By BEVERLY CLARK

Emory’s Transforming Community Project (TCP), a five-year initiative to document the University’s past and confront current challenges around the issue of race, got people talking this year, which is exactly what organizers intended.

In its first year, the grassroots project drew a University-wide mix of faculty, staff and students—from freshmen to longtime staff—to examine the issue of race at Emory through research and community discussion. Nearly 400 participated in TCP’s “community dialogues” last fall and spring as well as this summer. More dialogues are slated for fall semester.

“The community dialogues have offered a window into how racial dynamics affect people differently. They’re also an opportunity for real conversations, and not just when there is an incident that causes tension on campus. This project is an attempt to actually do something. I was initially skeptical about how it would work, but so far TCP has been successful in its initial goals,” said Maureen Sweat, assistant director of the Emory Scholars Program and a Candler School of Theology graduate. She has taken part in TCP since last fall.

The TCP is one of the most comprehensive initiatives ever undertaken by a major university, said co-leaders Leslie Harris, associate professor of history and chair of African American studies, and Gary Hauk, vice president and deputy to the president. It is similar to programs in recent years at other schools, including Brown University, the University of North Carolina and the University of Alabama, but is unprecedented in its scale and scope, they said.

The “history making” aspect of the TCP will start coming to fruition in the fall. About 40 people—primarily staff as well as students and faculty—have taken part in the “tools” groups, learning about archives and how to conduct in-depth research.

Led by Harris and Saralyn Chestnut, director of the Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Life, these groups are involved in the nitty-gritty details of digging into Emory’s collective closets to document the history of race at the University, from its founding in 1836 to the present.

“The response has been enthusiastic—people want more discussion, engagement and action and we are working to give them that. I’ve been impressed by the energy and I think overall we created a safe space to talk about these issues,” said Harris, who co-founded the project in 2004 with Emory journalism professor Catherine Manegold.

Participants tackled a variety of topics: the n-word, See TCP on page 7
The Lone Librarian rides again

While we toil and weather a brutal heat wave, Emory librarian Selden Deemer is marking his 60th birthday by riding his Honda Pacific Coast bike on a solo, round-trip journey to Alaska.

Deemer, who began his ride in Dahlonega, Ga., on July 2, expects to be back in Georgia by mid-August. His wife, School of Law librarian Pam Deemer, is a motorcycle rider as well.

Her husband’s solo trip “is something he needs to do every once and awhile to recharge himself. After 36 years, I don’t worry too much. He’s not a wild man on the motorcycle; he’s all about the ride not the image. He seems to be having a grand time, and I’m a little jealous,” said Deemer with a laugh.

Deemer documents each day on the road in an illustrated Web log. As of press time, he had made it to Alaska, headed to Anchorage. Below are excerpts of his travels.

July 2, 9 a.m., EDT Georgia

The journey is begun. First stop, 18 miles up the road for breakfast at Two Wheels Only. This is going to be a hot day, with a high of 100 degrees forecast for Cairo, Ill.

July 4, Maquoketa, Iowa

The first day of the trip I was tense, and a little out of practice, not having ridden the bike since June 18. With brand new tires, the handling was a little off. The second day was so hot that riding was a chore. Why? It’s certainly not for the comfort. On a motorcycle you have little opportunity to change position, and you are almost always too hot or too cold or too wet. Nor for the excitement—long distance motorcycle riding involves long periods of intense boredom. But still I do it, and I’m looking forward to riding 10,000 miles this summer.

“I’ve been riding motorcycles since 1962, and I have never stopped riding. But I haven’t had a long distance adventure in a while, and to celebrate my 60th birthday, I have decided to ride to Alaska. On a 12-year-old motorcycle. From Georgia. solo.

“Why? It’s certainly not for the comfort. On a motorcycle you have little opportunity to change position, and you are almost always too hot or too cold or too wet. Nor for the excitement—long distance motorcycle riding involves long periods of intense boredom. But still I do it, and I’m looking forward to riding 10,000 miles this summer.”

July 6, Duluth, Minnesota

Northern Minnesota seems to be filled with odd-ball attractions, including the world’s largest hockey stick and the Giant Blue Gill of Orr. It must be the long winters....
The border crossing was uneventful; I didn’t have to show any of the documents I had brought along ... only my U.S. passport.

Southwestern Ontario along the border is not so picturesque. Eventually I turned north into lake country....

