UNITY MONTH

Month-long celebration fosters campus unity

BY BENJAMIN VAN DER HORST

For junior Maria Ladega, Unity Month is a time for many things — reflection, education, great events — but she never forgets the goals of the celebration.

“No matter how many different labels divide us as a society, be it race, religion, gender, or ethnicity,” she said, “hopefully, at the end of the day, we can all join together in a celebration of our differences and similarities.”

For the Emory Community, Unity Month is an opportunity to celebrate diversity and unity through an array of multicultural and educational activities.

This year’s theme is “iRock Unity, iRep Emory,” inspired by the popular Apple iPod campaign. Donna Wong, director of the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services which sponsors Unity Month, explained that “iRock Unity means that each person believes in a united Emory campus; and iRep means each person represents a united Emory campus.”

“Like the iPod, we encourage people to ‘add to their playlist’ and experience new and different cultural perspectives,” she said. “Through our calendar of activities in November, staff and students can ‘shuffle’ and pick and participate in cross-cultural programs.”

The events kicked off with a special “Wonderful Wednesday” celebration on Nov. 1, and featured various multicultural groups hosting food and information booths in Asbury Circle. That evening, Provost Earl Lewis led a dialogue on race at Emory. About 60 members of the Emory community attended this session in the Cox Hall Ballroom.

The discussion centered on the need to develop a more diverse community. Race should not be a limiting factor in a united Emory campus.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community partnership programs boosted by University investment

BY BEVERLY CLARK

When Emory College Junior Kinda Secret signed up for a community psychology course last spring, she wasn’t sure what to expect. What she found was a learning experience unlike any other thus far in her education.

Instead of textbooks and a classroom, Secret and her classmates spent much of their time at Carson Prep, an Atlanta Public School in northwest Atlanta. Part of their coursework included running a mentoring program for the middle school girls.

“Anyone can memorize facts and figures in a classroom, but putting that knowledge into action gives you a different perspective,” Secret said. “I learned more than I expected, and spending time with the girls was good — for all of us.

Working in the community was a great experience and I hope more students can have the chance as part of their education.”

Now many more likely will.

Emory envisions a $12 million investment over the next five years to enhance the university’s engagement with the greater Atlanta community and beyond. A $2 million investment from the strategic fund plan leverages and jumps-starts the expansion of activities sponsored by Emory’s Office of University-Community Partnerships.

“Plans to secure $10 million in gifts and grants over the next five years will make it possible for the OUCP to tap more fully the enormous potential for engaged scholarship and learning at Emory — particularly in its graduate and professional schools — and in the Atlanta community. It is an initiative that cuts across all schools within the University and builds upon the five major themes of Emory’s strategic plan.

Since its inception five years ago, OUCP has sent students like Secret, as well as faculty and staff, into Atlanta neighborhoods and beyond to work on myriad community issues, such as gentrification, immigration, education, green space and health. Many projects can now move beyond the pilot phase.

“At the core of our mission is an engagement with our community that infuses and affects all of our scholarship,” said Emory law professor Frank Alexander, who is leading a 20-member advisory board of faculty, staff and students that will provide recommendations on the best strategies for advancing engaged learning and scholarship at Emory as it relates to OUCP’s strategic initiative.

The board also will help define the future of OUCP, particularly with regard to its role, function and governance structure. The group will report its recommendations to Provost Earl Lewis next spring.

“Historically, the university has sponsored and supported community engagement. However, this strategic commitment is a very strong affirmation that engagement is a necessary component of scholarship and learning for Emory, and we are incomplete without it,” said Alexander, who also is the founding director for the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory, and who also is the founding director for the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory. “Community engagement is something we do because it goes to the core of our vision of who we are and who we will be as a university.”

In addition to serving the community by providing solutions to real problems, engaged scholarship also has tangible benefits for students, faculty and staff, into Atlanta neighborhoods and beyond to work on myriad community issues, such as gentrification, immigration, education, green space and health. Many projects can now move beyond the pilot phase.

“Of course the board’s recommendations will set the stage for the pilot phase,” Alexander said. “At the core of our mission is an engagement with our community that infuses and affects all of our scholarship.”

Emory partnerships have been sponsored and supported by multicultural initiatives and educational activities. For the Emory Community, Unity Month is an opportunity to celebrate diversity and unity through an array of multicultural and educational activities.

This year’s theme is “iRock Unity, iRep Emory,” inspired by the popular Apple iPod campaign. Donna Wong, director of the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services which sponsors Unity Month, explained that “iRock Unity means that each person believes in a united Emory campus; and iRep means each person represents a united Emory campus.”

