Making strides for workplace wellness with Step Up Emory

BY KIM URQUHART

O

n a recent Friday, Emory employees laced up their tennis shoes, temporarily abandoned their desks and headed out into the morning sunshine for a brisk walk, falling in step with Vice President of Human Resources Peter Barnes and tracking their distance on pedometers provided by Step Up Emory. The day included a healthy cooking demonstration by Wellness Specialist Blair Giles of Emory’s Faculty Staff Assistance Program, a course on chair yoga, relaxing chair massages, a session on achieving work-life balance and managing stress, and a healthy snack break.

HR is not the only department that is stepping up to the challenge posed by a health promotion campaign sponsored by Emory University, Emory Healthcare, FSAP, Employee Health Services and HeartWise. Inspired by Step Up Emory, an initiative designed to encourage employees to change habits and actively take control of their health, the staff of the Graduate School used the pedometers provided by the program in a fitness challenge. Employees logged each step taken throughout the workday over a two-week period, at the end of which two winners were announced and rewarded with gift cards, explained organizer Tamika Harriston, associate director of registration.

The Carter Center offered a similar incentive: Armed with their Step Up Emory pedometers, the employee who took the most steps over a certain period earned a prize. According to Human Resources Director Mike Turner, The Carter Center also offers an ongoing wellness program, an organized one-mile weekly walk around the perimeter of the residence hall on the Clairmont Campus.

Everyone in the room had a unique story to tell. What united them was the shared passion and energy to get involved in their communities, and to work toward making them better places for everyone to live.

“We just want people to hear each other and learn from one another,” said Sara Giordano, a graduate student in Emory’s department of neuroscience, who spearheaded the effort to host the visitors.

During the spring semester, Giordano was part of an Emory TCP group, which brings together people from across the campus to discuss issues of race and diversity. At the end of the semester TCP participants can apply for $300 mini-grants, to invest in a project to help transform the University’s racial dynamic.

When Giordano heard that Make the Road by Walking needed housing in order to attend the U.S. Social Forum, she and her colleagues at the group of about 40 travelers from Make the Road by Walking, a social action group of immigrants.

Emory sees ‘special opportunity’ in voluntary EPA self-audit

BY KIM URQUHART

Emory hosted the Environmental Protection Agency’s Region 4 Audit Agreement Signing Ceremony on June 25, joining participating colleges and universities throughout the Southeast in conducting voluntary self-audits on their campuses. The EPA’s audit policy provides incentives for regulated entities that voluntarily discover, promptly disclose and expeditiously improve compliance with environmental laws and regulations. Self-audits also help identify new opportunities for conservation and encourage sharing best practices among institutions.

“Emory’s vision is to be an educational leader for other universities and communities as they promote their own healthy and sustainable living,” said Director of Sustainability Initiatives Ciannat Howett.

“Given the dynamics in the Southeast with a growing population and increasing public health and economic concerns about the environmental impact of this growth, universities in our region have a special opportunity to lead in making the educational, social, economic and cultural changes necessary to preserve a high-quality of life for current and future generations.”

Hosting the signing ceremony provided an opportunity for Emory to showcase its leadership in this area. While on campus, the representatives were invited to ride the alternatively-fueled shuttle buses — many of which are powered by a biodiesel blend made from used cooking oil from campus cafeterias, and to tour its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified buildings, as Emory has more certified “green” building by square footage than any other university in the country. Even the location of the signing ceremony — the agreement inked in the natural daylight of a room in the “green”—built Goizueta Business School.
Observations on Ethiopia

In just back from a week in Ethiopia, where I consulted with the Ministry of Justice on reform of Ethiopia's commercial code. My short stay in Africa — my first because my tour of business in a sub-saharan nation which I am still processing. The commercial code incorporates a lot of stuff including business organization law and bankruptcy law. The Ministry of Justice and foreign commercial interests are vitally interested in modernizing commercial law — and with it, the economy. The Minister himself showed up on the first day of our meetings, along with the French ambassador. The current code was enacted in 1960 during the reign of Emperor Haile Selassie. Since then, Ethiopia has been through coups, communism and contested elections. The current government has committed to privatizing the socialist economy it inherited. A modern commercial code, of course, is but one (probably not the first) factor in successful development of the economy. The country is quite poor: over 80% of the population lives on subsistence farming and livestock grazing. The capital Addis Ababa has the appearance of a third-world capital, in some ways more so. Traffic is not as bad as Bangkok or Jakarta or New Delhi, but pollution from the cars is probably worse. Few of the autocrats seemed to use tapiques, as the smell of exhaust in the passenger compartment was quite strong in every car I rode in. There is more livestock herding through city streets than I've ever encountered.

