The devastating Jan. 12 earthquake. As it turns out, he is being extremely helpful from the core of the exhibition.

By MARY LOFTUS

Oversized photos of Distinguished Writer-in-Residence Salman Rushdie as a child, a rising young author, and then a celebrity in his own right — hobnobbing with Scarlett Johansson, writing songs for Bono — line the walls of Emory’s Schatten Gallery, but Rushdie’s words, scribbled on sticky notes and reprinted from computer files, remain at the core of the exhibition.

The celebrated author’s archives will open to the public for the first time on Friday, Feb. 26. Like his archives, the companion multimedia exhibit “A World Mapped by Stories: The Salman Rushdie Archive” will be a hybrid, mixing portions of his digital and paper materials throughout.

Emory acquired Rushdie’s archive in 2006. Much of it was traditional paper material: journals, drawings, typed manuscripts, notes scribbled on napkins. Many of his contemporaries, Rushdie — whose fourth novel, “The Satanic Verses,” earned him not only critical acclaim but also death threats from Islamists — wrote his later works and conducted much of the associated correspondence and research on personal computers. Emory’s Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (MARBL) received not only 100 linear feet of his papers, but also 40,000 files and 18 gigabytes of data on a Mac desktop, three Mac laptops, and an external hard drive.

And, just like that, the University found itself in the forefront of a nascent field: the archiving of “born-digital” materials, with Rushdie’s computers as case study number one. Much of his archival material after the 1980s — including

**Rushdie archive in paper, pixels**

By BEVERLY CLARK

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will deliver the keynote address at Emory’s 165th Commencement ceremony Monday, May 10. He will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree.

“Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s achievements in athletics, film and politics have made him a household name throughout America and the world. His career in public service and his commitments to inner-city youth and sustainable energy resonate with the strategic vision of Emory University. The governor’s rise from modest circumstances through hard work and study offers an exemplary ethic for graduating seniors,” says President Jim Wagner, who will preside over the ceremony for about 3,600 graduates.

Four other individuals also will be recognized during Commencement with honorary degrees: Donald M. Berwick, president and CEO of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and one of the nation’s leading authorities on health care quality and improvement, who will receive a doctor of science degree; award-winning author Melissa Fay Greene, who will receive a doctor of letters degree; Joseph Lowery, longtime civil rights leader, who will receive a doctor of divinity degree; and former World Bank president James D. Wolfensohn, chairman of Wolfensohn & Company LLC, who will receive a doctor of humane letters degree.

Schwarzenegger is serving his second term as governor of California after being first elected in the state’s historic 2003 recall election. Among his accomplishments in his first six years in office is the passage of the nation-leading Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, a bipartisan agreement to combat global warming by reducing California’s greenhouse gas emissions. Schwarzenegger also has worked to make major investments in improving California’s aging infrastructure through his Strategic Growth Plan, helping to reduce traffic congestion and improve

**Interpreters give Haiti evacuees a voice**

By ANN HARDBY

Guirédx Massé could not travel to Haiti to help his fellow countrymen following the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake. As it turns out, he is being extremely helpful from right here.

The Emory student is among a group of Haitian Creole-speaking Emory volunteers serving as interpreters for the American Red Cross’ Atlanta chapter. The humanitarian organization is assisting caregivers who have accompanied seriously injured Haitians evacuated to Atlanta area hospitals for medical care.

“It is very hard to see the earthquake happen and not to be able to do something about it. This has allowed some of us to contribute in a small way,” says Massé, a doctoral student in English who has worked multiple shifts since Emory began staffing the Red Cross with interpreters on Feb. 8.

Having the interpreters is a very big deal to the Red Cross that needs to communicate with caregivers about everything from how to use a credit card to how to use MARTA. Manning four-hour shifts at the Red Cross headquarters on Monroe Drive, the interpreters are the conduits between Red Cross caseworkers on one end of the telephone and hospital social workers and Haitian caregivers on the other.

“It helps a lot when the families have a native speaker

**Please see RUSHDIE page 4**

**Please see HAITI page 3**

**Please see COMMENCEMENT page 5**
NEW ONLINE AT EMORY.EDU
www.carlos.emory.edu/isites

Become an armchair archaeologist with a new blog series from the Carlos Museum.
Follow the work of Emory faculty members and Carlos curators on sites, as they lead archaeological digs in Egypt, Greece and Israel. The teams chronicled their daily activities at the excavation sites in this series of blogs.

Archaeologist and Carlos curator Peter Lacoza blogs about his work on the Malgapa site.

