

EmoryReport



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www.emory.edu/EMORY_REPORT

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

Emory strives to make every day Earth Day



Christ Gray

A Sustainable Food Fair and Farmer's Market kicked off Earth Week at Emory held April 13–22. The Emory community was treated to earth-friendly eats at fair and farmer's market that featured local farmers, prominent chefs, environmental activists and musical guests. See page 5 for more about the week's events.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Preparedness office created; Isakov named director



Jack Keane

Alexander Isakov

BY HOLLY KORSCHUN

A new Emory University Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response (CEPAR) is expected to further improve the University's ability to deliver a coordinated and effective response to catastrophic events. Alexander P. Isakov, associate professor of emergency medicine in Emory University School of Medicine, was named CEPAR director on April 12, with an official start date of May 1.

The new office, which will report to President Jim Wagner and other senior leadership, will

integrate all relevant components of the University in an interdisciplinary approach to the challenges of a catastrophe. The office also will partner with the broader community, including local, regional and federal resources to improve outcomes during and after an event. The new center has a broad scope, addressing all hazards, including natural disasters, human-caused catastrophic events and public health emergencies.

The formation of this new office was a major recommendation last year of Emory's Avian Influenza Task Force, which beginning a year and a half ago, examined the capacity of Emory University and Emory Healthcare to respond to pandemic flu or other threats that would severely tax student services and Emory Hospitals' patient capacity at the same time. However, the scope of the new office will go well beyond pandemic flu to include a wide spectrum of possible crises.

Isakov, in a half-time position, will oversee three full-time staff members and two part-time support staff. University funding for the center will begin with the

See **PREPAREDNESS OFFICE** on page 7

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

Trethewey wins Pulitzer Prize for poetry



Jon Rou

Natasha Trethewey

"Native Guard," the collection of poems that earned Natasha Trethewey the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for poetry, is dedicated to the memory of her mother. "That's the best part about winning the Pulitzer," said the associate professor of English. "I wanted 'Native Guard' to be a monument to my mother and her life, and I really think that this is one of the biggest monuments I could erect for her."

The racial legacy of the Civil War echoes through the poignant poems that honor Trethewey's mother — a black woman who married a white man in an act that was still illegal in 1965 Mississippi — and the forgotten history of her native South. The title poem, set near Trethewey's hometown of Gulfport, Miss., imagines the life of an ex-slave who joined the Union army to serve in an all-black regiment, the Louisiana Native Guards. In another poem, Trethewey remembers the night her family discovered a burning cross on

their lawn. In this way, "Native Guard" explores Trethewey's own biracial heritage in a region struggling to confront its past.

Trethewey said she plans to apply the Pulitzer award money to her next project, a collection of poems tentatively titled "Thrall." "I'll probably also buy something fabulous," she added with a laugh.

The Pulitzer Prize is the most recent honor for the acclaimed poet. Trethewey's first poetry collection, "Domestic Work," won the inaugural 1999 Cave Canem poetry prize, a 2001 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize and the 2001 Lillian Smith Award for Poetry.

Her second collection, "Bellocq's Ophelia," received the 2003 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize, was a finalist for both the Academy of American Poets' James Laughlin and Lenore Marshall prizes, and was named a 2003 Notable Book by the American Library Association. Her work has appeared in The Best American Poetry 2003 and 2000, and in journals such as Agni, American Poetry Review, Callaloo, Gettysburg Review, Kenyon Review, New England Review and The Southern Review, among others.

Trethewey has a B.A. in English from the University of Georgia, an M.A. in English and Creative Writing from Hollins University, and an M.F.A. in poetry from the University of Massachusetts. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Bunting Fellowship Program of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Creative Writing Department, which Trethewey will direct in the fall, is planning a series of readings by the prize-winning poet this spring. To view Trethewey reading from "Native Guard," visit www.southernspaces.org.

— Kim Urquhart

CAMPUS NEWS

Compassion and caring important responses to tragic Virginia Tech shootings

BY CAROL CLARK

Just hours after the Virginia Tech shootings left 33 dead, more than a dozen injured, and millions of people stunned, Susan Henry-Crowe, Emory's dean of the chapel and religious life, was on the phone to the Methodist chaplain at Virginia Tech.

"Things were still in chaos there," Henry-Crowe said. "But I wanted to let the chaplain know that Virginia Tech was in our hearts and prayers and that Emory was available to help if there was anything we could do."

Compassion and caring are not only important human responses to a tragedy like Virginia Tech's, they may also hold the key to preventing at least some future episodes of violence elsewhere, say Emory faculty experts.

"The best security against campus violence is an alert and caring student body," said

Arthur Kellermann, chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Emory School of Medicine. Currently on sabbatical as a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow, Kellermann has spent more than 20 years researching gun-violence prevention.

"In many cases, alert peers may pick up cues from such statements and refer the individual for help or tip-off campus authorities," Kellermann said. "Tragically in this instance, people knew the young man had problems, but no one realized how sick he had become."

Nadine Kaslow, an Emory professor of psychiatry and behavioral science and chief psychologist at Grady Memorial Hospital, fielded nearly two dozen phone calls from journalists late into the night following the shootings.

"What struck me was all the interviews from other countries — Australia, Ireland, South Ameri-

See **VA. TECH** on page 5

AROUNDCAMPUS

Transforming Community dialogue groups forming

The Summer 2007 Community Dialogues — part of the Transforming Community Project, a five-year endeavor examining race at Emory — is open to all members of the Emory community. Small study groups meet over breakfast, lunch or afternoon snacks and often discuss short readings, films or other relevant materials on topics related to race, how these issues have impacted the Emory community and how individuals and groups within the Emory community might engage in constructive action. Meals and reading materials are provided free to participants.

