Some of the world's leading scholars of the arts and humanities, as well as artists, will visit Emory as part of a new series “Luminaries in Arts and Humanities” sponsored by the Office of the Provost.

“The series will provide platforms for discussions about transformative areas of inquiry,” said Santa Ono, vice provost for academic initiatives and deputy to the provost.

The Luminaries series began last year with a focus on the natural sciences, bringing internationally renowned scientists to speak and engage with the Emory community. This series, along with the “Life of the Mind” lunchtime lectures that spotlight Emory’s own outstanding scholars, aims to foster a community of engagement with the most intriguing ideas of our time.

The Luminaries series provides an opportunity “to hear the very best and most interesting ideas” from those “who are very much in the center of creating our culture of arts and humanities,” said Gordon Newby, chair of the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies (MESAS), who helped organize the series.

The five lectures are designed to appeal to a broad audience of faculty, staff and students as well.

Please see LUMINARIES on page 5

Tibet Week displays a colorful pageant of sound and silence

Buddhist monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery perform traditional music at the sand mandala opening ceremony. Created from millions of grains of colored sand, construction of the mandala was among the arts and cultural events featured as part of Tibet Week 2008.

Films, workshops and lectures included a presentation by Emory science faculty of their experience teaching science to Buddhist monastics at the historic launching of the Emory-Tibet Science Initiative in India.

Presented by the Emory-Tibet Partnership in conjunction with the program in South Asian Studies and the Claus M. Halle Institute, Tibet Week followed the October visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Emory as Presidential Distinguished Professor.

By KIM URGUHART
Doctor finds joy in teaching, counseling and community

By ROBIN TRICOLES

When Bhagirath Majmudar interviews prospective medical students, he looks for the ones who have a head — and a heart — for medicine.

"Medicine is not just a profession. It’s deeply humanitarian," says Majmudar, professor of pathology at Emory School of Medicine. The recipient of several teaching awards during his 35 years here, Majmudar’s kindness and compassion begin with his students and extend to his patients and the community.

"The most phenomenal part about being a teacher is the interaction with students. I tell them in their second year that they are standing under a load of information, but in the fourth year they will be able to come to me and argue that they do not agree with me. And that will be a proud moment in my life," he says.

Also an associate professor of gynecoology and obstetrics, Majmudar says nothing compares to witnessing the birth of a baby. But he adds, "Pathology was my first love at first sight. It’s very interesting. You see sick patients, healthy patients, surgery, infections and congenital problems. Pathology is a science of concepts, and it’s a very optical science. Most of the diagnoses are made by sharpness of sight and a quick recapture of optical memory." The field includes several subspecialties such as clinical, experimental and immunological pathology. Majmudar chose to specialize in anatomic pathology, which includes autopsies and surgery. "I’m primarily a surgical pathologist, specializing in gynecological pathology. I often work in a room next to the OR where a surgical specimen can be brought in for evaluation. Sometimes the surgeon brings it in, and we look at it together. And sometimes the surgeon is an excellent pathologist. We are closely tied together, so we manage a patient’s care through consultation and humanity," he says.

When the patient’s care involves a gloomy prognosis, Majmudar is there to lend both professional and spiritual support to the patient and his family. "I help these patients by giving them perspective. For example, if a physician tells a patient he has a 50 percent chance of a two-year survival, I will tell him, yes, that may be true, but it does not guarantee that anyone else is going to live more than two years. There are no guarantees." I also talk with patients about their fears, their family, and how long they really want to live. Often they’ll say, ‘The way I am, I don’t want to live much longer anyway.’ It turns out they often are afraid of what is going to happen to them after death. I tell them I can’t prevent the process, but maybe I can make the process more peaceful," he says.

Majmudar finds his peace in his love for community and the arts. "I’m interested in so many things besides medicine. I’m passionately in love with Sanskrit. And I like art, literature and poetry," he says. He has a passion for acting as well and has appeared locally in several original plays and has penned others. Majmudar finds his peace in his love for community and the arts. "I’m interested in so many things besides medicine. I’m passionately in love with Sanskrit. And I like art, literature and poetry," he says.