Excavations at Tell Halil, Israel, under the direction of Professor of Biblical Archaeology Oded Boroski, continue to uncover remains from the end of the 8th century BC, when the city—possibly biblical Rimmon—was destroyed. Among the remains discovered were a pillared house with a large assemblage of storage jars, and a kitchen that included an oven and grinding implements. Check back to follow this season’s progress on the Tell Halil iSite blog.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Loring, senior administrative assistant to the chair of family and community nursing in the School of Nursing, performs at the Alcove Gallery in Avondale.

EMORY PROFILE Abigail Joslin
Trapeze artist frames life in fun

By LESLIE KING

Fun. It’s the word that defines a lot of what Abigail Joslin does in her life.

Exercise and keeping fit? She started doing circular aerials — “It’s a little bit like doing yoga but off the ground” — after reading the blog of a friend who’s an acrobat. “And she’d post those amazing videos that looked like so much fun.”

Her love of board games, card games and computer games? “I think they’re a lot of fun. This is a theme with me.”

Joslin, senior administrative assistant to the chair of family and community nursing in the School of Nursing, uses fun as a frame and motivator for her varied life. “That’s something I look for in all my activities,” she notes.

Joslin started training at Entanglement Circus Troupe in Athens, Georgia because she wanted to perform more, getting beyond just the fitness aspect and into teaching. She’s just started teaching beginning trapeze and lyra, a form of aerials.

Then there’s fun and games. She is in the process of starting up a nonprofit with a friend who’s a computer game developer designer. “It’s a mentoring and career development program for women getting into the computer video game industry,” Joslin says.

It’s called Getting Girls in the Game.

“We have our first small group of mentors and mentees. The main goal is to help create a community that will enable these women to function in a very male-dominated industry,” she says. “And it really is about building community as much as anything else.”

Joslin has been playing games “forever.”

“I remember playing ‘Ghostbusters’ on a Commodore 64 in the early 80s,” and she’s currently enjoying playing “Everquest II” online.

But she says, “I definitely take things seriously and I take the work that I’m doing, with aerials and games and my job, seriously. I just don’t see why it needs to be exclusively a very grim, determinedly focused, serious thing. You can be all of that, and also make it enjoyable to be around and to do.”

Joslin, who studied Italian language and literature at Smith College, is thinking of getting her MBA. “I’m in the process of studying for the GMAT and applying to grad school. It’s pretty nerve-wracking, but one of the things I like about Emory is the opportunity for ongoing education,” she says.

Joslin landed in Atlanta three years ago. “I was coming down from Boston and I was ready to be warm in winter,” says the New Hampshire native. “It’s been wonderful. I love hundred-degree heat.”

“I knew that I wanted to work at a university. It’s just such a wonderful environment to be in, especially the School of Nursing where there is a very strong core value of service and social responsibility.”

While she likes the people she works with, she’s not drawn to nursing herself because “I’m completely terrified of needles. I faint and I like my blood staying in my veins where it belongs.”

The way Joslin sees it, “Being at Emory has definitely exposed me to such a range and depth of subjects and expertise that, at best, I was only vaguely aware of. At the same time it has brought these topics much closer to home.”

The shortage of nurses is an example. “Being around nurses dealing with so many issues related to these topics makes it simultaneously feel much closer and bigger because there are so many more possibilities and dialogues going on all the time,” Joslin says.

One of the people she admires is her current manager, Maureen Kelley, chair of the family and community nursing department in the nursing school. “I love working with her because she’s very honest, she’s very fair. I’ve really come to appreciate that and it’s wonderful to be working with a manager I actively like and respect.”

Joslin adds, “I’ve definitely learned a lot about nursing and the whole field of health care through her, which I’ve just never been exposed to before imagining ‘oh, God, what’s my insurance going to cover?’ Not focusing, appreciating the role that nurses play or health care in general.”

Trapeze artist frames life in fun by Leslie King

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Trademarked design by Eric Rawlings
Continued from the cover

on the phone,” says Marilyn Self, manager of disaster readiness for the Atlanta Red Cross.

“In addition to being terribly concerned about their loved ones, they have to figure out how to survive in a foreign country. They also have been traumatized — they’ve lost friends and family and businesses and homes.”

Since the earthquake, 350 members of the Emory community have registered to serve as interpreters for Haitians evacuated to Atlanta. Of those, about 100 volunteer opportunities, visit Emory’s Office of Critical Healthcare response and relief efforts at www.emory.edu/home/CEPAR/haiti/response-activities.html.