July 7, Trans Canada Highway

Lake of the Woods quickly receded in my mirrors, and gradually the landscape turned to prairie, often in a gorgeous bright yellow, with mile after mile of canola in full bloom.

July 8, Calgary, Alberta

Another long ride across the prairie, in perfect temperates (70s all day long) with mostly a tail wind. I didn’t realize until this trip that new-mown hay has so many different smells. They are all pleasant, and I don’t have enough of an olfactory vocabulary to describe them, but in each region I have passed through on this trip the hay has smelled different. Hay smells have been an unanticipated treat. I’ll be staying with an old systems friend in Calgary. The best parts of the trip are turning out to be breaks from riding, staying with friends, and talking about old times and what lies ahead.
July 11

Canadian Rockies

The Fog of FUD: Fear, uncertainty and doubt are the three horsemen of the journey. Last night I felt a little overwhelmed by the enormity of this undertaking: 2,700 miles down the road but another 2,000 before I even reach Alaska. This morning, about 15 miles west of Calgary, the fog lifted in seconds, as the Canadian Rockies came into view. The ride from Banff to Lake Louise, and then up the Icefields Parkway to Jasper was so spectacular.... At one point I was so overwhelmed with emotion that my eyes started to tear up. It was an Omygod, Omygod, Omygod ride all day long. Imagine Yosemite National Park. Then imagine it for 200 miles. With glaciers.

July 12

Jasper, British Columbia

Why am I doing this? First and foremost, I love and enjoy long-distance motorcycle riding. In beautiful country, with good weather, riding can be a peak experience, rivaled by little else.....This trip is definitely not for the faint of heart or the impatient. I spent the past few years, and I felt a need to re-energize myself. I haven't experienced life so intensely since my second Outward Bound course in 1989. As an introvert, being around people often drains my energy, while being alone energizes me. The irony is that having little or no contact with people (or radio, or television or the Internet) for hours and hours every day makes it easier to make contact with complete strangers, and I am engaging in more conversations than I have in years. I hope to return from this trip re-energized....

And then, there is Alaska itself. Global warming, regardless of the arguments about its cause, appears to be a settled scientific fact....I have met too many people who deferred things they wanted to do until they were too old to do them. Increasingly (especially for those of us involved in technology) we live in a controlled environment, often in a virtual world, insulated from real life by climate control, media, the Internet. It would not surprise me if the majority of the population cannot find north on a sunny day.

July 13

Fort St. John, British Columbia

Today, the forecast for rain may finally come true, with off and on rain predicted all the way to the Alaska border. There's no point in washing the bike, which is now thoroughly encrusted with a mix of dead insects and Alaska Highway road grime. I have never seen anything like it; when it rains, the road kicks up a gray-brown slush that coats everything. "Does riding in the rain count as bathing?" I wish I could claim that line as my own, but it's stolen from a BMW motorcycle ad. Overcast most of the day, with rain starting about 40 miles south of Fort Nelson. I took off in the rain and into the wind. I was soaked by the time I reached Dawson City.

A quick hit and run update from the Watson Lake public library. Five moose (four juveniles and one adult) sightings in the first 45 minutes on the road this morning. Also a caribou, much more majestic than the moose (whose local nickname is "swamp donkey"). In my head, I had always understood that a full-grown moose is about the size of a horse, but it wasn't until I saw one by the side of the road that my gut took this in. Ever since Dawson Creek I've been trying to follow large vehicles, in hopes they will run interference against large mammals for me....Tomorrow, Alaska!

July 15

Dawson City Lodge (Alaska)

What a wonderful place... Two years ago their only communication with the outside world was via radio-telephone. Now fiber optic cable runs the length of the Alaska Highway, they have WiFi in the lodge....

Alaska Highway

The road itself is more varied than I had expected; perhaps high gas prices ($4-$5 a gallon) are having the effect I had hoped for, and are discouraging travel by large SUVs and RVs.

One would think that with a name like "Alaska Highway," the main overland connector to Alaska would be big and wide. In many places it is, but a little bit north of Fort Nelson this famous highway becomes narrow and curvy, more like the more open sessions of GA 60 south of Morganton, except with gravelly patches.