EMORY PROFILE: Bhagirath Majmudar

"I’m interested in so many things besides medicine," says Bhagirath Majmudar, professor of pathology and associate professor of gynecology and obstetrics, who is also an artist and a priest.

"The most phenomenal part about being a teacher is the interaction with students. I tell them in their second year that they are standing under a load of information, but in the fourth year they will be able to come to me and argue that they do not agree with me. And that will be a proud moment in my life." — Bhagirath Majmudar, professor of pathology

Then after the wedding, for many years, I keep track of how things are going. The couple often sends pictures of their home and their children.

“Performing the ceremony is not a job done, it’s a responsibility undertaken because I care for them. And it’s a joy.”
NEWSMAKERS

“All this relocation means we’ve got a whole lot of displaced people in our society. Church affiliation is strongly linked with people finding a place and feeling at home. People are seeking to connect with a group of people.”

— Thomas Frank, professor of religious leadership and administration, in “Finding Faith That Feels Right Leads to Change” in Delaware News Journal

March 16

HOSPITAL MILESTONE

New heart makes perfect birthday gift

Emory University Hospital's 500th heart transplant patient Terry Green (pictured with wife Danette) has “a new lease on life.”

By CAROL CLARK

Terry Green was born at Emory University Hospital on March 20, 1947. He recently returned to the hospital to undergo a heart transplant, recovering in time to celebrate his 61st birthday at home with his family.

“If I’m not reborn, I’ve at least been given a new lease on life,” Green said at a March 19 press conference, marking his status as the hospital’s 500th heart transplant patient. “I fully intend to enjoy this second go-round.”

Flanked by his wife, Danette, David Vega, surgical director of Emory’s heart transplant program and S. Raja Lakaar, his primary cardiologist, Green described how a combination of factors led to “a sudden meltdown” of his heart near the end of 2006. He went on the transplant waiting list, and checked into the hospital earlier this year when his condition deteriorated. Nine days after the March 8 transplant surgery he was able to leave the hospital.

“I’m mightily grateful for everything the Emory doctors and staff have done for me,” said Green, a Lawrenceville resident and the father of 31-year-old twins. “They got my bacon out of the fire.”

“This is a huge milestone for us,” Vega said of the 500th heart transplant. Emory is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its heart transplant program — the largest and most comprehensive in the state of Georgia, with patient survival rates higher than the national average.

In addition to 500 adult heart transplants, Emory Clinica Cardiothoracic surgeons have performed more than 200 pediatric heart transplants at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. Emory is also driving the development of other therapy options for heart failure, including the implantation of artificial heart pumps, or ventricular assist devices.

An avid sports fan and a long-time folk dancer, Green is now undergoing rehabilitation to regain strength lost in his legs during the weeks of hospitalization. “It’s just a matter of cinching up your bootsrapas and getting back to doing what you do, enjoying life,” he said.

Crystal Apple Awards honor teaching

By KIM UROHARU

Seven Emory professors, cited by doctoral students as going above and beyond in their search for knowledge and involvement in the Emory community, earned Crystal Apple Awards in a Feb. 20 ceremony. The annual awards for excellence in teaching are given by the Residence Hall Association.

The 2008 Crystal Apple Award winners are: Excellence in Undergraduate Seminar Education: Janice Akers (theater and dance); Excellence in Undergraduate Lecture Education: Tara Doyle (religion); Excellence in Undergraduate Business Education: Clifton Green (business); Excellence in Undergraduate Nursing Education: Michael Neville (nursing); Excellence in Graduate and Professional School Education: John Wirte Jr. (law); The William H. Fox Award for Emerging Excellence: Erica Weiss (physics); The Laura Jones Hardman Award for Excellence in Service to the Emory Community: Tara Myers (dance).

Luce Scholar will pursue Asian art conservation

By BEVERLY CLARK

Senior Anne Marie Gan is one of 18 Americans selected as a 2008-2009 Luce Scholar for a year of hands-on experience and work in Asia, and the fourth Emory student selected for the highly competitive scholarship since 2000. The Luce Scholars program provides stipends and internships for scholars to live and work in Asia for one year, and immerse themselves in Asian culture.