As of Feb. 14, Atlanta area hospitals had received 33 Haitian patients, with Emory Healthcare treating four.

The patients and their caregivers typically arrive on military planes around nine at night. Although the Red Cross walks caregivers through such details of how to find lodging and use a credit card, some are too exhausted and numb to retain the information. The interpreters help with follow-ups.

Although Haiti has two official languages, French and Creole, the Red Cross has found that it needs Creole speakers. French is taught in school, but most Haitians, particularly those from poor or working class families, primarily speak Creole.

“When you are under tremendous stress, it is much more comfortable to communicate in your native language,” Self says. Maasé is from a small town that was not hit by the earthquake. Caregivers find his native tongue soothing.

“For the most part, we are trying to find out how the caregiver is faring,” Maasé says. “That in itself must be reassuring because a lot of them have never been here before.”

He can’t help but be moved by some of the stories. One caregiver had accompanied her baby to Atlanta but had to leave her other two small children behind in Haiti.

Service award honors three-time alumnus

By ERIC RANGUS

The University’s highest award for alumni service will be presented to a graduate of three Emory schools whose leadership on campus and off has benefited the community in myriad ways.

On March 18, the Emory Alumni Association will honor Tommy Owens ’59/Ox.’63/C ’76D with the J. Pollard Turman Alumni Service Award. Owens, a dentist from Atlanta, is the first graduate of Emory’s School of Dentistry to receive the Turman Award, which has been presented annually since 1998.

Among his many volunteer leadership positions at the University, Owens has served on the Oxford Board of Counselors for more than 30 years, including a term as president. He also served as president of the Dental Alumni Association.

Owens’ selfless work on behalf of his alma mater garnered him the Distinguished Oxford Alumni Award and the R. Carl Chandler Award, the latter presented in 2004 for a lifetime of service to Oxford College.

In 1988, Owens experienced a tragedy that changed his life and priorities. His older daughter, Leslie, died at the age of 24 from leukemia. Since then, Owens has dedicated himself to finding a cure through the Georgia Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society’s Team in Training Program. He became the head coach for the chapter in 1992 and has since trained 4,000 runners and raised more than $25 million to fight blood cancers.

The award is named for J. Pollard Turman ’34/C ’36L-’73H, an influential humanist whose support of higher education and cultural organizations benefited institutions throughout Georgia, and includes a $25,000 grant to Emory from the Tull Foundation, which Owens will designate.

CRystal apple awards

Students applaud excellent teachers

By KELLY ELIOTT

Eight Emory professors, cited by their students as going above and beyond in their search for knowledge and involvement in the Emory community, earned the 11th annual Crystal Apple Awards in a Feb. 15 ceremony at Woodruff Auditorium.

The Residence Hall Association sponsors — and students present — this annual award for excellence in education/Instruction:

2010 Crystal Apple awardees:

Excellence in Undergraduate Seminar Education: Edina Bay, professor, Institute of the Liberal Arts

Excellence in Graduate Education/Instruction: Paul Kelleher, assistant professor of English

Excellence in Professional School Education/Instruction: Pat Kliger, senior associate professor of biostatistics and informatics

Excellence in Undergraduate Business Education/Instruction: Oncei Buttrick, assistant professor of organization and management

Excellence in Undergraduate Large Lecture Education: Donald Livingston, professor of philosophy

Laura Jones Hardman Award for Excellence in Service to the Emory Community: Jean Leen, assistant professor, Rollins School of Public Health

William H. Fox Jr. Award for Emerging Excellence: Tracy Morkin, lecturer of chemistry

Excellence in Undergraduate Nursing Education/Instruction: Jeanie Witten, clinical instructor, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing

—From Staff Reports

ACCLAIM

Colin Bragg and Lucas Church have won Creative Loafing kudos. Bragg and his ensemble, the 4th Ward Afro-Klezmer Orchestra, was named critic’s pick as best local jazz act for Creative Loafing’s Best of Atlanta 2009 awards. Church took first place in the magazine’s 2010 Fiction Contest with a short story called “Coalition.”

Both are coordinators of program development for Emory University libraries.

Robert DeHaan published an article with Camille Goebel and Aminata Umuqa in the journal CBE-Life Science Education that was selected for two special honors: CBE-USE chose it for re-publication in their “Highlights of 2009” issue; and the editors of the weekly magazine, Science, selected it for listing in the Dec. 18, issue in their “Editor’s Choice” section, which covers highlights from the recent literature gathered from a wide variety of scientific journals.

