YERKES CENTER

Yerkes cuts ribbon to neuroscience building

BY ERIC RANGUS

The Neuroscience Research Facility at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center was dedicated Thursday, Oct. 28. Around 200 people, including Emory administrators, trustees and representatives from the Georgia Research Alliance, braved a late afternoon rain shower to celebrate the opening of Emory’s newest tool to foster further discoveries to improve human health.

“This is not just about buildings,” said Michael Johns, executive vice president for health affairs; President Jim Wagner; Yerkes Director Stuart Zola; School of Medicine Dean Thomas Lawley; Michael Cassidy, president and chief executive officer of the Georgia Research Alliance; and Tom Gordon, associate director for scientific programs at Yerkes. The facility will house the Center for Behavioral Neuro-science, the brain imaging center and the PETNET center and 92 square feet of research space in all.

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Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies and director of the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, decided to do that something about Sudan (see First Person, page 2). Then she picked up the phone.

“We went to lunch, and Deb had a lot of energy to move forward on this,” said Bobbi Patterson, senior lecturer in religion. “I said, ‘We can do this.’”

So began what’s been called the Sudan Crisis Working Group. Lipstadt and Patterson recruited more of their colleagues, who in turn recruited others, and the effort began to snowball. The group first met on Sept. 10, and two months later it has held or planned no fewer than nine separate events designed to call attention to Sudan and educate people about what’s going on there.

For those unfamiliar with Sudan—as Lipstadt readily admits she was before these efforts began—here is a primer: Africa’s largest country geo-graphically, Sudan has suffered ongoing internal conflicts since it won independence in 1956. In the last few years, the country appeared on the verge of achieving relative peace, until the Sudanese government began arming pro-state militias (known as “Janjaweed”) to eliminate civilian support for rebel groups in the Darfur region of western Sudan.

According to most reports, the Janjaweed took this charge as a license to kill any able-bodied man it could find. As many as 2 million civilians (mostly women, children and the elderly) in Darfur have been displaced, many fleeing to neighboring Chad or to more remote regions of their homeland.

According to international human rights groups, Janjaweed attacks on civilians have been accompanied by destruction and pillaging of crops and livestock—and often by rapes against civilian women.

Since the Janjaweed is made up mostly of Sudanese of Arab descent and the civilians in Darfur are almost exclusively dark-skinned Africans, some have painted the situation as “black versus Arab,” but those most closely involved say this is an oversimplification.

“I challenge you to understand the complexity of this situation without failing to appreciate its broader moral contours,” said Jerry Fowler, staff director of the Committee on Conscience at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, to the same group Lipstadt addressed in WHSCAB.

Attended by several hundred individuals not just from Emory but also from the Atlanta community, the Oct. 27 event was the largest so far organized by the Sudan Crisis Working Group. Titled simply “Genocide in the Sudan,” the event served as an informational session and plea for involvement.

In addition to Fowler, other speakers included Michael Rewald, senior advisor for rights-based programming at CARE; Deborah Scroggins, former reporter.

See YERKES on page 5

CAMPUS NEWS

Crisis in Sudan brings community together

BY MICHAEL TERRAZAS

In late August, as increasingly disturbing reports continued to emerge about what was happening to the population in western Sudan, Deborah Lipstadt felt a familiar—and horrifying—tug at her heart.

“I teach about the Holocaust,” she told an audience gathered Oct. 27 in WHSCAB auditorium. “And one question I get all the time is, ‘Why didn’t anyone do something about it?’”

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See SUDAN on page 7

TOWN HALL

Wagner set to answer staff questions

The 13th annual Town Hall meeting featuring President Jim Wagner will take place Tuesday, Nov. 9, from noon–1:30 p.m., in Winship Ballroom.

The Town Hall is a yearly forum for the president to answer questions and address concerns of staff employees related to Emory’s working environment. In addition to questions from the floor, inquiries can be submitted in advance or during the event via LearnLink conference for those unable to attend.