One striking aspect of Ethiopia is the evidence from cab drivers to Ministry lawyers comment on — is its ethnic fragmentation. A political compromise in 1995 formalized a system of ethnic federalism. The country is divided into an ethnically-based administrative regions, each of which has its own

Emory Appointments

Internationally renowned scientists join Emory

Dennis Choi, a neuroscientist renowned for his groundbreaking research on the nervous system, has been recruited to lead two major neuroscience programs at Emory. Choi will direct the Center for the Study of Nervous System Injury and directed the Center for the Study of Nervous System Injury and directed the Center for the Study of Nervous System Injury and directed the Center for the Study of Nervous System Injury and directed the Center for the Study of Nervous System Injury and directed the Center for the Study of Nervous System Injury and directed the Center for the Study of Nervous System Injury and directed the Center for the Study of Nervous System Injury. From 2001 until 2006 Choi served as head of the Department of Neurology Aug. 1. He joins Emory's School of Medicine as a professor of pharmacology and as neurologist-in-chief at Emory's University-wide strategic neuroscience and cognition, neuroimaging and computational neuroscience. Choi will oversee the development of a major new initiative to advance research in these areas.

One former president of the Society for Neuroscience, Choi will lead research on the Department of Neurology at Washington University Medical School from 1993 until 2001 and as a professor of neurology at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. He established and directed the Center for the Study of Nervous System Injury and directed the McDonnell Center for Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology. From 2001 until 2006 Choi was executive vice president for neuroscience at McKee Brain Labs, leaving to join Boston University, where he has been a professor of pharmacology and experimental therapeutics. He joins Emory's School of Medicine as a professor in the Department of Neurology Aug. 1. As executive director of Emory's strategic neuroscience initiatives, Choi will oversee the development of four key areas of neuroscience education, behavior, neuroimaging and computational neuroscience, brain therapies, and molecular and translational imaging research. Each program builds on strengths across multiple units of official language. Court proceedings, for example, are conducted in different languages in each region. Each person's national ID card specifies his or her ethnic group. The dominant language in Addis Ababa is Amharic, but any attempt to promote a national language — as Mao did by mandating Mandarin in education in primary school in China — is apparently fraught with political peril. Eritrea of course acceded in 1998 and separated, and movements in other regions are active. The implications of this ethnic-political structure are of course far-reaching. Forgive the reduction, but to the American-trained lawyer-academic interested in economic development, this feels like one big transaction. Besides language and ethnic fragmentation to make commercial interests even more difficult internally, the country also relies on the Julian calendar and a system of time keeping based on sunrise and sunset. For example, “one” o'clock in the morning is one hour after sunrise (our 7 a.m.). These latter days may simply be artifacts — and not causes — of an incomplete engagement with external commercial activity. On the whole, though, the circumstances through which economic progress will be slow. Commercial law reform is probably necessary, but hardly sufficient. I met a doctor on the hospital floor who spends several months of each summer leading U.S. medical teams in Africa doing spot medical relief all over the continent. He captured my sentiments pretty well when he described his sense of an overwhelming task, where one has to be content with the small steps one can effect in a short time.

For more on Tung’s reflections on Ethiopia, visit his blog at www.theconglomerate.org.

LAW SCHOOL

Law students awarded grants to serve public

twenty-seven Emory law students have the opportunity to work in public interest jobs this summer due to generous donations to the Emory Public Interest Career Opportunities (EPIC) Summer Grant Program. EPIC, a student-run organization at Emory Law, awards grants to law students who accept volunteer positions in the field of public interest law. This summer, grant recipients are working at a variety of non-profit and government agencies in Atlanta and across the country, including Georgia Lawyers for the Arts, the Latin American Association, the National Wildlife Federation and the Institute for Justice.

“We know that Emory is becoming a leader in the study of public interest law,” said Jared Welsh, who is interning at the University of Arkansas. “The EPIC Summer Grant Program was a major attraction for me.”

Law student internships are vital because the work is meaningful, the people are interesting, and the opportunities to have a real effect on people’s lives are many. I only wish that the support for programs like these was greater.

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During the 2006-07 academic year, EPIC raised more than $124,000 toward its summer grants program through events like the EPIC Summer Grant Program, which holds outstanding legal practitioners for their commitment to public service. The Inspiration Awards are EPIC’s largest fundraising initiative each year, which has provided over $20,000 in grants to student groups. The organization also raised an additional $24,000 for the EPIC Endowment Fund, which contributes to the overall future of the program at Emory.

