OXFORD COLLEGE

Pooches find foster family at Oxford

BY ERIC RANGUS

The newest on-campus residence at Oxford College has a lovely view of the forest behind Williams Gym. Its pristine wooden fence surrounds a spacious backyard. In the corner of the yard is a picnic table. While it may not be large (just 64 square feet), what it lacks in roominess it more than makes up in comfort and tender loving care.

Like the other on-campus residences at Oxford, it has been unoccupied over the summer, but came Sept. 24 two new residents will arrive. When they see their new digs, they should react like any other new tenant. They’ll wag their tails.

The POOCH Palace is an 8-by-8-foot shed constructed and maintained by Oxford students as a foster care facility for adoptable dogs rescued by Pound Puppies and Kittens, a local nonprofit, animal-rescue organization.

The idea of POOCH (Pets of Oxford Community Hotline) began several years ago in the mind of Sandi Schein, director of Oxford’s Counseling Center. The owner of two adopted dogs herself (including one she found on the Oxford campus), Schein saw an immediate need to deal with the many stray dogs that roam the campus and surrounding area.

“When I was first hired, I heard stories about dogs being dumped here because this is a rural community,” Schein said. “It’s not uncommon for dogs not to be spayed or neutered, and there are different attitudes here than in the city, where there are leash laws.”

Schein finally was able to act on this idea in 2002, when she found an abandoned puppy—she thought he was a black lab mix at the time; he actually was a pit bull mix—walking along some railroad tracks and took him in. Her own dogs didn’t take to the new resident, though, so Schein moved him to Oxford.

Utilizing a donated crate, Schein set up the pup—whom she named Buddy—in Oxford’s maintenance shed. He was a bit loud, so Buddy eventually moved to a larger pen outside the maintenance shed, also donated. It was covered by a tarp, but that became severely damaged after a storm.

Buddy was the first POOCH member, although at time the program was more a renegade concept than anything else. Students took turns walking, feeding and caring for him.

Finally in March 2003, he was placed in a home, and Schein, along with several others in the Oxford community, were inspired to do more.

Schein teamed with another animal lover, Gayle Doherty, associate professor of physical education and dance at Oxford, and they drew up a plan to create POOCH. It was presented in fall 2003, and while there were legitimate concerns over health, safety and aesthetics, there was strong support from students, and Dean Dana Greene support ed the idea.

“We are deeply grateful to Dean Greene,” Schein said. “She gave POOCH her official stamp of approval. To do so, I imagine, she viewed POOCH, first and foremost, as a benevolent service to the communities of Oxford College and Newton and Rockdale counties.”

The POOCH idea—that the Oxford community could serve as a foster home for two unwanted dogs at a time until they were adopted—passed with several guidelines. Dogs had to be spayed and neutered; they would be chosen by Pound Puppies and would be adoptable breeds or mixes; the dogs wouldn’t be allowed in any buildings; they would have to be walked on the outskirts of town.

One of Emory’s most prominent new faces, Debbie Wagner, hosted the Emory Woman’s Club’s annual fall reception at Lullwater House, Tuesday, Sept. 14. The event is held each year to welcome newcomers and foster social connections.

“Last year I was sitting over there,” she said, pointing toward the formal living room, taking a break from individually greeting the more than 100 guests at the door.

She attended last year’s Woman’s Club event (then called the newcomer’s tea) but was more a guest than a host. Her husband had been president less than a month, and she was still living in Ohio. Someone told her that she looked a lot more relaxed this year, and indeed she was, since the 2003 tea had been her first on-campus event as Emory’s first lady.

Not only does the reception serve as a welcome to new women in the community, but it doubles as a recruiting mechanism for the club, whose members number nearly 150, although the club would like to boost that figure. Membership Vice President Sally Davis said that changing demographics have been a challenge.

“So many women are in the workplace now,” she said. “Most of our events are during the day. Bringing in newcomers is a bit of a struggle. But there are certain women we need to connect with who may be taking time off work to have children and would be interested in a women’s club.”

The Woman’s Club is a social and service group for women connected with Emory, the American Cancer Society, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the rest of the Clayton Corridor. It began as a club for faculty wives 75 years ago.

See WOMAN’S CLUB on page 3

HEALTH SCIENCES

Emory approved for lung surgery

BY CINDY SANDERS

Emphysema is a disabling condition that affects approximately 2 million Americans, most of them over age 50, and treatment options are few. Typically caused by cigarette smoking, the disabling and deadly condition costs more than $2.5 billion in annual health care expenses and kills more than 16,000 people in the United States each year, according to a 2001 National Institutes of Health report.

Emory Hospital has been approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to receive reimbursement for lung-volume reduction surgery as a treatment for emphysema. Currently, only 46 centers in the country are eligible for this reimbursement; new recipients who meet certain guidelines will have their surgeries covered by Medicare if they are done at Emory Hospital.

Lung-volume reduction surgery (LVRS) is a procedure aimed at targeted areas of severe emphysema in the upper lobes of the lung. Approximately 30-40 percent of each upper lobe is removed.

“This allows the remaining...
An interdisciplinary feast

P. Venugopala (P.R.) Rao is associate professor of physics.

For those hungry to transcend academic boundar-ies, something remarkable took place on this campus almost 15 years ago. Starting in 1989, selected groups of faculty members began to participate in what were then known as Luce Seminars. Conducted for eight years by retired Professor Jim Gustafson, those semester-long seminars became the focal point for interdisciplinary, scholarly discussions. They stimulated the participants to convey freshly, crossing disciplinary lines, on subjects distant from their own professional interests.