The Town Hall is sponsored by the Employee Council. Drinks and light refreshments will be served, and staff are encouraged to bring their lunches. All Emory staff are invited; the event is free, but seating is limited. This is Wagner’s second Town Hall meeting; his first last year had record attendance.

Advance questions can be posted to the LearnLink conference, “Town Hall 2004.” The event will be broadcast live on the web at www.emory.edu/EmployeeCouncil (click on “Town Hall”).

For more information, contact council communications chair Melodye Moore at melodye.m.moore@emory.edu.
It became clear to me that, while I may not know much about Sudan, I do know about genocide. I have spent most of my professional life teaching about the Holocaust.

The Sudan Crisis Working Group received support from the Office of International Affairs, the Institute for Comparative and International Studies, Emory College and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, the Center for Education on Religion and Ethnicity, the Institute of African Affairs, the Department of African American Studies, the Center for Humane Inquiry, and the Lightower Lecture Fund.
CALLER IDs are wonderful things. When that “Unavailable” pops up, it’s like a free pass to ignore the ringing telephone and the telemarketer lurking on the other end.

When one of the 130 students working for the Telefund calls an Emory alumnus—an annual occurrence for each graduate unless they specifically ask not to be contacted—“Emory University” flashes on the caller ID. That, hopefully, hedges the barrier separating a welcome call from average telephone spam.

“There is a difference between telemarketing and telefunding,” said Floyd Bushey, director of the Telefund, a program in which undergraduates at Emory and Oxford call alumni to solicit donations to their alma mater. “Telemarketers are just trying to sell you that credit card, or mortgage or shoe polish. I have no connection to that person at all. However, with that person who is calling from Emory, there is an immediate connection.”

You graduated in 1980, correct? When was the last time you were able to visit campus? Some recent improvements include renovation of the P.E. Center and Candler Library. Well, I don’t want to take up too much of your time, but the second reason I’m calling is on behalf of the Annual Fund.

The Telefund was born in 1986 as an offshoot of the Annual Fund in the Office of Development and University Relations (DUR). The money raised by those programs provides Emory with its largest base of unrestricted support in areas such as the libraries, student programming, out-of-classroom education and curriculum enhancements. With students (guided by Bushey’s helping hand and positive attitude) providing the labor for the Telefund, it is perhaps Emory’s most personal form of development.

“The callers are ambassadors for Emory and Oxford,” said Bushey, adding that many alumni’s sole connection with current Emory students is through calls made by the Telefund. And it’s crucial that the students making those calls are ones who love Emory. “We give them scripts, but we teach them to make that script their own,” Bushey continued. “They follow guidelines—introduction, bond, make the ask, rebut objections, thank donors—but they all have their own bonding style.”

I would love to live in California. I understand that both of you graduated from Emory. Does Mr. Graduate still work for Miramax Films as a technician?

The ability to hold a conversation is crucial, Bushey said. While fundraising is the reason for Telefund’s being, that’s not its only cause for existence. Telefund students are trained to engage in meaningful conversations—to ask questions and listen to the answers. “Bond” may be a cold instruction in the Telefund’s 31-page manual, but actually making it happen is an art born of true sincerity.

In fiscal year 2004, the Telefund raised $890,000. In the first two months of FY05, 3,909 pledges brought in more than $355,000, nearly 20 percent ahead of last year’s pace. While big-money donors are certainly important to Emory, the Telefund’s grassroots efforts are no less crucial. Since so much of it is student run—Bushey is one of just two staff members guiding it—the Telefund also plays a major role in development of the undergraduates who work there.

“They are the reason we all have jobs,” said Bushey, who is as much a mentor to his 130 student employees as he is their boss. “Sometimes we all get caught up in our own little world, but I think it’s important that we have contact with students and get to know the people I like to call ‘Joe and Josephine Emory.’”

Many people think that Emory can only use large donations. But our main goal is actually 100 percent participation. Our participation rate is a major factor in the school’s national rankings. A gift of $25, or even $19.80 in honor of your graduation year, would be a great help.