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Liz Chilla

Emory Appointments

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"We've had some interesting flooding three floors up in the Atwood Chemistry building and helped clean up after a pipe burst in a biosafety level 3 lab and helped to scrub down a net, footies, gown, gloves, mask and goggles.

During his varied Emory employment, Davis moved up to superintendent in 2003. "I had a lot of support, but the University provides you with opportunities," he says. Just four months after Davis took a position as a senior custodian at Emory, he received his first promotion. He moved up to superintendent in 2003.

During his varied Emory career, Davis has donated hair,.net, footies, gown, gloves, mask and goggles to scrub down a biosafety level 3 lab and helped clean up after a pipe burst in the Atwood Chemistry building in 1996, flooding three floors with a foot-and-a-half of water. "We had some interesting floods, I'll tell you," he says.

"Everybody from Building Services comes out and picks up a wet vacuum and we just take care of it." Building Services employees "get a wealth of training to make sure we stay safe," Davis says. "We know what's potentially dangerous and how to avoid it.

In his current role as night superintendent, Davis may visit as many as 10 buildings in a single evening. "It's a lot of ground to cover," he says. "I make sure that the work is getting done and that I'm there for employees to come to if they have any needs, so they don't have to wait until the morning.

When his wife, Penelope, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1999, Davis was glad that he was off during the daytime, so he could drive her to doctor appointments. The couple's four children were still growing up at that time. Penelope passed away in 2003.

"I had a lot of support from my colleagues at Emory, to get me through the trying times, and I had a lot of those," he says.

One goal of the team at Building Services is to "try to make sure we stay ahead of every other University in sustainability," he says. That includes a major green-cleaning program that began in recent years, and Emory expanded its number of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified buildings and made sustainability a key part of its strategic plan.

Building Services began moving to Green Seal cleaning products with low amounts of volatile organic compounds, toxins and metals. Special door matting, to minimize the amount of dirt entering buildings on the soles of shoes, is now used whenever possible, along with specialized equipment, such as dual-motor vacuums with better filtration systems.

Davis was charged with testing of the new products and equipment, along with training of staff to ensure effective implementation. For his leadership in green-building operation and maintenance, Emory's Office of Sustainability Initiatives recently presented Davis with a Sustainability Innovators Award, but Davis says it was a group effort.

"It was a large project, requiring the work of a lot of people, and we did it all together," Davis says. "It takes a lot of time, to make sure the green products we use can actually do the job and are safe and cost-effective to use. We had to make sure our employees knew how to use the products effectively. And we're constantly educating faculty and staff about what 'green' and 'sustainability' mean. We try to include our customers into everything we're doing. The buy-in helps you.

Green cleaning measures have improved the working atmosphere for everyone at Emory, he says. "When I first started in the cleaning business, it was something. The chemicals a lot of times bothered me. I'd have asthma attacks and sinus and allergy problems. I've woven the green-cleaning movement and developed I can see how it benefits people in the long run. I can breathe. Our employees feel better, too, when they're working. And people who have offices in the buildings have improved the working atmosphere in a significant way."

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Davis offers this general cleaning tip: "Read the directions on the label. Make sure you understand what a product does and how to use it. Don't take someone else's word for it. Always read it for yourself.

While Davis is a leader in keeping Emory clean and green, "at home, I'm just Dad," he says. His youngest daughter, Camilla, was born in 2007. "I clean the kitchen and bathrooms and the kids take care of everything else," he says. "They definitely have to take care of their own bedrooms, because I don't want to touch them. The boys are sometimes difficult," he says of Ashton, 20, and Andrew, 22. "Sometimes I have to ask, 'What's that awful smell coming from your room?' But Camilla will get on them.

Despite the sometimes sketchy states of their bedroom, both of Davis' sons are hard-working members of Emory's custodial staff. "Both of them came to Emory as temps. They worked hard, got interviewed and got hired," Davis says proudly.

His oldest daughter, Tiffany, has left home, but she sees her often since he is a hands-on grandfather to her three-year-old son, Donavan.

"He's my little roughhouse and my riding partner," Davis says. "Me and him can get in the car and go riding for any reason. We both love Buster's ice cream."
Partnership with Ethiopia includes digitization of historical documents

BY CAROL CLARK

Emory will apply its state-of-the-art digital technology to some of the most venerable historical documents in sub-Saharan Africa under a memorandum of understanding recently signed between Emory and Ethiopia’s Addis Ababa University.

Digitizing AAU’s collection of rare parchment documents could open a new window on medieval African history by making the previously obscure materials accessible to scholars worldwide on the Internet.

