Staff leads efforts to cut costs

By KIM URQUHART

In the Division of Campus Services, water cooler service has been replaced with faucet filters; seasonal parties and services, water cooler service by Kim Urquhart. Custodian Shonell Nelson (left) and Coordinator of Training Suzetta Lockleer demonstrate. Campus Services staff have contributed more than 250 cost-cutting ideas, such as modifying the uniform replacement policy. Custodian Shonell Nelson (left) and Coordinator of Training Suzetta Lockleer demonstrate.

Prospective students see what college is all about

By DAVID RANEY

Students setting their sights beyond high school are getting an early glimpse of what college is all about. Emory College has launched its Pre-College Program, giving such students a slice of the college experience both in and out of the classroom.

"There are all kinds of things a student can get out of a pre-college program," says Philip Wainwright, Pre-College director and associate dean for international and summer programs. "It’s a way to learn about academic life, to locate areas of interest, to meet peers."

It can also be a way to start compiling college credit. Participants take for-credit courses lasting six weeks which are, as Wainwright notes, "precisely the same courses Emory students are taking, taught by precisely the same professors."

The program also offers two-week, non-credit courses, again taught by Emory faculty.

"I think this is one of the particular strengths of this program," Wainwright says. "Students can take professors like Marshall Duke on the psychology of the novel, Bill Gruber teaching non-fiction creative writing, courses in nano-technology, photography — a whole spectrum of topics, either for credit or not."

They are getting a head start on college in other ways as well, says Wainwright. "The College and Campus Life are working closely together to integrate academic and co-curricular programming." The latter includes brown-bag lunches, visiting speakers, tours of local universities, and workshops in such areas as financial aid, admissions and study strategies.

While summer is a busy time for the high-schoolers, "it’s also a fun program," says Wainwright. "There are students here from all over the country, and outside the country, looking to get insight into the kinds of coursework they’re going to take, the kinds of opportunities available on campuses such as Emory’s.”

Rare Emory books debut in New York

By MAUREEN McGAVIN

Two of Emory’s libraries are contributing items to a New York City exhibition showcasing 16th-century Biblical illustrations this summer, and the exhibition will come to Carlos Museum in the fall.

“Scripture for the Eyes: Bible Illustrations from the Antwerp ‘Prints of the Sixteenth Century’” is the first major exhibition to explore the form, function and meaning of printed Biblical images produced in the 16th-century Low Countries.


Emory’s Pitts Theology Library contributed five of the eight volumes comprising the Antwerp Polyglot Bible, published in the 16th century by Christopher Plantin, one of the greatest early printers, says Pat Graham, director of Pitts. "In addition to its scholarly value for Biblical studies, this particular copy with its richly colored woodcuts is a stunning work of art and a suitable tribute to this pioneer of 16th-century book illustration," says Graham.

The Antwerp Polyglot Bible is perhaps the most significant item loaned by Emory, says Walter Melion, Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Art History and co-curator of the exhibit. Polyglot means it was published in several different languages, such as Latin, Hebrew, Greek, Arabic and Syriac.

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Professor of English Sheila Cavanagh, who teaches What Fools These Mortals Be: Shakespeare & Performance, notes a difference between this Pre-College course and a typical high-school Shakespeare class. "We have some amazing resources here," she points out, such as "performance tapes, plus actual performances, whether at Georgia Shakespeare Festival or Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern, [Image 411x900 to 510x1011]
By CAROL CLARK

Many great scientists will tell you that a favorite teacher first influenced their career path. But for Connie Roth, it was the television show “MacGyver.” The title character was a secret agent who carried a Swiss Army knife instead of a gun and relied on ingenuity to escape predicaments. He would make a bomb using bubble gum and paper clips, and maybe mixing toilet bowl cleaner with some other household chemicals, says Roth, assistant professor of physics. “He just had a wealth of knowledge in his head that he could use to get out of whatever situation he was in. Of course, when I watch an episode now I think, ‘That’s so bogus!’ But it was an appealing premise to a teenager, that if you understand enough about how things work, you can put things together to solve problems. That’s kind of what a scientist does.”