Gan is an art history and Italian major from Dallas, and an active member of the Emory Scholars program as the recipient of the full tuition Charles and Anne Danec Scholarship. She is a volunteer docent for the Carlos Museum and founder of the Art History Club at Emory. She has served as a freshman adviser and a participant in the Transforming Community Project.

Gan has completed two art conservation internships. In Asia, Gan plans to work to gain an art conservation internship, such as a lab or field site, in which conservators of different nationalities work together.

“I expect that my work in Asia will draw heavily upon my past experience in the American method of objects conservation and I hope to also acquaint myself with other approaches while in this international setting,” says Gan, who is awaiting her placement.

“The Asian Foundation, which provides support for the Luce Scholars, has an internships program based on the scholar’s specific interests and qualifications.” Founded in 1974, the purpose of the Luce Scholars is to increase awareness of Asia among future leaders in American society.

“I expect that my work in Asia will draw heavily upon my past experience in the American method of objects conservation but I hope to also acquaint myself with other approaches while in this international setting.”

— Anne Marie Gan, senior and 2008-09 Luce Scholar

Candidates are nominated by 67 colleges and universities.

“Those chosen as a Luce Scholar, you have to be the best of the best — and that really is Anne Marie. The foundation recognized, as we did, that with her substantive internships in conservancy, she’s ready to step into a job placement working to protect priceless museum pieces in Asia,” says Dee McGraw, director of Emory’s National Scholarships and Fellowships Program.

“Having been born in the United States, with Thai heritage, Anne Marie literally embodies the Luce Foundation’s goals. The experience will greatly influence her future work and broadens her professional relationships, just as it is intended.”

ACCLAIM

Murray Baron, professor of radiology, has received the Gold Medal Award by the North American Society for Carotid Imaging (NASCI).

Baron received the award for demonstrating outstanding dedication and motivation to the cardiovascular imaging field.

Recipients of the award are chosen for their significant contributions to the field.

William Foege was honored at ResearchAmerica’s 12th Annual Advocacy Awards Gala on March 18.

In Washington D.C. with the Raymond and Betty Sackler Award for Sustained National Leadership.

William Foege is founding director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, he is currently a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation senior fellow and an emeritus presidential distinguished professor at Rollins School of Public Health.

Lorraine V. Murray, public service assistant in the Candler School of Theology, will have her fourth book published by Ignatius Press in March. Titled “Confessions of an Ex-Feminist,” it is described as a spiritual autobiography.

Murray, who holds a doctorate in philosophy, writes a religion column for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and for The Georgia Bulletin. She is currently teaching Greek and Latin at Emory, as well as teaching philosophy and English.

Thomas Thangaraj, D.W. and Luce Scholar associate professor of religious studies, will receive an honorary degree from and serve as baracaluate speaker for LaGrange College.

He is a member of the think-tank, “Thinking Together,” that brings theologians of various faiths annually to the Office of Inter-Religious Relations, World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland.

Thangaraj, who received his doctorate in theology from Harvard, taught in India prior to joining the Emory faculty in 1988.

“Acclaim” recognizes the accomplishments of faculty and staff. Listings may include awards and recognition to boards and societies, and similarly notable accomplishments at Emory or in the wider community. Emory Report relies on submissions for the column. Contact: liking@emory.edu.
**EMORY REPORT March 24, 2008**

**TAKE NOTE**

**Bike riders pedal for vaccine funds**

Take a ride for research. Active Living Atlanta's AC200 is in its sixth year raising funds for HIV/AIDS vaccine research by the Emory Vaccine Center.

This year's ride, from Atlanta to Rock Eagle and back, is May 17-18.

All students and employees of the University, Healthcare and The Carter Center can ride for Team Emory. Emory will reimburse registration fees.

For more information and to register, see emorycycling. org. Team Emory chairperson is David Hans on at david.hanson@emory.edu.

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**Innovation to be celebrated**

Emory's Office of Technology Transfer presents its annual “Celebration of Technology and Innovation” Tuesday, April 1 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Emory Conference Center, Silver Bell Pavilion.