“AAU has an extensive photo library dating back to the 1800s, showing the history of the country, and some parchments are really unique,” said Mike Mandl, executive vice president, Sciences Development, Emory Arts and Sciences Development. “People like you give Emory a conscience and we thank you for this opportunity.”

Arbiser’s sculpture shows mettle of Holocaust survivors

T he scrap-metal “stick man” pushing a giant cog up an incline is an eye-catching labor of love, installed in a landscaped area near the Facilities Management building on Peavine Creek Drive. But the simple figure, known as “The Worker,” also has a tragic, and ultimately uplifting, story to tell.

“I made this sculpture in commemoration of my family,” said Sam Arbiser at the recent dedication for the work, held at Emory’s Visual Arts Center. Arbiser donated the sculpture, appraised at $35,000, to thank the University for helping he and his wife make a new life after surviving the Holocaust.

“This sculpture memorializes an extremely poignant history of survival and triumph,” said Jeffrey Prince, regional development director for Emory Arts and Sciences Development. “People like you give Emory a conscience and we thank you for this opportunity.”

Arbiser’s great-grandfather operated a foundry in Poland, a family business eventually handed down to Arbiser’s father, Jacob, who had an engineering degree in machine building. During World War II, when Arbiser was a teenager, he was captured by the Nazis and spent seven years in a Siberian labor camp. Meanwhile, his parents, sister and brother were killed by the Soviets.

“After the war, Arbiser went to Israel where he became the chief engineer in the largest machine building company and foundry in the Middle East. He also met his wife, Pola, one of the so-called “hidden children of the Holocaust,” who was saved by her Christian nanny. He eventually opened his own company, while Pola performed research at Emory. She earned a Ph.D. here in 1964. The Arbisers’ children, Sherry and Jack, also graduated from Emory. Jack Arbiser is currently an associate professor of dermatology in the Emory School of Medicine.”

“I want to thank this country and Emory University for providing my family roots and allowing us to thrive,” Jack Arbiser said. “This statue is really just a token of my family’s wish to say thank you.”

—Carol Clark

EmoryReport
Eagle Row South update

Gilbert and Thomson residence halls, both located on Dickey Drive near the Mathematics and Science and the Atwood Chemistry buildings, are in the final stages of demolition as part of the realignment of Eagle Row South. The shift in path for Eagle Row will provide additional space for new academic buildings included in Emory's master plan.

These halls were built in 1947 and included many distinctive building features — clay roof tiles; exterior lamps; and ornamental ironwork above the exterior hall doors — that were salvaged for re-use elsewhere on campus.

After the residence halls are completely removed, the new Eagle Row will continue from the Peavine Parking Deck over the former site of the two residence halls, and connect directly with Oxford Road. Dickey Drive and Doveman Drive will both be extended to connect with Eagle Row. The former student parking lot behind Gilbert and Thomson Halls will be removed in part and reforested with new trees.

During the road construction, the existing Eagle Row, Dickey Drive and Doveman Drive will all remain open with periodic single lane closures. The Peavine Parking Deck and the Peavine South visitors parking lot will also remain open during this project.

The completion of Eagle Row and its connection with Oxford Road is expected to occur in October.

Changes on the horizon along Haygood Road

Starting this month, Emory should see several changes along Haygood Road that support the evolution of the University's student housing plans, the improvement of traffic flow, and the enhancement of its world-class health care at facilities on Clifton Road. As part of the University's student housing initiative, which will include housing more undergraduate students on the University's core campus and its Clairmont Campus, student beds will gradually move from the Turman residence complex on Haygood Road over the next two years.

Turman West residence hall and deli, located on Haygood Road near Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, and the "Rock House," home to Emory's testing and evaluation department, will be removed beginning in July. The testing and evaluation services will relocate to the former American Cancer Society building.

The other buildings in the Turman residence complex will remain open and house undergraduate students during the upcoming 2007-08 academic year. With the opening of the new Turman Hall on the main campus and an increase in undergraduate beds on the Clairmont campus, there will be no loss of bed capacity for undergraduates.

This fall, after the Turman West residence hall and Rock House are cleared, construction of the first phase of the new Haygood Parking Deck will begin on that site. The deck construction is projected to begin in October and end in September 2008.

This first phase of the Haygood Parking Deck is significant because it will provide replacement parking for spaces that will be lost when the new clinic complex at Clifton and Gambrell roads is built. Part of the new clinic complex will sit on the current site of the old sorority houses. Last year, all of the sororities moved to the new Sorority Village on Eagle Row.