Four groups are planned for this summer. Sign up for a Community Dialogue by visiting the Transforming Community Project Web site at <http://transform.emory.edu/>. Registration is due by Friday, May 4. Participants will be notified by Wednesday, May 16, of their placement.

Vigil planned to remember Virginia Tech victims

The Office of Religious Life will hold a silent vigil to remember the victims of the Virginia Tech shootings. The community is invited to gather between Dobbs Center and Cox Hall at noon on Monday, April 23.

There will be a moment of silence followed by the tolling of the Cox Hall bell. Additionally, a candle-light vigil is being planned the same day at 8 p.m. on the Quad-range.

Correction
In the April 16 issue of Emory Report an article referred to Emory's new medical school building as the Evans Medical Education and Research building. It is actually called the School of Medicine building.

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FIRSTPERSON KATHY KINLAW

Ethical attentiveness at the end of life



Bryan Meltz

As interim director of the John and Susan Wieland Center for Ethics, Kathy Kinlaw was involved with the drafting of a new advance directives bill for Georgians.

The third-year medical students with whom I have the chance to learn in my “Clinical Ethics” course often share stories about the patients and families in their care. In telling these stories, many of which involve patients dealing with serious, life-threatening illnesses, the students reveal a lot about who they are both personally and professionally.

Patients and families are often asked to make hard decisions while grappling with illness. They have to make sense of their plight and find meaning during those difficult times. Longstanding relationships and newly formed patient-medical team relationships often help define those times.

In “The Sovereignty of Good,” author Iris Murdoch indicates that “at the moment of choice most of the business of choosing is already over.” How we make decisions or reframe a new phase of life in light of a significant illness is informed by the fullness of our lives and experiences along the way. What seems to be a “moment of choice” is not really a discrete, isolated point in time. Recognizing or searching for our foundational beliefs, religious groundings and personal values may help provide powerful insight into what continues to sustain us during difficult times.

Advance care planning is the process of making informed choices about one’s health care preferences, including end-of-life care, prior to the onset of an illness. These preferences may be recorded in written advance directives to help guide your treatment if you no longer have the capacity to make your own decisions. Advance care planning can also include discussions about your health care providers and loved ones, as well as discussions with a pre-chosen health care agent. Though it is difficult to predict what specific health care choices one may face or precisely what one’s preferences will be, the more you discuss your values with an appointed agent and other family members, the greater the chances are that your preferences will be followed. These informed conversations are, in fact, the heart of advance care planning.

During the current legislative session in Georgia, Emory’s Center for Ethics was involved in the process of drafting a new advance directives bill for Georgia citizens. The text for House Bill 24 was developed over a six-month period by a task force initiated by Georgia Rep. Steve Tumlin and comprised of almost 30 individuals with

diverse perspectives on the issues at hand. In drafting the Georgia Advance Directive for Health Care, the task force combined two already existing advance directive documents (the living will and the durable power of attorney for health care); simplified the form’s language to make the document more “user friendly”; provided additional opportunities for individuals to express their treatment preferences; and clarified witnessing requirements to decrease obstacles to completing the document. The bill has passed both the Georgia House and Senate and awaits Gov. Sonny Perdue’s signature.

What is the role of the University in being ethically attentive at the end of life? It is vital that curricular space, research opportunities and resources exist for medical students, nursing students and students in other health care professions to explore how we care for dying patients and their families. The interdisciplinary Palliative Care Task Force at Emory is assessing current clinical, research, teaching and community engagement resources that will have important intersections with how we think about the meaning of the end of life.

The “Changing the Way We Die” conference, held April 19–20, as part of the Religions and the Human Spirit Strategic Initiative, explicitly involved several religious perspectives, addressed policy questions and allowed the Emory community to converse directly with a patient striving to live fully with a malignant brain tumor. Other strategic initiative programs, such as the global health and predictive health initiatives, provide important opportunities for cross-fertilization and research. In caring for patients, providing leadership in policy and legislative initiatives, and implementing innovative, rich research and teaching, the University has many opportunities to partner with the community in engaged scholarship and practices that explore meaning at the end of life.

CREATIVEGROUP

Emory Magazine gets ‘new’ editor



Kay Hinton

Ron Sauder. “Paige has developed creative and compelling ways to tell the University’s stories in a way that conveys Emory’s strategic vision.”

Paige Parvin has been named editor of the University’s award-winning alumni publication, Emory Magazine. Since arriving at Emory in 2000, Parvin has served as interim editor and associate editor of the publication, and co-chaired the President’s Commission on LGBT Concerns. She previously covered local and national news for the Atlanta-based Southern Voice, and did public relations writing for American InterContinental University and the High Museum of Art. Parvin received her master’s degree in film studies from Emory in 1996 and completed her undergraduate studies in English at the University of the South.

“Paige, in partnership with Associate Editor Mary Loftus, has enlivened and broadened the magazine’s coverage, producing stellar work such as the fall issue on religion,” said Vice President for Communications

EMORYVOICES

How can Emory reach its sustainability goals?



The easiest way would be to increase recycling.

Damian Rawoot
junior
Political Science



The biggest obstacle in terms of sustainable food is supply. There is a lot of demand but not enough farmers.

Nora Kleinman
junior
Psychology



Sustainability starts with awareness.

April Dunson
computer support
Information Technology



A large student-run community garden.

Michelle McWilliams
junior
Nursing



It is happening already — it was inconceivable when I was at Emory that there would even be a department of sustainability.

Emily Saliers (C’85)
singer/songwriter
Indigo Girls

EMORYPROFILE KENDRA PRICE

by kim urquhart

Putting the plus in surplus



Bryan Melitz

Kendra Price, an administrative assistant in the School of Medicine, is helping clinics in poor nations get the medical supplies they need through her work with MedShare International.

Kendra Price is helping to solve world health issues. She is not a doctor or a nurse, but a senior administrative assistant in the School of Medicine who volunteers with MedShare International.