“Like the iPod, we encourage people to ‘add to their playlist’ and experience new and different cultural perspectives,” she said. “Through our calendar of activities in November, staff and students can ‘shuffle’ and pick and participate in cross-cultural programs.”

The events kicked off with a special “Wonderful Wednesday” celebration on Nov. 1, and featured various multicultural groups hosting food and information booths in Asbury Circle. That evening, Provost Earl Lewis led a dialogue on race at Emory. About 60 members of the Emory community attended this session in the Cox Hall Ballroom.

The discussion centered on the need to develop a more diverse community. Race should not be a limiting factor in a united Emory campus.

HEALTH SERVICES

Have you had your flu shot?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, between 5 percent and 20 percent of the U.S. population gets the flu each year, and an average of more than 200,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths are attributable to influenza annually.

Influenza viruses undergo frequent mutations, which makes it difficult for the immune system to fight new strains of the virus. This is why global surveillance of influenza viruses is so important, why the influenza vaccine must be changed each year, and why annual flu vaccines are necessary.

Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses, and it can cause mild to severe illness. The flu can be spread a day before symptoms appear and can be contagious for four days after illness strikes. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccination each fall. The flu vaccination cannot cause influenza.

• Flu shots are free to Emory employees with their employee ID and Emory employee health insurance card.

• Flu shots are free to Emory students insured by the Emory student health insurance plan with their Emory student ID and Emory health insurance card.

• For all non-Emory employees and students (over the age of 17) the cost is $23.

• No appointment is necessary.

For a schedule of when and where to get flu shots, visit www.emory.edu/fsap or call the Faculty Staff Assistance Program at 404-727-4328.

Dates and locations before Thanksgiving are as follows:

Nov. 14, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Emory West Center for Lifelong Learning

Nov. 15, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Emory Law School, Agnor Room

Nov. 16, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Grady Campus FOB, Classroom 101
Unity: Tradition that’s more than a month

Ace each school year, I look forward to the fall and the events surrounding it. No longer a solid blanket of monochromatic greens, the trees evolve into a mosaic canvas of red, yellow, gold, orange and brown. The multicolored palette buoy my spirit as an ever-changing naturan transforming.

The fall is also a time when Emory students, staff and faculty work together to plan a series of multi-ethnic, multicultural activities known collectively as Emory’s November Unity Celebration.

 Begun in 1991 as Unity Week, the now-month-long event celebrates the ever-expanding diversity and rich resources present in our Emory community. The kaleidoscope of programs fosters greater understanding among groups.

The expansion from Unity Week to the month-long November Unity Celebration reflects demographic shifts on the Emory campus. In the mid-1970s, non-white students totaled less than 5 percent of the student body. By 1991 students of color made up over 30 percent of the student body. Now, in the fall of 2006, students of color make up over 30 percent of the student body, and international students come from 111 countries.

Such statistics don’t tell the whole story. Within our racial groups, our identities and lives tie to even greater diversity of religions, traditions, values, food, fabric, music, dance and beliefs.

The Unity Planning Committee, a mix of students, staff and faculty, draws upon local music when planning opportunities for cultural exchange — opportunities to share experiences and learn from each other while building bridges of understanding across the Emory community.

Unity Celebration stands out as a distinctive Emory tradition that many alumni name as their most meaningful, as a visual promotional tool to be printed on T-shirts and banners. This year, the committee unanimously picked “iRock unity, iRep Emory;” an allusion to the popular iPod campaign: “adding one’s playlist” and “shuffling out of a predictable routine to achieve greater enjoyment.”

Our message throughout the month, “iRock unity, iRep Emory;” was designed to resonate with a number of international students. We thought that the expression would be commonly understood by all, but the slogan (along with our assumption that the popularly distributed extended and nominations) clouded communication.

We hummed along,plugging the month with schools songs to keep creating pulsating. That is, until an international lens placed upon the slogan sensitized us to the nuances that language produces in a global community. Our revised message, “iRock unity” equals I believe in and support a united community which includes all of us; “iRep Emory” equals I represent Emory, an inclusive and unified campus.

As Emory becomes even more diverse and international, the community must continue to strive to strengthen communication and seek inclusion of diverse voices.

The unappealing reality is that our cohesive community will lose the strength of a common purpose and splinter into disenfranchised, marginalized and silenced groups. Unless we promote broader communication and inclusion, we will lose the enrichment that an integrated, interactive community provides. And we will lose an important foundation for a lifetime of successful interpersonal interactions.