Following the 2007-08 academic year, the remainder of the Turman housing complex will be razed and those student beds will move to Emory's newer residence halls. A future second phase of the Haygood Parking Deck will be constructed on that site.

Step Up Emory hosts Wellness Fair

Step Up Emory is hosting a Wellness Fair on Thursday, July 26, to encourage employees to participate in HealthQ as well as to provide valuable information about health and wellness through various internal and external vendors. The Wellness Fair is open to all Emory employees and will be held in Cox Hall Ballroom from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Attendees will be able to enter into a drawing for a free Fuji bicycle sponsored by Bike Emory, Fuji Bikes and Bicycle South.

Since Step Up Emory launched this spring, more faculty and staff are taking steps to increase their physical activity during the workday as a result of the "Take the Stairs" program. This month kicks off Step Up Emory's nutrition initiative, HealthQ. Available to all employees and dependents enrolled in Emory's medical benefit plans, HealthQs are secure, confidential online health questionnaires designed to assess physical well-being, lifestyle and behavioral habits. Participants receive a confidential detailed health report, as well as a personalized action plan and tools to help them reach their health and wellness goals.

Later this summer, Step Up Emory shines the spotlight on nutrition, while prevention is the theme for the fall. The year-round campaign is part of Emory's efforts to augment its health programs, building on resources already in place, with the goal to provide education and awareness of health promotion and wellness opportunities in the workplace to all employees.

"At Emory, we are committed to fostering a community that encourages joyful, healthy living — through our series of wellness programs, initiatives in sustainability, and new steps to help find balance between work and family life," said President Jim Wagner. "Good health is one of the foundation stones of a strong community.

The Admissions Office of the Goizueta Business School has put wellness to work with two initiatives including a "Healthy Lunch Club" in which employees take turns serving a low-calorie meal once a week; and HELLO, which stands for Healthy Living in the Office. HELLO encourages employees to bring in healthy snacks to share with colleagues, hosts health and wellness presentations and offers lifestyle coaching through the FSAP. Participating employees can be volunteers, and their office is encouraged to submit at least three ideas to the FSAP. Each week, a new healthy lunch will be provided and a HealthQ will be available for completion.

Since the inception of these programs, everyone has embraced the idea," said Katie Lloyd, senior associate director of MBA admissions at Goizueta Business School. "The results: Our colleagues have formed walking groups. Some have joined Weight Watchers. Annual checkups have been completed. Individual sessions with the Wellness Center have been utilized. Excellent meals have been shared. Overall, a general awareness about health has been established."

For departments who would like to create a wellness program of their own, Step Up Emory organizers recommend that groups survey the interest in their department, form a committee to share and implement ideas. The FSAP also can provide guidance, support and suggestions.

Learn more about Step Up Emory initiatives, enroll in HealthQ or browse health and wellness information at www.stepup.emory.edu, a new Web site that will launch on July 19.

Chief Marketing Officer Una Hutton Newman, Michael M.E. Johns, CEO of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center and chairman of Emory Health Management and medical director for the Emory Crawford Long Internal Medicine practice, celebrate at the Emory hospitality tent after the Peachtree Road Race.

Chief Marketing Officer Una Hutton Newman, Michael M.E. Johns, CEO of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center and chairman of Emory Health Management and medical director for the Emory Crawford Long Internal Medicine practice, celebrate at the Emory hospitality tent after the Peachtree Road Race.
Emory's neurological initiatives.

The Comprehensive Neuroscience Center and the Emory Transplant Center are among the patient-focused, comprehensive centers of excellence recently announced as part of Emory's Woodruff Health Sciences Center Vision 2012 strategic plan on transforming health care.

Appointments from page 2

Dennis Choi has been named executive director of Emory's neuroscience initiatives.

Allan Kirk is scientific director of the Emory Transplant Center and a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar.

Allan Kirk has joined the Emory University School of Medicine as scientific director of the Emory Transplant Center and as a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar.

Kirk has been chief of the Transplantation Branch at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health since 2001. He is the founding director of the NIH Intramural Organ Transplant Program.

Kirk will serve as a kidney/pancreas transplant surgeon at Emory University Hospital and at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, with a primary appointment in Emory's Department of Surgery and a secondary appointment in the Department of Pediatrics to facilitate novel transplant therapeutics for children.

An internationally recognized surgical scientist and authority on transplant immunology, Kirk is the ninth scientist to be appointed to the Georgia research universities by the GRA as an Eminent Scholar — a national model for attracting world-class scientific talent to the state.