Roth, who grew up in suburban Toronto, decided at the age of 16 that she wanted to become a physicist. “I had the idea that if I had a Ph.D. in physics, then I would know everything,” she says, laughing as she thinks back to her naiveté. Starting with a volunteer co-op position in high school, she worked summers in a Xerox research facility. “That experience piqued my interest in polymers,” she says. “Polymers are used in just about everything. The chair you’re sitting on is fabricated out of plastic—a synthetic polymer. Paper is made out of a form of cellulose—a bio-polymer. A polymer is a large molecule comprised of DNA is a polymer.”

At Xerox, Roth helped study ink polymers. “We were looking at how the toner melts and adheres onto paper. It was a lot of fun,” she says.

Some of the scientists at Xerox she encountered came up with an easy method of producing polymer molecules with a narrower distribution. “It had a huge impact, because it improved the resolution of print,” Roth says. “I started to see how fundamental research could make a difference in society.”

Roth continued to focus on polymers throughout her undergraduate years and as a Ph.D. student. “Here at Emory we use both physics and chemistry to explore the dynamics of polymer molecules, including within thin films. Polymer films have a range of industrial uses, such as anti-reflection coatings for eyeglasses, membranes for gas separation processes and electrolyte layers for lithium batteries.”

“Polymers are coiled-up structures, like a bowl of cooked spaghetti. When you make the film thinner, the polymer molecules become distorted,” Roth says. “By better understanding the properties of thin polymer films, scientists hope to manipulate them in beneficial ways. In recent years, some researchers have shown how to achieve this ability to produce thin polymer films that age at an accelerated rate, while others have produced films with a slower aging rate.”

Roth’s lab recently demonstrated the capability of generating both of these results. She hypothesizes that what determines whether the film ages quickly or resists aging is the way that it is handled during the thermal quench phase of its production.

“I want to understand the fundamental idea behind this,” says Roth, who is continuing to research this area. “My job is to contribute knowledge that may contribute to high-end applications that will be out 10 years from now.”

Her work was recently recognized with a prestigious award. The American Physical Society’s DOPLY/UKPPG Polymer Lecture Exchange. She will travel to the University of Bristol in England in September to deliver her talk to a meeting of Polymer Physics Groups. As a teacher, Roth strives to get undergraduates to consider a range of potential professions. “I want students to think long term,” she says. “If you do a little bit of planning, you might go a lot further in your career.”

A science guide

Last spring, students in Connie Roth’s freshman physics seminar were required to research the maze of science options at Emory. Their class project was to boil down what they learned into a Web site, which they dubbed “A Dummies Guide to Choosing a Science Major.” It now serves as a resource for other freshmen: www.emory.edu/faculty/roth/freshmanFAQ/index.html#summer/pre-college.

For more information, contact a sales representative at 404-727-0170 or emorysales@emory.edu.

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Emory Report publishes bi-weekly in the summer months. Newer Alum Program for a weekly eBlast each Friday to help you plan your week at Emory.

NEW ONLINE AT EMORY.EDU

http://tibet.emory.edu

Follow Emory faculty and students in Dharamsala, India, via photos and blog updates posted to the Emory-Tibet Partnership site. It’s the second summer of the Emory Tibet Initiative, where faculty are teaching math, philosophy, cosmology, literature and Tibetan history and language to Tibetan monks and nuns. A group of students have arrived in Dharamsala to participate in a new Emory Seminar Program focused on Tibetan Mind/Body Sciences. Get a glimpse into their daily life, where meditation starts every day at 6 a.m.

http://csclaw.emory.edu

The Center for the Study of Law and Religion, with funding from the Henry Luce Foundation, has redesigned its Web site to make its 20 years of research on law, religion and human rights more accessible. Features include a relational database searchable by topic or key word; enriched content; and modernized aesthetics and usability. Over the Summer, CSCLR will be adding reviews, commentary and chapter/article postings, and social networking links.

ER’S SUMMER SCHEDULE

Emory Report publishes bi-weekly in the summer months. Newer Alum Program for a weekly eBlast each Friday to help you plan your week at Emory.

CONSTANCE L. MADISON, Associate Editor

Connie Roth is assistant professor of physics.