Emory awards will include Start-up of the Year (GeOx Inc., based on HIV vaccine research by Harreet Robinson and colleagues); Deal of the Year (Therapeutic Treatments of Chronic Infections, a licensing agreement of discoveries by Ralf Ahmad and colleagues); Innovation of the Year (G2 Carpool Technology, a system developed by John Notarantonio); and Significant Event of 2007 (Triptor Pharmaceuticals, a start-up based on inflammatory disease research by Dennis Littae and colleagues).

Please RSVP to 404-727-1785 or to www.ott.emory.edu.

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**Tax forms available in Woodruff Library**

A selection of federal and Georgia state tax forms are available for pick-up at a tax form kiosk near the search floor reference desk in the Robert W. Woodruff Library.

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**Emory makes DeKalb history**

Emory will be among five history-makers honored by DeKalb County at a special awards ceremony Thursday, March 27.

The University, Martin Luther King Jr., Manuel Maloof, associate vice president of the University’s historic buildings on the campus including a number of medical schools from Oxford in many ways, since moving its campus to DeKalb County in 1989.

The ceremony will take place at the Old DeKalb Courthouse on March 27.

**Emory, Atlanta Public Schools inaugurate Confucius Institute**

**TOP:** Students from Coan Middle School and Toomer Elementary perform at the inauguration of the Confucius Institute. **BOTTOM:** Helping to celebrate the inauguration were (left to right) President Jim Wagner; Xiao Zhou, associate vice president of Nanjing University; the hon. Madame Qiao Hong of the People's Republic of China Consulate General in Houston; Elizabeth Webb of the Georgia Department of Education; and Atlanta Public Schools Superintendent Beverly Hall.

By ELAINE JUSTICE

Faculty and administrators from Emory, Nanjing University in China and Atlanta Public Schools were on hand March 19 at Summey E. Coan Middle School in Edgewood to mark the inauguration of a unique partnership: the establishment of the Confucius Institute in Atlanta.

The institute is the first in the state of Georgia and the only one in the nation to be jointly administered by a private university and a public school system. Its mission is to help introduce k-12 instruction in Modern Standard Chinese throughout the state of Georgia and foster knowledge of Chinese language and culture in the greater metropolitan Atlanta area.

Housed at Coan Middle School, the Confucius Institute in Atlanta is “designed to be a gateway to Chinese language and culture for individuals, families, communities and schools in metro Atlanta and the surrounding area,” says Rong Cai, Emory associate professor of Chinese Studies and the inaugural director of the institute.

“Our agenda is driven by two things only: to meet the needs of the local community and our commitment to meet those needs,” said Cai at the inaugural, where Juliette Apkarian, chair of Russian and East Asian Languages and Cultures, presided.

Speaking at the inaugural, President Jim Wagner said that Emory’s relationship with China dates to the 1850s. Students from China were among Emory’s first international students, he said, and Young John Allen, a member of the class of 1858, became one of the founders of modern Chinese journalism in Shanghai.

Today Emory has a growing interdisciplinary program in Chinese Studies, faculty who are engaged in numerous research initiatives, visiting faculty from China, and students who travel extensively throughout East Asia, said Wagner. He and Provost Earl Lewis visited China in 2007 to launch a new joint project in medicine in Beijing and meet with Emory alumni there.

The Confucius Institute in Atlanta is funded with a renewable, three-year grant from the Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), which is affiliated with the Ministry of Education of China. It is the 41st such institute in the United States.

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**THE INSTITUTE WILL:**

- Serve as a regional resource center for teacher-training and curriculum design
- Host a wide range of cultural and educational events open to the community
- Assist APs in developing Foreign Language Model Sites for k-12 Chinese instruction that can be replicated by schools statewide
- Offer classes in Chinese language and culture geared toward Atlanta’s business community, teachers, parents and the public
- Facilitate academic exchanges at all levels and in all disciplines between Emory and Nanjing University

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**APPOINTED**

Hair Balian, an attorney with a background in international conflict mediation and democratic governance for organizations including the United Nations, is the new director of the Carter Center’s Conflict Resolution Program. As director, Balian will oversee the program’s efforts to monitor conflicts around the world and work with other Carter Center programs on human rights, democracy, the Americas, and the Middle East.

