University grads offer real world lessons

BY ERIC RANGUS

A group of Emory alums returned to campus recently to share their post-college experiences with current students through an initiative that aims to strengthen the University’s bond with its graduates while also preparing today’s colleagues for life beyond the classroom.

The Professor for a Day program, sponsored by the Association of Emory Alumni, the Emory Annual Fund (EAF) and Arts & Sciences Development, was held during February and March. Seven Emory grads returned to class to talk about where their college degree has taken them.

“The big mission is to get alumni re-engaged with the Emory community,” said Alisa Toney, assistant director of annual giving with EAF, who helped organize the event. “Students and alumni are brought together, but in a more formal and structured way.”

This is the second year for the program, which added Arts & Sciences Development to the mix this year.

Graduates visited classes this year from Feb. 28 to March 2 in Emory and Oxford colleges, Goizueta Business School and Candler School of Theology. Candace Wagner, a 1981 graduate who obtained a degree in English, is now working as an associate staff technical writer with Scientific Atlanta, a global telecommunication firm. Wagner’s speech, on how to become a technical writer, was not limited to one class—she spoke to about a dozen students during a lecture sponsored by the English department that was held in the Callaway Center’s Kemp-Malone Library.

“It was a delightful and rewarding experience,” she said, adding that she has already contacted fellow Emory alums to encourage them to try it next year. Wagner said the program appealed to her because she wanted her modern-day counterparts to know that they too could put their English degree to work.

“I wanted English majors to know that there are careers [out there] other than teaching or law or other tracks traditionally open to English majors,” she said.

Steve Ahn, a 1991 business school graduate who’s a founding partner of The Abacus Group, addressed a class taught by his former professor, Nicholas Valero, associate professor of finance. Ted Daywalt, a 1980 MBA graduate who is president and chief executive officer at VetJobs.com, spoke to a “Political Economy of Development” class taught by Associate Professor Rick Donor.

Chi Chi Okezie participated in the program last year on the Atlanta campus, but this year she traveled to Oxford as a guest of economics Associate Professor Frank Maddox. A graduate of Oxford and Emory, Okezie was the only returning participant.

Several of Emory’s staff attended the lectures, and in the case of theology school graduate Bob Doner, “Theology and Methodology of Successful Fund-Raising Campaigns in the Church,” the pastor of North Decatur United Methodist Church—himself an Emory alumnus—was in the audience.

Candidacy Wagner, an Emory grad who now works as a technical writer, shared her lessons from corporate America with University students during her stint as Professor for a Day.

Organizers said they hope to grow the program in the future by increasing the number of alumni members who participate. Toney said feedback about the program has been uniformly positive. She said students enjoyed asking graduates about the future, while alumni were happy interacting with the campus community and faculty members were pleased to have had the chance to reconnect with the former students.

“We made certificates of appreciation for the alumni,” Toney said. “One of them wrote back to tell me he had his on the wall of his office right next to his Emory diploma.”

Relay For Life raises money for cancer

BY ROBYN MOHR

Emory will host its first Relay For Life next month to raise awareness and money for cancer prevention and research.

The event, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, will be held at the P.E. Center on April 28 at 6 p.m. and continue until noon on April 29. The race will feature teams of students, faculty, staff and community members, all of whom will have at least one member walking or running around the track at all times.

Relay is the American Cancer Society’s signature event, an effort to rally the community behind cancer research. Rachel Cohen, a senior at Emory, has been involved with the fundraiser for more than six years. “I believe that there should be a cure,” she said. “I have had friends and family members diagnosed and even died of cancer. Every day I meet someone who gives me a new reason to relay.”

Officials said 3 million people around the country participated in last year’s event. The proceeds from the relay are used to support the society’s mission of eliminating cancer.

See Relay For Life on page 5
Becoming queer

Lyne Huffer is professor of women's studies.

When I was in college, my family came out as a lesbian. For 25 years, she'd been a stay-at-home mom, a dutiful wife, a Girfl Scout leader. Married to my father, in 1957 right out of college, she did what many women of her generation did: put aside her own interests, got pregnant and raised a family. You can see the fruits of her efforts, nicely framed in a family photograph taken not long before I went away to college. There we are, the whole American family—respectable, white, heterosexual. Each of us had our role to fill, and we played our parts well.

I won’t go into the details of my family’s transformation. Lots of things happened, and by the time I had a job as an assistant professor in the French department at Yale, I was well on my way to getting divorced. By the time I was 30, I was single again and, just like my mother, becoming queer.

Some people say to me: it must have been easy coming out, since your mother was already a lesbian. But, in fact, the route was true. Like a lot of girls, I needed to assert my own identity as part of caring for myself, growing up. If I became a lesbian I’d be just like my mother! I would feel free, authentic, unfeigned, untrapped in the maternal space of childhood. So it wasn’t until my 30s, did I start to feel like my mother and lots of pain, that I took the plunge and “came out.” I started seeing women. I said to the world, “Yay, I’m queer.”

Lyne Huffer (far left) as a teenager with her family.

Some of the people I grew up with, many of whom I’ve been close friends with, had known for a long time that I was queer. I spent my 20s writing, teaching and wondering how I might eventually balance children with a demanding academic career. I didn’t want to make the sacrifices I’d seen my mother making. Yet in some ways, I was still trying to bring back to all-American family I had lost.

