learn more about election politics, evolution, Islam, 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 Zimmerman, professor of biology and senior vice provost for academic programs, "but the good news is that there will be no tests and no stress associated with this incredibly rich learning experience."

QUEST courses are open to all members of the Emory community and will be of particular interest to Atlanta professionals and Emory alumni. "This is a way for the Atlanta community 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," explains Wainwright, "to show-

case Emory's strengths while connecting with the community."

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 designed around significant events happening at Emory or in the nation this fall — from the 2008 presidential elections to the Carlos Museum's King Tut exhibition to Emory's "Evolution Revolution" conference.

"The QUEST courses provide an intellectual framework for understanding these events," says Wainwright.

"When you combine the caliber of the Emory faculty with the timeliness of many of the courses being linked to major events in the world or in Atlanta, there's really nothing else like it in the region," says Zimmerman of the program's uniqueness.

The idea for Emory QUEST grew out of the College dean's office, she explains. "The Center for Lifelong Learning had tremendous expertise in administering programs such as this through their Evening at Emory

### Learn more

To view the course calendar and to register, visit [EmoryQuest.org](http://EmoryQuest.org).

courses and professional learning programs. Recognizing that if we were to put the strength of the faculty from the College together with the implementation expertise of the Center for Lifelong Learning, and pooled our resources, we could create something that would fill a new niche for Emory." She adds: "It was a great meeting of attitudes and approaches that made this really get on the fast track."

Emory QUEST is already garnering interest from alumni, and feedback from the faculty has been enthusiastic. "We are already receiving proposals for the spring," notes Zimmerman, who expects the number of course offerings to expand as the new program grows.

"I think it is great for the Center for Lifelong Learning and the College to be partnering in this way," she adds, "because it is really the tip of the iceberg of what can be accomplished when you work together."

## Study finds monkey sees, monkey gives

By EMILY RIOS

Researchers at Emory's Yerkes National Primate Research 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 activity in reward centers of the brain after humans gave to charity. Empathy in seeing the pleasure of another's fortune is thought to be the impetus for sharing, a trait this study shows transcends primate species.

Frans de Waal, director of the Living Links Center at the Yerkes Research Center, and Kristi Leimgruber, research specialist, led a team of researchers who exchanged tokens for food with eight adult female capuchins. Each capuchin was paired with a relative, an unrelated familiar female from her own social group, or a stranger (a female from a different group). The capuchins then were given the choice of two tokens: the selfish option,

which rewarded that capuchin alone with an apple slice; or the prosocial option, which rewarded both capuchins with an apple slice. The monkeys predominantly selected the prosocial token when paired with a relative or familiar individual, 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," says de Waal. "We believe prosocial behavior is empathy based. Empathy increases in both humans and animals with social closeness, 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 will attempt 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.

## Forum

## 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 unaffiliated 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 memorizing 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 youth group and the chaplain of my college sorority.

Along the way, I have met many loving and well-intentioned people as well as a number of holier-than-thou hypocrites who cared less for divinity than dogma. Ceremonies of pomp and pageantry, often in languages I did not speak, left me empty, and those in tongues I could understand felt more like 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 cen-

ter which focuses on something I was hungry for but had yet to be able to define, much less locate — the development of that incomprehensible, non-corporeal entity we call the spirit.

The name of this organization — where 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 those secular subjects have to do 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 Kabbalah, 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 joys 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 indispensable ingredient of all, the sense of humor. Our goal is always to grow in spirit.

Some days the growth spurts produce a non-pharmaceutical "high" that faith assures me will eventually translate into the "peace that passes understanding." Other days, seemingly all of our emotional buttons are being pushed as we flounder in a field of bright red flags. Then we stop and chuckle as we recall Tevya's petition to God in



ANN BORDEN

Leslie Hunter is currently enrolled in a seminary program at the St. Thomas Christian Church, which is affiliated with the Karin Kabbalah Center in Atlanta.

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"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 that looks genuine can be distorted when in the hands of misguided individuals working from the ego 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 resided even closer than your own backyard. And from whom you'll never want to stray again. Your self.

— Kim Urquhart

## SOUNDBITES

## Parents welcomed at orientation

President Jim Wagner welcomed to campus the parents of a highly selective and diverse freshman class of 2010 in an Orientation Weekend address.

"We're proud to have you join the Emory family," Wagner said, "and please know that we are doing our best to ensure that you are proud to welcome Emory into your family."

"Emory is a place that understands that some of the most important things that we do happen outside of the classroom. We understand that wisdom comes from experiencing independence and the consequences of choices; that education is as much about gaining insight as it is about gaining information; it's a much about gaining wisdom as it is about gaining knowledge."

— Kim Urquhart

## Stars shine at planetarium show

As the planetarium's 35-foot domed ceiling filled with stars, teaching affiliate Alex Langoussis led freshman and their parents on a tour through what he calls "the changeless, ever-changing sky."

"There are a lot of bright things to look at in the summer sky," he said, manipulating the Zeiss Skymaster ZKP3 star projector to simulate the view from Emory.