DeHaan is Charles Howard Candler Professor of Cell Biology Emeritus and senior science advisor to the Division of Educational Studies.

Lisa Dillman was a finalist on the 2010 Best Translated Book List for “Mediterranean Women,” translated by Carol Roberts into English. The list consists of the best books published in English in the previous year.

A list of titles that were published in English for the first time ever are eligible for this award, eliminating retranslations and reprints. Dillman is senior lecturer in Spanish.

Rick Luce, vice provost and director of Emory University Libraries, was elected to the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) to the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) steering committee board.

Developed by ARL, SPARC is an international alliance of academic and research libraries.

Stuart Zola has had his appointment renewed as senior research career scientist by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The seven-year appointment provides continuing support for Zola’s memory and amyloid research, at the Atlanta VA Medical Center.

Zola is Yeckes National Primate Research Center director, a professor in the department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences; and co-director of the Emory Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center.
TAKE NOTE

Host “Swine Origin H1N1 Virus Pathogenesis and Immunology” symposium

Sponsored by NIAID’s Influenza Pathogenesis and Immunology Research Center (IPIRC) will host “The First Pandemic of the 21st Century” at the Emory Conference Center on April 18-20. The symposium will explore new and ongoing research on clinical trials, new vaccines and therapies, and quality improvement. A call for applications for a financial hardship related to cancer care is also part of the standards. Donations will count toward MyEmory's fundraising campaign for faculty, staff, and retirees, as part of the campaign goal. Anyone can donate to this campaign fund via credit card or request to be billed.

Symposium covers progress on H1N1

International investigators will present the latest advances in studies of H1N1 influenza virus, replication, cell biology and pathogenesis at a symposium April 18-20. The Emory-CGA Influenza Pathogenesis and Immunology Research Center (IPIRC) will host “The First Pandemic of the 21st Century” at the Emory Conference Center.

Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, will deliver the keynote address. Rafi Ahmed, director of the Emory Vaccine Center, will present a special dinner lecture April 19 at the Fox Theater.

Registration is open until March 1. For more information, scholarships are available to graduate students. For more details, visit myemory.Edum/Influenza.

Emory cancer care gets accreditation

Emory University Hospital Midtown has been granted a three-year accreditation with commendation from the cancer services program from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons. The accreditation program sets quality-of-care standards for cancer programs and reviews the facilities to ensure they meet the American college's standards.

The accreditation is earned by demonstration of a full scope of cancer services, including education, patient care, outcome assessment, clinical services, research, and quality improvement. A multi-specialty team approach to treatment is required, including participation on clinical trials, new treatment options and other cancer-related information are also part of the standards.

Outside-the-box arts projects get grants

By BECKY HERRING

The Emory College Center for Creativity & Arts offers project grants of up to $500 for Emory College undergraduates to apply for a grant of $1,000 for Emory Graduate students and up to $1,500 for Emory College faculty and staff. The grants support arts-related projects and cultural activities that fall outside of the regular academic responsibilities of individuals and departments. Applications for 2010 grant proposals are due Friday, March 26 at 4 p.m. Application information can be found at www.creativity.edu.

Highlights of the 17 project grants awarded this academic year:

- Visual Arts Department staff member Mary Katherine Johnson brought the exhibition “Dawoud Bey: Class Pictures” to the Emory Visual Arts Gallery through March 4. Peter Nguyen gives his senior honors recital in music composition on March 20. Eliana Marianes’ adaptation of “The Turn of the Screw” is performed March 21-22.

- Philosophy professor Andrew Mitchell is presenting a Nietzsche and Wagner-related performance project on April 8. Institute of Liberal Arts (ILA) student Jordan Orr is presenting “Memory Flash,” a series of art interventions on April 3. Oguchukwu Nzewi, in the James T. Laney School of Graduate Studies (LGS), presents his exhibition “A View of Home from Abroad” in the Dobbs University Center Gallery from April 26 to May 6.

- Student Brian Davis used a CCA Project Grant for an autobiographical photo essay.

By DAVID PAYNE

This summer, expect to see the early fruit of Emory’s labor when several dozen new fruit trees and berry bushes take root around campus. The plants were purchased at a recent sale sponsored by Georgia Organics and the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

“Emory’s support made an important contribution to the sale,” says Peggy Barlett, professor of anthropology and chair of Emory’s Sustainable Food Committee. “Edible landscapes are a growing part of the sustainable food movement around the country. Many campuses and institutions—Emory included—have found fruit trees and shrubs offer seasonal, local support for wildlife, and nutritious food to enjoy.”