Connie Roth

EMORY UNIVERSITY

Clyde ‘Doc’ Partin ’50C–’51G, an icon at Emory through his years of devoted service to the school, passed away on June 16. Partin served the University for over 50 years in the physical education department, including a distinguished stint as the school’s athletic director and department chair of Health and Physical Education. During his tenure, Emory athletics saw unprecedented growth culminating in the construction of the Woodruff P.E. Center that opened in 1983, and the number of intercollegiate sports expanded.

‘Doc’ Partin led way to athletics for all

By BRYAN MELTZ

Clyde ‘Doc’ Partin ’50C–’51G, an icon at Emory through his years of devoted service to the school, passed away on June 16. He was 84 years old.

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The Laney's gift will support the Emory Advantage financial aid program for low- and middle-income students. Established in 2006, Emory Advantage is open to undergraduate students attending Emory College, Emory College of Arts and Sciences, Goizueta Business School, and the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. Emory's 17th president, Laney guided the University from 1977 to 1983. He led Emory to the world’s top tier of research universities and — believing that universities should be places of inspiration as well as instruction — made the ethical development of students a core element of his presidency.

"Jim and Berta Laney have left a profound and enduring legacy at Emory by their quarter-century of active teaching and leadership here," says President Jim Wagner. "Their gracious intention to support Emory Advantage is a wonderful gift to future generations."

ACCLAIM

Emory staff members Lea McLees, editor/contributing writer; Randall Burckett, Kim Collins, Elaine Justice, Guo-hua Wang, designers Mayfred Nall and Terry Brown, and Emory Photo/Video were honored for their work on the "Emory Libraries Report to the Community, 2007-2008." The report won the Award of Excellence in both the educational and nonprofit categories from the Communicator Awards. The international awards program honors creative excellence among communications professionals. It is sanctioned and judged by the International Academy of the Visual Arts.

Bob Hascall was selected to receive a Meritorious Service Award from APPA, the facilities managers organization. APPA members bestow the annual award, which is the highest individual service award, upon the individual member or members who have made significant, life-long contributions to the profession of higher education facilities management. A formal presentation will be made at the APPA 2009 conference and exhibition in July in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Saad Omer has been awarded the $10,000 Maurice Hillman Early-stage Career Investigator Award. Omer, assistant professor in the Rollins School of Public Health, received the award from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases at the 12th Annual Conference on Vaccine Research.

Guillermo E. Umpierrez, professor of medicine in the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the School of Medicine, is the 2009 recipient of the "Outstanding Service Award for the Promotion of Endocrine Health of an Underserved Population." The American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists conferred the honor on Umpierrez, who is also the chief of diabetes and endocrinology at Grady Memorial Hospital, for his work on behalf of the Grady Diabetes Clinic and the Emory Latino Diabetes Education Program.

"Acclaim" recognizes the accomplishments of faculty and staff. Listings may include awards and prizes, election to boards and societies; and similarly notable accomplishments at Emory or in the wider community. Emory Report relies on submissions for this column. Contact: ticking@emory.edu.
Office closed, duties continue for chancellor

In an austerity move reflecting the new economic realities, President Jim Wagner and Chancellor Michael Johns have decided to shutter the Office of the Chancellor.

Since shortly after his appointment as chancellor in November 2006, Johns has maintained an office on the third floor of the Administration Building. As a professor in the schools of medicine and public health, as well as the University's immediate past executive vice president for health affairs, he has also maintained an office in the new School of Medicine administration and education building.

Effective Sept. 1, he will give up the Administration Building office and return on a full-time basis to the School of Medicine.

“I have informed President Wagner that, given the financial challenges of the day, it is not appropriate for Emory to support the Office of the Chancellor on a continuing basis,” says Johns. “Although I will return to the faculty of medicine and of public health, I will be honored to remain at the service of Emory as chancellor.”

“Of course, I respect and accept Dr. Johns’ decision, but I have asked him to retain the title of chancellor so that he might continue to exercise leadership in the important tasks that have occupied his time in that role,” says Wagner. “Those projects include fundraising for the Emory Advantage financial aid program, representing Emory in matters related to public policy, most especially health care reform, and leading important reviews of how we might improve our institution’s programs in faculty and staff mentoring and succession planning.”