The only motorcycle accident I have had since 1969 occurred less than a half mile from my home.... I am now acutely aware that to a large degree my survival is entirely in my hands. Sometimes in the past few days I entered a state of heightened awareness while riding, contemplating... I'm not rushed.... Whenever possible, I find a vehicle to follow, preferably a large one, so that the other guy can be my moose catcher. Better yet is when I can put myself between two vehicles, one to catch the moose; the other to provide cover. At 145 pounds and 60 years of age, there is no way I'm going to pick up 650 pounds of motorcycle and 50 pounds of gear if I drop it. If it falls, it stays until help arrives....

July 16

Skaguay, Alaska

5:15 a.m. Arriving in Skagway yesterday, I had no reservations or plans, as usual. The hostel was full; they suggested checking Sergeant Preston's Lodge—also full. I went to the town information center to check what was available. Given the crowds (9,500 people from cruise ships on Wednesday alone), urban camping was not attractive, and motel/B&B rates were steep. One of the park rangers said she had once stayed at Cindy's Place, cabins in the woods about a mile outside of town....

Noboy was home at Cindy's Place, but I looked around and saw what appeared to be an available log cabin, so I left a note on the front door of the house, and rode back to town to get gas... Raging it—NOT: Back to Cindy's. Still nobody home. I unpacked the Jet Boil and made myself a cup of hot tea, prepared for a leisurely stay on the front porch until someone showed up. I didn't have long to wait. It turns out that Cindy is in the California Sierras, and her two younger kids, Nanay and Judy are running the place. The cabin I had looked at was the only one available.

Technically, it is a log cabin, but "cabin" does not do justice to the accommodations. There is a mini-fridge, microwave, coffee maker, dishes and utensils, a well-stocked bookshelf, wood stove, electric space heater, toiletries, even an L.L. Bean flannel bathrobe. At this moment, I'm looking out the front window at a hummingbird feeding. Last night, what's her name gave me a couple of fresh-baked scones, and I ate immediately, and a small rhubarb coffee cake for breakfast. Also a bowl of fresh fruit, milk, cereal and English muffins. And the tea! White, green, black and flavored.... Oh, the hardships I am enduring on this trip. Did I mention the hot tub at Cindy's?

Follow the adventures of the Lone Librarian at http://userww.service.emory.edu/~libssd/Alaska2006/.
new lactation rooms, infostops mark world breastfeeding week

world breastfeeding week is aug. 1–7, and emory is continuing its support of nursing mothers by identifying five additional spaces—in the school of law, goizueta business school, campus services, the new pediatrics building and on the briarcliff campus—that will be used as lactation rooms, bringing the total number to 11.

“from one to 11 rooms in just a little over a year shows the tremendous support placed behind this effort,” said ali crown, director of emory’s center for women. “from one to 11 rooms in just a little over a year shows the tremendous support placed behind this effort.”

lissette davidson, a college summer intern, and eddie gammill, wellness coordinator with the faculty staff assistance program, prepare infostop information on emory’s new lactation rooms. the information will be displayed at locations across emory’s campuses beginning in august during world breastfeeding week aug. 1–7.

challenge & champions students: what did they learn?

“we’re doing a powerpoint presentation. i’m definitely going to need that for 8th grade.”

annie patel, rising 8th grader, duluth middle school

“i met a person from south korea here. meeting people from diverse backgrounds helps me understand things that i might not otherwise.”

tyler olson, rising 8th grader, innman middle school

“i learned about the three branches of government and how to write poetry—and about onomatopoeia, personification and similes.”

alya ward, rising 8th grader, innman middle school

challenge from page 1

learning experience for students in emory’s mat program, said karen fallenberg, lecturer in educational studies and program director since its inception. not only do the emory teachers-in-training get to observe top-notch teachers who love what they do, they also have mentoring sessions with other exemplary practicing teachers. the topics they discuss are connected to what they are learning in fallenberg’s course; they examine the nuts and bolts of what it takes to energize a class and make the subject matter stick. perhaps not surprising is that half the teacher/mentors are emory mat alumni who have returned to share their classroom expertise—and teach middle schoolers during summer break. “it’s always good for people to stretch themselves,” said jason chen, a 2004 emory mat graduate. chen, who usually teaches chemistry at parkview high school in gwinnett county, says the shift to teaching younger students “is a good challenge for me every day.”