But like my mother, who finally came out and painfully, hesitantly, left my father, I woke up one day and realized I just couldn’t breathe anymore in the life I had been told was normal. I suddenly experienced my own marriage, like the family in which I grew up, as airtight and constrained, not only because of its rigid heterosexuality, but also because of the (unspoken) middle-class norms of whiteness and Americanness it silently but stubbornly upheld.

Today, my family embodies very few of the norms with which I grew up. I have no image that captures us, all together, this queer family, because we can’t be captured. It can’t be done. But I know we’re happier than those few people in my traditional family photograph. Sure, in the photo we’re smiling. But I also know that we were barely breathing.

With age, I’ve learned that my family was not the completely airtight collin my dra-
“I am creating a novel sentence right now that I’ve never uttered before but I know exactly how to do it. You have never heard it before and yet you understand exactly what I am saying.”

This is the way Benjamin Hary begins his classes to demonstrate what he calls the “fantastic phenomenon” of language.

Much of Hary’s research is on Hebrew and Arabic, so he makes his academic home as associate professor in Middle Eastern and South Asian studies, although his interest in Jewish languages has also earned him an appointment in Jewish studies. In 1995 he helped found Emory’s linguistics program and served as the first director for several years.

Growing up during the 1960s in Israel, Hary witnessed a divided society. Being Ashkenazi (a Jew of European background), he was a part of the dominant culture but, from background), he was a part of Ashkenazi (a Jew of European background), he was taught to avoid Arabic culture. “I heard many negative things about Arabs, which made me even more interested in them,” he says. To rebel, he strove for inclusiveness, and that has carried through in his teaching.

Ever since he was a child growing up in Israel, Benjamin Hary has had a fascination with language and with “the other” in society. As a young linguistics student, he was taught that Arabic culture, “I heard things he heard, unwilling to accept that Arabs were “bad” people, and instead was intrigued by how the division in the cultures was expressed through language. This early desire to reach beyond what is known and accepted, to be inclusive, continues to influence Hary’s scholarship. “I have this agenda in me,” he said. “We, in academia, really pride ourselves that we are totally objective and we say we don’t have an agenda. I think we do. We just need to be clean about it and say what it is.”

As an undergraduate at Jerusalem’s Hebrew University studying Arabic and Hebrew, Hary first learned of Judeo-Arabic—a blending of the two languages into a “religiolect” that is primarily Arabic with characteristics such as Hebrew script. It is a language that dates back to the 8th century and offers a window into spoken Arabic of the past.

Because Arabic was the language of God for Muslims, their documents adhered strictly to the standard language and could hardly reflect the spoken variety, which was very different. But Jews (and Christians) were not constrained in this way, so a study of old Judeo-Arabic texts can reveal much about spoken Arabic in earlier times.

Chance—and some alert observation—brought an important finding early in Hary’s career. As a graduate student at the University of California-Berkeley in the 1980s, he once took a lunchtime trip with one of his advisers to a Jewish museum, the Judah L. Magnes Museum, and noticed an uncataloged manuscript set aside from the displays.

“It caught my eye because it was in neat handwriting and it had color, some red writting in it,” Hary said. Probably destined for the trash, the document was written in Judeo-Arabic, so Hary made photocopies of it and suggested the museum hang onto it while he researched what it was. Examining the copies, Hary and his adviser, William Brinner, discovered it was a copy of the 16th century “Purim Scroll” of the Carinean Jewish community that “celebrated the disappearance of Ahmad Pasha, a self-appointed Ottoman governor of Egypt who oppressed the Jews,” Hary said. The manuscript became the topic of his first book, Multiglossia in Judeo-Arabic, a comprehensive study that situated the document historically as well as characterized and explained features of its language.

Hary’s interest in Jewish languages does not end at Judeo-Arabic; he is interested in all of them (Yiddish, Judeo-Italian, Judeo-Greek and Judeo-Spanish, are other examples). Indeed, he believes researchers should look beyond the 20 or so currently documented. All the languages vary, although many adopt Hebrew and Aramaic elements and are written with Hebrew characters. In Judeo-Italian, for instance, Hary said Italian morphemes (the smallest meaningful unit of language, such as “s” to denote plural in English) are added to Hebrew words: The Hebrew word padia (“afraid”), with the addition of the Italian ending oso, becomes padiafardo, or “timid.”

“If I say this to Italian speakers, they will say, ‘This sounds Italian, but I don’t understand it,’” Hary said. “Wherever people want to distinguish themselves, they will also do it with the language.” And so he is also interested in the more subtle differences in language, such as when young people want to create a culture distinct from that of their elders, or when women wish to forge their own identity. “Women,” Hary said, “use many more adjectives than men.”

In pursuit of this topic, and with a grant from the Center for Teaching and Curriculum in 1997, Hary developed the class, “History of American Languages,” which surveyed American languages and sociolinguistic behavior of the 20th century, focusing on the migratory aspects of language.

A more recent undertaking (one actually still in progress) has been the construction of the Corpus of Spoken Israeli Hebrew with Hary’s colleague, Shlomo Izenz (el of Tel Aviv University. A valuable tool for linguists, the corpus is an electronic database of language (in this case, naturally spoken language) that can be used to understand how words function in context. Even in this endeavor Hary sought to be inclusive by recording non-native speakers—a criterion not used in other corpora. In the case of Hebrew, he explained, where the ratio of native to non-native speakers is 1:1, it only makes sense.