Twice a month, Price heads to the Decatur headquarters of the nonprofit organization that sends surplus medical supplies and equipment from hospitals in the United States to clinics in developing nations. She joins other

volunteers — many of them from Emory — to sort through boxes of surplus medical supplies donated by MedShare's partner hospitals and medical centers such as those operated by Emory Healthcare.

"For many reasons, perfectly usable medical supplies — which could be used to save lives in poor countries — are required to be discarded by U.S. hospitals," says Price. "MedShare is the bridge that gets them to the people who need them most."

Some medical products, such as those donated by medical supply manufacturers, are new and still in the original packaging. Others may be an item that hospitals must discard, such as the unused portion of a multi-pack of gauze, Price explains.

Price often recognizes surgery tools from her previous position at Emory, where as administrative assistant to the chief of surgery she helped organize continuing medical education for surgeons. But volunteers need not have a medical background — an orientation and ample signage are provided to assist with identification.

Once evaluated, sorted, repacked and inventoried, the materials are shipped to recipient hospitals in 85 countries

around the globe. The contents of each container are tailored to meet the needs list of each recipient, and range from tubing and exam gloves sent to a clinic in Western Africa to a neonatal resuscitation table that assisted doctors at a hospital in South America.

"Without MedShare we'd have tons of waste, so it's great for the earth and the environment if we can recycle these unused surplus medical supplies and equipment instead of throwing them away."

MedShare has teamed with the Rollins School of Public Health to measure the program's impact. That impact extends to the environment. "Without MedShare we'd have tons of waste, so it's great for the earth and the environment if we can recycle these unused surplus medical supplies and equipment instead of throwing them away," says Price, who notes that MedShare has saved 300,000 cubic feet of landfill space.

Price first learned of the organization through a colleague, Kim Fugate. "I would watch as Kim would box up miscellaneous supplies from the CME course that we helped organize, and she explained that she donates the used supplies to MedShare," Price recalls. "Then one day as I was driving home from the high school football field where my son had marching band practice, I passed by the MedShare home office. That's when I decided to get involved."

Her son also plans to pitch in as a MedShare volunteer, and she encourages others in the Emory community to donate their time and talent. "It's a great humanitarian effort and shows that you care about the environment. It's a great experience to help someone else, and this is one of the

ways in which you can do so," says Price, who is helping to "get the word out" as a public relations and marketing intern for MedShare.

Price balances her time at Emory and MedShare with courses at DeVry University, where she is pursuing a degree in marketing. From helping her son raise money for his recent band trip to South Africa to helping her friends promote their busi-

nesses, Price has found that she has a growing interest in marketing. "I like to talk to people and I like to write," she says. "My classes at DeVry and my internship at MedShare provide me with additional skills needed to help people build and grow their businesses."

Price recently joined Mentor Emory to get a "clearer direction" of her career goals. The program pairs staff participants with experienced mentors. Before joining Emory, the native Atlantan spent 10 years as an insurance supervisor. She says she'd eventually like to pursue marketing, or possibly human resources. "I just know that I want to be in a place where I can help people," Price says.

Mentor Emory has inspired Price to develop a similar program aimed at helping young men in her own community. "I feel that so many of our young men need someone that they can confide in and look up to, and I know some quality adult men who would like to help our youth," Price says. "I'm in the beginning stages of development, but I do see this as being a positive step toward reaching and teaching our young men how to grow and develop into great adults."

CARTERCENTER

Ethiopia sets example in health education for other African nations

How can African countries build a sustainable health care work force to combat the serious health problems confronting their populations? This is the question that participants asked themselves during the three-day Ethiopia Public Health Training Initiative Replication Conference held in February. Ministers of health, education, science and technology from 10 African governments convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss the importance of health education training in building strong, sustainable health systems and to learn how Ethiopia, through its partnership with The Carter Center, has built a unique system designed to train qualified health workers to meet the needs of the country.

Health challenges in Africa are staggering. One of the greatest obstacles to addressing these challenges is the shortage of health care workers currently serving the continent. Without access to health care provided by qualified professionals, people succumb daily to preventable maladies such as diarrhea, malnutrition, malaria and tuberculosis.

Compounding the problem, many health programs around the world are designed for broader regions and then instituted in different countries with little regard for their unique cultural diversity. One of the main priorities of the Ethiopia Public Health Training Initiative is to develop learning materials based on Ethiopian experience to ensure that pre-service training will be directly relevant to the country's health practices and priorities. The program's aim is to train a skilled national health care work force to serve the largest and most populous country in the Horn of Africa.

The Ethiopia Public Health Training Initiative Replication Conference represented a culmination of 10 years of close collaboration between Ethiopia's ministry of health, ministry of education and seven Ethiopian universities. Ethiopia's government officials and faculty, together with the support of The Carter Center and other partners, developed workshops and curricula to specifically address the country's life-threatening illnesses. The result of the initiative's efforts is a public health education system prepared by Ethiopians for Ethiopia and a belief that strong community coalitions are a sustainable solution to relieving the burden of preventable illness in the country. Now the country finds itself in a position to demonstrate its approach to other African nations.

"This conference is a turning point for the program. The opportunity to meet with high-level officials and illustrate to them the countless results of the initiative has the potential to change the face of health care training in Africa," said Joyce Murray, director of The Carter Center's Ethiopia Public Health Training Initiative and professor at Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. "Even if these countries do not immediately replicate the program, the conference is a success, as we've planted the seeds of the initiative's philosophy and introduced a lot of possibilities for the future of these countries."

During the conference, representatives from the governments of Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Southern Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda learned about the initiative's activities through a series of presentations and discussions. To see the program's accomplishments firsthand, 60 attendees traveled by bus to Debre Zeit, southeast of Addis Ababa, to visit Defense College's facilities and tour two nearby health centers.