“We are extremely fortunate to have Allan Kirk joining our Emory Transplant Center,” said Transplant Center Director Christian Larsen. “He is an international leader in the most important research priority in transplantation — eliminating the need for toxic immunosuppression drugs. Because this has been a major focus of our transplant research at Emory and the Verus National Primate Research Center over the past decade, we welcome the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Kirk in advancing this critical research.”

Kirk received his M.D. from Duke University School of Medicine in 1987 and his Ph.D. in immunology from Duke in 1992. He completed a general surgery residency at Duke in 1995 and a multi-organ transplantation fellowship at the University of Wisconsin in 1995. He is a Diplomat of the American Board of Surgery and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH

Gilman’s students learned to stomach research in diet project

The history of diets and dieting are the subject of Professor Sander Gilman’s recent research and forthcoming book, a project he undertook with students over the next two semesters, his Institute of the Liberal Arts seminar “Food and Taboo: History of Dieting.”

By Carol Clark

Sander Gilman grew up in New Orleans, where every Saturday morning he would go to the French Quarter market with his grandmother to shop for a live chicken. He recalls peering into crates, searching amid the scrawny birds for one that was relatively plump and had clear eyes. The vendor would lop off the head of the chosen chicken, and Gilman’s grandmother would take the carcass home where he would help to prepare it.

“Voilà! pull the feathers off, very carefully, and then you were left with the pin feathers,” he said. “You had to take an open flame and burn them off, otherwise the skin was too brazen to eat. The whole house smelled of burned pin feathers.”

The burning smell was soon replaced with the aroma of roasting chicken. “It was the best chicken one ever ate,” said Gilman. Emory Distinguished Professor of the Liberal Arts and Sciences, “Today we have no connection with live animals and will likely be published in the fall.

His students, who didn’t grow up choosing live chickens at the market, offered their own perspectives. “It was so cool doing the book with students,” Gilman said. “They have a very different understanding of food and dieting. And each of them brought something different to the table, in terms of their experience.”

A women’s studies major contributed knowledge about gender while a science major viewed the subject through the lenses of genetics and biochemistry. Students heavily involved in sports brought information about dieting and sports media.

EPA from page 1

— served as an example of Emory’s environmental conservation efforts.

“Emory’s enthusiastic and steadfast commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability are integral to our mission. They represent the foundation of a healthy environment for teaching, learning and living at Emory,” said President Jim Wagner.

“We look forward to working with the EPA to support their greater environmental goals,” said EPA executive counselor Annmarie Gilman. Before the self-audit will be focused on regulatory compliance, “for us it’s about going beyond compliance,” said Emory. And as Gilman’s research and forthcoming book, a project he undertook with students over the next two semesters, his Institute of the Liberal Arts seminar “Food and Taboo: History of Dieting.”

One of the things that surprised the students during the research was the fact that many of today’s diet “fads” actually originated more than 100 years ago, Gilman said. The precursor of the grape cracker, for example, was invented in 1829 by Sylvester Graham, a Pennsylvania minister who urged Americans to eat a high-fiber, vegetarian diet that included lots of coarse-grind flour.

Many of the early move- ments for vegetarianism and health food had a theological basis, Gilman said. “A healthy diet was once seen as a path to God today. God isn’t usually in the health-food equation any- more. It was an ‘aha’ moment for me of discovery.”

One of the book’s conclusions: We have always been a distinct culture. We will always be.

Gilman, who is the director of Emory’s Psychoanalytic Studies Program, is used to tackling such esoteric, interdisciplinary subjects. His more than 70 books include the titles “Fat Boys: A Slim Book,” “Seeing the Insane” and “Jewish Self-Hatted.”

“The common theme among all my work has to do with how we imagine who we are,” he said. “I’ve been ask- ing that question over and over for 45 years, using different objects.”

Under the EPA’s Audit Program, Emory joins participating colleges and universities to audit compliance with the following federal and state regulatory programs:

• The Clean Air Act
• The Clean Water Act
• Safe Drinking Water Act
• Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenti- cide Act
• Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
• Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensa- tion and Liability Act
• Toxic Substances Control Act
Emory Global Health Institute awards $2M in grants for research, programs

By Robin Tricole

As part of its commitment to address pressing health challenges worldwide, the Global Health Institute (GHI) at Emory University has awarded $2 million in grants to support four new research and public health programs. The funding is part of a broader initiative by the Institute to increase its support for new research and public health programs.