"All the stars that we see in the nighttime sky are much brighter than the average star. I always like to say that these are Emory stars, because what you see up there are the best and the brightest," quipped Langoussis, himself a parent of an Emory freshman.

— Kim Urquhart

## Comic skewers race, class and college

"I want to first thank the rich, white people for having me," began comedian Roy Wood Jr., setting the tone for a raucous performance at Glenn Memorial during freshman orientation. Wood, who has appeared on national TV as a guest of David Letterman and Craig Ferguson, kept the freshmen laughing.

"The only thing worse than making an F is sitting next to someone who made a good grade who's unhappy about it," Wood said. "Oh! A 93! My scholarship is in jeopardy! What'd you get?"

"An 11."

"An 11! What are you going to do with an 11?"

"Roll it up and smoke it, probably."

— Carol Clark



JON ROU

## CONVOCATION: 'Enjoy your career at Emory'

Continued from the cover

take yourself seriously — but not too seriously. Get to know yourself and your strengths. I hope you will develop the self-confidence that you deserve, and true humility. These will serve you well. Enjoy your career at Emory, and enjoy your entire career as much as I have. And, finally, go into public health."

Dwight Andrews, associate professor of music theory, then took the stage. "I'm going to test you and see how hip you

really are," he told the students. Backed up by a bass player and a jazz singer, Andrews got everyone clapping rhythms and singing the parts of instruments in a 1930s swing band, from "Bahhhh-dah!" for trombones to "Ba! Ba! Da!" for trumpets.

"Snap your fingers! Can you move your heads a little bit? Now give me a little bass," Andrews encouraged the students and faculty, who showed they could jam and create beautiful music together. "Wow! That's really cool, isn't it?"

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

## 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 activities, her photo 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](http://www.visualarts.emory.edu) for more information.

### 'Telling Our Stories' back for 10th year

The Center for Women hosts the 10th annual "Telling Our Stories" event Sept. 18 in Governors Hall of the Miller-Ward Alumni House. A wine reception will be held at 5:30 p.m. with a dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Featured this year in intimate conversation are Linda Calloway, program coordinator in Women's Studies; Joyce Piatt, University Libraries; and Maggie Stephens, academic department administrator in sociology. Carolyn Bregman, director of volunteer programs and services at the Emory Alumni Association, will be the interviewer.

Cost is \$40 per person, \$30 per person for Friends of the Center for Women and \$15 per student. Reservations and payment are due by Sept. 15.

Visit [www.womenscenter.emory.edu](http://www.womenscenter.emory.edu) to learn more.

## Athletics

### Tuesday, 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.

**Women's Volleyball v. Carleton College.** 4:30 p.m.

\*All events: Woodruff P.E. Center. Free. 404-727-6447.

## Film

### Wednesday, Sept. 3

**"My Beautiful Laundrette."** 8 p.m. 205 White Hall. Free. 404-727-5050. [www.filmstudies.emory.edu](http://www.filmstudies.emory.edu).

### Wednesday, Sept. 10

**"Venus."** 8 p.m. 205 White Hall. Free. 404-727-5050. [www.filmstudies.emory.edu](http://www.filmstudies.emory.edu)

### Thursday, Sept. 11

**"Divided We Fall: Americans in the Aftermath."** 7 p.m., Center for Ethics, Room 102. Free. 404-727-2575. [www.emory.edu/religions&humanspirit](http://www.emory.edu/religions&humanspirit).

## Performing Arts

### Sunday, Sept. 7

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

## Seminars

### Thursday, Sept. 4

**"Pediatric Trauma: They Are Not Just Small Adults."** Carrie Stallings, Emory Surgery, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-778-1903.

**"Hormonal and Second Messenger Regulation of the Sodium Chloride Cotransporter."** Robert Hoover, University of Chicago, presenting. 9 a.m. 600 Whitehead Research Building. Free. 404-727-7401.

### Tuesday, Sept. 9

**"Mechanisms of Gq-dependent synaptic: Implications for Fragile X Syndrome."** Kimberly Huber, UT Southwestern Medical Center, presenting. 5052 Rollins Research Center. Noon. Free. 404-727-5983.

### Thursday, Sept. 11

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

### Friday, Sept. 12

**"Neuro Nursing Symposium"** 6:30 p.m. Third Floor, Cox Hall. \$100. 404-712-0754. Registration required. Through Sept. 14.

## Special

### Thursday, Sept. 4

**"Tasting the Teas of India."** Reenu Reed, presenting. 7 p.m. Reception Hall, Carlos Museum. Free. 404-727-4291. [carlos.emory.edu](http://carlos.emory.edu). Indian tea, cookies and cakes provided and registration required.

### Friday, Sept. 5

**READING: "What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day."** Pearl Cleage, author, reading. 4 p.m. Cannon Chapel. Free. 404-727-9896. [www.jamesweldonjohnson.emory.edu](http://www.jamesweldonjohnson.emory.edu).

**Creativity & Arts Soiree: A Celebration of Emory.** 5:30 p.m. Emerson Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-712-9214. RSVP by Sept. 2.