"It is unusual to have such a meeting with inter-country ministers. We often meet one on one, but the group setting here is really conducive to African collaboration," said Tabita Shokai, minister of health of the government of Sudan.

During the conference's final discussion, several ministers expressed a desire to return to their home governments and relay Ethiopia's unique health education model, with the hopes of adapting its elements to their own countries' situations.

— Meryl Bailey

VACCINECENTER

Cyclists take action for vaccine research with long-distance ride



Support the Emory Vaccine Center by signing up to ride in, volunteer for or make a donation to the ActionCycling 200 bike ride on May 19–20.

BY KIM URQUHART

The hybrid bicycle that gets Ted Pettus to and from Emory each day will soon be making a longer trek. Pettus, a professor in the School of Medicine, is among the Emory faculty, staff and students participating in a 200-mile bike ride to raise funds for the Emory Vaccine Center.

ActionCycling 200, set for May 19–20, is the annual long-distance bike ride of Action Cycling Atlanta, a volunteer organization dedicated to building public awareness of HIV/AIDS, to raising funds to support HIV/AIDS vaccine research and providing services for people living with the disease.

In its fifth year, the AC200 event has raised more than \$240,000 for the Emory Vaccine Center. It will be Pettus' second year to ride. "After last year, I was so impressed with the motivation and inspiration and the energy that everyone put in to make this happen that I wanted to do it again. They make it fun, with fun themed rest stops and a good meal at the end of the day." He added: "I feel good about raising money because 100 percent of it goes to the cause."

Rafi Ahmed, director of the Emory Vaccine Center, said that funds raised by events such as the AC200 are essential for the Center's AIDS vaccine research program. The funds help fill "critical gaps in our federal

grant funding and provide seed funding for innovative pilot projects," said Ahmed. "Every participant is a valued partner in our quest for effective vaccines against this global killer."

"AIDS affects all of us," said David Hanson, associate vice president for administration. "Our vaccine center is one of the best in the world, and anything we can do to support our own center of excellence is worth our time."

Chairperson of Team Emory and an avid cyclist, Hanson has ridden twice and served in various volunteer capacities in past rides. Hanson encourages the University community to join or support Team Emory. "Whether you're a serious cyclist or just a novice, you can take part in this ride and do five miles or all 200 miles," he said.

In addition to participants, volunteers and crew are needed to create a seamless and safe ride experience. It was the support staff and volunteers who enabled Pettus "to ride further than I ever dreamed I could," he said of last year's ride. "I told people I was going to ride 100 miles, but I felt inspired by the incredible good energy among the support staff and riders that I actually rode 160 miles."

Improvements to the 2007 ride include a new start/finish line — on Asbury Circle near Dooley's Den at The Depot — and a shorter route option of 75 miles. The AC200 will wind through scenic rural

Georgia to an overnight stop in Rock Eagle 4-H Center near the Oconee National Forest in Eatonton, Ga. Riders can refuel at pit stops, located every 12–20 miles. After an evening of dinner and entertainment, the cyclists will head back to Emory, completing the 200-mile ride. A celebration barbeque at The Depot will conclude the event.

Hanson said that this year marks the first time that Emory is the sole beneficiary of the AC200, and emphasized that Action Cycling Atlanta transfers 100 percent of the proceeds to Emory.

Participants must pay a registration fee and raise a minimum amount of funds for the cause. Rider registration is \$90 with a commitment to raise at least \$500.

Relay Team participants pay \$90 and must raise a minimum of \$350. Relay teams can divide the 200 miles amongst friends, which must have a minimum of two and a maximum of five riders. Crew members, who will work both days of the event, must raise \$100 with a \$25 registration fee. Volunteers are welcome with no requirements, but are encouraged to raise funds. All money is due to Action Cycling by May 12.

To register or to make a pledge in support of Team Emory, visit www.actioncycling.org. To learn more, contact Alex Brown, director of development at Emory Vaccine Center, at 404-712-4145.

EARTHWEEK

Emory's Earth Week, April 13–22, hosted by the Office of Sustainability Initiatives and other campus and community organizations, raised awareness of environmental issues and spotlighted Emory's commitment to sustainability.



Jon Rou



Christi Gray



Gavin Averill

Top: Locally-grown produce and plants were available for sale at the Sustainable Food Fair and Farmer's Market. Center: Bruce McQuain, executive chef of Sia's, serves up salmon, one of the many samples offered by Atlanta area restaurants. Bottom: "Bike to Emory Day" geared up with free T-shirts and pizza for bicycle commuters and a "bike train" through campus.

Emory is a leader in RecycleMania competition

The results of this year's RecycleMania competition show that Emory is once again a leading university in the push toward waste reduction. RecycleMania pits universities across the country against one another in various recycling contests over the course of the 10-week competition. Here are highlights of Emory's results:

- 10th out of 175 schools with 56.8 pounds of recyclables per person in the Per Capita Classic, the original RecycleMania event
- Fourth out of 111 schools with 24.84 pounds of paper per person in the paper recycling competition
- 15th out of 112 schools with 8.49 pounds of bottles and cans per person in the bottle and can recycling competition
- Seventh out of 178 schools with 971,360 cumulative pounds in the Gorilla Prize, awarded to the school with the most cumulative pounds of recyclables over the 10-week period.

VA. TECH from page 1

ca," she said. "People understand that it could be any college campus, anywhere in the world."

"For young people to be shot and killed like this, it really touches everyone's heart," she added. "Everybody feels so helpless and so outraged."

On an individual level, it is important to "be mindful" of members of the Emory community who may have lost loved

ones at Virginia Tech, Kaslow said. She added that people who have recently suffered some other trauma may have their grief stirred by the news of the shootings.

On the day of the shootings, the Virginia Tech chaplain told Henry-Crowe that the university was still in a state of shock, and the various chaplains were providing space for people to come in and pray and talk. "In any trauma, it takes a while to sort through the situation before you can begin

the healing," Henry-Crowe said.