Bushey first came to Emory in 1985 as an area director in Residence Life. He had earned a graduate degree in education from Elmira College in New York and spent two years working in residence life at a small college in Massachusetts before moving to Georgia. In 31 years with Residence Life, he lived in most every residence hall complex on campus—and loved every minute of it.

“My philosophy in Residence Life was that I didn’t want to spend 98 percent of my time working with the 2 percent of the students who were making trouble,” Bushey said. “I wanted to spend my time with that 98 percent who were trying to have a great experience.”

He left in 1996 to go home to upstate New York to help take care of his aging father. He kept his ties to Emory, though, and the next year a friend of Bushey’s at the Annual Fund called to ask if he’d be interested in doing some part-time work. Bushey accepted, and soon the directorship of the Telefund opened up and he got the job. He is quick to credit his students for making the Telefund successful and even quicker to point out that he does not make calls himself—although Bushey has in the past, just so he can tell his students he did it. He even got a $100 pledge.

I understand that it might be difficult for you to get involved; our alumni who have been away from campus for several years may have lost contact with us.

Located in a small, nondescript brick house at the corner of Gatewood and North Gatewood roads, the Telefund is isolated. But Bushey makes a point to involve himself on campus. He generally will travel to other people’s offices for meetings, he’ll take his lunch at Cox Hall or the Dobbie Center food court, or he’ll drop in on his old friends in Residence Life. He has been a FAME staff leader for many years as well.

“If I have a rule,” Bushey said. “If I have to say something in more than two paragraphs in an e-mail, I either call the person or talk to them face to face.”

Despite Telefund’s isolation, Bushey’s enthusiasm has been noticed by his DUR peers. Last month he received one of three “Spirit of Emory” awards, a division-wide honor that celebrates the accomplishments of DUR staff for their extracurricular contributions to the University. “I was shocked and surprised,” Bushey said. “People say they might expect things, but I never expected anything like that.”

Mrs. Graduate, I see that you have been a generous supporter in the past. We wanted to thank you for that and let you know how much it is appreciated by the students here.

“These students have an enthusiasm that keeps me going,” Bushey said. “It’s kind of cliched or corny, but there is something exciting about being around people who are between 18 and 22 and who are independent for the first time. When I hire a freshman or talk to a FAME student, I always remember that they are four months removed from their high school prom. It’s wonderful to see how they grow so quickly. I feel very lucky!”

Bushey keeps close ties with his students, yet he also knows when to let them go. The hope is, of course (and this is the goal of the Telefund, too), that the ties with the alma mater and the people there always will remain.

“Society teaches us how to say hello really well, but it doesn’t teach us how to say goodbye,” Bushey said, hardening back to his Campus Life days when he co-directed a program with the Counseling Center’s Mark McLeod on just that subject. “I used to see my seniors, and they would be wondering if this was the last time they would be in Woodruff Library. I think I regretted this when I was in college; there were people who had an influence in my life—I thought I’d see them again—but I didn’t say what they meant to me before I left. So, I would teach students a little bit about how to say goodbye.

“They should make a list of the people who matter and tell them how much they mean,” he continued. “There can even be a certain object, even as small as a rock from Lullwater: ‘Keep this and remember forever.’”

Thank you so much for your pledge and for helping Emory once again. It’s been great talking to you. Good luck with that big Miramax money-making project. Have a great night!
FOCUS: EAGLEREPORT

Volleyball team spikes two No. 1s in October

A pair of wins against teams ranked No. 1 in the nation highlighted the fall for Emory. Both of those wins belonged to the Eagles’ volleyball team, which beat then-No. 1 New York University on Oct. 17 and followed a week later with a win against then-No. 1 Wittenberg University (Ohio).

In the latter upset, Emory, ranked No. 12 at the time, rallied from an 0-2 deficit in games to win 3-2, marking only the eighth time in school history the Eagles had come from behind to win a best-of-five during the first games of a weekend. The same weekend, Emory also beat No. 3 California State University-Hayward, improving its season won-loss record to 23-6.