To thrive, grow and flourish as a diverse destination university, we must ensure that our comfortable community will not lose the strength of a common purpose and splinter into disenfranchised, marginalized and silenced groups. Unless we promote broader communication and inclusion, we will lose the enrichment that an integrated, interactive community provides. And we will lose an important foundation for a lifetime of successful interpersonal interactions.

To thrive, grow and flourish as a diverse destination university, we must ensure that our cohesive community will lose the strength of a common purpose and splinter into disenfranchised, marginalized and silenced groups. Unless we promote broader communication and inclusion, we will lose the enrichment that an integrated, interactive community provides. And we will lose an important foundation for a lifetime of successful interpersonal interactions.

To thrive, grow and flourish as a diverse destination university, we must ensure that our cohesive community will lose the strength of a common purpose and splinter into disenfranchised, marginalized and silenced groups. Unless we promote broader communication and inclusion, we will lose the enrichment that an integrated, interactive community provides. And we will lose an important foundation for a lifetime of successful interpersonal interactions.

To thrive, grow and flourish as a diverse destination university, we must ensure that our cohesive community will lose the strength of a common purpose and splinter into disenfranchised, marginalized and silenced groups. Unless we promote broader communication and inclusion, we will lose the enrichment that an integrated, interactive community provides. And we will lose an important foundation for a lifetime of successful interpersonal interactions.
Laurie Patton, chair of the department of religion, has published poetry based on her experiences in India.

Patton is helping to coordinate, implement and monitor initiatives in areas such as religion, conflict and peace building; religion and the arts; religion and health; contemplative studies; and religion and science. As part of this effort, Patton and co-convenor Carol Newsom, professor of Old Testament at Candler School of Theology, will host a University-wide research seminar in religion in the spring of 2007.

"These initiatives have grown out of grassroots collaborations that have already happened at Emory," Patton said. "It is genuinely interdisciplinary, and that’s really exciting to see."

Patton’s academic and research appointments have taken her from Columbia University to the University of Tel Aviv, Israel, and Deccan College in Pune, India. Pune is also home for Patton during her Indian journeys. She described her world in Pune as equally multi-religious to her world at Emory. “I work with Hindu teachers, do my research on Hindu women, and my other friends and family are secular Marxists and Muslims.”

In Pune, Patton works closely with a non-governmental organization called Aasaloca, a women’s documentation and research center. Pune is also one of the places where women have served as Hindu priestesses for decades, part of a movement that Patton hopes to explore further in the future.

Patton said her intellectual journey has been shaped by the roles and interactions between poetry and society. “I have always been struck by the role of the arts in changing the world,” she said. “When societies are in conflict at every other level – diplomatic, religious, strategic and otherwise – I think that artistic exchange is the last place of hope for those involved in and affected by violence.”

Poetry, in particular, has become her passion. Her first book of poetry, “Fire’s Goal: Poems from a Hindu Year,” was inspired by a year of journeys to sacred water sources in India, augmented by a decade of writing and reading interpretation of India’s most sacred Sanskrit compositions, the Veda. She is currently completing a second book of poetry following the Jewish ritual year.

Patton’s other works include “Bringing the Gods to Mind: Mantra and Ritual in Early Indian Sacrifice” and “The Indo-Aryan Controversy: Evidence, History and Politics.” Another book, on the role of scandal and the secular study of religion, will be published by the University of Chicago Press.

Patton visited India as a Fulbright scholar, where she researched her second forthcoming book, “Grandfather Language: Women and Sanskrit in Maharashtra and Beyond.”

The book, Patton’s first ethnographic project, will provide a unique perspective on the history of Sanskrit and gender. Patton describes it as “all about women coming to own their voice as Sanskritists.”

As an analysis of more than 80 life histories of women Sanskritists living in all parts of India, the book addresses the gender demographics of the study of Sanskrit – an issue that hasn’t been frequently raised in the field,” Patton said.

Patton composed several of the last poems in her first book in Sanskrit. “I’m a fairly slow and not terribly gifted student of the language,” she said, “but it adds a certain contemplative quality to what I do.”

Her English translation of the “Bhagavad Gita,” an ancient Sanskrit text, is forthcoming from Penguin Classics.

In her spare time, Patton is writing a novel, a multi-generational saga set in the same New England town. It is her first attempt at fiction, and she has been inspired by the rigorous writing courses she has taken at Emory. “I have the good fortune to be a part of two writing groups at Emory, all brilliant women who also take creative writing seriously even as they pursue other academic or administrative careers,” she said.