After some initial hesita- tion, I signed up for one, and quickly a phone call came from Gustafson accepting my participation. I was so excited about it, I told him, “you’re going to be part of this group.” Thus began a long, deli-gious interdisciplinary buffet for me at Emory.

The Luce Seminars achieved the goal to be researched, reported and ana-lyzed. Pundits have pronounced that there is too much distance between the disciplines. The question is to what extent will the seminars stimulate the imagina-tion of their partici-pants? From a personal perspec-tive, the experience opened a new space on the campus for me wherein I began to encounter other minds. Sudden-ly I was sharing the excite-ments in my own field of specialty with faculty far removed from it. I must con-fess: These interdisciplinary conversations had an extremely healthy effect on me.

Take, for example, my first seminar. Each member of the group was expected to read a text on the subject of “under-standing Nature” and report on it. I was assigned Erazim Kohak’s The Embers and The Stars. Reading this book, and lis-tening and contributing to the discussions that followed, had a deep impact. Kohak warned that the conceptualization of Nature within the symbolic sys-tem of natural sciences cannot and should not claim the privi-lege of completely representing Reality. He pleaded earnestly for us all to pay attention to the moral sense of Nature—and of being human within ourselves. I cannot speak for other members of the discussion group, but for me it opened a new, more satisfying way of reading of the text of Nature. I began to feel different, more appreciative, even as I walked through the garden in my back yard. Not only a sense of won-der but also a moral presence began to take hold of me. To state it indeed, as Kohak says (and as my own spiritual tradition based in Hindu scriptures would assert), there is a moral order immanent in Nature, why do humans ignore it—even often—behave unethically? Why don’t we behave morally all the time?

Kohak’s answer is that Nature’s manifestation is not automatic; it must be willfully apprehended. Humans are endowed with free will and freedom to make choices. At every moment of our existence, we must strive to become aware of this inherent moral order. That is a tall order for any being to put in practice. Are there short cuts?

The ethical dimension of our lives is of significant con-cern to any active, contributing member of a community. As my involvement in interdisciplinary conversations continued, I had thoughts like this continued to coalesce and evolve in my mind. In one of these interme-sured discussions—now known as Gustafson seminars—I bumped into Gary Laderman from the Department of Religion. Our dialogue centered on health, spirituality, science and religion. Soon Arri Eisen from biology joined us. A cre-ative and intellectual collabora-tion emerged that led to the formation of discussion groups devoted largely to the relationship between science and religion. Indeed, we team-ed up to prepare a seminar titled, “The Feeling of What Happens: Body and Emotion in the Making of Consciousness.”

Our notion of our self is a continuous unfolding concept—even though attached to it is a sense of unchanging identity. We ask what is the process of construction; moment by moment, our brains reconstruct the sense of self.

Obviously, our actions and reactions could be affected in this process. My moral self is con-structed in a process that includes interaction with the rest of the universe, a world in which an immanent moral order prevails. Two weeks after the seminar began, I emerged with the feeling that I belonged to small, privileged group that knew the answer. But it was, of course, an illusion. What really happened was my dear self had grown into a new, enlightened self that merely (or supremely) is equipped with more wisdom to grapple with such grand ques-tions as “Who am I?”

Kohak’s postulate of immanent moral order, the cosmic order of the Hindu scriptures, Buddhist insistence of permanent impermanence and change, the continually con-structed self of neurosci-en-tists—all have become part of the tapestry of thoughts that is shaping my mind. This cocktail of intellectual pieces, a miasma formed according to an interdisciplinary recipe, is worth savouring before any exercise of contemplation and meditation.

In sum, my point is this: We are all scientists, and Banias is a great assistant for the world to learn an intellectual recipe that will cook a new, satisfying way of reading, of comprehending and being ourselves. I cannot speak for other members of the discussion

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**FIRST PERSON**

**P. VENUGOPALA RAO**

**Associate Professor of Physics**

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If you could live anywhere abroad, which country would you choose?

**Rudolph Byrd**

**Associate Professor**

**African American Studies/ILA**

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**Jean Williams**

**Senior German Studies/International Studies**

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**Shelby Tefft**

**Editor**

**Journalism**

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**Betty Kosciusko**

**Registrar’s Office**

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**Kay Hinton**

**Medical Records Specialist**

**German Studies/International Studies**

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**John Banja**

**Professor**

**English**

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**Jean Williams**

**Registrar’s Office**

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**Katherine Baust**

**Graduate Student**

**German Studies/International Studies**

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**Betty Kocsis**

**Academic Records Specialist**

**German Studies/International Studies**

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**Katherine Baust**

**Senior Registrar**

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**Jean Williams**

**Registrar’s Office**

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**Kay Hinton**

**Medical Records Specialist**

**German Studies/International Studies**

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**Eric Rangus**

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**Editor**

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**Rudolph Byrd**

**Associate Professor**

**African American Studies/ILA**
Tom Lancaster is a no nonsense guy. He gives straight answers. He means what he says and vice versa.

The senior associate dean for undergraduate education in Emory College appears born for the position. Still, why would a faculty member who has won Emory Williams and Crystal Apple awards (among others) for his work in the classroom want to move into such a heavily administrative role? There is the relatively large corner office, at White Hall, of course, but there must be something else.