Balian most recently served as the assistant director of the office of the U.N. Secretary-General’s High Representative for the Elections in Cote d’Ivoire, where he focused on facilitating and certifying democratic elections.

Jeffrey P. Koplan has been appointed vice president for global health. Koplan will continue to serve as director of the Emory Global Health Institute, a position he has held since the Institute was established in 2006. In addition to leading Emory’s Global Health Institute, Koplan is president and a co-founder of the International Association of National Public Health Institutes and serves as the Institute’s executive secretary, which is housed at Emory.

Koplan is a former director (1998-2002) and a 26-year veteran of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Timothy W. Olser on Jan. 1 became chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and director of Emory Eye Center. He holds the F. Phinizy Calhoun Sr. Chair.

Olser joined Emory School of Medicine from the University of Minnesota, where he served as professor of ophthalmology since 1998, held the William H. Knobloch Retina Chair and served as director of retina. He also was chief of the Laboratory of the Minnesota Lions Macular Degeneration Center at the university, established in 1998 under his leadership.

Research conducted by Olser on proteins of age-related macular degeneration using the Minnesota Grading System has won awards internationally.

Michael Shutt has been appointed director of the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Life and assistant dean for campus Life. Shutt is currently in his second year as the assistant dean of students for LGBT and other diversity initia
tives in the Division of Student Life at Emory. Shutt is co-chair of the Interfaith Leadership Initiative and an active member of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Center at the University of Georgia. He previously served as a law enforcement officer and Drug Counselor at UGA and has been involved with the University’s Diversity Council and several university committees and task forces. He will work closely with the offices of diversity at Emory on June 18.

"Appointed” is an occasional column announcing key hires and promotions or of affiliation with Emory University.
LUMINARIES: Series will illuminate humanities, arts

Continued from the cover

as to the wider community, and will be held this spring and into the fall semester. In some cases, the Luminaries in Arts and Humanities is co-sponsoring speakers hosted by others at Emory, including this spring the Sheth Lecture, the Kemp-Malone Lecture and Seminar Series, the English department and MESAS.

The series began March 20 with Stephen Greenblatt, one of the world’s leading scholars of Shakespeare and the John Cogan University Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University. The spring lineup includes author Shashi Tharoor and historian and writer. William Dalrymple, under-secretary general of the UN.

Luminaries in Arts and Humanities schedule to date

March 30
Shashi Tharoor, novelist, and former under-secretary-general of the UN.
5 p.m. Tull Auditorium, Law School.*

April 6
William Dalrymple, historian and writer.
4 p.m., Jones Room, Woodruff Library.*

April 10
Melissa Boshart, painter, professor of American history, Emerta, Princeton University.
12:30 p.m., 208 White Hall.

Sept. 30
Pauline Yu, President of American Council of Learned Societies.
Time and location TBA.

Oct. 20–21
Semir Zeki, Professor of Neurobiology, University College, London.
Time and location TBA.

Notes: *These lectures are co-sponsored by Luminaries in Arts and Humanities.

For more information, contact the Office of the Provost at 404-727-6055.

SNAPSHOT

Is it a match? Residencies revealed

Graduating medical students at Emory School of Medicine gathered on campus March 20 for the highly anticipated moment when they discover where they will train as residents. Students simultaneously opened sealed envelopes in the presence of friends and family during the suspenseful annual Match Day ceremony.

The participating Emory students were among thousands nationwide who applied for residency positions at U.S. teaching hospitals through the National Residency Match Program (NRMP) that annually matches students with residency programs.

Of the 112 Emory graduating seniors, 108 participated in the NRMP. Thirty-six students will spend all or part of their residencies in the state of Georgia in Emory’s Affiliated Residency Training Programs.

“The results of this year’s residency matching demonstrate once again the strength and caliber of medical students educated by Emory University School of Medicine,” says J. William Eley, executive associate dean for medical education and student affairs, Emory School of Medicine.