“for me it’s like an enrichment class,” said david lakin, one of the mat leaders who has been an 8th-grade teacher at craddle middle school since 2000. this fall, he’ll be moving to milton high school in alpharetta. “i like developing my own curriculum,” he said of the law and social justice course he leads. “plus, i truly enjoy helping the mat students.”

former crapple middle school teacher lisa garosi, who is now an instructor coach for fulton county schools, learned about c&c through colleague lakin and decided to get involved. “i like the mix of students and backgrounds,” she said. “the collegiality of the teachers, staff and graduate students is a plus. and there’s a great mix of academics and physical education in the curriculum that’s pretty comprehensive. that’s why i like it.”

effective teachers like david and lisa are essential to the program’s dual purpose, inspiring both teachers-in-training and students, said fallenberg. “middle school is a huge change mentally, physically and emotionally for students. some would call it a perfect storm.” but for these middle school teachers, c&c is a great opportunity. “most adolescents make the transition pretty well,” said jennifer johnson, a 2004 emory mat graduate who says her children are in 7th grade at summerour middle school in gwinnett county. garosi added, “we do this because we love it.”

the c&c students love it too. instead of traditional academic courses, they select two of four electives designed to generate preteen enthusiasm: a course called “how things work” had students launching their own mini-rockets; others tore through reading and research assignments for a course on “mummies unwrapped” that included a tour of the carlos museum’s mummy exhibit. “the power of the pen” encouraged budding authors to test their creative writing prowess. “law and social justice” found the class at emory law school under the sound tutelage of robin nash, director of the barton child law and policy clinic.

nash, formerly chief presiding judge of dekalb county juvenile court, assigned students to the roles of judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, victim and perpetrator, then had them conduct a misdemeanor shoplifting trial in the law school’s tuttle moot court room. turning to the jury, asked, “is it proper for the prosecutor to give her client a ‘high-five’ when things go her way?” nope! the jury was all ears, and nash clearly enjoyed every moment.

after a morning of hands-on learning, c&c students spent their afternoons throwing javelins or doing the 100-meter dash in an olympic sports class, testing their skills in “camp games” (a lot more challenging than they sound),

“it’s a ‘shovel’ day. it’s a ‘near perfect’ ‘school’ day.”

interested parents can apply for c&c online beginning in january 2007. for more information and a short video, visit www.des.emory.edu/c&c.

for more information, go to www.pcsw.emory.edu/programs.htm.
A few minutes with MiLO

Michael Leo Owens, assistant professor of political science, addresses the moving line between church and state in his forthcoming book, God and Government in the Ghetto. His next project will examine how democracy functions among prison populations.

BY ERIC RANGUS

Michael Leo Owens' career as a political scientist began when he was a teenager growing up in New York. He volunteered to help out with the campaign of a local minister who was running for Congress (and would eventually be elected). He knocked on doors, helped out with parties, sharpened pencils—perfect work for a high schooler. He also got an inside view of a couple of fascinating American institutions.

"For me there was never a blurring of the separation of church and state," said Owens, assistant professor of political science. "There wasn't a solid wall at all. It was more like a string or something. You could easily go under it or get over it." Owens' first book, which is under advance contract with the University of Chicago Press, carries the provocative title, God and Government in the Ghetto: The Politics of Church-State Collaboration in American Cities. The book is an investigation into the political role of black churches.

"When I think about African American churches being active in politics on behalf of the poor, we always think of them in terms of organizing people to engage in protest or electoral action," said Owens, who grew up with knowledge of several religions because of his spiritually diverse family.

"But since the War on Poverty, there has been a small but growing number of churches that believe has a way to complement those two approaches is working directly with government to develop and design programs and deliver services on behalf of the state," he said. Owens' next avenue of research is with a group of people—ex-prisoners attempting to re-enter society—he readily admits probably receive the least amount of sympathy than any other, which makes the work not only interesting and challenging but intellectually enriching.

Owens' interest in the subject was piqued in April 2000 when he took a tour of a federal detention center in New York. His sister was a psychologist there. (She is now a deputy warden of a federal penitentiary.)

His first impression was surprise. The place was much quieter than he was led to believe. Watch most any television or movie set in a prison and quiet is pretty difficult to find. Owens asked a guard why and was told the inmates were watching television. They were using earphones, which minimized the noise. Owens' question was seemingly innocent.

"Who decides what they watch?" Owens asked.

"They do," was the answer. Representatives from the prison population get together and determine what shows which groups are going to watch during which hours, the guard continued.