## Visual Arts

### Monday, Sept. 8

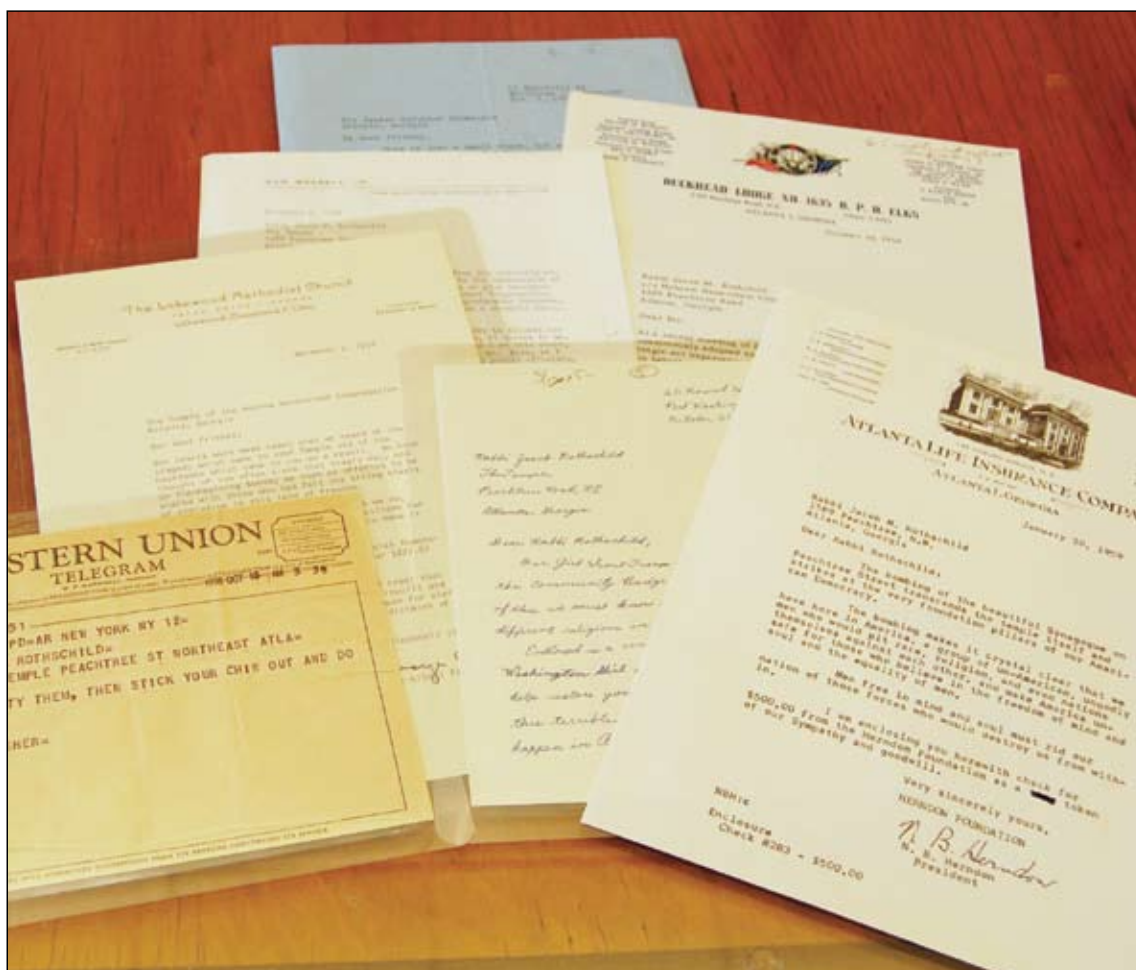
**Mondays at the Museum Family Program.** 10:30 a.m. Level One, Carlos Museum. \$10 child/adult pairs; \$8, Museum member child/adult pairs. 404-727-4291. [carlos.emory.edu](http://carlos.emory.edu).

### Now Showing

**"Latin American Posters: Public Aesthetics and Mass Politics."** Schatten Gallery, Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-0136. Through Dec. 14.

**"The Bomb That Healed": Rabbi Jacob Rothschild, Civil Rights, and the Temple Bombing of 1958."** MARBL, Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-6887. Through Jan. 3, 2009.

# Exhibit documents Temple bombing



The personal papers and letters of Rabbi Jacob Rothschild are displayed in the Manuscript, Archives & Rare Book Library.

By LEA McLEES

Fifty years ago, exploding dynamite ripped a gaping hole in the brick edifice of The Temple on Peachtree Street, home to Atlanta's oldest and largest Jewish congregation. The Oct. 12, 1958, attack was linked to an epidemic of hate group activity plaguing the South during the civil rights movement.

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 Jews the confidence to become more active in bridging the divide between whites and blacks, Rafshoon notes. That is why Rothschild's widow, Janice, has referred to the otherwise tragic event as "the bomb that healed."

The exhibition, which draws on Rothschild's personal papers and includes 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, explains 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: the rabbi's successful organization of the South's first racially integrated banquet, 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 other events 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](http://www.emory.edu).

SPECIAL