“Shimon Peres, who was prime minister [of Israel], is not a native speaker of Hebrew,” Hary said. “Does that mean we can’t record him? Of course we should, because his influence on the language is huge.”

Hary is also committed to bringing “the other” to his students, not only through his classes, but even more directly by encouraging and assisting with several study abroad programs. As the director of Jewish studies’ summer abroad program, he introduces students to the history of the Sephardi Jews (originally from Spain). Students in the program first travel to Spain, studying life and culture before 1492 (when Jews were expelled from the country). During the second part, the group travels through France, Holland, Italy and Greece as they trace the path that Sephardi Jews took after being driven from Spain.

Thinking back on the role that multicultural understand- ing has played in his life, Hary wonders if his motivation for getting involved with the summer program was personal.

“My father is half-Mizrahi (a Jew of Sephardi and Arab descent), but we never acknowledged it because it was not good to be part of that; it was good to emphasize our German background,” he said. “So, now that I think about it, maybe I wasn’t just interested in ‘the other.’ Maybe I was trying to reclaim what was taken away in my own family his- tory.”

By Rachel Robertson
‘Season of Predictive Health’ Underway at Emory, March 30

BY CHRISTY GRAY

A new quarterly series, “Season of Predictive Health,” focuses on the Emory community and Society, one of Emory’s strategic plan initiatives under the umbrella of New Frontiers in Science and Technology.” Woodruff Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management Kenneth Thorpe will kick off the series March 30 at 3 p.m. in Cox Hall Ballroom, with its lecture “Policy Implications of Predictive Health.”

“The series is being held to further inform the Emory community about predictive health and to invite continued dialogue with the broader constitu- ency across campus that’s involved, or impacted by the predictive health initiative,” said Executive Vice President for Health Affairs Mike Johns. “These seminars are designed as a mechanism to continue the discussion involving the disci- plines engaged in implementing the predictive health model. Examples include systems like the Atlanta Health Care District, the Emory Health Care District, and the Emory Health Care Foundation’s Predictive Health Program.

The symposium “Seeking Ponce’s Dream—The Promise of Predictive Health,” co-hosted by Emory and Georgia Tech last December, and the recent Feb. 17 panel, which featured President Jim Wagner, Emory’s Chief Financial Officer Earl Lewis, and initiative leaders Kenneth Brigham (medicine) and Michelle Lambi (anthropology), raised questions about how Emory might lead in health care by building an implementation of a predictive health model. Thorpe will further the discussion by offering some insight into predictive health.

Thorpe is a frequent comment- er on health care issues in the print media and on television. He has appeared on Nightline with Ted Koppel, NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw, ABC World News and CNN with Peter Jennings, CNN, CNBC and NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.

He has also testified before Congress on health care reform and has worked with the American College of Physicians, American Hospital Association, National Coalition on Health Care, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Employers International Union and the United Hospital Fund, as well as policymakers, including former president Bill Clinton to develop and evaluate alterna- tive approaches for providing health care.

“Dr. Ken Thorpe is a nationally recognized author- ity on health care policy issues,” Johns said. “He will discuss not only the policy implications for the implementa- tion of Predictive Health as a model system—but he will also explore possible solutions for the implementation as well.”

Future lectures will feature speakers on the topics of educ- ation, ethics, behavior, religion and political forces as they relate to predictive health. Ray and Thorpe will align with the initiative’s concerns outlined in the strategic plan: • combining technological expertise at Emory and Georgia Tech in areas such as mus- terology, imaging and genetics/me- tabolomics; • incorporating science, technol- ogy, ethics, humanities, law, busi- ness, health policy and economics; • moving from cellular to soci- etal sciences; and • building bridges between pop- ular culture and actual health.

For more information on the strategic plan, visit www. admin.emory.edu/strategi- nicplan/.

Shuttle Service from page 1

and all 17 will converge at what has become a popular socializing spot. “We’re working on the idea of the transit area with a cafe and a convini- ence store,” Ray said.

That multifold increase will include a quantum leap in technology. Ray said that shuttle services will change dramatically. “We’re moving from a bus system to a shuttle system, to a demand-response system. People can know in advance when the shuttle will pull up to their curb,” Ray said. “This will be enormous for people who want to refuse to be platooned.”

To roll out all the changes in the planning stages for the shuttle service, the university is working with Flexcar (www.flexcar.com) to provide loaner cars that may be checked out, free of charge, for university staff to work errands.

The program will start with six gasoline-powered vehicles and seven electric cars. The loaner cars will have hybrid engines. People who are resi- dents of Emory and Georgia Tech in areas such as nanobiology, epigenomics, metabolomics and to that end Emory is con- structing a pedestrian bridge. This will connect the Emory University School of Public Health with the Emory University School of Public Health and Society,” one of Emory’s initiatives and individual health.

This week, in the print media and on ABC World Newshour with Charles Gibson, Emory University, United Hospital Fund, as well as policymakers, including former president Bill Clinton to develop and evaluate alterna- tive approaches for providing health care.

“Dr. Ken Thorpe is a nationally recognized author- ity on health care policy issues,” Johns said. “He will discuss not only the policy implications for the implementa- tion of Predictive Health as a model system—but he will also explore possible solutions for the implementation as well.”