That sounds pretty democratic to me," Owens said.

From that point on, Owens knew exactly what he wanted his second book to be about.

"That's how I started thinking of this idea of Pris oners of Democracy," said Owens, listing the working title for his next book, which carries the subtitle The Civic Identity and Reintegration of Formerly Incarcerated People.

"You can't necessarily escape democracy," he said. "Yes, this is an authoritarian institution, but in order to function, you still have to have spaces where people are allowed to make choices, function like citizens and represent themselves. In the case of prison, deciding what you choose to watch on television is a political choice. You have to come to some sort of agreement and consensus with those around you."

Outside the office, Owens has a variety of interests—ranging from travel to a deeply held desire to become a barbecue judge—but perhaps his favorite is volunteering with a local organization called Adopt-a-Grandparent. The group is pretty self-explanatory. A demographically reciprocal of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Owens' work brings together a senior citizen (who may or may not have extended family around) and a young person who spends a lot of time on their own with younger, adoptive "grandchildren."

Owens and his wife Karen have participated in the program for five years. Their first grandparent was Irma Patterson, who was born to be 94 years old before passing away a couple years ago. Owens recalls a visit they took to the Fox Theatre. Ms. Patterson, an African American resident of South Atlanta, had been to the Fox during segregation so she entered through a side door and sat in the balcony.

"When we took her," Owens said, "she immediately went through the front door. I have never seen such a look of joy and amazement on someone's face in all my life. It was just incredible. She explained to us how she thought she would ever go through the front door of the Fox."

After Ms. Patterson passed away, the Reverend Herbert Borges, now 83, a white, Jewish gentleman whose daughter signed him up for the program. Owens and his wife visit him once a week, sometimes all day, and when they all go out the situations are interesting—bordering on the comedic some times.

"People can't believe we are together, but that speaks volumes about how we stand race and relationships in America," Owens said. "One would think that shouldn't be odd for an elderly Jewish man to be out in public with a young African American male and female. People wouldn't even be paying attention to that. They look at your wife and I. Then they look at Herbert. Then they look back at my wife and I, and ask 'table for two?'"

"People ask us how we know each other, and I say, 'he's my grandpa.' With that, Owens tilted his head back and laughed loudly. Owens' engaging personality is tough to miss. For instance, he signs emails and is generally known by students as MiLO, a nickname (Owens uses his middle name for several reasons, one of them is to differentiate himself from his mentor Herbert Borges, the professor of psychology and behavioral science.)

In conversation Owens referred to Mr. Borges as either Herbert or "my grandpa," a telling insight into the political choice. You have to come to some sort of agreement and consensus with those around you.

By amy Comeau

According to a recent report by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), the nation's emergency departments (ED) are at the breaking point: ED patients must wait for hours to receive care, ambulances are diverted to other hospitals because of overcrowding, and a rising number of patients are using the EDs for common ailments that can be treated at home.

The Emergency Nurse Practitioner (ENP) program at Emory's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing addresses the ED crisis. One of four programs of its kind in the United States, the ENP program prepares nurses to provide health care in emergency settings, specifically in evaluating, managing, treating, and even preventing unexpected illness and injury.

ENPs are in a position to improve hospital efficiency and patient flow, one of the solutions the IOM states is critical to addressing overcrowding, said ENP Director Michelle Mott. "Emergency nurse practitioners are prepared to work with different types of patients that come to the emergency departments. Specifically, we can identify and triage the non-urgent, semi-urgent and urgent cases, thus streamlining the process."

Katharine Helphern, vice chair for academic affairs, Emory Department of Emergency Medicine, agrees. "Nurse practitioners are now being trained in the management of the acutely ill and injured patients who are in the emergency setting, both for state-of-the-art acute care and managing patients in short-stay clinical decision units." The schools of nursing and medicine are now working to provide interdisciplinary linkages and educational opportunities for students entering Emory as a leader in this approach, according to Helphern.

In addition to learning how to perform clinical procedures commonly used in emergency settings, such as blood draw, intravenous injection, silt-lamp examinations, and splinting and casting, Emory's ENP program is designed to provide primary health care for uninsured and insured patients who are in need of visiting a doctor. Graduates are eligible for certification as a Family nurse practitioner from the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.
When you wish upon a star this summer, check to see if instead it’s Asteroid Williamon. Emory astronomer Richard Williamon, director of the University’s planetarium and observatory, received an unexpected honor this past spring when one of his former students at the Fernbank Science Center discovered an asteroid and named it after him.