The plantings are cosponsored by the Office of Residence Life and the Local Food Initiative, of which Emory was a founding member, says Tanya Myc, the University’s vice president for student affairs.

Emory was able to purchase the dozen trees and two dozen shrubs thanks to its annual replanting budget. The plantings include apples, pears, figs, plums, blackberries, blueberries and raspberries.

RUSHDIE: Opening up digital archives

By RUSHDIE

Donations will count toward MyEmory’s fundraising campaign for faculty, staff, and retirees, as part of the campaign goal. Anyone can donate to this campaign fund via credit card or request to be billed. The new Web site will present the latest advances in the field of archiving “born-digital” materials. This includes digital archives that are digitally born, which doesn’t mean they’re born on computer disks or other media.

“Emory was able to purchase Rushdie’s hard drives, felt much it was crucial to emulate the author’s working environment, creating a perfect duplicate that researchers could explore while safeguarding the original: “The imprint of the writer’s personality and creativity is intact within his computer.”

While universities have taken possession of digital archives, Rushdie has proven very interested in how his archives will be presented. University librarians, archivists, and legal experts have worked with him every step of the way to determine what can be released and what must be kept confidential — and for how long.

As far as Rushdie’s archives, says Lisa Medkin, coordinator of the libraries’ intellectual properties rights office, “we have an agreement with him, which we’ve revised as time goes on… Who among us knows what’s on their hard drive? We have to find a balance between protecting his privacy and providing significant content to researchers who would find value from it.”

Emory students, faculty and staff can access the digital assets through Emory’s homepage or via the “Emory Rushdie Digital Archives” link, which sends them directly to Rushdie’s digital archives. The archives include a range of creative writing, manuscript printouts, lecture notes, drawings, polemics, personal photographs and letters. There are also digital images and video recordings of Rushdie’s public appearances, including interviews, lectures and readings.

“The launch of the Web site is an important milestone,” says Erika Farr ‘84PhD, the libraries’ director of born-digital initiatives. "We have darn close to his first drafts of novels — even the earliest ones. The authors,” says the scholar, “have nothing to lose. They get the chance to sell their work directly to the public. And it’s all up to them, according to what they think would make sense."
The Office of Community and Diversity is dedicated to supporting and enhancing Emory’s commitment to diversity. By providing leadership, encouragement and guidance we hope to increase our institutional capacity for self-reflection, community building and pluralism. We work in partnership with individuals and departments across the campus to strengthen practices of access, equity and inclusion.

We support faculty, staff, students and alumni through a variety of programs. Projects for 2010 include:

**We Are Emory:** Our office recognized the hard work of so many of our peers and colleagues through the launch of the We Are Emory campaign and the 100 Community Builders poster. To increase awareness of the initiative, our office participated in homecoming events, celebrated our community’s achievements through riveting speeches and performances at the We Are Emory reception in January, and worked with groups like the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services and Office of LGBT Life to coordinate displays of support around the Atlanta community.

**Engaging with Atlanta History:** We are committed to enhancing awareness of the rich history of Atlanta and providing opportunities for the Emory community to engage with our city. Many offices have already laid a useful foundation for this work. For example, in partnership with the Office of University-Community Partnerships (OUCP), we started the Atlanta 101 project, a series of programs that connect Emory and Atlanta history and resources.

**Schwarzenegger to keynote:**

The world-famous athlete and actor was born in Austria in 1947, and at 20 became the youngest person ever to become a U.S. citizen in 1983. Three years later he married broadcast journalist Maria Shriver.

Schwarzenegger has been an advocate for physical education and after-school programs, and as governor, he has worked to increase funding for such programs. In 1990, former President George Bush appointed Schwarzenegger chair of the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. He also served as chair of the California Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports under Gov. Pete Wilson. Schwarzenegger and his wife have remained closely involved in Special Olympics, an organization founded by Shriver’s mother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Emory has had a longtime engagement with the Georgia Special Olympics, which the University has hosted annually on campus for more than 20 years.

Schwarzenegger’s accomplishments have earned him honors from a variety of organizations, including the Simon Wiesenthal Center’s “National Leadership Award” for his support of the organization’s Holocaust studies. Schwarzenegger was the only actor to be in both categories of the American Film Institute’s Hundred Years of Heroes and Villains. In 2002, Schwarzenegger received the Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award. Schwarzenegger currently holds honorary doctorates from the University of Southern California and his alma mater, the University of Wisconsin-Superior.
Biology may not be so complex after all

By CAROL CLARK

Centuries ago, scientists began reducing the physics of the universe into a few, key laws described by a handful of parameters. Such simple descriptions have remained elusive for biological systems — until now.