Shortly after the Wittenberg upset, Emory sophomore Courtney Rose was named national Player of the Week for NCAA Div. III. Emory earned the second seed for the Nov. 5-6 University Athletic Association (UAA) championships, which project to feature four national Top 25 teams. The Eagles are aiming for a ninth consecutive NCAA national tournament berth with an eye at getting back to the Final Four for the second straight year.

Men’s soccer
A Top 20 team all season, the Eagles have relied on stingy defense to propel them to an 11-2-2 record and a share of first place in the UAA. A conference title would earn Emory an automatic berth in the NCAA national tournament. The team had a 0.58 goals-against average, on pace to break the school record of 0.69 set last season when the team went 16-3-1. Emory recorded nine shutouts in its first 15 games this year, surpassing its total of eight for all of last season.

Women’s soccer
After a 2-1 start, all against Top 25 teams, the women’s soccer team rebounded by winning eight of its next nine games, including two wins against Top 20 opponents. All together, the team is 10-1-3 after winning seven of their last eight games this season, a feat last accomplished by Emory in 1998 when it advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament. The Eagles knocked off No. 11 Washington (Mo.) and No. 23 Rochester (N.Y). Both were UAA wins, boosting Emory into second place in the conference, one point behind the leader.

Women’s cross country
The squad was ranked 17th in the nation heading into the Oct. 30 UAA championships, projected to have four Top 25 teams. Afterward, Emory will host the NCAA Div. III regionals, Nov. 13 at Georgia Regional Hospital in Panthershills. The Eagles have won 13 consecutive regional titles. Another regional title would earn Emory a spot in the NCAA national meet the following week.

Men’s cross country
The team had a 73-18 record heading into the Oct. 30 UAA championships, slated to have four Top 25 teams in the field. Emory’s frontrunner this season has been senior Andrew Podgurski, who averaged 26:17 seconds for 8,000-meter courses.

Tennis
Both tennis teams qualified singles and doubles participants for the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) national tournament by winning their respective ITA regional singles and doubles titles. Sophomore Yoji Masuoka, the team’s No. 7 singles player last season, finished third at the ITA national men’s singles championship. The doubles pairing of Alex Jacobs and Mike Odgers won the regionals for the third time in their career and ended up fifth at the ITA national doubles draw.

On the women’s side, freshman Serena Burkard, in her first collegiate competition, won the ITA regional singles title and placed fourth at the ITA national tournament. Her teammates Jamie Chan and Linda Tien were sixth at the national doubles championship after capturing the regional crown. All six players earned All-America honors by virtue of their regional championships.

Golf
Returning four of its top five golfers, Emory is poised for success similar to last season when it finished fifth at the NCAA Div. IV national championships. The team concluded the fall portion of its schedule with a seventh-place finish at the NCAA National Preseason Tournament (held on the same course to be used for the nationals next spring). Previously, the Eagles finished fifth at the Gordin Collegiate Classic. All-American Mike Lebow finished second in a field of 60 golfers, one shot behind the winner.

For more information on Emory varsity athletics, visit www.go.emory.edu

John Arenberg is sports information director.

GUESTSPEAKER

N.Y. Times reporter Altman to deliver UACT lecture

BY ERIC RANGUS

Larry Altman is a medical doctor as well as an award-winning journalist for The New York Times. He will deliver a public lecture, “Medicine and the Press: Then and Now,” Nov. 15 at 4 p.m. in the Rita Anne Rolls Room and associate professor of English and chair of UACT’s program.

“Clearly someone like Larry Altman is a perfect speaker. His job is reporting on complex scientific and medical issues,” Morrey continued.

Altman satisfies the “literate science” half of UACT’s theme, taking care of “Science Literacy” on Feb. 10, 2005 will be Lynn Margulis, a molecular biologist at the University of Massachusetts.

Writing scholar Peter Elbow delivered the most recent UACT-sponsored address last February.

Altman’s talk will take place Monday, Nov. 15, from 4-6 p.m. in the Rita Anne Rolls Room (room 800) in the Rolls School of Public Health, with a reception to follow. Altman will remain on campus Nov. 16 for meeting with various Emory faculty members.