**Halting the worldwide diabetes epidemic**

The Emory Global Health Institute will establish the Global Diabetes Research Center in Chennai, India. Led by K. M. Venkat Narayan, researchers from both Emory and India will work together to find ways to stop the growing world-wide diabetes epidemic. Narayan is the Ruth and O. C. Hulbert Professor of Medicine and head of the diabetes program at Rollins School of Public Health and professor of medicine. The Center will serve as a hub for population-based research and large intervention trials. "The work that I envision is to address the needs for increased support of Emory's global health program, and we're really pleased," Jody Pettus, an instructor in the Emory School of Public Health, said.

**Developing avian influenza vaccines**

A consortium that includes Emory's James Yang, professor of Medicine’s new NHBI-funded Center of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance and the Harbin Veterinary Research Institute in China will work together to develop vaccines aimed at developing a universal vaccine against infection by different strains of H5N1 avian influenza strains. Led by Chinglai Yang, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology, Emory will provide training in molecular virology and immunology studies to visiting HVRI scientists, while HVRI will provide training to Emory researchers in avian influenza field surveillance and viral pathogenesis studies.

"Emory's strengths are in influ-

ence research, enhanced by a recent genome project, and our established scientific partnerships with China, will allow us to move forward as world leaders in the development of a uni-

versal avian flu vaccine," said Yang.

For more information about the Global Health Institute and their projects, visit www.globalhealth.emory.edu.

**Improving the global control of tuberculosis**

Emory’s School of Medicine and Rollins School of Public Health, the University Teaching Hospital in Lilasaka, Tanzania, and the University of Zambia School of Medicine will conduct a research project aiming at improving the global control of tuberculosis, with an emphasis on TB in the HIV-positive population. Led by Henry Blumberg, Emory professor of medicine, the project is expected to include a study of a new generation of diagnostic TB tests, as well as research on training for Tanzanian physicians and scientists.

"There is a critical need for improved diagnostics for TB throughout the world," said Blumberg. "As recent events illustrate, tuberculosis remains an enormous global public health problem that requires increased research efforts to identify new drugs, new diagnostics and an effective TB vaccine."

**Reducing maternal and newborn deaths during home births**

The Emory’s Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, in collaboration with the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research in Bangladesh, will launch a research project aimed at reducing maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity in poor areas where home births often are assisted by unskilled attendants. The project, led by Lynn Sibley, associate professor in Emory’s Lillian Carter Center for International Nursing, will use community-based strategies and intervention models to reduce the 529,000 maternal deaths and 4 million neonatal deaths that occur annually because of complications during home births. The project builds on current collaborations between the School of Nursing’s Center for Research on Maternal and Newborn Survival and ICDDR,B. The new partnership will include Emory’s Rollins School of Public Health, the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee and the LAMB Integrated Rural Health Development/World Mission Prayer League, two well-known non-governmental organizations.

"We are very excited about continuing our work to prevent maternal and newborn deaths during home births and enhancing our partnerships in this effort," Sibley said. "We believe this project will make a tremendous difference in the lives of mothers and newborns in Bangladesh and will serve as a model for other countries as well."

**SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH**

Emory Report July 9, 2007

Information Technology Technology notes for teaching, learning, community

For those of us who work in Academic Computing, summer acts as a prelude to fall. As Prelude, it offers the opportunity to introduce new faculty to our community while sounding out how they will be received in September, as the school year more traditionally starts. This summer is no different. We’re introducing tools and themes to the Emory community, while setting up a technology infrastructure that will support the potential for new and expanded functionality. Perhaps more than any other application, BlackBoard has witnessed explosive growth over the course of the 2006–07 school year. Moving from roughly 100,000 hits a day to nearly 30,000 hits per hour at peak usage. Many of the service disruptions that occurred last year were due to the lack of available computing resources to meet the spikes in demand, resulting in slow performance and, occasionally, failed connection and service errors. Since the upgrade, what are some of the new capabilities that are available beyond substantially improved robustness? Discussion is scheduled to have been set in motion, providing subscription options to keep students connected to ongoing discussions; new moderator settings allow for more distributed control; the old model for an instructor to grade a set of problems has been replaced with a stack of problems for bulk correction that is more readily available both online and within BlackBoard courses and these services should be available in the fall to instructors who request them.

If BlackBoard is the Web-based environment where faculty and students go for online learning, the place where faculty and students go for quick text-based discussions and to connect up with their online community, LearnLink looks different, as well, for those who have checked in over the summer. LearnLink’s new client offers a substantial redesign of the user interface of the desktop, with larger, more navigable icons as well as new features that provide support for small team work in “Workspaces.” In order to bridge a connection to the Web environment, there is now a bookmarks manager to allow transparent surfing to designated Web sites from within the LearnLink client. Information on the new client is available at www.learnlink.emory.edu.