The position of chancellor is defined in the University’s bylaws as an advisor to the administration and the president who is appointed by the Board of Trustees. The bylaws do not specify any specific set of administrative duties.

—Staff Reports

PRE-COLLEGE: Students get chance to try on future disorders such as Parkinson’s and spinal cord injuries, while Easterling combines “explanations of how a drug acts in the brain with how that corresponds to behavior out in the real world.”

In one segment, he screens film clips depicting drug use and asks students to apply their lessons by identifying which drugs the characters are on. “These students will be the first class to experience this particular approach,” says Easterling.

Get the inside scoop
Visit Emory on iTunes U to hear from the Pre-College Program faculty.

The Pre-College Program offers inside and outside the classroom experiences.
A few weeks ago, I was cupping a candle flame and pooling molten wax off my hands when I first stepped foot on the grounds of the Miller-Ward Alumni House. The annual Candlelight Crossover — during which each member of the graduating class carries a lighted candle across the Houston Mill Bridge, arriving on the other side for a reception at Miller-Ward — was bittersweet for me, as I was touching what staff were willing to do, she says.

To explore new ideas and measure savings, Hascall says, "That is why it is so important that we're able to prioritize the staff-suggested operating efficiencies and cost-cutting initiatives that are being addressed at the department level. While the early implementation of cost-saving measures was able to reduce the impact on staffing, the budget target could not be met without some job eliminations. In April the Division of Campus Services eliminated 47 positions — 19 of which were vacant — in order to achieve a $2.5 million decrease in the campus services budgets for FY10."

Hascall says the hope is that implementing these staff-suggested operating efficiencies and cost-cutting initiatives will better position the division for the future — and protect jobs.

"This is why it is so important that we can measure and verify the cost-savings," a criteria of the ideas selected for review and implementation, says Salisbury. Metrics include comparing expenditures and implementation, says Salisbury. "This is and will continue to be something we invest our time and energy in and one in which we continue to celebrate our successes."

Hascall’s advice as Emory adjusts to a projected long-term reduction in revenue: "Every department has an opportunity to look at the processes that they have in place and see if there are opportunities for savings."

As Campus Services continues to explore new ideas to measure savings, Hascall pledges to keep his staff posted and informed about the progress made on their ideas. "This is and will continue to be something we invest our time and energy in and one in which we continue to celebrate our successes."

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Campus composting wastes no time reducing excess

Garbage in doesn’t always mean garbage out. That’s what Emory is anticipating with the introduction of a composting pilot program at the Dula’s University Center (DUC) Dining facility this month. As part of Emory’s sustainability vision, the University has a goal of diverting 65 percent of overall waste and 95 percent of food waste to landfills by 2015.

Composting is nature’s process to recycle decomposed organic materials into a rich soil known as compost. This process returns nutrients back into the soil, perpetuating the cycle of life.

Running for seven weeks, the composting program will take pre-consumer organic food waste collected at the DUC and haul it 60 miles to the state’s first Environmental Protection Division-permitted composting facility in Barnesville, Ga., instead of hauling the waste to the Pine Bluff landfill.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the decomposition of food and other waste in landfills produces methane, a greenhouse gas 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

“Emory’s commitment to composting supports the University’s goal of making our campus more sustainable. Compost offers a sustainable ‘closed loop’ from table, to compost, to garden or farm, back to table,” says Director of Sustainability Ciannat Howett. “Diverting food waste from landfills also reduces Emory’s greenhouse gas footprint while saving the University money in landfill fees.”

— Kelly Gray

Food is the least recycled material in the U.S. According to a study by the Environmental Protection Agency, Americans generate roughly 30 million tons of food waste each year, and all but 3 percent of that food waste ends up in landfills.

sustainability spot
Uncovering secrets of sound symbolism

By CAROL CLARK

Does the Japanese word "akurai" mean bright? Or does it mean catch?

When native English speakers who are unfamiliar with Japanese are taught the correct meaning — bright — they learn and remember the translation more easily than people who are taught a randomly chosen meaning, an Emory study has found. The study results were published recently by the journal Cognition.

Our research provides one of the first demonstrations that learners can use sound symbolism to derive meaning during spoken language processing," says Lynn Nygaard, associate professor of psychology and lead author of the study.