Adam Block, who is now a professional astronomer in Arizona, discovered the orbiting body one evening in 2000 and refined the orbit to the point of naming the object by late 2005. Block made the announcement and gave a certificate to Williamon at a meeting of the Atlanta Astronomy Club—much to Williamon’s surprise.

Block said he followed the time-honored custom of naming an asteroid “not after the person who discovered it but after another deserving person.” For Block, that person is Williamon—someone who influenced him strongly as a young man at Fernbank and who nurtured his passion for astronomy.

“The naming of Asteroid Williamon is the second wonderful gift given to me by Adam,” said Williamon, who was an astronomer at Fernbank before joining Emory’s physics department as a full-time faculty member in 2002. “The first was the joy and inspiration that can be given to a teacher only by a dedicated, superlative student such as Adam. I feel fortunate to have played a very small part in Adam’s success—who’s one of the best astrophotographers on the entire planet.”

The second great gift of the asteroid name is simply awesome,” he said. “I have not yet found the words to articulate how deeply honored and moved I am. As ephemeral as everything on our planet has proven to be, Asteroid Williamon will be a long-lived testament to the mutual respect and admiration shared by a student and his very proud teacher.”

To find out more about Minor Planet Williamon 45298 (2000 AE42) visit www.physics.emory.edu. —Kate Bennett

Asteroid Williamon

SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH

Community partnerships help reduce juvenile gun violence

BY JANET CHRISTENBURY

A partnership among police, health care workers and the community to reduce juvenile gun violence in the 1990s in the City of Atlanta may have played a role in the recent decline in the city’s rate of homicides, according to a National Institute of Justice Research Report released this month.

Members of the Center for Injury Control and Prevention at Emory’s Rollins School of Public Health served as research partners and wrote the report, “Reducing Gun Violence: Community Problem Solving in Atlanta.”

During the project, which used interventions to prevent and curtail fatal shootings, the number of homicides dropped to its lowest level in 30 years. But the decline also mirrored a decrease in homicides statewide and across the United States, so other factors may also have played a role.

“Firearm injuries are the second leading cause of injury-related death in the United States and a major cause of disability,” said Arthur Keller- mann, professor and chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, Emory’s School of Medicine, and director of the Center for Injury Control.

“Violent crime in the early ‘90s was having a debilitating impact on Atlanta and the metro area.”

By involving multiple public agencies and private organizations communitywide, the city developed a strategic, problem-solving approach to reducing gun violence among juveniles. Called Project PACT (Pulling Atlanta’s Communities Together), the initiative was instrumental in Atlanta’s plan to execute problem solving across the community.

PACT was established in 1993 by the U.S. Department of Justice to help institutions within a community collaborate on public safety issues.

In Atlanta, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies were involved in the project, along with prosecutors and health care workers.

The Atlanta Police Department (APD) played a major role in the partnership, as did the Fulton County District Attorney, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia. The five metro counties involved in Project PACT were Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb, Gwinnett and Clayton.

Project PACT identified homicide, gun violence and juvenile crime as the major community concerns in Atlanta. After reviewing local data and analyzing the issues, the team focused on reducing juvenile firearm violence by devising a three-pronged approach:

• use a problem-solving method to plan, implement, monitor, refine and evaluate the program

• apply a strategic approach to violence prevention that combined the expertise of researchers with the experience of practitioners; and

• develop a comprehensive plan to evaluate a mix of strategies to deter the illegal carrying and use of firearms.

The three-part plan was divided into more specific objectives including reducing fear of crime among adults in the project area; making and tracking patterns (geographical “hot spots”) of juvenile gun violence; determining where and why juveniles acquire guns; and, finally, developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating a comprehensive law enforcement intervention to reduce juvenile gun violence.

Three AFD (“beats” in Zone 1 were chosen as the focus areas to apply and test the intervention.

“Analysis of baseline data suggested that most shootings followed a chain of events that included illegal demand for guns by juveniles, illegal supply, illegal carrying (generally for self defense or to intimidate others) and ultimately illegal use in a branching or shooting,” said Kellermann. “Our interventions were designed to strategically target ‘weak links’ in this chain to prevent shootings, rather than waiting for them to occur and reacting after the fact.”