Meanwhile, the Chaplain's office was offering counseling to members of the Emory community who were personally touched by the tragedy due to friendships or other associations with Virginia Tech.

"It's a small world and people are connected in lots of ways," Henry-Crowe said.

SCHOLARSHIP&RESEARCH

From Gandhi to Google: Class explores Indian identity

Bryan Melitz



How Indians view the Internet is explored in Rohit Chopra’s course “From Gandhi to Google: Technology and National Identities in Indian History.”

BY CAROL CLARK

After earning a master’s degree in English literature, Rohit Chopra briefly worked in a publishing house in Mumbai, India, before switching to become a Web writer for Rediff.com, India’s first Internet portal.

“I wanted to be involved in the Internet. It seemed more exciting,” Chopra said. “It’s really taken hold in India.”

As he surfed the Web in his job, he noticed that Hindu nationalists were reviving and reshaping traditional views via blogs and Web sites. “The Internet is seen as a kind of battleground where the pseudo-secular Indian media can be challenged,” he said.

Chopra was intrigued by

the realization that the relationship between technology and Indian identity stretches back to the early days of colonial rule. As an assistant professor in Emory’s Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts, Chopra is exploring that relationship, both in his research and in an undergraduate class he developed called “From Gandhi to Google: Technology and National Identities in Indian History.”

“In the last five or six years, there’s been a lot of talk about India’s economic resurgence and its large numbers of software engineers,” Chopra said. “This discourse, in a strange kind of way, echoes an earlier model. A rich and complex history lies behind this economic miracle of today.”

Sixteen students enrolled

in the course — many of them first-generation Indian-Americans.

“This is the first interdisciplinary class I’ve taken,” said Umangi Patel, who is majoring in neuroscience and behavioral biology. “I wanted to expand my knowledge and gain some intellectual insight not just into science, but also something that was personally related to me.”

Patel was born in the United States, but her parents both emigrated from India. “It’s interesting to look at the difference between them and me, and what caused that. I’m learning about the history of Indian identities and how the Indian diaspora is changing modern Indian culture — not only in America, but in India itself.”

The class began with an overview of recent Indian history. By the mid-19th century, most of the country was under the rule of the British. “It’s like India was their giant laboratory,” said Chopra, alluding to the colonial drive to survey, map and measure India’s geographical regions and conduct a census “that pigeonholed all Indian identities into certain categories.”

In 1835, the British started teaching Western-style science and technology to the elite class of India. “It was a very pivotal moment,” Chopra said. “Previously, the British essentially justified their colonial rule by saying that they were civilizing savages, making the idea of colonialism benign.”

But if technology was a defining feature of Western

rationality that the natives lacked, then the British decision to teach this skill to Indians was an admission that they possessed the capacity all along, Chopra said.

As the anti-colonialism movement grew, “the challenge then became for the Hindu elite to incorporate technology in a way that made it their own, and not just a gift from the West,” he said.

Mahatma Gandhi viewed science and technology as “enormously violent and destructive,” Chopra said. “Modern civilization, for Gandhi, was the problem itself. He believed that science and technology would only make things worse.”

Nationalist leader Jawaharlal Nehru, however, was a strong proponent of technology. When he became India’s first prime minister in 1947, he set up the Indian Institutes of Technology. “He believed that a scientific temperament, in tandem with secularism and socialism, would lead India to catch up to the West,” Chopra said.

Nehru’s vision laid the foundation for the current boom in India’s IT industry, which was accelerated by a series of free-market reforms in 1991.

“Everything in India happens on a massive scale because of its huge population,” Chopra said. The IT boom has helped fuel growth in the middle-to-upper class of the country, which now consists of 300 million people, although the vast majority of the population remains poor. Software engi-

neers are part of this privileged elite, lionized for their association with technology.

And technology is driving the debate of Indian identity, linking views of the Indian diaspora with those of the home country. Tamils, Bengalis, Punjabis, Sikhs, Assamese Muslims and Hindus — virtually all of the myriad communities that make up India have a lively presence on the Web today.

“The tradition of debate has been an important and fundamental fact of Indian life through the centuries,” Chopra said. “Today people are using the Internet to have a vibrant discourse about identity claims, rights and competing versions of their histories.”

Anna Heilbrun, a psychology major, said she did not know much about India beyond current events when she signed up for the class. “Reading the work of Gandhi and Nehru was really valuable for their opinions,” she said. “But looking at how they inform Indian identity in the modern world was also valuable. This is a topic that is very relevant to the global community and what’s going on in the world right now.”

Chopra hopes the course fosters critical thinking — a useful skill, no matter what your major. “The ability to recognize the identity of another culture in all of its complexity fosters better communication,” he said. “It allows us to respect both the sameness, and the differences, of others.”

PERFORMINGARTS

FUSION dance competition promises diverse repertoire

Through the universal languages of music and dance, Emory students are fostering an unprecedented exchange of ideas and culture through FUSION — an innovative dance competition this Wednesday, April 25, at 8 p.m. in Glenn Memorial Church. Admission is free, but tickets are required and can be found at the Dobbs Center information desk or the Schwartz Center ticket office.

The show includes dance, vocal and instrumental segments written, choreographed and performed by competing teams comprised of two groups with distinctly different cultural styles and tradition. Numerous Emory student cultural performance groups — from step and breakdancing to traditional Asian, Persian and Indian dance genres — have spent months rehearsing to integrate their styles and create original, integrated works.

As an added bonus, short documentaries on each team will be shown before their performance to illustrate the work and collaboration that has taken place over the past several months.

FUSION is organized and produced by Emory’s President’s Commission on Race and Ethnicity and Soku DeNova Records, a record company founded and operated by Emory alumni Mike Li, currently a student at the Rollins School of Public Health, and Nagib Haque, a staff member in Emory’s biology department. The soundtrack of FUSION is being produced and arranged by Soku DeNova Records to create and integrate music tailored to each specific performance.