“These results are part of the accumulating evidence challenging the arbitrariness of language," adds co-author Laura Namy, associate professor of psychology.

For years, Nygaard has explored the relationship between the way something is said and the meaning of words. Namy's work has focused on how children learn language. The two scientists have combined their expertise to help pioneer the field of sound symbolism and language — an emerging domain in psychology.

While onomatopoeia is well known, new research is showing that a subtle class of sound symbolism may be more pervasive in language, extending across languages and cultures.

“Sound symbolism seems to be a basic property of how our brains map sound to meaning,” Nygaard says, noting that she and Namy have studied sound symbolism traits in 14 different languages.

Their latest Emory study used a list of words recorded by a native speaker of Japanese. Groups of monolingual English speakers were either taught the correct meanings for the words, their synonyms, or randomly chosen meanings while listening to the recording.

When tested, those who learned the correct meaning responded faster, and had more accurate recall, than learners in the other two groups.

“People appear to be actively recruiting sound symbolism to understand and to learn language,” Namy says.

Emory, a leader in the field of grounded cognition, is one of a handful of universities that is exploring in depth the psychological and neurological aspects of sound symbolism in language. Nygaard and Namy are now beginning studies that use functional magnetic resonance imaging to track neural responses to the sounds of words.

How mouse mothers’ brains are set to hear their babies’ calls

By CAROL CLARK

Emory researchers have identified a surprising mechanism in the brains of mother mice that focuses their awareness on the calls of baby mice. Their study, published June 11 in Neuron, found that the high-frequency sounds of mice pups stand out in a mother's auditory cortex by inhibiting the activity of neurons more attuned to lower frequency sounds.

“Previous research has focused on how the excitation of neurons can detect or interpret sounds, but this study shows the key role that inhibition may play in real situations,” says Robert Liu, assistant professor of biology and senior author of the study.

In 2007, Liu and colleagues were the first to demonstrate that the behavioral context in which communication sounds are heard affects the brain's ability to detect, discriminate and respond to them. Specifically, the researchers found that the auditory neurons of female mice that had given birth were better at detecting and discriminating vocalizations from mice pups than auditory neurons in virgin females.

Work that experiment was done with anesthetized mice, the current study by Liu's lab is the first to record the activity of neurons in the auditory cortex of awake mice. Both female mice that had given birth, and virgin female mice with no experience caring for mice pups, were used in the study.

When exposed to the high-frequency whistles of mice pups, which fall into the 60 to 80 kilohertz range, a large area of neurons in the auditory cortex of the mother mice was more strongly inhibited than in the virgin mice. The pattern of excitation of neurons was similar, however, for both the mothers and virgins.

“Something different is happening in the mothers' brains when they are processing the same sound, and this difference is consistent,” Liu says. “The inhibition of neurons appears to be enhancing the contrast in the sound of mice pups, so they stand out more in the acoustic environment.”

Liu's research focuses on how the brain evolves to process sounds in the natural environment. “By understanding normal functioning of the auditory processes in the brain, then we can begin to understand what is breaking down in disease situations, such as following a stroke or brain lesion,” he says.

Until recently, it had been widely assumed that the auditory cortex acted simply as a static filter, and that areas downstream in the brain did the complex task of learning to parse meaning from sounds.

“What our experiments help demonstrate is that even at this relatively early stage of cortical sound processing, responses are dynamic,” Liu says. “The auditory cortex has plasticity, so that sounds that become behaviorally relevant to us can get optimized.”

Their research was funded by the National Institute for Deafness and Communication Disorders and the NSF Center for Behavioral Neuroscience.

For more news from the natural and social sciences: www.emory.edu/esiencecommons.
Nurse finds more than ocean between Midtown, Africa

By D. DENNIS FLORES

To be ’floated,’ in hospital vernacular, is when a nurse gets assigned to an area other than his or her regular unit. As an ICnurse at Emory University Hospital Midtown, it is expected that once in a while we may have to work in unfamiliar areas due to low patient census or a higher need for nurses elsewhere.