Future lectures will feature speakers on the topics of educ- ation, ethics, behavior, religion and political forces as they relate to predictive health. Ray and Thorpe will align with the initiative’s concerns outlined in the strategic plan:

• combining technological expertise at Emory and Georgia Tech in areas such as mus- terology, imaging and genetics/me- tabolomics;
• incorporating science, technol- ogy, ethics, humanities, law, busi- ness, health policy and economics;
• moving from cellular to soci- etal sciences;
• building bridges between pop- ular culture and actual health.

For more information on the strategic plan, visit www. admin.emory.edu/strategi- nicplan/.

Katherine Hinson is director of communications for Human Resources.

Emory Report
World, new music take stage for spring concerts through April

BY NANCY CONDON

F ans of new and world music will not have to look beyond the Emory campus over the next few weeks to hear the sounds they love.

A series of concerts in March and April will bring an international beat to the University.

Tangos of Emory and Friends, an ensemble of international and local artists who form a community, will celebrate the tango, will perform March 31 in the Performing Arts Studio during two shows scheduled for 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. (Tickets are $10; $5 for non-Emory students and seniors 65 and over, Emory students free.)

The evening is organized by Horacio Amiconi, a dance instructor and member of the group, and Kristin Wendland, a faculty member in the music department.

Tangos of Emory is a University project that involves students, alumni and Atlanta residents who love to tango. The group includes teachers and members of Atlanta Tango, Milonga a Media Luz Cooperativa, Buenos Aires tango and Tango Evolution.

The tango, known for its sensual movements, has long been a part of Argentine culture. Devotees of the erotic dance, which has made a comeback among the general population in recent years, span the globe.

The evening will begin with a demonstration of how the dance was performed several decades ago and will end with milonga, a modern tango social dance that will be open to all the dancers in the audience.

Music will be performed by Kurt Gerber, a Buenos Aires bandoneon player, duo-ATL, which features classical guitarists Brian Luckett and flutist Nicole Randall; Argentinian violinist Alejandro Drago; and New England-based composer Ray Leigre. Tenor Julian Ingram, a Kennesaw State University vocal student, will sing, and the opening piece, “El Payador,” by 19th century Argentine composer Gabino Jara.

Thamyris New Music will present “Metal Garden” during a free performance at the Schwartz Center at 8 p.m. on March 28. Founded in 1987 by music department faculty members Laura Gordy and Peggy Benkoske, the group will perform solo and ensemble pieces by present-day composers.

Thamyris has been a major presence in Atlanta’s new music scene, winning the Cultural Olympiad Regional Designation Awards from 1993 to 1995. The group had a five-year residency with Spevy Hall, and was appointed ensemble-in-residence at Emory in 1998.

During the performance, Gordy will open with “Metal Garden” with “Music for Piano,” by Argentine composer Pragaia and Zadeh. Electronics will provide depth for three of the four solo pieces, written for instruments never normally not played solo, including Kaio Saaristo’s “Six Japanese Gardens” for percussion, performed by Stuart Gerber, a founding member of the new music group Bent Frequency, and Matthew Martin’s “They’re Still Running to the West, Felix,” played by col- list Craig Hultgren, Alabama Symphony member. Everett’s “Rendezvous IV” for violin, performed by Atlanta Opera Concertmaster Helen Kim, incorporates an additional layer of interactive electronics. The other two pieces, Ades’ “Catch” and Adversus’ “Worker’s Union” are played by the entire ensemble with Everett conducting and playing double bass and electronics and Ted Gurch playing clarinet.

“The general idea of our program is to incorporate two extremes,” Everett said. “On one hand, we are showcasing individuals, and on the other we are demonstrating how there is this ultimate unity in new music.

Prairie Winds, a wind instrument quintet, will perform April 6 at 8 p.m., following the performance by the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta’s Soci- ety Chamber Orchestra and guests on April 9 at 4 p.m. The Emory Wind Ensemble and graduate orchestra will perform on April 11 at 8 p.m. All of those April performances will be held in the Schwartz Center at no charge.

For more information, call 404-727-5050 or visit www. arts.emory.edu.

RELAY FOR LIFE from page 1

The race tradition began in May 1985 when Gordy Klatt coordinated a 24-hour walk/run around a track in Tacoma, Wash. Klatt, a colorectal surgeon, ran 38 miles, raising about $27,000 in donations that were given to the American Cancer Society.

During the following year, Klatt continued the event, recruiting 220 participants who were divided into teams. Two decades later, Relay For Life is held annually in many states and is now embraced by eight countries outside the United States.

Emory is catching onto the trend. The University’s chapter of Colleges Against Cancer (CAC), a member of the American Cancer Society’s Cancer Action Movement, will host the relay.

As of March 19, Emory had raised $4,482 for the American Cancer Society, according to a statement on the CAC’s Web site.

“I am hoping that this relay will become a key part of the Emory community,” Cohen said. “Unlike many other charity events or fundraisers, Relay has the unique opportunity to give back to its commu- nity. The money raised stays in the area for the American Cancer Society’s programs, services and research.”

Every team nominates a captain, and participants set goals of how much money they hope to raise. All the proceeds are given to the American Cancer Society.