The organizers hope the documentary and recordings will inspire other universities to use the Emory FUSION model.

— Beverly Clark

GRADUATESCHOOL

Tedesco reflects on the state of the Graduate School in address

BY ULF NILSSON

Graduate School faculty, senior administrators and others gathered April 17 for an address on the state of the Graduate School, delivered by Dean Lisa Tedesco. Tedesco reflected on her first year at Emory and discussed important priorities for the years to come.

Tedesco noted that the Graduate School has continued to develop in a number of directions. Among other things, a new doctoral program in computer science and informatics has been added, and several other programs are in different stages of planning; the grant writing program, which helps graduate students develop funding proposals for external grants, was significantly expanded; subsidy for graduate student health insurance was increased to 74 percent of the total cost; and the Graduate School worked with the National Research Council and graduate faculty on a new assessment of graduate schools across the nation.

She also outlined important long-term changes in the Graduate School. In the past 10

years, the number of graduate students has grown by about 25 percent to the present 1,751. Along with the growth has come a change in the composition of the student body: In 1996, 27 percent of graduate students were enrolled in programs taught by faculty from schools other than Emory College, but now those faculty members account for 46 percent of the graduate students. The change is primarily due to an increase in the number of students enrolled in programs taught by faculty in the schools of medicine, public health and nursing, which has almost doubled during this period.

Tedesco emphasized the need to both welcome the increasing involvement of the health sciences in doctoral education and to ensure that the Graduate School remains a balanced and consistently excellent school.

Looking to the future, Tedesco discussed several important Graduate School priorities for the coming years:

- **Grow with excellence:** Emory’s graduate faculty is ready to grow. Tedesco said the school looks forward to working with programs to make

sure that the growth helps sustain and enhance the quality of graduate education.

- **Support student professionalism:** Noting that a doctoral education is a significant investment of University resources, Tedesco emphasized that graduate programs need to work hard to prepare students for a wide range of professional careers following their graduation.
- **Engage complex problems:** Tedesco reflected on Emory’s distinctive tradition of interdisciplinary scholarship that engages public issues in bold and innovative ways, and on how to build on that tradition to strengthen Emory’s place among great universities.
- **Strengthen Graduate School funding:** To ensure that the Graduate School stands on strong foundations that support lasting social, cultural and scientific contributions, Tedesco seeks to reshape some of the ways that graduate education at Emory is funded, through recognition of the ways that graduate students contribute to the University’s teaching and research missions, and through development work to establish an endowment for the school.

VISUALARTS

Legacy of conceptual art pioneer lives on at Emory



Internationally renowned artist Sol LeWitt created "Tower One," the white concrete block sculpture that stands outside of White Hall.

BY MARY CATHERINE JOHNSON

Sol LeWitt, the artist who created "Tower One," a sculpture comprised of white concrete blocks situated outside of Emory's White Hall, died on April 8 at the age of 78. LeWitt's obituary appeared in every major newspaper throughout the world, and his death has inspired numerous tributes, both formal and informal, including an impromptu champagne toast to the artist at 54 Columns in Freedom Park, LeWitt's only other public sculpture in Atlanta.

Joanna Marsh, curator at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Connecticut, said of LeWitt: "It is not an overstatement to say that he was one of the most influential American artists of the 20th century. His work has had a profound influence on future generations of artists and will continue to have an impact."

These accolades are given to a man who once explained to a photographer as he covered his face at a museum opening, "I am not Rock Hudson." LeWitt's reluctance of anything that would feed his celebrity status was not so much an attempt to be reclusive or mysterious as it was a choice to allow his work to speak for itself, as well as an effort to champion and mentor other artists instead.

Katherine Mitchell, an artist and senior lecturer in the Visual Arts Program at Emory, was a beneficiary of LeWitt's legendary generosity. When she contacted LeWitt in 1977 for help with her graduate thesis, he replied with a handwritten letter that would be the first of many encouraging postcards and letters to Mitchell, several of which included original

drawings.

James Meyer, Winship Distinguished Associate Professor of Art History at Emory, was instrumental in bringing Emory's LeWitt project to fruition in 2003, working directly with the artist to select a site for the sculpture and spending countless hours eloquently defending the value of the sculpture's presence on campus.

"Sol LeWitt was a central figure of the minimalist and conceptual movements of the 1960s and 1970s," said Meyer. "He was one of the key American artists of the late 20th century, and a luminous human being. Emory is extremely fortunate to have acquired 'Tower One,' one of the series of concrete block sculptures he began during the 1980s and produced until the end of his life. Hopefully, the presence of this important work will inspire further commissions of public art at Emory."

The prominent location of "Tower One" on campus is an appropriate corollary to the administration's vision to elevate Emory's status as a destination university. LeWitt's example in his efforts to nurture and celebrate students and emerging artists mirrors the core values that Emory exemplifies.

As future generations study LeWitt's art, those who have access to Emory's campus and faculty will have a distinct edge over those who learn about LeWitt solely through images and textbooks. The former will not only be able to view a stellar example of LeWitt's sculpture, they will also be privy to the stories of those who actually knew the artist and understood the importance of his legacy.

PREPAREDNESS OFFICE from page 1

new budget year, starting Sept. 1. The center will be located in the building recently purchased by Emory from the American Cancer Society on Clifton Road.

CEPAR also will coordinate and improve Emory's existing activities related to emergency planning, working with Emory's experts to craft novel, multi-disciplinary solutions to help mitigate the harmful effects of an event. The new office will allow the University to communicate with one voice to the community and to local, state and federal agencies.

As the state's largest health care system, Emory Healthcare has had detailed crisis response plans in place for many years and regularly practices them. So-called "table-tops" and realistic simulation exercises pull in representatives from many offices both within and outside of Emory, requiring decision-makers to respond to fictional but all-too-plausible mass-casualty scenarios.