Emory seeks new head of parking and transportation

By DAVID PAYNE

It’s a milestone worth noting: as of February, 13.5 percent of Emory’s 22,000 employees are now registered to use one of the University’s several commute options. Eventually, Emory wants to increase that figure to 1 in 4 employees by 2015.

In order to meet its goal, Emory recently began a national search to fill the position of associate vice president of parking and transportation. The position, which is currently vacant, oversees all parking decks and parking assignments, as well as the University’s expanding portfolio of alternative transportation programs.

Emory includes Emory’s vanpool and carpool initiatives, bike/pedestrian programs, Zipcar and its Cliff shuttle system, which thousands of students, commuters and campus travelers use daily. Emory’s investment in the shuttle is particularly noteworthy: the Cliff shuttle fleet is one of the largest private fleets in metro Atlanta.

The University also plans to fill the position of director of parking and community services, who will report to the new associate vice president of parking and transportation. Bill Collier, who currently runs Emory’s parking services, has announced his retirement.

Emory expects to fill these positions this summer. For more information, contact Melissa Boshart in Human Resources at melissa.boshart@emory.edu.
Study: Benefit of Mediterranean diet may be in the antioxidants

By QUINN EASTMAN

People who consume a diet similar to a Mediterranean diet tend to have lower levels of oxidative stress, which can contribute to heart attack and stroke, according to Emory researchers.

“We’ve known about the protective effect of the Mediterranean diet, but this begins to show how antioxidants in the diet may be bringing about that effect,” says study leader Viola Vaccarino, a professor of medicine (cardiology) and epidemiology.

A Mediterranean diet is characterized by large amounts of fruit, vegetables, whole grains, fish and poultry and low amounts of red meat.

Vaccarino’s team studied the association between diet and oxidative stress in 297 male twins who are Vietnam-era veterans.

“Our work shows that the effects of diet are independent from genetics and familial factors,” said Emory cardiovascular researcher Jun Dai.

“It means everybody can benefit from a healthy diet, whether you have genetic risk factors for cardiovascular disease or not,” added Dai, who presented the findings at a March 14 American Heart Association conference.

Brain awareness moves into mind of community

By ROBIN TRICOLES

Every Friday, neurologist Jonathan Glass, director of Emory’s ALS Clinic, meets with dozens of patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). He and his staff of specialists, including physicians, nurses, therapists, social workers and volunteers, carefully attend to the physical and emotional needs of their patients.

“We don’t have a cure. So, when people come here, they get a very high level of care because of the staff and because of the research that’s going on here, and the patients recognize that,” says Glass.

When Glass isn’t seeing patients, he can be found conducting neuroscience research. And he’s not alone. Hundreds of Emory faculty, staff and students in diverse fields such as psychology, chemistry, biology, anthropology, nursing, ethics, and even business are shaping the understanding of the brain and how it works — or doesn’t work — when it comes to disease and injury.

Cognitive disorders, neuromuscular diseases, stroke, sleep, neuro-rehabilitation and neuro-epidemiology are just a few of the areas Emory researchers are focusing on. And neuroscience is one of the key initiatives in Emory’s university-wide strategic plan.

To highlight the importance of brain education and research, Gov. Sonny Perdue met with scientists and staff at Emory, including neurologist Jonathan Glass, to declare March “Brain Awareness Month.”

To highlight the importance of brain education and research, Gov. Sonny Perdue met with scientists and staff at Emory, including neurologist Jonathan Glass, to declare March “Brain Awareness Month.”

Neurologist Jonathan Glass is among the many Emory faculty, staff and students who are shaping the understanding of the brain, spotlighted during Brain Awareness Month.

Self-help: American as apple pie, Oprah

By CAROL CLARK

The camera pans over a somber group of people in a church basement. They sit on folding chairs in a circle, some of them sipping coffee from Styrofoam cups.

Whether in real-life or in countless Hollywood productions, Americans immediately recognize the scene of a self-help support group in session. “We can read it culturally. Self-help groups have diffused throughout our society and are an accepted part of health care,” says Matthew Archibald, assistant professor of sociology.