However, not all changes in teaching and learning services this summer is solely focused on the online environment. A major target of AAIT research has been to pilot an approach to recording class lectures. Using special software, faculty who teach using PowerPoint can record their voice in addition to the slides and any annotations made to them. The recorded file can then be available for distribution as an online resource that can be viewed on the Web, within BlackBoard, or on an iPod. Depending upon the success of the initial trial, this can make it more readily available on the campus next year.


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TCP from page 1

Forum, she proposed pooling some grants to come up with the funds. The 13 members of her TCP group joined the pool, providing $3,000 to host the event.

"I kind of pushed this proj-

ect because I think it’s import-

ant that our public he-

th care faculty and stu-

dents to tell ourselves as part of this larger community, and think of ways to share our resources and our work," she said.

"This is one of the larger grants that we’ve given out, and for Emory,” Leal said. "Jody Usher, co-director of the TCP, told the visitors from Brook-

lyn. “We’re delighted that you’re here.”

Ted Pettus, an instruc-

tor in the Emory School of Medicine and a TCP partici-

pant, was one of the hosts at the dinner, and included high school students who had formed a youth action group. "Whether or not you’re interested in Emory, you should try learning about college admissions and applying for financial aid. You’d be amazed at the opportunities available," Pettus told them.

Allan Cattier is the director of AAIT’s Academic Technology Services.
Cradle of Christianity

By Carol Clark

Before she was ordained a Baptist minister, Julie Galambush spent a few years serving a small church in her native Ohio before finding her true calling: academia. She left the ministry to enter Emory in 1985 as a Ph.D. candidate in Old Testament Studies. “I’ve always found the Old Testament more fascinating than the New Testament,” Galambush said. “The stories are so much richer. In Judges, for instance, you have Ehud, the left-handed man who stabs the enemy commander into the hilt. And then Jael invites the left-handed man who stabs the enemy commander into the hilt.”

Blazing trail through ancient texts is just another day’s work for Galambush, who is now Distinguished Associate Professor of Religious Studies at The College of William and Mary. “In biblical studies, scholars have spent hundreds of years studying each volume,” she said. “If you don’t cut it, you have been hacked to pieces, then he will be calm and his rage will subside. How could scholars read this as the model of a loving husband — or a loving God?”

Suffered. To me this is a stunning line,” Galambush said. “It suggests that Jesus did not start out perfect, and that his will was different from God’s. In short, he was human. Although the church went in one direction and made him divine, the stubborn Baptist in me always said that I could believe in a loving husband and lower Christology and still be Christian.”

In 1994, a few years after marrying a Jew, Galambush converted. “It was an easy and joyful transition,” she said. “Jews have an ability to embrace, and even revel, in such paradoxes, launched Galambush into a new specialty: explaining Christianity to Jews and Judaism to Christians. I was surprised at how much the two groups didn’t know about each other and I began to see myself as a resource,” she said. “To help bridge the gap, she wrote “The Reluctant Parting: How the New Testament’s Jewish Writers Created a Christian Book,” which was published by HarperSanFrancisco in 2005. The book makes the case that, among other things, the New Testament writers are “engaged in a defensive task proving, ironically enough, that they’re still Jewish,” she said. “Of course, as sectarians they’re saying that they’re the part of the Jewish community that’s gotten it right.”

Recognition of the strength Jewish identity that persisted in the first centuries of Christianity “is a relatively new insight,” she said. “It’s only been fully articulated in the last generation. Scholars continue to place the ‘parting of the ways’ at a later and later date.”

The Holocaust was one impetus for the two religions to search for common ground, Galambush said, while the Dead Sea Scrolls not only told us a lot of fascinating things about how Jews thought in the period when Christianity was forming; they were also powerful enough to get us to reconsider other data,” she explained. “The ‘Cradle of Christianity’ exhibition currently at the Carls Museum is one example of this gradual transformation in the understanding of the two religions. “I think the exhibition, in an understated way, is quite daring,” Galambush said. “After all, a cradle is a place where you do some nurturing. So the name implies that it not only did Christianity originate in Judaism, Judaism nurtured it. This is an intimate relationship. In many ways, that potential for gracious co-existence is still there in the two religions.”

Julie Galambush’s lecture is among the public events in conjunction with the Carls Museum’s “Cradle of Christianity” exhibition, which includes the Temple Scroll, pictured above. The lecture will be held on Tuesday, July 10, at 7 p.m., in the Carls Museum Reception Hall.