Participation is free for all cancer survivors and those who pre-register. General participants must pay $10 and should register with Emory’s chapter of Relay For Life.

There will be two team captain meetings for newly established teams on March 29 and April 19 at 7 p.m. in room 114 of Candler Library. At 7 p.m. on April 25 there will be a “Bank Night,” where teams can pick up their shirts, drop off money and get last-minute updates. As hour before the race begins, there will be a “Survivor’s Reception” on the third floor of the P.E. Center for cancer survi- vors.

For more information please visit www.students. emory.edu/cac, www.ac- sevants.org/emoryrelay or Learnlink “Relay 2006.”

Olmsted Park group receives Baker Award

At a ceremony held March 16, Friends of Emory Forest (FOEF) President Nancy Sidemean presented the Woolford B. Greer Award to Brian Bowen, vice president of Olmsted Linear Park Alliance. Named for the string of green spaces along Ponce de Leon Ave. which it is trying to restore and enhance, the alliance has raised nearly $5 million since its inception in 1995. Olmsted Park is named for landscape archi- tect Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed both the park and nearby Druid Hills neighborhood in the late 19th century.

In other business, council members heard opening remarks from Kent Linville, dean of academic affairs for Oxford College.

University Governance Employs Council ready to elect new leaders

S even candidates are vying to hold leadership positions on the Employee Council, which will elect a slate of new of- ficers in April to lead the group during the next academic year.

The hopefuls laid out their agendas when they addressed council members, who gathered March 15 in the Seney Confer- ence Room at Oxford College for the council’s annual meeting on the Newton County campus.

The council will elect its 2006-07 leaders at its April 19 meet- ing. Vacant offices are president-elect, treasurer and historian. The positions are contested, but only one person is running for the position of secretary-elect.

Kelly Gordon, who has worked at The Carter Center for the past 12 years, is unopposed in the secretary-elect race. Colliton, who has a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Emory, has been on the council since 2004.

Kelly and Linda Sheldon are running for president. Kelly works as assistant director of facilities operations for Greeks Life & Custodial Services. He has served on the council for over five years. “I want to grab hold of the torch and run the race better than the people before,” he told the members.

I want to leave it better than I found it,” Sheldon said.

Sheldon works in Campus Services as a manager of accessibil- ity design and construction. She has served on the council for two years. “Leadership is what I’m interested in,” she said. “I bring a fresh perspective.”

The other candidates are: Chris Alexander, the incumbent, who is running against Jennifer Vazquez for the treasurer’s slot, while Betty Goetz is competing against Ed Koffsky for the post of historian.

The Employee Council is the official voice for Employee staff and serves as an advisory board to University administrators. Voting members of the council are the only ones allowed to cast ballots during the election.

In addition to selecting its leaders, Employee Council mem- bers will also vote on revisions to the group’s bylaws.

The changes include: allowing elected officers to serve from September to May, an attempt to give incoming officers more time to prepare for their new duties before officially taking office; codifying a practice that designates the secretary of the University Senate to be a member of the Employee Council; and increasing the duties of the parliamentarian.

In other business, council members heard opening remarks from Kent Linville, dean of academic affairs for Oxford College.

Council members also received updates about: the status of proposed changes to employee benefits suggested last year by the Benefits Review Committee; the brown bag seminar held March 9 to apprise the campus about efforts to implement sug- gestions made during the climate survey; the switch to Medco, the new company that will manage the University’s prescription drug benefit, starting April 1; and parking woes on campus. Lau- rence Ray, associate vice president for transportation and parking, is scheduled to appear next month to update council members about the University’s ongoing effort to increase mobility on campus.—Alfred Charles

If you have a question or comment for Employee Council, send an e-mail to President Louis Burton at louis.burton@emory- healthcare.org.

S

O

7

5

March 27, 2006

University Report

Emory

Olmsted Park group receives Baker Award

At a ceremony held March 16, Friends of Emory Forest (FOEF) President Nancy Sidemean presented the Woolford B. Greer Award to Brian Bowen, vice president of Olmsted Linear Park Alliance. Named for the string of green spaces along Ponce de Leon Ave. which it is trying to restore and enhance, the alliance has raised nearly $5 million since its inception in 1995. Olmsted Park is named for landscape archi- tect Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed both the park and nearby Druid Hills neighborhood in the late 19th century.

In other business, council members heard opening remarks from Kent Linville, dean of academic affairs for Oxford College.

Council members also received updates about: the status of proposed changes to employee benefits suggested last year by the Benefits Review Committee; the brown bag seminar held March 9 to apprise the campus about efforts to implement sug- gestions made during the climate survey; the switch to Medco, the new company that will manage the University’s prescription drug benefit, starting April 1; and parking woes on campus. Lau- rence Ray, associate vice president for transportation and parking, is scheduled to appear next month to update council members about the University’s ongoing effort to increase mobility on campus.—Alfred Charles

If you have a question or comment for Employee Council, send an e-mail to President Louis Burton at louis.burton@emory- healthca

Winship nabs $7.5M national grant for cancer research

BY VINCENT DOLLARD

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has awarded a $7.5 million grant, one of the largest lung cancer research grants in the country, to Winship Cancer Institute, with additional support coming from the Georgia Cancer Coalition, Georgia's innovative public/private cancer research partnership.