“I love Emory, and I want you to quote me on that,” Lancaster said. No nonsense.

“I never thought I’d stay here as long as I have, and I’m not just repeating the party line,” he continued. Lancaster, associate professor of political science, was on the faculty for about two decades before he accepted the deanship a year ago. He previously held several departmental administrative posts, but nothing approached the scope of the Emory College position, where he oversees six deans, two directors and all the accompanying staff. As an entity, the Office for Undergraduate Education provides all the academic services for the 5,000 students in Emory College—from recruiting to orientation to advising, basically everything from matriculation to graduation. As the leader of the office, Lancaster is in charge of its entire scope.

“We are a tier-one research university that has an outstanding liberal arts education for its undergraduates,” he said. “The more I’ve been at Emory, the more I realize how unique we are. In some ways my moving into this position is to help lead and protect the role that liberal arts plays in the undergraduate experience. The college is the core of the University.”

Lancaster adheres to the consistent and fair application of the rulebook, but he’s not heavy handed about it. “I’m a political scientist,” he said. “I think one of the reasons I gravitated toward this job is because I think in terms of rules and regulations. I’m not heavy handed about it. ‘I’m a political scientist,’ he said. ‘I think one of the reasons I gravitated toward this job is because I think in terms of rules and regulations.

“Guiding Principle No. 1: The Autonomy of the Classroom

Lancaster came up through the faculty, and he has a faculty member’s approach to administration. “The most important thing at the college is going on in the classroom with a faculty member who has autonomy to conduct his or her class the way they want within some very broad ethical boundaries,” he said.

Guiding Principle No. 2: The Autonomy of the Department

“The academic world is departmentally based,” Lancaster said. “Any issues of subject matter or discipline matter, they are up to the faculty. I have no authority, never will, never should.

“What are the requirements for a major? That’s up to the department,” he continued. “Did you satisfy the major? The department will certify that. Did you finish the general education requirements? That’s college-wide, so we deal with that. Did you take enough credit hours? That’s college-wide.

That viewpoint may be blunt, but it’s not necessarily bad—especially for faculty who like to do their own thing and would prefer administrators don’t nose around their business.

“It’s important to always remain sensitive to what my job is and what it is not,” Lancaster said. “When certain things that come my way, I just simply say to the student or the faculty member, ‘You decide. It’s your call.’

But if any classroom or departmental decisions conflict with the wider college mission or adversely affect students in other classes, Lancaster will address them. “If a faculty member gives a final the last week of class just so you can get out of there quickly, you’ve got to understand the impact on students who are trying to finish up three other classes where they have term papers,” he said. “I need to protect the other faculty.”

Lancaster knows first hand about teaching. In addition to the teaching awards, he has led many freshman seminars, directed the British studies study abroad program and taught a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate courses. It makes one wonder why he would walk away from it.

“Do I miss teaching? That’s a question a lot of people want to ask me,” said Lancaster, whose specialties include European politics, comparative political economy and comparative electoral behavior. “I thought long and hard about that before I took the job.”

The truth is, Lancaster continued, he teaches all the time—most of it is just outside the classroom.

While Lancaster did not teach any classes in 2003-04 so he could focus on his new administrative duties, he continued to direct doctoral dissertations. Part of the reason Lancaster returned to the classroom this semester—to teach an introductory comparative politics class—is that it gave him the opportunity to co-teach with one of his doctoral students as part of the college’s TATTO (Teaching Assistant Training and Teaching Opportunity) program.

However, much of Lancaster’s recent teaching is of the sort he dished out on a visit to Grady Hospital last week. As part of the orientation program for Grady’s emergency medicine interns, Lancaster introduced them to the college. He did so by playing a trivia game.

“What is Emory’s mascot? The Eagles, an easy question. Who is Emory’s spiritual mascot? A bit harder (not every newcomer to Emory, especially those off the main campus, learns about Lord James W. Dooley) Whose last name is on the library and P.E. Center? Woodruff—a pretty easy guess. What are the first names? Robert on the library, George on the P.E. Center, an answer many on the main campus probably couldn’t give.

“Despite our amazing differences, we still have so much in common,” Lancaster said of people in the various schools. “We are all a part of Emory.”

So, he doesn’t really miss the teaching part of his job since he still does so much of it. What Lancaster does miss, though, is the quiet time that goes with being a member of the academy—simply dressing down, going into his office on a non-teaching day, closing the door and getting some work done.

Lancaster’s job offers none of those things—no casual clothing, very little quiet and a door that basically revolves despite the fact a person must go through two offices to reach him.

On the day Lancaster went to Grady, for example, he also met with one of the college deans to give her a heads-up on the issues of the month before she spoke to the Center for International Programs Abroad to discuss the feasibility of freshmen seminars visiting other countries; he spoke to a student who had a few too many incompletes on her record; he visited with the students in the Emory Scholars Program, and he spoke to a reporter for about an hour who asked him questions like: What do you do with your time?

“You just can’t plan your schedule,” Lancaster said, flipping though the black calendar on his desk. There were many more time-and-date squares filled in than not.

“There are just too many things that can happen.”

Therefore, his office is working to stay ahead of the curve. That has led to some new efforts. For instance, as of Sept. 1, undergraduate education has boosted its aademic advising capability. The office has employed part-time advisers for a long time, but now two full-time employees are in place, in addition to the staff who have been filling the role.