"Although this announcement is the result of over 18 months of planning, it is increasingly apparent following the tragedy at Virginia Tech that we must be vigilant and remain prepared for a widespread catastrophic event," said Wagner. "In a large and complex institution such as ours, preparedness and response efforts require a unified strategy that bridges the activities of all components of the University. Emory has always had a number of departments and individuals working to address preparedness and response issues. CEPAR will now serve as the center for coordination and integration of the University's many resources."

"The creation of the Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response reflects the University's commitment to the safety and welfare of individuals at Emory and in the broader community," Isakov said. "The resulting multi-disciplinary collaboration and capacity to engage our local, state and federal partners with one voice

affords a new opportunity for Emory to have regional and global impact in this discipline."

Along with the formation of the new office, the University will make an accelerated investment in a variety of new communications technologies that will provide Emory with new ways of reaching out to students, faculty and staff in a campus crisis, said Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Mike Mandl. The new tools will include a network of loudspeakers for public announcements, as well as an automated system for rapidly pushing out voice, e-mail and text messages to registered cell phones and PDAs.

"These recommendations and more were brought forward last semester by an emergency response task force headed by Chief of Police Craig Watson," said Mandl. "We believe we have done our due diligence about the robustness and cost-effectiveness of these systems, which are being installed by a growing number of colleges and universities around the country."

In addition to bridging the preparedness activities of all the University's divisions and enhancing capabilities and opportunities for collaboration, CEPAR will serve as Emory's integrated command and control center, orchestrating a unified and effective response to catastrophic events. It also will enhance Emory's collaborations with its community partners, including Grady Health System, the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, The Carter Center and Clifton Community Partnership.

Isakov brings broad and extensive experience in emergency medicine and pre-hospital and disaster medicine to his role as CEPAR director. He is a practicing emergency medicine physician at Emory University Hospital and Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta's only Level 1 trauma center. He is co-founder and co-director of the Emory Department of Emergency

Medicine's Section of Pre-Hospital and Disaster Medicine, which provides medical oversight and medical command for the 911 emergency ambulance responders in the City of Atlanta and Fulton County.

Isakov is the founding medical director of Emory Flight, Emory Healthcare's emergency and critical care air ambulance service, and associate medical director for Grady EMS, the largest 911 ambulance responder in the state of Georgia. In that role he developed the Bio-Safety Transport Program, which supports Emory University's clinical unit for serious communicable disease, the CDC and Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

He is co-founder and co-director of Emory University's post-graduate Fellowship in Emergency Medical Services, which provides training in emergency response systems and disaster preparedness for emergency medicine specialists. The program is nationally recognized by the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine.

Isakov has served as an officer in the U.S. Navy, as a consultant for the CDC on the World Trade Center and Anthrax Investigation Emergency Response Team, as a physician deployed with the National Disaster Medical System, and as an Atlanta community leader in emergency and disaster response. He has provided international emergency medical services consultation in Central Asia, Africa and the Pacific in conjunction with USAID, CDC and WHO. He still serves as a commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Isakov completed his specialty training in emergency medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center and a two-year pre-hospital and disaster/emergency medical services fellowship at Boston EMS. He received his Master of Public Health degree in international health from Boston University. He is board certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine and is a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSIONS



PCSW celebrates 30th anniversary

President Jim Wagner helped celebrate the President's Commission on the Status of Women's 30th anniversary at an April 18 party. Established in 1976 as an advisory body to the University president on issues related to Emory women, PCSW has been a vital organization, illuminating fundamental concerns and inspiring significant accomplishments.



For online event information, visit www.events.emory.edu.

Events for the Emory Community

PERFORMING ARTS

MONDAY, APRIL 23
Jazz Masterclass
Kenny Barron, piano, presenting. 2:30 p.m. Sharp Rehearsal Hall. Free. 404-727-5050.

Concert
DuoATL: Brian Luckett, guitar, and Nicole Randall, flute, performing. Time TBD. Williams Hall (Oxford). Free. 770-784-8888.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24
Jazz Improvisation Class
Kenny Barron, piano, presenting. 10 a.m. Rehearsal Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

Concert
Kenny Barron and Gary Motley, piano, and Emory Big Band, performing. 8 p.m. Emerson Concert Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25
Play
“The Time of Your Life.” Richard Garner, director; William Saroyan, playwright. 7 p.m. Munroe Theater, Dobbs Center. \$15; discount category members \$12; students \$6. 404-727-5050. **Also on 26–28 at 7 p.m.; and April 29 at 2 p.m.**

Film
“Playtime.” Jacques Tati, director. 8 p.m. 205 White Hall. Free. 404-727-6761.

Dance Performance
“FUSION.” Azaadi, BAM, KARMA, Sitara, Skeleton Crew, Zeebah and more performing. 8 p.m. Glenn Memorial Auditorium. Free. 404-727-5050. **Advance tickets required and available at the Arts at Emory Box Office or Dobbs Center Information Desk.**

THURSDAY, APRIL 26
Creative Writing Reading Series
Elizabeth Dewberry and Jim Grimsley, authors, presenting. 6 p.m. Jones Room, Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-4683. **Book-signing to follow**

Dance Performance
“Inside Out.” Emory Dance Company, performing. 8 p.m. Dance Studio, Schwartz Center. \$8; \$4 discount category members and students. 404-727-5050. **Also on April 27 at 8 p.m and April 28 at 2 and 8 p.m.**

Play
“The Mystery of Edwin Drood.” Alex LaVelle, director. 10 p.m. Blackbox Theater, Burlington Road Building. \$6; \$4 students.