Archibald says further ingrained is the self-help ethos into the mainstream consciousness.

Today the movement is accepted — and even encouraged — by the medical establishment. Archibald’s research turned up 589 self-help groups for chronic mental or physical conditions that have national chapters, but he admits that the number is debatable, depending on how you define self-help. The national chapters serve as umbrellas for thousands of local branches, making it even harder to quantify, he adds.

Scientific research on the effectiveness of self-help groups remains ambiguous, he says, adding “I think it’s really good for people of groups of people facing adversity to challenge institutions of power and help keep them honest.”

Like movements for civil rights, the self-help tradition has played a major role in shaping the American psyche, Archibald concludes. “It’s about self-actualization and seeing your condition differently by confronting it,” he says. “We’re an upstart society that became a world power by constantly reinforcing ourselves.”
My ‘greater jihad’ at campus peace vigils

Reflections in light of the fifth anniversary of the Iraq War

By Theophas “Thee” Smith

In our religion department I’m privileged to teach at the nexus of multiple faith traditions, and to enjoy adventures in Jewish, Muslim and Christian trailogue. I say ‘adventures’ because it is exhilarating, sometimes scary, but mostly like a fascinating off-road wilderness trek to discover in another faith tradition something that enhances one’s own religious journey. That has been my experience with the Muslim teaching on ‘lesser and greater jihad.’

The lesser jihad as I understand it is no longer a subject of Islam but such a readerful and commenatartist is the struggle one wages externally to defend the faith in allusion to Allah and in opposition to the enemies of God. By now we are all familiar with the stereotypical view of such external struggle in the form of holy war. It remains disputed whether acts of religious extremism by terrorists qualifies as ‘holy’ even in that sense. However, Islam has always taught that there is a greater jihad: the interior struggle waged in one’s own soul to advance the believer’s moral and spiritual allegiance to Allah by defying all the forces that war against the soul’s integrity and commitment.

That’s what I experience at our campus peace vigils every Tuesday and Friday: my own personal, interior jihad. The specific jihad I practice has been described in more psychological (and perhaps more accessible) terms by Marshall Rosenberg. Rosenberg is one of the nation’s foremost trainers in the field of ‘nonviolent communication’ and he describes a key practice of NVC in terms that I call a kind of mental and emotional hygiene.

Before you engage in any activist venture, he coaches, be sure to cleanse yourself of any ‘enemy images’ that you harbor of your opponents. To the degree that you project such images onto those who differ on an issue, he claims, you will diminish your own ability to see and leverage the vantage points where their real human needs offer a nonviolent solution to the presenting conflict.

Real human needs, say what? But I don’t want to know their real human needs. I just want them to fulfill my need for them to change sides in our conflict; fulfill my need for them to side with me on the issues. I only want to know how to get them to change, not how to discover their humanity or their needs.

Precisely. Treating my oppo- nents as ‘the other,’ objectifying them as literal ‘objects’ at my dis- posal, is precisely why I will fail to enlist them in my own inter- ests because (as we are perenni- ally learning) human beings are re- sisting becoming only objects. We resist, that is, becoming what Martin Luther called an “I.” To be human, on the contrary, is to resist being also a subject in one’s own right; what Buber called a “ Thou” in his classic monograph, “I and Thou.” (Compare Kant’s maxim, “never to treat persons only as a means, but also as an end-in-them- selves”)

So there I am at the vigil read- ing the names of our war dead, or silently holding a banner, or ac- tively handing vigil fliers to pass- ersby and spontaneously, there- in, practicing the interior jihad of refusals to regard pro-war advo- cates as enemies. Rather than indulge in enemy images, attitudes and passions, I struggle in my own mind to see fellow human beings whose genuine needs for personal and social, national and international integrity are being fulfilled through positions, strate- gies and policies different from my own.

It would be incumbent on me and my supporters, in the frame- work of NVC, to discover, display and compellingly offer alterna- tive means to fulfill the real needs of such compatriots. But I will never engage that dimension of the issues by simply projecting enemy images onto them.