“Medicine and the Press: Then and Now” will explore two areas about which Altman knows a great deal. A staff writer at The Times since 1969, Altman has written several award-winning books and is a three-time recipient of the Howard W. Blakeslee Award from the American Heart Association. His 1999 book, Who Goes First? The Story of Self Experimentation in Medicine, explored groundbreaking research uncovered by doctors who experimented on themselves.

It was a subject he addressed on the Emory campus during an appearance as part of the Future Makers Lecture Series last year.

“Drugs might not have been developed, and surgery would be infinitely more painful without any anesthetic gases developed by doctors experimenting on themselves,” Altman said.

Prior to turning to journalism, Altman earned a medical degree from the Tufts University School of Medicine in 1962. He did his medical internship at Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco and was a resident in internal medicine and later a fellow in internal medical genetics at the University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals in Seattle.

In between, Altman spent three years in Atlanta editing the “Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report” at the CDC. He also set up measles immunization programs in Africa and served as chief of the U.S. Public Health Service’s Division of Epidemiology and Immunization in Washington.

Currently, he is a clinical professor at the New York University Medical School.

UACT consists of representatives from each of Emory’s nine schools. It assists schools in the development of their own teaching centers and promotes discussion about teaching across the University.

The theme of its 2004-05 speaker series is “Science Literacy/Literacy Science,” which speaks to UACT’s goal of bridging any divides between the humanities and the natural sciences.

“We want to make students in the humanities more amenable to science education and science majors more articulate in describing their research,” said James Morrey, New York Times reporter Larry Altman to deliver UACT lecture. EMORYSNAPSHOT
Venture Lab to shepherd discoveries to market

BY HOLLY KORSCHIN

Last month Barbara Stoll took on a range of duties in pediatrics, becoming medical director of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston, president and CEO of the Emory Children's Center, and the Dr. George W. Brumley Jr. Chair in Pediatrics, a newly established chair in honor of Brumley, who died last year in a plane crash in Kenya.

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UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

Paul presents DH policy draft to Faculty Council

First on the agenda of the Oct. 19 Faculty Council meeting, held in 400 Administration, was a vote on committee rosters for the 2004-05 year. Hard-copy rosters were distributed to members, and they were approved unanimously.

Next was a report from Chair-elect Mike Rogers, who chairs the Distinguished Faculty Lecture committee. Rogers called for nominations for the 2006 lecturer, specifically hoping for more suggestions of women and minority faculty members. The 2005 lecture will be delivered by the law school's Frank Alexander on Feb. 7 at 4 p.m. in Winship Ballroom.

Chair Sharon Strocchia previously had distributed members' suggestions for goals during the academic year, and the council discussed some of these in detail. Ideas included examinations of the barriers to interdisciplinary work; of the scholarship of teaching and learning; and of the various leave policies for faculty across Emory's schools.

The sole action taken during this discussion was to announce that former chair John Snarey will lead an ad hoc group to examine the future of faculty governance at Emory—including the relevance and structure of the Faculty Council itself. The first step, Snarey said, would be to review practices at peer institutions.

Emory College Dean Bobby Paul distributed a draft of the discriminatory harassment (DH) policy, which has been under revision since last year by a committee chaired by Paul and General Counsel Kent Alexander. The revised policy, which combines Emory's former DH regulation with its equal-opportunity policy, attempts to walk the fine line between preserving academic freedom and the desire for a DH-free workplace.

"This is as far as we've gotten to this point, and there's no harm at all in asking whether we're going in the totally wrong or totally right direction," Paul said.

He'd previously presented the draft at a meeting of college faculty, and said he wished to hear the council's input before sharing what was said at that meeting.

Paul said he'd received several opinions from faculty that Emory should have no DH policy at all, adding that the committee considered this option but concluded it would violate federal law. Indeed, much of the language in the new policy is in lockstep with federal anti-DH regulations.