Emory biophysicist Ilya Nemenman has identified parameters for several biochemical networks that boil down the entire behavior of these systems into simple equivalent dynamics. The discovery may hold the potential to streamline the development of drugs and diagnostic tools, by simplifying the research models.

The resulting paper, now available online, will be published in the March issue of Physical Biology.

“It appears that the details of the complexity of these biological systems don’t matter, as long as some aggregate property, which we’ve calculate, remains the same,” says Nemenman, associate professor of physics and biology. He conducted the analysis with Golan Bel and Brian Munsky of the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

“The simplicity of the discovery makes it a beautiful result,” Nemenman says. “We hope that this theoretical finding will also have practical applications.”

He cites the air molecules molecules make up his office: “All of the crazy interactions of these molecules that hit each other boils down to a simple behavior: An ideal gas law. You could take the painstaking route of studying the dynamics of every molecule, or you could simply measure the temperature, volume and pressure of the air in the room. The second method is clearly easier, and it gives you just as much information.”

Nemenman wanted to find similar parameters for the incredibly complex dynamics of cellular networks, involving hundreds, or even thousands, of variables among different interacting molecules. Among the key questions: What determines which features in these networks are relevant? And if they have simple equivalent dynamics, did nature choose to make them so complex in order to fulfill a specific biological function? Or is the unnecessary complexity a “fossil record” of the evolutionary heritage?

For the Physical Biology paper, Nemenman and co-authors investigated these questions in the context of a kinetic proofreading (KPR) scheme. KPR is the mechanism a cell uses for optimal quality control as it makes protein. KPR was predicted during the 1970s and it applies to most cellular assembly processes. It involves hundreds of steps, and each step may have different parameters.

Nemenman and his colleagues wondered if the KPR scheme could be described more simply. “Our calculations confirmed that there is, in fact, a key aggregate parameter,” he says. “The whole behavior of the system boils down to just one parameter.”

That means that, instead of painstakingly testing or measuring every rate in the process, you can predict the error and completion rate of a system by looking at a single aggregate parameter.

Charted on a graph, the aggregate behavior appears as a straight line amid a tangle of curving ones. “The larger and more complex the system gets, the more the aggregate behavior is visible,” Nemenman says. “The completion time gets simpler and simpler as the system size goes up.”

Nemenman is now collaborating with Emory theoretical biologist Rustam Antia, to see if the discovery can shed light on the processes of immune cells. In particular, they are interested in the malfunction of certain immune receptors involved in most allergic reactions.

“We may be able to simplify the model for these immune receptors from about 3,000 steps to three steps,” Nemenman says. “You wouldn’t need a supercomputer to test different chemical compounds on the receptors, because you don’t need to simulate every single step — just the aggregate.”

Bacteria-killing proteins cover blood blind spot

By QUINN EASTMAN

A set of proteins found in our intestines called galectins can recognize and kill bacteria that have human-like protein molecules on their surfaces, Emory scientists have discovered.

The findings were announced online Feb. 14 in the journal Nature Medicine.

Many immune cells have receptors that respond to molecules on the surface of bacteria — but these proteins are different because they recognize structures found on our own cells, says biochemist Richard Cummings.

“It’s like having a platoon in an army whose sole purpose is to track down enemy soldiers that are wearing the home country’s uniform,” he says.

Blood type comes from differences in sugar molecules attached to proteins in red blood cells. If incompatible blood types are mixed, the antibodies from one person will make red cells from the other person clump together. But someone’s immune system usually doesn’t make antibodies to the sugar molecules on his or her own red blood cells. That creates a potential blind spot that bacteria could exploit.

The Cummings laboratory’s discovery explains why bacteria can’t sneak past our immune systems by camouflaging themselves with blood type sugar molecules.

“It may also explain why the human population has a diversity of blood types; the galectins create a ‘protected space’ for the diversity to flourish.”

Decades of fragile X research lead to targeted treatment trials

By HOLLY KORSCHUN

Emory scientists have led research on fragile X syndrome since it was first identified nearly three decades ago as the most common inherited cause of intellectual disability. In 1991, Emory human genetics chair Stephen Warren led a team that discovered the mutated gene on the X chromosome. Emory scientists went on to study how the protein, FMRP, which leads to fragile X syndrome, is present in 1 in 800 males and 1 in 260 females.

The randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical study is being conducted in 32 adult participants, ages 18 to 50, with fragile X syndrome. A second study will continue testing the most effective dose against a placebo in 28 participants.

In addition to Emory, the study sites are Rush Medical Center, Indiana University Medical School, Vanderbilt University Medical School and the University of California, Davis, Medical Center.

Warren and others have learned that the genetic mutation inhibits the production of a protein, FMRP, which leads to the overproduction of certain signaling proteins in the brain. This results in the complex learning and behavior problems of fragile X syndrome.

“The increased activity of the signaling protein mGluR5 acts like a car that keeps driving without a brake,” says Emory geneticist Jeannie Visootsak, principal investigator of the study. “The drug we are testing is an mGluR5 antagonist, which puts a brake on the mGluR5 activity and may improve learning and cognition. In mice and fruit fly models, we were able to improve cognition with an mGluR5 antagonist.”

A phase I trial of the drug was conducted last year in adults without fragile X syndrome, and no serious adverse events were noted. The current trial will assess safety as well as efficacy.

The clinical trial is sponsored by Roche Pharmaceuticals.
Disability drives transformative journey

Martha Wisbey is associate director of the Office of Disability Services.

By MARTHA WISBEY

As a new member of the Emory community and the associate director of the Office of Disability Services, I return to this campus after 20 years. To integrate my understanding of where Emory was when I was a staff member in Campus Life, and where it is now, takes time. Listening to the stories of people who have been here for a long time, as well as people who have only been here a short time, and to the many student voices constantly in flux as they move in and out of the different places and spaces at Emory, I am gaining insight. I am sure only Dooley could capture what it is I am seeking to understand.

At the start of my return tenure here, President Wagner spoke of an incoming class that he believed to have arrived.

When he asked this new student about his decision to come to Emory, the student said that he had two major choices. After visiting both campuses and finding both impressively beautiful, with superb facilities, great faculty and great students, the student found the other institution to be rather staid, almost complacent.

At Emory, he felt a sense of an institution that was going somewhere, a community that was on the move, the faculty, staff and students had an evident enthusiasm for the future, a sense that they hadn’t yet arrived, and the student said he wanted to be a part of it. This comment echoed strongly in my head, as this is what I experienced when I interviewed here for this new position. I was seeking to be a part of a place where change was welcome, and inclusion, access and excellence were continual mile markers.

As a person returning to Emory with a disability, I am reentering a place and seeing it from a different point of view. As my identity has changed through the years of educational and work experiences, given the severity of the accident, I never forget.

FORTUNE — Carol Clark

By writing this story, I can share the overall gist of the accident and blend my new role as a contributing member of this community with who I am today. I hope we can continue to dialogue and learn about difference. I am confident that disability working on Emory’s campus.

I thought I cognitively knew what they did, but through real-life experience, I lived it. I can only think of those persons as my "angels." So, 20 years later I am back. I am definitely more insightful, stronger in a sense of self, and able to reflect on the changes that happened in my life. I know I am truly fortunate to work in the Office of Disability Services and to know advocates and leaders who are inviting Emory to learn how disability matters. I know there is much education to be done and the concept of "we don’t know what we don’t know" exists within all of us. Since I have arrived in this role, I have found the commitment and passion, as well as the delivery of services, to be truly excellent in all ways.

I am not sharing this to be dramatic, or to seek sympathy, but to share my "first person" point of view as a person with a disability working on Emory’s campus. People do ask, “What happened to you?” By writing this story, I can share the overall gist of the accident and blend my new role as a contributing member of this community with who I am today. I hope we can continue to dialogue and learn about difference. I am confident that difference can be added to this discussion. I believe I have a lot to share with others and I appreciate the honesty and openness that I encounter with the faculty, staff, and students I have interacted with since arriving.

The fact is, “We are Emory.” We are working hard to make connections with others and stretch beyond our borders to impact society as a whole in our interactions. I hope you will join me and many others in this journey. We Can Help.

FIRST PERSON

Disability drives transformative journey

By MARTHA WISBEY

As a new member of the Emory community and the associate director of the Office of Disability Services, I return to this campus after 20 years. To integrate my understanding of where Emory was when I was a staff member in Campus Life, and where it is now, takes time. Listening to the stories of people who have been here for a long time, as well as people who have only been here a short time, and to the many student voices constantly in flux as they move in and out of the different places and spaces at Emory, I am gaining insight. I am sure only Dooley could capture what it is I am seeking to understand.