Walter Wink calls it “how not to become what you hate” in his acclaimed study, “Engaging the Powers.” So that’s why I’m there every week as long as I can make it, joining STAND with ME — “Members of Emory” every Tues- day at 1 p.m. and the Fearless Fridays flocks at noon. Each week I experience for myself that, if I do something proactive with my im- pulse to disrespect, vilify or de- monize my fellow citizens who support the war, then I will actu- ally be wasting peace at the peace vigils — first of all with those very same fellow citizens.

The alternative of course is the irony of fostering a peace vigil that is functionally ‘warfare by other means.’ Rather let peace begin within the peace advocates themselves, who will thereby be fortified to find resources that en- tend peace externally in ever- widening circles — from one’s more moderate fellow citizens to one’s more lethal opponents.

Yes, despite the prevailing sta- retypes of peace advocates and nonviolence proponents as hope- lessly naive, I do in fact acknowl- edge that we have real, toxic or vicious or lethal opponents not all of whom are foreign, I should add. I also insist however, with Gandhi and King, that our non- violent orientation enjoins us to eschew rage and hatred toward such opponents. Instead the truly nonviolent goal is “willing the well-being of both victims and perpetrators in the fullest possi- ble knowledge of the nature of the violation,” as Marjorie Suhocki says in “The Fact to Violence.”

May your own jihad be productive for you, too, with rigorously informed, self-critical and challenging struggles, as have mine. And may our campus vigils be emblematic of a ‘new world order,’ a nobler or- der of warriors who wage the greater jihad. Or with less gran- diosity: maybe it will be enough if you and I respectfully acknowl- edge each other, other partici- pants and passersby too, in the midst of all the conflicting views and opinions converging at our next vigil.

By Nancy Seideman

Theon Smith is an associate professor in the Department of Religion.

"Rather than indulge in enemy images, attitudes and passions, I struggle in my own mind to see fellow human beings whose genuine needs for ... integrity are being fulfilled through positions, strategies and policies different from my own."
Week celebrates 60th year of human rights declaration

Emory faculty, students and administration join the broader Atlanta community for the annual celebration of Human Rights Week March 24-30, which this year honors the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, created under the auspices of the United Nations.

Highlights of the week include a keynote talk by Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin followed by a panel discussion on sexual assault featuring U.S. Rep. Allen West (D-Atlanta) and former Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee members.

This is the seventh year Emory has celebrated this “student-driven” week, said Danby Evans, director of the Institute of Human Rights at Emory.

“Through the activities, we strive to engage the student body, as many are aware of the impacts of human rights, but not necessarily how they can make a difference,” Evans said.

A Human Rights Festival concludes the week Friday, March 29, featuring an international market with fair-trade crafts, international music and other performances, plus several information booths by local and international organizations.

All events are free and open to the public. For information, see http://humanrights.emory.edu/ or call 404-727-4609.

Human Rights Week schedule of events

Monday, March 24

*The Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement on Human Rights: The Role of Student Activists.” Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, presenting. Congressman John Lewis and former Atlanta student activists, panelists. 7-8:30 p.m. Harland 1200.

Tuesday, March 25

“Guantanamo Bay: Why Do We Care?” Daniel Levinson, director of the Center for Security, Intelligence and Democratic Values. 7-8:30 p.m. Emerson Hall, Schwartz Center.

Wednesday, March 26


Thursday, March 27

“Unnatural Causes” Film Screening and Panel Discussion. 4-5:30 p.m. Rollins School of Public Health. *Woodruff P.E. Center. Free. 404-727-6555.

*Not in Our Name: United Against Domestic Violence” Panel Discussion. 7:30-9 p.m. 205 White Hall.

Visual Arts

Now Showing


Legal Resources for Emory College and Graduate Students. 4 p.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-0143.

Author’s Rights. 2-3 p.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-0127.

Workshops

Monday, March 24


Tuesday, March 25

Working with Digital USG. Topographic Maps. 2:30 p.m. 312 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-2348.

Wednesday, March 26

Legal Resources for Emory College and Graduate Students. 4 p.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-0143.

Thursday, March 27

Author’s Rights. 2-3 p.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-0127.