The grant is built around four scientific projects supported by three core laboratories, and the grant team comprises some 40 researchers, clinicians, fellows and technicians from 10 departments throughout Woodruff Health Sciences Center. The project's primary goal is to enhance therapeutic strategies for lung cancer.

"Lung cancer is one of the most devastating public health issues we face in Georgia today," said director Fadlo Khuri of the Emory University School of Medicine, Winship's parent institution. "Our desire is to advance our understanding of the biology of lung cancer and the introduction of several novel clinical research agents, five-year survival for this disease remains dismal 15 percent.

Khuri said the project aims to improve lung cancer therapy by better understanding how lung cancer cells communicate. Researchers will study "cell signaling pathways" and how several drugs interfere with them, so that cancer cells cannot communicate and reproduce. By utilizing data from a large international clinical trial that studied the most effective treatment sequence of chemotherapy and surgery among lung cancer patients, we hope to develop better, more personalized therapies," Fu said.

We also hope to find new drugs that target cancer cells and their altered signaling pathways, leaving healthy cells alone.

"This is a vitally important step for lung cancer research in Georgia and in the United States," said Michael Johns, executive vice president for health affairs. "This grant also sends a clear signal that collaboration among research and clinical faculty throughout the Emory system and beyond is working, and it is working to advance some of the most pressing medical issues of our time."

According to the American Cancer Society's recently published Cancer Facts and Figures, Georgia will witness 4,860 new cases of lung cancer in 2006, and an estimated 4,530 Georgians will die of lung cancer this year. Nationally, new cases of lung and other respiratory organ cancers for both men and women are estimated to be 176,860.

"We are proud to support this exciting and innovative program," said Bill Todd, president and CEO of the Georgia Cancer Coalition. "We salute [the researchers'] hard work, vision and tenacity in bringing this important grant to Georgia."

In addition to Khuri, five other researchers involved in the PO-1 have received grant support from the Georgia Cancer Coalition as Distinguished Cancer Research Project of the Year.

Project Three studies the anticancer effectiveness of farnesyl transferase inhibitors and how they synergize with existing chemotherapies such as Taxol and Taxotere. Project Four, as one component of the integrated grant project, will test the hypothesis that certain proteins support the survival of lung cancer cells by suppressing the normal cell-death functions of similar proteins.

"Dr. Khuri, Dr. Fu and the entire team of researchers and clinicians who worked so hard to develop this exceptional grant are to be commended," said medical Dean Tom Lawley.

"This grant represents a sharpened focus on a devastating disease. It is this kind of work that will truly make a difference for lung cancer patients and their loved ones."

Study: Directed intervention can improve diabetes care

BY JANET CHRISTENBURY

With the rate of diabetes threatening to approach epidemic proportions, Emory researchers have found that management of diabetic patients in a primary care setting can be improved by an intervention aimed at physicians.

Study organizers individualized the interventions to physicians' record of action when patient glucose levels were high, and featured regular feedback on their performance. Such feedback seemed to improve physicians' use of therapy and led to lower glucose levels in patients (glucose levels are closely linked to the likelihood of developing diabetes complications such as kidney failure or blindness).

The results of the three-year study were published in the March 1 issue of Archives of Internal Medicine.

"This study reaffirms the importance of correcting what we call 'clinical inertia'—the failure of health care providers to intensify therapy appropriately when clinically indicated," said Lawrence Phillips, professor of medicine in the Division of Endocrinology and senior author of the paper. "We found that feedback on performance given to primary care physicians decreased their clinical inertia, and as a result, patients' glucose levels improved. The patients became healthier.

The research was made possible by a unique health care partnership of generalists and specialists, aimed at improving care for patients not seen by specialists. The partnership differs from typical consultations where specialists see patients directly. Researchers focused on the primary care setting because most patients with diabetes are managed by generalists in such settings.

In the study, 345 primary care practitioners at Emory (internal medicine residents, or medical doctors still in training) were randomized either to be controls (no intervention) or to receive interventions aimed at their behavior—either a computerized reminders with patient-specific recommendations for changes in therapy; physician-specific feedback on their performance given by endocrinologists in five-minute, face-to-face meetings every two weeks; or both reminders and performance feedback.

When patients' glucose (blood sugar) levels were high during health care visits, physician behavior was categorized as "did nothing," "did anything" (any intensification of therapy) or "did enough" (if intensification met recommendations). More than 4,000 patients participated in the study.

At baseline, physicians "did anything" for 35 percent of visits and "did enough" for 21 percent. Intervention intensity increased more in the two groups receiving feedback on performance than for the other two groups. After three years, physician behavior in the reminders and control groups returned to baseline, whereas improvement with feedback alone or feedback plus reminders was sustained.

"This feedback on performance contributed independently to the likelihood that a physician would intensify therapy when clinically indicated, and that intensity contributed independently to improved glucose levels. More specifically, feedback on diabetic outcomes—complications, death and cost—it's critical that we find better ways to manage the disease," Phillips said. "This study showed the importance of reducing the problem of clinical inertia, and developing interventions which can help overcome this problem. The feedback on performance intervention helped providers to intensify therapy more frequently when clinically indicated, to intensify therapy enough to make a clinical difference, and to bring patients with high glucose levels back for early return visits.

"The study worked," he said, "because it succeeded in three key dimensions: identifying the problem, using an intervention that targets the problem, and focusing on specific, important behaviors to improve."