Lancaster said the undergraduates’ primary advisers will continue to be their FAME faculty leaders (and eventually their departmental advisers), but the college office will now be able to provide extra assistance for students who may need it.

“We’re being very proactive—meeting with departments, meeting with students,” Lancaster said. “We’re trying to anticipate issues.”

Another of those issues addressed this semester is the certification of degrees. Invariably, a student would apply for graduation and learn that he or she had missed a graduation requirement (most often a one-hour physical education course) and therefore couldn’t graduate.

During orientation, freshmen are provided with a worksheet to check off the general education requirements (GERs) they need to graduate, but in today’s digital age, hardcopy outlines are underused. A student’s academic adviser also has a record of his or her adherence to the GERs, but if students don’t meet with their advisers (many don’t), they won’t get the information.

Now, through an effort spearheaded by the college office and lead by Associate Dean Priscilla Echols, students can electronically access a degree audit online by simply clicking a button in OPUS (Online Pathway to University Students), the online student information system, which gives them easy and direct ownership of their academic record.

“When you start making organizational changes and emphasize different things, it can be a little delicate because you are dealing with people,” Lancaster said. “I fully respect that. He doesn’t mind change, though, and as he continues familiarizing himself with the deanship, more will most likely come.

“Depending on the program, yes, I’ve got a vision,” Lancaster said. “Is it one I’m going to lay out? No.” Then he smiled. “Sometimes you don’t share your hand in a poker game.”
FOCUS: CARTER CENTER

Conversations start with sold-out Sept. 21 event

Gain in 2004-05, the Carter Center will host an informative and innovative series of public evening discussions, “Conversations at the Carter Center.” This season’s schedule is designed to increase awareness of national and global issues: A distinguished panel of Carter Center experts and special guests will make presentations, followed by question-and-answer periods with the audience. Here is the lineup for 2004-05:

A Conversation with President and Mrs. Carter Tuesday, Sept. 21, 7-8:30 p.m.

Former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, will brief the audience on Carter Center projects around the world in disease eradication, conflict resolution, democracy building and mental health promotion. They’ll look forward to questions as well too. Carter Center Executive Director John Hardman will moderate.

Note: The Sept. 21 event is now sold out and the waiting list is full. We thank you for your interest and encourage you to make reservations for the remaining Conversations events.

Latin America in Crisis

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 7-8:30 p.m.
The center’s Americas Program has monitored the unraveling of several democracies in the region due to economic uncertainty and social unrest. In some cases, violence and civil society coups have ensued. Why is this happening? What can be done to shore up these shaky democracies and stabilize relations with our neighbors south of the border? The discussion will cover recent volatility in Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and Haiti.

The State of World Conflict

Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2005, 7-8:30 p.m.
At any given time, there are about 115 ongoing political conflicts in the world. Roughly 30 are major wars. Is resolving conflicts today more difficult than in the past? How has the war on terror changed our perspectives on conflict? What special roles can nongovernmental organizations and individuals play in preventing and resolving conflicts? The center’s Conflict Resolution Program will lead a discussion on the challenges to conflict resolution today and how to build sustainable peace for future generations.

Children’s Mental Health: Navigating the System

Thursday, April 14, 2005, 7-8:30 p.m.

Children are often the first to suffer when public health systems cut budgets. The center’s Mental Health Program leads a discussion about the well-being of children in light of recommendations from the President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. A panel representing children, families and policy-makers will offer personal experiences on navigating the children’s mental health system and provide insight into systems of care that emphasize treatment of and recovery from mental illnesses.

All Conversations events will be webcast live at www.cartercenter.org. To order tickets (limit five per group), call 404-420-3804.

Jan Moor is associate director for public information at the Carter Center.

THEOLOGY SCHOOL

Bible scholar Meeks to visit as 2004 McDonald Professor

BY ELAINE JUSTICE & MICHAEL TERRAZAS

Wayne Meeks, Woolsey Professor of Biblical Studies Emeritus at Yale University, will visit Emory for three weeks as the 2004-05 Ronald McDonald Distinguished Visiting Professor for the Study of Jesus and Culture. In this capacity, he will moderate a panel on “Who’safraid of Jesus? 21st century religion, Jesus is all too familiar, yet still he comes to us, as Albert Schweitzer once unknown,” said Meeks, Woolsey Professor of Biblical Studies Emeritus at Yale. He will explore some of the reasons both for the mystery of Jesus and the mystification of Jesus by examining ways people try to understand the past and use it for their own purposes.

Meeks’ lectures will encompass such controversial contemporary Christian issues as the quest for the historical Jesus, conflicting biblical interpretations, Christian evangelism, and the identity of the early Christian movement.

“Wayne Meeks is one of the most internationally recognized New Testament scholars; he has pioneered an approach to the study of Christian origins using a more refined social analysis. He’s also one of the worlds experts on the Gospel of John,” said Luke Johnson, Woodruff Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins, who administers the McDonald visiting professorship. Meeks is also the professor of Johnson’s at Yale.

“What the McDonald chair wants to do,” Johnson continued, “is take people who are distinguished professors but may not have explicitly worked on the figure of Jesus, and invite them to do that.”

In addition to delivering a series of five lectures between Sept. 23 and Oct. 7, Meeks also will meet with Candler School of Theology students in a variety of contexts and deliver a paper in a departmental colloquium and have students respond.