One area Paul said needs addressing is a section forbidding any actions that create a "hostile environment." In any given University class, some material may make a student or students uncomfortable for a number of reasons, he said. "In whose judgment do we consider something offensive or having the effect of creating a hostile environment?" Paul wondered.

In the end, Paul said, policies like this always will depend on human judgments, and the official University stance should be a guideline for making informed, reasoned, case-by-case decisions.

If you have a question or concern for Faculty Council, e-mail Strocchia at sharon.strocchia@emory.edu.
Naturally decaffeinated coffee? Study holds promise

BY BEVERLY CLARK

Researchers at Emory have made an important step in harnessing the ability of bacteria to make new molecules; their discovery could eventually lead to the creation of naturally decaffeinated coffee plants. The research, by Assistant Professor Justin Gallivan in chemistry and graduate student Shawn Desai, appeared in the Oct. 27 edition of the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

Bacteria are “terrific chemists,” Gallivan said, but they normally synthesize only molecules they need for their own survival. His research team hopes to make bacteria synthesize molecules they otherwise would not make on their own, with results that may someday benefit humans. Gallivan’s team reasoned that if a bacterium needs a particular molecule to survive, it has a strong incentive to help make it, so the goal was to make bacteria depend on a molecule they wouldn’t normally need.

In their first major breakthrough, the researchers coupled the life of a bacterium to the presence of theophylline, a compound used to treat asthma and produced by the breakdown of caffeine. Since the bacteria need theophylline for their survival, they’re partners in the whole process.

Eventually, he continued, the faster enzyme could be introduced into coffee plants to produce naturally decaffeinated coffee. To develop bacteria that are addicted to theophylline, Gallivan and Desai used a piece of RNA called an “aptamer,” which is known to bind tightly to theophylline. The remaining challenge was to couple this bond to a vital function of the bacteria: the production of a protein. To do this, the Emory team created a new sequence of RNA that serves as a “riboswitch.” In bacteria, riboswitches normally recognize essential molecules, such as vitamin B12, and switch the production of proteins on or off. Gallivan’s team created a synthetic riboswitch that recognizes theophylline and turns on the production of a protein (known as “cat”) that allows the cells to survive in the presence of an antibiotic known as chloramphenicol. Most bacteria die when exposed to chloramphenicol, however bacteria containing the synthetic riboswitch survive—as long as theophylline is present, because theophylline turns on the production of the “cat” protein. And thus are created theophylline-dependent bacteria.

Chemistry Assistant Professor Justin Gallivan (right) and graduate student Shawn Desai are developing bacteria that one day could prompt coffee plants—like the one between them—to naturally decaffeinate themselves. “As a scientist, I’m excited about the future,” Gallivan says of the undertaking. “[But] as a coffee addict, part of me is not in a hurry to solve this one.”

Study: Obesity nikes U.S. health care spending by 27%

BY TIA WEBSTER

Rising obesity rates alone accounted for 27 percent of the growth in health spending from 1987–2001, according to a study by Emory health policy researchers. Published in the Oct. 20 issue of Health Affairs, the article attributes the increase mainly to treatment costs for the obesity-related conditions of diabetes, hyperlipidemia and heart disease.

A team of researchers led by Kenneth Thorpe, professor and chair of health policy and management in the Rollins School of Public Health, examined the contribution of obesity-related factors to growth in spending for three conditions clinically linked to obesity. Over the 14-year period—a time when the prevalence of obesity increased nearly 24 percent of the population—the obesity trend accounted for more than 38 percent of diabetes spending growth, 22 percent of spending growth for hyperlipidemia and 41 percent for heart disease.

“The impact of weight on per capita spending is sizable,” Thorpe said. “Although we attributed the growth in health care spending to three of the major conditions, spending also is affected by the rising prevalence of gallstones, some forms of cancer, and other obesity-linked diseases.”

Data for the study were drawn from two surveys conducted by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) that provide nationally representative estimates for health care spending for the U.S. population. Using the 1987 National Medical Expenditure Survey (NMES), the researchers calculated the body mass index (BMI) of respondents according to their self-reported measures of height and weight and compared it to calculations of BMI reported by respondents of the 2001 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, Household Component (MEPS-HC). Respondents to both surveys also self-reported medical conditions. Among adults, the sample sizes were 20,989 for the NMES bacteria and 21,460 for the MEPS.