Diabetes is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and the major cause of kidney failure, blindness and nontraumatic leg amputation in adults. The disease is also a major contributor to U.S. health care costs. In 2002, Phillips said, diabetes accounted for one out of every nine health care dollars and about 30 percent of Medicare costs.
Emory Flight soars to help fly Gulf Coast's stranded to safety

BY KATHI BAKER

MONTHS after hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, two bridges that connect Biloxi to New Orleans are still not accessible. Emory Flight, a partner with LifeNet Medical Services, has been supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in missions to transport seriously ill or injured patients while the bridges and other infrastructure allow them quick access to urgent medical care in New Orleans are being repaired.

Long after many Americans have stopped thinking about Katrina, some Emory Flight medical personnel are still living in tents, sleeping on cots, eating in mess halls and using outdoor showers.

“This is as close as to a modern-day M.A.S.H. unit as we can get,” said John Holland, aviation director for Emory Flight’s Southeast region. “The flying area that we have set up is so remote that we could not even get roads on (our global positioning system).”

Emory Flight began its mission immediately after Katrina hit, rescuing and transporting victims to safety. Since then, FEMA has asked Emory Flight to set up flying areas where they can quickly respond to patients who need to get to an emergency room. A distance that would take an hour-and-a-half by car can be covered in seven minutes by helicopter.

“In one incident, we were returning to the area after dropping off some patients when we noticed there had been a truck accident,” Holland said. “When we landed, we found five people injured. Fortunately, we were able to get those people to the hospital by air. In situations like that, getting a patient treated quickly can mean life or death. Travel by ambulance may not have gotten them there in time.”

Emory Flight helicopters have been staffed by volunteer Emory Flight medical personnel for the last three FEMA missions. Volunteers are assigned to the Gulf Coast for a week at a time. For Emory’s Flight’s most recent mission, which has been extended for about a year, medical personnel have been recruited from around the country.

“Our employees have been stretched pretty thin over the last several months, so we have begun to train other medical professionals to staff the helicopters,” Holland said. “However, we have been able to provide the use of our most modern long-range aircraft, and we intend to continue to help out in any way we can, as long as we are needed.”

Emory Flight is a partnership that combines staff trained by Emory Emergency Medicine faculty with LifeNet helicopter services. Each helicopter is designed as an airborne critical care unit, staffed by a pilot, nurse and paramedic, and linked through advanced technology communications to physician specialist in the receiving hospital or facility. Care begins the moment the patient is placed on the helicopter. The medical director for the Emory Flight program is Alexander Isakov, an experienced flight physician and assistant professor of emergency medicine.

LifeNet is owned by Rocky Mountain Helicopters, which has been associated with the air medical industry for over 25 years. The Denver company was the provider of choice of the first aeromedical transport program in the United States. It currently operates aircraft at 59 locations throughout the United States and Puerto Rico and employs over 750 personnel nationwide, including medical staff.

Focus: International Affairs

Awards dinner to honor An-Na’im, Austrian alum

EMORY will present its highest international awards during a March 27 ceremony that will honor two individuals who have significantly contributed to the University’s internationalization.

Abdulhadi An-Na’im, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law, will receive this year’s Marvin V. Creekmore Award for international relations for his tireless efforts to build international human rights scholarship that effects positive social change around the world.

The Creekmore Award (named for Emory’s first provost for international affairs, Marion Creekmore) was established by Claus Halle and is given each year to an Emory faculty member who excels in the advancement of the University’s commitment to internationalization.

An-Na’im is an internationally recognized scholar on Islam and human rights and a senior fellow in the School of Law’s Center for the Study of Law and Religion. Since coming to Emory in 1995, he has worked to promote an understanding of Islam consistent with international human rights standards, and to put scholarship in the service of improving human rights, in particular for women, children and religious minorities living in Islamic nations.

“Professor An-Na’im has made it his life-long ambition to develop a genuine Islamic theory and practice of human rights, democratization and rule of law,” said interim law Dean Frank Alexander. “He now stands at the height of his intellectual powers, and the world now stands at the height of its need for understanding of and reconciliation with the Islamic world.”

An-Na’im is the author and editor of 15 books and more than 100 articles which place book chapters on human rights, constitutionalism, Islamic law and politics. Over the past decade, his work has attracted nearly $2 million in support from the Ford Foundation for a series of multi-year, international research projects, including studies on women and land rights in Africa, Islamic family law and an Islamic human rights fellowship program, which brought to Emory a dozen or more scientists from Islamic nations advocating for social change in their home countries.

His current project is a two-year study on the future of Islamic law (sharia) and the role of religious neutrality in Islamic societies.

At a second award, the Sheth Distinguished International Alumni Award, will be presented to Austrian Manfred Asamer, graduate of the Goizueta Business School (88MBA).

The Sheth Award, established by Manzoor and Joshua Sheth, Charles H. Kelilitz Professor of Marketing, recognizes Emory’s international alumni who have distinguished themselves in service to universities, governments, private sector firms or nongovernmental organizations.

Asamer is president and CEO of Asamer & Hufnagl Holding AG, a company active in gravel, stone, cement, recycling, waste treatment and real estate. One of the largest and most important companies in the state of Upper Austria, the firm employs 2,700 people across five European countries: Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Saudi Arabia. The company’s foundation (building materials) has been critical to the expansion and rebuilding of infrastructure throughout post-Soviet Central and Eastern Europe.