The lecture schedule is:

* "Does Anybody Know My Jesus? Between Dogma and Romance." Thursday, Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. 208 White Hall.
* "Memory and Invention: The Making of Jesus Christ." Wednesday, Sept. 29, 1 p.m. Cannon Chapel.
* "A Story to Think With: From Crucifixion to Metaphor." Thursday, Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. 208 White Hall.
* "The Bible Teaches... Through a Glass, Darkly." Wednesday, Oct. 6, 1 p.m. Cannon Chapel.
* "Is Jesus the Last Word?" Thursday, Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. 208 White Hall. Reception and book signing to follow.

Among Meeks’ many major publications are a volume of essays, The Social World of the First Christians: Essays in Honor of Wayne A. Meeks and the highly acclaimed The First Urban Christians The Social World of the Apostle Paul, which received the American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence.

Established with funds from the McDonald Agape Foundation (a private foundation established by longtime Emory trustee Alonzo McDonald) the McDonald Chair is devoted to the person and teachings of Jesus and their cultural impact. The focus of the chair is the appreciation of the ways in which Jesus has affected culture, and the ways in which culture has helped shape the figure of Jesus.

Interdisciplinary in character, the professorship allows scholars to approach the subject from a variety of perspectives. The constancy is its focus on the figure of Jesus and its involvement both with the faculty and students of Emory and the Atlanta community through public lectures and performances.

Johnson said, beginning this year, the chair will have a permanent home in Candler.

The McDonald Lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, call 404-727-6322 or go to www.candler. emory.edu/ABOUT/events.html.
emotional project going on in the United States," by New York Times columnist William Safire. Hall, a past president of the Dictionary Society of North America, has been instrumental in moving forward the daunting task of editing DARE, first as a colleague of founder Frederick Cassidy, and now as chief editor. A two-time Emory graduate (’71G, ’76PhD), Hall wrote her doctoral dissertation on the speech of rural Georgia. DARE documents the language of everyday lives, as well as expressions from days gone by that otherwise might have been lost. It is widely used by writers, doctors, detectives, lawyers, historians and even theatrical dialogue coaches, who use its interview tapes to train actors. “We have a lot of librarian users, for them it’s a wonderful tool,” Hall said in an interview with Quest, a magazine produced by Albertson College of Idaho. “But it’s useful in many other ways, such as in psychia- try, psychology, law, medicine, linguistics—and for people who simply love our American language.” Indeed, the book is a rich source of intriguing pleasures for readers and word lovers. For example, depending on where someone lives, they may be invited to a potluck dinner, a pitch-in or a scramble; her children may play hopscotch, play possum or sky blue; he may wait in line or on a line; she may hear spring peep- ers or pranksters; or he may have a scrap of paper, a scroll or a scrapping.” DARE is the result of more than four decades of dedicated effort. Researched and edited at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and published by Harvard University Press, its fifth volume (SL-Z) is scheduled for publication in 2008. The dic- tionary is based both on per- sonal interviews conducted in all 50 states and a comprehen- sive collection of written mate- rials dating from the colonial period to the modern era. It is funded by a number of private foundations, individuals, public agencies and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which provides office space and staff sup- port. “Since DARE is considered the reference tool on American English, every quotation is verified either by the project assistants, against the original source whenever possible. If it is not possible, we attribute the quotation to the source in which we found it,” Hall said. “We are doing such checking; we have discovered and corrected literally hundreds of errors in other dictionaries, some of them resulting in radically different interpreta- tions of the evidence.” For more information about DARE, see its website at http://libguides.emic. wisc.edu/dare/dare.html. Sponsored by the Friends of Emory University Libraries and the Atlanta History Center, the talk is free and open to the public. For more information, call 404-727-7620.
Virtual porch sitting helps history professors connect

BY ERIC RANGUS

Susan Ashmore takes a hardback book from her desk and shows off the cover. "Out on the Front Porch is the title, and the photo depicts a serene, very Southern porch complete with wicker, high-backed chair and a tree-lined background. It looks like just the place to unwind on a pleasant Sunday afternoon."

"Isn't that relaxing?" Ashmore asked. "Who wouldn't want to sit out on that porch and read?" It's not that her office in Oxford's Language Hall is all that bad—with a pleasant view of the Quad, it certainly isn't—but the front porch is all about mindset. And for Ashmore, the front porch is all about motivation, as well.

That porch on the front of the book and the many others inside were Ashmore's inspiration this summer when she formed the Front Porch Writing Support Group, a virtual meeting house where she and two of her colleagues can review each other's work, and offer suggestions and encouragement.

Ashmore, Ken Wheeler, assistant professor of history at Reinhardt College in Waleska, Ga., and Janet Hudson, assistant professor of history at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C., have never sat down together (Wheeler and Hudson, in fact, have never met) but they have formed a strong, supportive community over e-mail.

Last spring Ashmore, assistant professor of history at Oxford, attended a pair of manuscript development workshops sponsored by the provost's office. Like many academics, she would like to turn her dissertation into a book (and has had some interest from academic presses). The leader of the workshops, Amy Benson Brown, suggested Ashmore review a handful of books about publishing. One of those books described the feelings of isolation that come with many writing projects, and Ashmore understood immediately.