The interventions were simple in concept but difficult to execute for various reasons, according to the researchers.

• Project PACT had to confront significant shortages of personnel.

• The project was unsuccessful in persuading a major gun retailer to reduce gun sales to juveniles.

• The strategy was a real change in thinking and culture from a reactive approach to a more proactive approach oriented towards preventing the next 911 call,” said Kellermann.

During the six years after the intervention started (from 1995-2000), the number of homicides in Atlanta declined by 27 percent. The 134 homicides recorded in 2000 were the lowest number in the city in 30 years. But Keller- mann and his colleagues caution that Project PACT cannot claim credit for this success, because declines of similar magnitude were noted outside the focus area, as well as statewide.

Project PACT ended in 1999, but the community partnerships it fostered continue through two subsequent federal programs—SACSI (Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative) and PSN (Project Safe Neighborhoods Atlanta). The benefits of the partnerships have continued as well.

Between 2002 and 2005 alone, firearm-related crimes in Atlanta declined by 44 percent, and violent crime overall fell by 37 percent. These declines were matched by a similarly sized decrease in the number of gunshot victims at Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta’s only Level 1 trauma center.

The homicide rate in Atlanta today is the lowest since 1965. “In my opinion, the recent decline in Atlanta’s rate of homicide and firearm assaults is due to the current leadership of City Hall and APD, as well as the economic renaissance that is occurring in so many Atlanta neighborhoods,” said Kellermann. “But this remarkable progress is also due, in part, to the influence of Project Safe Neighborhoods Atlanta—a program carefully fostered by the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia and supported by federal partners such as ATF.”

Emory’s Center for Injury Control was honored to serve as research partner to PSN, based on our earlier work on juvenile gun violence. Project Safe Neighborhoods Atlanta offers proof that community problem-solving works,” said Kellermann.

Community partnerships help reduce juvenile gun violence
Jean Sindab was an African American scholar/activist who led a life that included leading churches in work on local congregations across the United States and around the world. She was diagnosed with breast cancer and died 13 months later. Now Sindab’s memory is being honored at Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute with a $2.2 million endowment to conduct research on aggressive breast cancer and poor survival rates in premenopausal black women.

The endowment used to create The Jean Sindab Project will support the work of a multidisciplinary research team led by the oncologist Ruth O’Regan, director of translational breast cancer research at Winship, and David Bravley, director of cancer control and population science at Winship and medical director of the Georgia Cancer Center at Grady.

The endowment was established by an anonymous donor in honor of Sindab, who until her death served the National Council of the Churches in Christ in the U.S.A. (NCC) as director of public policy and economic justice/hunger concerns. During her life she helped millions of poor people and worked to change the economic system so that of people of color and those in poor communities. 

Vicki Riedel, senior director of development at Winship, notes that The Jean Sindab Project is an important step forward for Emory and for breast cancer research for many reasons. “Our gift agreement includes establishment of an advisory board comprised of Emory physicians, researchers and members of the Atlanta community as well as a commitment to raise an additional $3 million to support this research. It is a wonderful opportunity to build outreach and education with scientific research that incorporates cutting-edge epidemiology, nanotechnology and genetics.”

“I am very excited about The Sindab Project,” said Brawley. “Emory is investing in work that will help us understand the environmental and biological reasons that depict different aspects of our history. Other students are leading the development of a program for fraternities and sororities to examine their own racial histories and current issues around race. Several working groups, born from the community dialogues, also are developing ways to engage more people in the project, and mini-grants are available to help develop them.

Once the historical research is completed, the fourth year 2008–2009 will be given over to reflection and analysis. The final year, 2009–2010, will be devoted to developing policies, programs and initiatives that will help shape Emory’s future.

The project so far has drawn more women than men, and a good mixture of races and ages, but more perspectives, especially from the more conservative end of the spectrum, are needed,” said Harris. “This project is being defined by the community,” Harris said. “The more different perspectives we get, the more true to the Emory community the project will be.”

Participants in the dialogues say they’ve been encouraged by an exercise that has both informed them and created an atmosphere of trust. “Even if it’s just the dialogues that needed to happen, I feel that we have helped create more of a sense of community here,” said Sweetman. “I’m curious to see how the ideas and plans that have come from these discussions and brainstorming will take root and grow in the coming year.”