Asamer is bringing those honored accomplishments, for the important role he and his company play in the economic reemergence of East and Central Europe since the fall of the Berlin Wall, and for bringing recognition to Emory through his support of Goizueta’s close relationship with its oldest exchange partner, the Johannes Kepler University of Linz, Austria.

A University of Linz graduate himself, Asamer was among the first Austrians to be awarded a Goizueta MBA. Today, Goizueta has awarded 55 MBAs to students from the University of Linz, making Austria home to one of the largest populations of Emory degree-holders outside of the United States. Asamer’s support for Emory continues through his membership on EMBA, the University’s international advisory board for the Europe, Middle East and Africa region.

Goizueta Professor Al Hartgraves, who for almost two decades has been Emory’s point person for the University of Linz partnership, said that over the years he has observed Asamer’s development as an Austrian business leader.

Asamer inherited the opportunity for leadership of a fine family business,” Hartgraves said, “but through his extraordinary abilities and efforts has grown a solid family business into a great entrepreneurial enterprise.

Lailie Mendelson is manager of public relations for the Office of International Affairs.
**Events for the Emory Community**

***Monday, March 27***

**Power Reading**

James Nave, presenting. 7 p.m. Williams Hall (Oxford). Free. 404-778-8888.

**TUESDAY, March 28**

**Concert**

Thailand New Music Ensemble, performing. 8 p.m. Emison Concert Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

**WEDNESDAY, March 29**

**Film**

Salam Bombay! Mira Nair, director. 7:30 p.m. 205 White Hall. Free. 404-727-6761.

**THURSDAY, March 30**

**Dance**


**CONCERT**

Emory Jazz Combo, performing. 8 p.m. Emerson Concert Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

**FRIDAY, March 31**

**Concert**

“Tangos.” Kristin Wendland, director. 8 & 11 p.m. Auditorium, Performing Arts Studio. $10, general admission; $5, discount category members; free, Emory students. 404-727-5050.

**SATURDAY, April 2**

**Concert**

Melissa Plamann, organ, performing. Glenn Auditorium. 8 p.m. Free. 404-727-5050.

**SUNDAY, April 3**

**Art Showcase**

“Fieldwork Showcase.” 7 p.m. Dance Studio, Performing Arts Center. $7. 404-727-5050.

**CONCERT**

Rotterdam Philharmonic and Vladimir Fedoseyenko, piano, performing; Varly Gergiev, conductor. 8 p.m. Emerson Concert Hall, Schwartz Center. $60, general admission; $40, discount category members; $10, Emory students. 404-727-5050.

**PERFORMING ARTS**

**MONDAY, March 27**

**College Exhibit**


**Through March 31.**

**Carlos Museum Exhibit**


**April 2.**

**Carlos Museum Exhibit**

“Greek and Roman Art.” Carlos Museum. Free. students, faculty, staff & members; $7 suggested donation. 404-727-4282.

**LECTURES**

**Monday, March 27**

**African Studies Lecture**

“Rescrambling Southern Africa’s ‘Middle Migrations.’” John Wright, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg (South Africa), presenting. 4:30 p.m. 1385 Oxford Rd., Room 108. Free. 404-727-6402.

**Nursing Lecture**

“Nurses for America: Challenge Yourselves. Change a Community!” Barbara Aranda-Naranjo, Nurses for America, presenting. 4 p.m. 101 of Nursing. Free. 404-727-0772.

**Middle Eastern Studies Lecture**

“Anadolu Moorings.” Ross Braun, Cornell University, presenting. 4:30 p.m. 110 White Hall. Free. 404-727-2297.

**TUESDAY, March 28**

**History Lecture**


**Health Lecture**

“Like It or Not, We’re All Getting Older and Communicative Dynamics of Aging.” Howard Giles, University of California, Santa Barbara, presenting. 4:15 p.m. 206 White Hall. Free. 404-727-7904.

**Art History Lecture**


**Family Violence Panel**

“Family Violence and the Juvenile Court System.” 7 p.m. 102 White Hall. Free. 404-727-6268.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**MONDAY, March 27**

**Dooley’s Week Celebration Opening**

8 p.m. McDonough Field. Free. 404-727-6169.

**TUESDAY, March 28**

**Career Discussion Panel**


**NONPROFIT**

**Networking Night**

7 p.m. Winship Ballroom, Dobbs Center. Free. 404-727-6268.

**Wednesday, March 29**

**Powerpoint Workshop**


**THURSDAY, March 30**

**Neonatology Conference**

7:30 a.m. Conference Center. Cost TBA. 404-727-4769. Also March 31.

**MARIAN Panel**


**Art Research Workshop**

11:30 a.m. 310 Woodruff Library. Free. 404-727-2997.

**University Seminar**


**SUNDAY, April 2**

**Manjushri Sand Mandala Closing Ceremony**

10 a.m. Reception Hall, Carlos Museum. Free. 404-727-6280.

***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.ece.emory.edu/ (also accessible via the “Calendar” link from the Emory homepage), at least three weeks prior to the publication date. Dates, times and locations may change without advance notice. Due to space limitations, Emory Report may not be able to include all events submitted.