The only American historian at Oxford, she did not have easy access to colleagues in her field. But Ashmore had some connections at other institutions—young professors at teaching schools also trying to juggle teaching responsibilities with their first major writing projects.

"So she contacted Wheeler, whom she met at Rheinhardt while a visiting professor there, and Hudson, her roommate at an National Endowment for the Humanities summer institute in 2002. Each, Ashmore, each a young academic at a teaching institution working on a first major writing project. Their interests are similar as well: Ashmore and Hudson are Southern historians, and while Wheeler's specialty is the Midwest, he is working on a Southern history piece. Along with her invitation to create the group, she sent the Wheeler and Hudson copies of Out on the Porch...

"I wanted them to have some kind of a visual image of what we were going to be doing," Ashmore said. "The goal was to imagine ourselves on each other's porches, reading each other's work and offering our comments or insights—just encouraging each other."

The working title of Ashmore's book is Carry It On: The War on Poverty and the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama, 1964-1970. It explores how the Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts were implemented in the Alabama Black Belt, a predominantly African American area stretching westward from Montgomery to the Mississippi border. The name actually derived from the color of the region's soil, not the racial makeup of its residents.

"The civil rights movement didn't end in 1965 with the passage of the Voting Rights Act," Ashmore said. "I'm more interested in looking at this period after that law passes to see how the South changes What are the effects, the aftermath, when all the crowds are gone?"

An extension of her dissertation, Ashmore hoped to have the manuscript finished by the start of the school year, but she didn't quite make it. Now she will start writing in with her teaching load (like other Oxford professors, Ashmore teaches three classes a semester). And she doesn't have a lot of time on the weekends to write, as she regularly takes her students on field trips; this semester, she will visit historic sites of the civil rights movement in Montgomery and Birmingham, Ala.

"For me, as a historian, I want to have a book," said Ashmore, whose previous writing has been for journals. "It's not that I don't just have articles. But it's hard to say that out loud before it's done.

When Ashmore does have a chance to write, she informs the other group members of her progress. Wheeler and Hudson do the same—and e-mail writing samples to each other. Comments are then posted to the group. Sprinkled among the suggestions, just like in any community, are snips of the individuals' lives: Wheeler talks about his 2-year-old twin daughters. Ashmore spoke of a death in the family.

"Just as important as the technical comments is the moral support the group offers. "Writing can be very personal and hard to show to just anybody," Ashmore said. "We trust each other, so it's nice to be able to voice these insecurities. This is a real place where we could be honest with each other without any fear of judgment.

"Because, at least for me, you get into grad student mode, where you write your papers and your graduate professor grades you," Ashmore continued. She earned her Ph.D. from Auburn in 1999. "You have to make that transition to professor mode where you're not afraid to let people look at your work. It's not about being graded anymore—you've passed. So it's nice to have colleagues and be in a community where you can learn from each other."

"Writing really is that isolating," Wheeler said. "At a small college it is doubly so. We have all come to rely on each other a great deal.

Even after the writing process is done for these projects—Ashmore hopes to have her manuscript done by January—the Front Porch probably won't be dismantled.

"I hope we continue," she said. "Maybe we could incorporate more people into it. Any way we can create a space for each other and work on our writing is great."

BY TIA WEBSTER

Promoting a more positive self-concept may be the key for helping sexually active African American girls to refuse unwanted and unprotected sex, according to Emory researcher Laura Salazar. The new study, published in the September issue of the peer-reviewed journal Prevention Science, found that African American girls with stronger self-concepts were better communicators with their sex partners.

African American adolescent girls have higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases than Caucasian girls of the same age, said Salazar, research director in behavioral sciences and health education in the Rollins School of Public Health. Although adolescent girls grow into adulthood with certain self-concepts related to their self-image and self-esteem, the self-concepts of African American girls also are influenced by ethnic identity.

Researchers participating in the study analyzed data from a sample of 335 sexually active African American adolescent females. The sample was intended to represent a broad cross-section of adolescents residing in low-income neighborhoods, and data were collected from two adolescent medical clinics, four health department clinics and health classes from five high schools. Girls were interviewed through self-administered surveys and one-on-one assessments by trained interviewers.

"With sexually active girls, we tend to focus mainly on condom use. But it's important also to look at the frequency with which these girls refuse unwanted and unprotected sex, and the factors that determine it," Salazar said. "We found that having a positive total self-concept had a large effect on the girls' communication abilities with their sex partners, which in turn influenced the frequency of sex refusal."

"With sexually active girls, we tend to focus on condom use. But it's important also to look at the frequency with which they refuse unwanted and unprotected sex."

—Laura Salazar, public health researcher

Laura Salazar, a researcher in the Rollins School of Public Health, found in a new study that African American teenage girls with higher measures of self-esteem were more likely to refuse unprotected sex.
lung to expand, plus it allows the restoration of the normal con-
turn of the diaphragm,” said Joseph Miller, professor and 
chair of thoracic surgery in the School of Medicine. 

In emphysema patients, the 
the breathing muscles to return 
to a more normal and comfort-
ble position, making breathing 
easier,” Miller said. ”[LVRS] has been shown to improve patients’ 
quality of life significantly, as 
they experience less shortness 
of breath and generally become 
less dependent on oxygen therapy.”
—Joseph Miller, chief of thoracic surgery 

walls between the tiny air sacs in 
their lungs are damaged While 
healthy lungs expand with each 
inhalation and collapse with 
each exhalation, helping to move 
air in and out, lungs damaged by 
emphysema gradually lose their 
elasticity. 
The airways, normally 
open by the elastic pull of the 
lungs, also become floppy and 
collapse on exhalation. As 
a result, patients with emphysema have 
increasing difficulty moving 
air in and out of their lungs. 