For more information, contact tcp@emory.edu or call 404-727-6198.

Sindab project endowment gives gift of hope for cancer victims

BY NICOLYNN HUTCHISON

Jean Sindab was an African American scholar/activist who led a life that included leading churches in work on local congregations across the United States and around the world. She was diagnosed with breast cancer and died 13 months later. Now Sindab’s memory is being honored at Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute with a $2.2 million endowment to conduct research on aggressive breast cancer and poor survival rates in premenopausal black women.

The endowment used to create The Jean Sindab Project will support the work of a multidisciplinary research team led by the oncologist Ruth O’Regan, director of translational breast cancer research at Winship, and David Bravley, director of cancer control and population science at Winship and medical director of the Georgia Cancer Center at Grady.

The endowment was established by an anonymous donor in honor of Sindab, who until her death served the National Council of the Churches in Christ in the U.S.A. (NCC) as director of public policy and economic justice/hunger concerns. During her life she helped millions of poor people and worked to change the economic system so that of people of color and those in poor communities. 

Vicki Riedel, senior director of development at Winship, notes that The Jean Sindab Project is an important step forward for Emory and for breast cancer research for many reasons. “Our gift agreement includes establishment of an advisory board comprised of Emory physicians, researchers and members of the Atlanta community as well as a commitment to raise an additional $3 million to support this research. It is a wonderful opportunity to build outreach and education with scientific research that incorporates cutting-edge epidemiology, nanotechnology and genetics.”

“I am very excited about The Sindab Project,” said Brawley. “Emory is investing in work that will help us understand the environmental and biological reasons that depict different aspects of our history. Other students are leading the development of a program for fraternities and sororities to examine their own racial histories and current issues around race. Several working groups, born from the community dialogues, also are developing ways to engage more people in the project, and mini-grants are available to help develop them.

Once the historical research is completed, the fourth year 2008–2009 will be given over to reflection and analysis. The final year, 2009–2010, will be devoted to developing policies, programs and initiatives that will help shape Emory’s future.

The project so far has drawn more women than men, and a good mixture of races and ages, but more perspectives, especially from the more conservative end of the spectrum, are needed,” said Harris. “This project is being defined by the community,” Harris said. “The more different perspectives we get, the more true to the Emory community the project will be.”

Participants in the dialogues say they’ve been encouraged by an exercise that has both informed them and created an atmosphere of trust. “Even if it’s just the dialogues that needed to happen, I feel that we have helped create more of a sense of community here,” said Sweetman. “I’m curious to see how the ideas and plans that have come from these discussions and brainstorming will take root and grow in the coming year.”

For more information, contact tcp@emory.edu or call 404-727-6198.
Events for the Emory Community

PERFORMING ARTS
THURSDAY, JULY 27
Concert
Emory Recorder Orchestra, performing. 8 p.m. Schwartz Center. Free. 404-712-2443.

VISUAL ARTS
MARBL Exhibit

Carlos Museum Exhibit

MARBL Exhibit

LECTURES
THURSDAY, JULY 27
Surgical Grand Rounds
“Locally Advanced Breast Cancer.” Monica Rizzo, surgery, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-712-2196.

Ethics Seminar
“Clinical Ethics Faculty Fellows Seminar.” 3:30 p.m. Calhoun Room, Health Sciences Library. Free. 404-727-5048.

SUNDAY, AUG. 6
Carlos Museum Lecture

SPECIAL
TUESDAY, AUG. 15
EndNote Workshop
11:30 a.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-6863.

***Please recycle this newspaper.

To submit an entry for the Emory Report calendar, enter your event on the University’s web events calendar, events@emory, which is located at http://events.cc.emory.edu/ at least three weeks prior to the publication date. Due to space limitations, Emory Report may not be able to include all events submitted.

Terry Brown
A day in worklife

Usually he comes bringing a huge smile. Oh, there are important papers, too, but that’s not what people remember about Terry Brown, director mail coordinator in the Information Systems and Technology Department of Development and University Relations (DUR). Not everyone gets to see as much of Emory’s campus every day as Brown. “I have a little route,” he explains, and last week Emory Report photographer Bryan Meltz followed Brown on his route. “People got excited when they saw I had company,” said Brown of his day in front of the camera. “But they didn’t want their pictures taken.” Brown says the best part of his job is “the opportunity to meet and greet people.” He’s been doing it for 25 years.