Not even in my wildest Florence Nightingale moment did I think that would include international travel. As the tiny dot on the in-flight navigator showed our protracted descent over Botswana toward our destination, South Africa, I had to contemplate how in the world of bedside nursing I missed reading the Clinical Protocol for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

As part of a rotating group of health care personnel from the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, our motley group of three RNs was deployed to Durban, South Africa, to mentor nurses, to assist in the transfer of knowledge and help in capacity building. Funded by the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the three-week stint included visiting multiple sites, which ranged from blink-and-you-miss-it–community centers to sophisticated hospitals and nursing schools.

AIDS Care, our motley group
Nurse finds more than ocean between Midtown, Africa

Hlengisizwe that I could finally hear the drumbeats of the great diaspora. In that satellite facility in the heart of Zululand, amidst informal settlements, overcrowded waiting rooms and curious children, it hit me that this nurse was not in Midtown anymore.

But it wasn’t until we toured Hlengisizwe that I could finally hear the drumbeats of the great diaspora. In that satellite facility in the heart of Zululand, amidst informal settlements, overcrowded waiting rooms and curious children, it hit me that this nurse was not in Midtown anymore.

To say that the clinic was understaffed would be putting it mildly. The RNs in the clinic were essentially an endangered species and the lone doctor who braved coming in every day, despite not having a command of the dialect, might as well be the Broadway version of Mufasa. Patients trickle in before daybreak and, while it may seem chaotic at times, everyone is seen before the day is over. In an era where state-side health care is about accreditation and space-age technology, it is interesting how the tiny clinic accomplishes its work with such aplomb.

It is true that I was horrified. With such a modern-day plague, I was surprised that stigma would have been reached years earlier. But it has not. The reality for the people of KwaZulu Natal is that due to the extreme poverty in their quarters, a cycle of mistrust is seemingly endemic. Hence, this nurse gets to hear the agony a college girl goes through at the hands of her schoolmates who hurl stones at her as she passes by due to her flat backside, a classic sign of clinical AIDS-related wasting and proof undeniable of her infection.

African adventure

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EXHIBIT: Biblical art explored

Continued from the cover

A page from the Antwerp Polyglot Bible.

— a collection of images and descriptive text. "Emblems were a way of thinking through topics by meditating on the complex dynamics of a mutually interactive image and text," he says. "This is one of the very earliest emblem books. It's a very rare thing indeed, and it's in beautiful condition."

“Septem Psalmi Davidici” features prints created by Hieronymus Wierix, considered among the greatest engravers of the time. Each scene is surrounded by an elaborate border composed of the entire text of the penitential psalms, says Melion. “They are some of the finest engravings produced in Antwerp in the 16th century in terms of technique and skillful execution,” says Melion. “They've also very inventive in the way they explain the penitential psalms and relate them to the Passion of Christ.”

Mark your calendars for concerts, events

By JESSICA MOORE

Emory’s 2009–2010 Flora Glenn Candler Concert Series and Special Events features the Atlanta debut of Canadian Brass Contemporary Ballet and six concerts featuring a range of music from sounds of the Amazon to songs of America. Emory employees receive up to 50 percent off single ticket prices when subscribing to four or more concerts.

Single tickets to the Canadian Brass Contemporary Ballet, Feb. 4, 2010, 8 p.m. Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Feb. 23, 2010, 8 p.m. “Songs of America.” Thomas Hampson, baritone. The concert star and leading man of opera Hampson performs American hymns, folk songs, spirituals, cowboy and war songs from the 1700s through today in this national tour for the Library of Congress.

More online
Visit Emory Report online to learn about how Emory conservation technicians preserved the Antwerp Polyglot Bible.

By CAROL KRESS

Noon-5 p.m. Every Tuesday.

* Free. jdelliq@emu.org.

By EMORY REPORT

Now Showing

“O Lord, Open Thou Our Lippes... And Our Mouth Shal Shewe Forth Thy Prayes: An Exhibition from the Prayer Book Collections of Pitts Theology Library and Michael Morgan.” Durham Reading Room, Pitts Theology Library, 404-727-1218. Through June 30.


Summer Fun Ideas From The DUC
Discount Tickets at the Info Desk

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- Atlanta Zoo
- Rego Bay
- Atlanta Botanical Garden
- More Flags
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A tour guide for all of the above attractions and more.

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