“By reducing the lung size, 
airways are opened. This allows 
of breath and generally become 
less dependent on oxygen therapy. ”

“The surgery is available 
under rigid, specified guidelines 
and will probably be open to 
only about 10-15 percent of the 
Medicare population with 
emphysema,” Miller added. 

Eligible patients have 
meet defined physical, 
anatomical and rehabilitation 
guidelines. Pulmonary function 
studies and arterial blood gases 
must fall within specified limits, 
some can be too good or too 
poor. Those who do not meet the 
guidelines might be considered 
candidates for lung transplant. 
Individuals also must have dis-
case in specified target zones 
up to rigid, specified guidelines 
and must meet specified rehab require-
mients, including 30 minutes on 
the exercise bike or treadmill at 
certain resistance levels, for 
10-12 weeks. 

“Patients are tested before 
they are approved for surgery 
and then rested immediately 
prior to surgery,” Miller said of 
the criteria. 

From 1994-97, Emory per-
formed LVRS on 86 patients, the 
most in the Southeast. The pro-
dure was closed to Medicare 
patients from 1997 until January 
of this year. 

“During this time, we treated 
25-30 [non-Medicare] patients, 
all with positive outcomes. Now, 
with the re-emergence of LVRS 
for Medicare patients, Emory is 
again prepared to be a national 
leader,” Miller said. 

LVRS was suspended from 
Medicare coverage because of a 
lack of sufficient medical evi-
dence supporting the health ben-
et of the procedure. But the 
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PCSM approves new name: PCORE 
The President’s Commission on Race and Ethnicity (PCORE)—formerly known as the Presidential Commission on the Status of People of Color (PSCM)—held its first meeting of the academic year on Sept. 13 in 400 Administration. 

PCORE’s new name comes, made with the approval of the executive committee and input from President Jim Wagner and Provost Earl Lewis, “mirrors the changing demographic in the United States and helps us to identify what we are responsible to advise the president on,” according to PCORE Chair Chris Grey, senior assistant dean of admission and director of multicultural programs. 

The first order of business was to formally elect Grey to chair, after serving as interim chair during the summer. 

Grey announced the open position for chair of a Race and Ethnicity Commission executive committee. The group was suggested by Lewis to ensure that high administrative posi-
tion seeks out diversity. 

Major agenda items discussed were the Campus Climate Survey, which will be rolled out in November. The survey will be sent to every staff and faculty member and will coincide with student surveys. The survey will also look at how race and ethnicity affect trends and these demographics will play an important role.

PCORE will meet next on Monday, Oct. 4, at 4 p.m. in 400 Administration.—Katherine Baust

If you have a question or concern for PCORE, e-mail Grey at pcore@emory.edu.

For more information about Employee Council, 
e-mail Lackey at slackey@my.emory.edu.

September 20, 2004

CARLOS MUSEUM

From Sept. 25–Nov. 14, the Carlos Museum will host “No Ordinary Land: Encounters in a Changing Environment,” a photography exhibit highlighting the works of Virginia Duran andmera McPherson. These special exhibits and art exhibits like this one celebrate the work of Latin American artists of the 20th century. 

The Carlos Museum is the designated home of the National Hispanic Cultural Collection of the United States. The Carlos Museum, part of the University of Georgia, serves as the repository and research facility for the materials of the National Hispanic Cultural Collection. 

This exhibit of 40 images celebrates the recently redesigned New Greek and Roman Galleries, and it features the work of American William Stillman and Greek photographer Dimitris Constantin.

AROUND CAMPUS

On campus, the new MARTA bus schedules and updated Emory transit study. 

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PCORE has ordered new stationery, now has a dedicated 
phone number and e-mail address (pcore@emory.edu), and its website is being redesigned.

The first order of business was to formally elect Grey to chair, after serving as interim chair during the summer. 

Donna Wong, associate director for multicultural programs and services, will serve as chair-elect.

Each committee gave a brief summary of their goals or projects for 2004-05:

Staff concerns: Distinguishing job descriptions, as many people with different roles have the same job descriptions.

Student focus: “State of Race Debate” spring event, to be held on campus.

More information about Employee Council, e-mail Grey at pcore@emory.edu.

E

University Council executive committee to meet monthly with HR

Employee Council held its first meeting of the academic year on Wednesday, Sept. 15, in Woodruff Library’s Bursar Room. To begin, President Susie Lackey

Lackey touched on several council goals for this year including expanding its relationship with the University Senate, monitoring the workings of the new Performance Management and Evaluation System, and—referencing President Jim Wagner’s challenge to make Emory a “destination university”—Lackey said the council should strive to make Emory a “destination employer.”

Lackey also said that the council executive committee will meet each month with Vice President for Human Resources Alice Miller, at Miller’s request, so members can be updated on matters such as the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), other issues concern Emory staff employ-

More information for Employee Council, e-mail Grey at pcore@emory.edu.

If you have a question or concern for PCORE, e-mail Grey at pcare@emory.edu.
**PERFORMING ARTS**

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 21**

**European Art Cinema series**

One Plus One. Jean-Luc Godard, director. 8 p.m. 206 White Hall. Free. 404-727-6761.