“Growth in obesity and spending on obese people accounted for 27 percent of the growth in inflation-adjusted per capita health care spending between 1987 and 2001,” the researchers wrote.

“By the year 2001, there was no evidence that the rise in the share of the U.S. population with elevated BMI … is abating. These results suggest that future cost-containment efforts need to attack the rising prevalence and costs of obesity head on. This will require a focus on developing effective interventions to promote weight loss among obese people.”

The researchers found significant differences in mean per capita health care spending between the obese and normal weight categories in 1987 and 2001. Among the differences:

• the estimated per capita health care spending in 1987 (based on 2001 dollars) of $2,188 overall was 15.2 percent more per capita than normal-weight people;
• the year 2001 brought larger differences in health care spending by weight category. Spending among the obese shot to 37 percent higher than among normal-weight people.

Other researchers involved in the study were Curtis Florence and David Howard, assistant professors of health policy and management, and Peter Joski, a research associate.

The full text of their Health Affairs paper can be found at http://content. healthaffairs.org/ content/abstract/ hithaaff.w4.480.

Public health’s Kenneth Thorpe says rising obesity rates in the United States accounted for more than a quarter of increases in health care costs between 1987 and 2001—and show no signs of abating. Thorpe says new interventions should be developed to promote weight loss.
IOM elects three Emory faculty as new members

BY HOLLY KORSCHUN

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has elected three Emory faculty members and two adjunct/c clinical faculty to its new class of 65 members. The IOM, a national research team that has dramatically improved the quality of life for people with mental retardation. This groundbreaking discovery also led to the uncovering of "triplet repeat expansion," the unique mutational mechanism present in more than a dozen other genetic diseases including Huntington's Disease. This year Warren was chosen for leading an international research team that identified the gene responsible for fragile X syndrome, the most common inherited form of mental retardation.

From left, Mahlon DeLong of neurology, Stephen Warren of human genetics and Ruth Berkelman from public health are the latest Emory faculty to be inducted as members of the Institute of Medicine (IOM). Also inducted were CDC Director Julie Gerberding and CDC scientist James Marks, both adjunct faculty at Emory. The inductions bring the University's total number of IOM members (full time and adjunct) to 18 only a decade after Emory could boast a single member.

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for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and author of Emory’s World; and Abdullahi Ansari, Radical Islam and the Politics of Oil—A True Story of Life and Death in Sudan; and Basia Tomczyk, an epidemiologist in the CDC's international emergency and refugee health branch and an adjunct faculty member in the Rollins School of Public Health.

DeLong is internationally recognized for his pioneering research in Parkinson's disease and neurotrophic factors. An SOM faculty member since 1990, he established Emory's National Institutes of Health-funded Parkinson's Disease Center for Excellence, one of the nation's most comprehensive and successful Parkinson's research and treatment programs. DeLong's research led to a new understanding of the mechanisms behind Parkinson's and opened the door to an era of medical and surgical treatments that have dramatically improved the quality of life for thousands of patients.

Warren, who joined the SOM faculty in 1985, is renowned for leading an international research team that identified the gene responsible for fragile X syndrome, the most common inherited form of mental retardation. This groundbreaking discovery also led to the uncovering of "triplet repeat expansion," the unique mutational mechanism present in more than a dozen other genetic diseases including Huntington's Disease. This year Warren was chosen for leading an international research team that identified the gene responsible for fragile X syndrome, the most common inherited form of mental retardation.

Another highlight is the Emory community interest and concern about Sudan has been no less than contagious; both Patterson and Lipstadt said they had no problems enlisting help. Karen Salzinger, director of stu- dent activities for Campus Life, said campus groups from the Student Government Association to the Emory Amnesty Inter-national Chapter, to Hillel to the Muslim Student Association, all pitched in.
For online event information, visit www.eventoready.com