At the start of my return tenure here, President Wagner spoke of an incoming class that he believed to have arrived.

When he asked this new student about his decision to come to Emory, the student said that he had two major choices. After visiting both campuses and finding both impressively beautiful, with superb facilities, great faculty and great students, the student found the other institution to be rather staid, almost complacent.

At Emory, he felt a sense of an institution that was going somewhere, a community that was on the move, the faculty, staff and students had an evident enthusiasm for the future, a sense that they hadn’t yet arrived, and the student said he wanted to be a part of it. This comment echoed strongly in my head, as this is what I experienced when I interviewed here for this new position. I was seeking to be a part of a place where change was welcome, and inclusion, access and excellence were continual mile markers.

As a person returning to Emory with a disability, I am reentering a place and seeing it from a different point of view. As my identity has changed through the years of educational and work experiences, given the severity of the accident, I never forget.

FORTUNE — Carol Clark

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As a person returning to Emory with a disability, I am reentering a place and seeing it from a different point of view. As my identity has changed through the years of educational and work experiences, as well as age and mobility changes, I am learning Emory has made just as many advancements and transformations.

After leaving Emory in 1989, I completed a doctorate at the University of Georgia. My first professional position was serving as dean of students at Stephens College and then as associate vice president for student life at the University of Georgia. My first professional position was serving as dean of students at Stephens College and then as associate vice president for student life at the University of Georgia. My my professional position was serving as dean of students at Stephens College and then as associate vice president for student life at the University of Georgia. My first professional position was serving as dean of students at Stephens College and then as associate vice president for student life at the University of Georgia. My first professional position was serving as dean of students at Stephens College and then as associate vice president for student life at the University of Georgia. My first professional position was serving as dean of students at Stephens College and then as associate vice president for student life at the University of Georgia. My first professional position was serving as dean of students at Stephens College and then as associate vice president for student life at the University of Georgia. My f
ADVANCE NOTICE

Photographer commissioned to create public art about Emory

This Week’s Highlights

Monday, Feb. 22

“Food, Pleasure and the Family Meal,” Carlo Petrini, Slow Food Movement; Joe Kimmons, CDC; and Marshall Duke, Emory, presenting.

State of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Address: Fred Sanfilippo, CEO, 3:30 p.m. WHCAB Auditorium. Free.

Tuesday, Feb. 23


Wednesday, Feb. 24


Body Acceptance Week:

Panel Discussion: 11 a.m. Commons, Dobbs Center. Free.

Thursday, Feb. 25

Body Acceptance Week:

Panel Discussion: 5:30 p.m. 208 White Hall. Free.

Friday, Feb. 26


Saturday, Feb. 27

Theater: “Out of Order.” 1 p.m. 208 White Hall. $25; $15, $10. 678-523-8247.

Also on Feb. 28

Red Cross Disaster Training Workshop, 8:45 a.m. Rollins School of Public Health. Free.

Sunday, Feb. 28

Sheth Lecture: “Approaching Midnight.” Deepa Mehta, director, presenting. 5 p.m. Tulip Auditorium, School of Law. Free.

To see all campus events, visit the online Emory Events Calendar at www.emory.edu/events.

Nobel Peace Prize winner to speak on microlending

Muhammad Yunus, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his work to reduce poverty through microloans, will present the 2010 Goodrich C. White Lecture on Wednesday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. in Glenn Memorial Auditorium.

The lecture, titled “The University and Creating a World Without Poverty,” is free and open to the public, but tickets are required.

Renowned as “banker to the poor,” Yunus was an economics professor at the University of Chittagong in his native Bangladesh when he began making small personal loans to destitute villagers in 1976. Today, Yunus’s Grameen Bank is the largest microcredit operation in the world, having helped more than 6.5 million people lift themselves out of poverty.

Gary Hauk, deputy to the president and chair of the White Leadership Committee, said that the committee had zeroed in on Yunus because his work and compelling message are likely to appeal to a broad spectrum of the University community.

“Every generation has its inspirational leader of social transformation. In our day we are fortunate to have a person of Dr. Yunus’ insight, energy, and creative leadership addressing the vast problem of global poverty,” says Hauk.

Endowed by the DVS Senior Society, and cosponsored by the President’s Office, the White Lecture was established in memory of Emory’s 19th president and graduate of Emory College and later dean of the College and vice president of the University. White served as president from 1942 until retiring in 1957.

See emory.edu/events/tickets to order, or call 404-712-7787 for more information.