Kenneth Cole Fellowship film screening

Flag Wars. Linda Goode Bryant and Laura Poitras, directors. 8 p.m. Harland Cain, Dobbs Center. Free. 404-712-9692.

**Crusades in Cinema film series**

Ivanhoe. Richard Thorpe, director. 8 p.m. 101 White Hall. Free. 404-727-6761.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 22**

**Female Director film series**


Film

Taxagore Seibei: Yoji Yamada, director. 7:30 p.m. 205 White Hall. Free. 404-727-6761.

Theater Emory production

Roberto Zucco. 8 p.m. Michael Street Parking Deck. Free. Tickets required. 404-727-0524. Runs Sept. 22-25 at 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 24**

Concert


**SATURDAY, SEPT. 25**

Concert

Jody Miller, recorder, performing. with Ritorinno Baroque Ensemble and Roberta Harsch as soprano. 1 p.m. Emory University Center for the Arts. Free. 404-727-5050.

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 28**

**Vascular Biology Seminar Series**


Film studies lecture

“Cold War, Cool Medium: Television, McCarthyism and American Culture.” Tobi Kahn. Brandeis University, presenting. 7:30 p.m. 205 White Hall. Free. 404-727-6761.

**MONDAY, SEPT. 20**

**Food for Thought lunchtime lecture**


**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 22**

**Healthy Women 2000**


**THURSDAY, SEPT. 23**

**Surgeon Grand Rounds**


**MONDAY, SEPT. 27**

**Human genetics lecture**


**Family Forum Series**


**THURSDAY, SEPT. 30**

**Weekly Zen sitting meditation**


**MONDAY, OCT. 1**

**Bloodborne pathogen training**

2 p.m. Dental School. Free. 404-498-4359. Registration required.

**TUESDAY, OCT. 2**

**Teaching Center needs assessment workshop**


**Library tutorial**

1 p.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-1153.

**EndNote workshop**

2:30 p.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-0147.

**Conversations with the Carter**

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalyn, presenting. 7 p.m. Day Chapel, Ivan Allen Pavilion, the Carter Center. Free. For Emory faculty, staff and students; $15 for all others. 404-420-3804.

**WEDNESDAY, OCT. 3**

**Zen meditation and instruction**

4:30 p.m. Religious Life Apartment (HP01), Clismer Hall. Free. 404-688-1299. Runs through Oct. 15.

**THURSDAY, OCT. 4**

**McDonald Lecture**

“Does Anybody Know My Jesus?” Weave Myees, Yale University, presenting. 7:30 p.m. 208 White Hall. Free. 404-727-6322.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 6**

**Sufi meditation workshop**


**THURSDAY, OCT. 11**

**MARTA Inner Core Transit Feasibility Study**

Provide your input on transit alternatives. 4 p.m. Rina Anne Rollins Room, Rollins School of Public Health. Free. 404-377-9147.

23rd Annual Carter Town Hall meeting


**SEPTEMBER 20, 2004 EmoryReport**

For online event information, visit www.emory.edu/roan.

Events for the Emory Community

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 26**

**University worship meeting**

Rev. Michael Brown, preaching. 11 a.m. Sanctuary, Cannon Chapel. Free. 404-727-6245.

**TUESDAYS**

**Chess club**

6:30 p.m. 106 Bishops Hall. Free. 404-778-4121.

**WEDNESDAYS**

**ToastmastersEmory**

8 a.m. 721 Rollins School of Public Health. Free. 404-371-0505.

**THURSDAYS**

**Carlos Museum**

Thursday Evenings

Visit the Carlos Museum on Thursdays, when galleries are open for extended hours until 9 p.m. Free. 404-727-4282. Runs through Dec. 31.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 25**

**Library basics workshop**

10:40 a.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-2192.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 25**

**Regenerative medicine workshop**

9 a.m. Emory Hotel & Conference Center Amphitheater. Free. 404-727-2660. Registration required.

**MONDAY, SEPT. 27**

**Ice cream social**

Presented by the Kenneth Cole Fellowship Program. 7 p.m. 362 Dobbs Center. Free. 404-712-9692.

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 28**

**United Nations workshop**

1 p.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-0143.

**SPECIAL**

**Plagiarism workshop**

2:30 p.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-6863.

**Speech and hearing informational meeting**

Mary Rambow, Georgia State University, presenting. 4:30 p.m. 206 Nursing. Free. 404-727-7904.

**Planetarium show**

“Greek Skies: A Family Event at the Carlos Museum and the Emory Planetarium.” Rick Williams, planetarium director, presenting. 5:30 p.m. E300 Math & Science Center. Free. 404-727-7862.

**Kenneth Cole Fellowship Program informational meeting**

Sophomore Experience presentation. 7 p.m. Woodruff Residential Center. Free. 404-712-9893.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 24**

**Library basics workshop**

10:40 a.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-2192.

**MONDAY, OCT. 11**

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For sports information, visit www.go.emory.edu.

To submit an entry for the Emory Report calendar, enter your event on the University’s web site under ‘today,’ Events@emory, which is located at http://events.cc.emory.edu or also accessible via the “Calendar” link from the Emory homepage) at least three weeks prior to the publication date. Dates, times and locations may change without advance notice. Due to space limitations, Emory Report may not be able to include all events submitted.