617-930-0881. **Also on April 27 at 10 p.m.; and April 28 at 2 and 7 p.m.**

FRIDAY, APRIL 27
Concert
“Viva Italia!” Emory Concert Choir, performing. 8 p.m. Emerson Concert Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28
Concert
Emory Guitar Ensemble, performing. 8 p.m. Performing Arts Studio. Free. 404-727-5050.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29
Fieldwork Showcase
7 p.m. Dance Studio, Schwartz Center. \$7. 404-727-5050. **Tickets available at door only.**

Undergraduate Recital
Daniel Epstein, vocals, performing. 4 p.m. Emerson Concert Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

VISUAL ARTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 26
Student Art Exhibition Opening
5 p.m. Visual Arts Gallery. Free. 404-712-4390. **Through May 14.**

Schatten Gallery Exhibition
“Color: A Spectrum of Sound, Music as Metaphor in the Visual Arts.” Schatten Gallery, Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-0136. **Through May 16.**

Schatten Gallery Exhibition
“Dreaming Cows.” Betty LaDuke, artist, presenting. Free. Schatten Gallery, Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-0136. **Through August 15.**

LECTURES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25
Women’s Health and Wellness Lecture
“Empowering Women to Have Positive Relationships.” Rebecca Walter, Counseling Center, presenting. Noon. Third Floor, Cox Hall. Free. 404-727-2031.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26
Technology Commercialization Seminar
“Introduction to FDA Regulations.” Alan Minsk and William Kitchens, FDA experts, presenting. Noon. Fourth Floor Auditorium, North Decatur Building. Free. 404-727-5259. **RSVP required.**

Clinical Ethics Colloquium
4 p.m. 864 Rollins School of Public Health. Free. 404-727-5048.

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Lecture
“The Coke Side of Life: Coca-Cola, Labor Restructuring and Political Violence in Colombia.” Lesley Gill, American University, presenting. 4:30 p.m. 103 White Hall. Free. 404-727-6562.

Carter Center Panel Discussion
“Your Mental Health at Work.” Rosalynn Carter, former first lady, presenting. 7 p.m. Cecil B. Day Chapel, Carter Center. Free. 404-727-5100. **Simulcast at www.cartercenter.org.**

Neurodegenerative Disease Panel Discussion
“Reason for Hope: An Update on Alzheimer’s Research.” 7 p.m. P01 Auditorium, School of Nursing. Free. 404-778-7777.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27
PBEE Lecture
“Evolution of Virulence and Persistence Strategies in the Bordetellae.” Eric Harvill, Penn State University, presenting. Andreas Handel, biology, hosting. Noon. 1052 Rollins Research Center. Free. 404-727-0404.

MONDAY, APRIL 30
Jewish Studies Symposium
“Hebrew Bible and Comparative Religion.” Young-Ihl Chang, Presbyterian College and Theological Seminar, Seoul, Korea; Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California; Laurie Patton, religion; Shalom Goldman, MESAS; and Vernon Robbins, religion, presenting. 3 p.m. Reception Hall, Carlos Museum. Free. 404-727-7596.

GDBBS Career Development Seminar
“Discussions on Careers Outside of Academics.” 4:15 p.m. 230 Dental School Building. Free. 404-727-0356.

RELIGION

SUNDAY, APRIL 29
University Worship
Rev. David Cooper, Wesley United Methodist Church (England), preaching. 11 a.m. Sanctuary, Cannon Chapel. Free. 404-727-6225.

SPECIAL

MONDAY, APRIL 23
EndNote Workshop
2 p.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-0147.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24
Human Resources Training
“Communicating for Results.” 8:30 a.m. 100 Human Resources Center. Free. 404-727-7607.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25
Evening MBA Program Informational Meeting
7 p.m. 208 Goizueta Business School. Free. 404-727-0497.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26
Google Workshop
2:30 p.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-0178.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27
Carlos Museum Bookshop Clearance Sale
10 a.m. Bookshop, Carlos Museum. Free. 404-727-0509. **Also on April 28.**

International Coffee Hour
11:30 a.m. Winship Ballroom, Dobbs Center. Free. 404-727-3300.

MIDEASTSTUDIES

Conference to explore poetry in present-day Israeli politics, religion

How the content and structure of Israeli poetry relates to recent political and religious trends will be explored in a conference April 25–26 at the Emory Conference Center. “Poetry, Politics and Religion in Contemporary Israel” will analyze significant poetry emerging from the younger generation of Hebrew poets.

Throughout the history of the state of Israel, poets have influenced public opinion and have played a central role in Israeli politics. “Hebrew literature is an anomaly in literary history,” said conference co-organizer Shalom Goldman, professor of Hebrew and Middle Eastern studies. “Usually literature grows out of a country. In the case of Israel, because of the Zionist effort to create a national literature, you had literature before the country.”

The conference will sample “the different ideologies of Israel” with poets and publishers representing the political right, left and center to present “an in-depth and multicultural look at Israeli culture,” Goldman said. Among the featured speakers is Ambassador Reda Mansour, the Israeli consul in Atlanta. Mansour, a poet, is one of the first Israeli diplomats who is not Jewish.

Goldman also pointed to the participation of female poets and scholars in the conference. “The culture of Israeli literature had been dominated by men, but has been changing over the last few decades. That’s one of the things we want to mark at this conference,” he said.

Poems will be read in their original language, said Goldman, who will lead a poetry reading in Hebrew following the opening reception on Wednesday evening.

Free and open to the public, the conference is aimed at both an academic and general audience. Goldman encouraged the Emory community to attend. “In light of the Israel and Palestine question, and especially [the controversy generated by former president Jimmy] Carter’s book, it would be good for us to put politics aside for a few days and look at the cultural questions,” he said. “This is what Emory does best — looking at culture and looking at the politics in the context of culture.”

The Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies, Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, the Graduate Division of Religion, the Department of Religion and the Institute for Comparative and International Studies are among the sponsors of the conference. For more information contact Goldman at 404-727-2694 or slgolm@emory.edu.

— Kim Urquhart