Patton’s own career can be traced to a thoughtful study of religion that began at Harvard, advanced at the University of Chicago and continues today at Emory, where many religious traditions flourish. “Religious diversity,” she said, “is one of the things that contributes to the richness of this planet.”

WINSHIP INSTITUTE
Winship Institute appoints Leyland-Jones new director

Brian Leyland-Jones has been appointed associate vice president and director of Emory University’s Winship Cancer Institute.

Leyland-Jones is currently the Minda de Gunzburg Chair in Oncology and professor of medicine at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. From 1990 to 2000, he served as founding chair of oncology and director of the McGill University Comprehensive Cancer Centre.

“We are delighted to announce that Dr. Leyland-Jones will join the Emory Winship Cancer Institute,” said Michael E. Johns, executive vice president of health affairs for Emory University. “He comes to Emory with a vision for the future of Winship and experience in making that vision a reality.”

Leyland-Jones holds biochemistry, medical and doctoral degrees from the University of London. He completed a clinical pharmacology fellowship at Cornell University and a medical oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He then joined the academic staff at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and New York Hospitals.

In 1983, he moved to the National Cancer Institute to head the Developmental Chemotherapy section. While at McGill, Leyland-Jones led development of clinical trials that integrated research with five clinical trial cooperative groups and more than 40 pharmaceutical companies.
Fundraiser bags buck for middle school mentoring programs

COMMUNITY from page 1

said Michael Rich, founding director of OUCP and associate professor of political science. “Community engagement allows us to be better teachers and better researchers,” he said. “Research shows that students with experiential learning opportunities that get them into the real world have a greater impact on student learning and more lasting results than conventional classroom-only pedagogies. It also helps to generate and foster research projects that go beyond the library, helping our students learn the fundamentals of research while also providing valuable scholarship for the community.”

The strategic planning investment comes at a key moment in OUCP’s five-year history. “The funding will shelve up successful initiatives that were in danger of fading away due to lack of funding,” Rich said. Programs such as SHINE (Studying Helping In the Naturalization of Elders), the Emory Community Building Fellowship, and faculty mini-grants will now be able to continue and expand. The Community Partnership Faculty Fellows program — which helps faculty learn about the pedagogy of community-based learning and research — will also be re-established. “Perhaps most significantly, the funding will help fill a critical need for more staff. Rich said he expects that OUCP will hire five to six new staff members, which will nearly double the existing staff and bring Emory closer to being on par with peer institutions.”

“The addition of key staff provides the vital support we need to enhance the quality of our engaged scholarship and learning initiatives. With additional staff we will be able to provide a higher level of service to Emory faculty, staff and students and to our community partners that should strengthen the connection between Emory and the greater Atlanta community,” Rich said. “Emory’s investment in engaged scholarship and learning should bring greater coherence to Emory’s work in the community, yielding both a more visible impact of that work in the community and also stronger connections across the schools and units of the university,” Rich said.

A successful centerpiece of OUCP is the Emory Community Building Fellowship, now entering its fifth year and a national model for such programs. The fellowship provides undergraduate students an intensive year of training, research and experience. Results so far include the completion of 17 projects that have produced policy change, new programs and entities, and expanded the capacity of existing community initiatives to effectively address issues such as HIV/AIDS, affordable housing, public education quality, urban sprawl, citizen engagement and more.

The OUCP hopes the infusion of strategic funds will enable Emory to expand the fellows program to allow opportunities for graduate and professional students to participate in the program, Rich said. “Many graduates of the program have gone into the nonprofit sector, and those entering law, medicine and business are reporting they are using their experience to work on community building initiatives within their professions,” said Sam Marie Engle, director of the fellows program since its inception.

Several fellows have worked on projects with the Atlanta Housing Authority, one of OUCP’s longtime community partners. “For the past three years, the Emory OUCP team has diligently demonstrated its commitment to community building,” said Barney Simms, senior vice president and chief external affairs officer for the Atlanta Housing Authority. “Simms cited, among other accomplishments, the OUCP’s work to get a $400,000 HUD grant that directly benefited AHA communities in North-west Atlanta, as well as the work of Community Building Fellows that has resulted in mentoring programs and the establishment of a Parental Involvement Center at AHA’s Hollywood Community Court.”

“The fellows helped to enhance AHA’s capacity to provide much needed resources for families and children,” Simms said. “While Emory University and many AHA communities are geographically miles apart from each other, Emory has demonstrated that it doesn’t matter what the distance is, we can learn and achieve. “This work is also important for Emory students,” Simms added. “There’s such a diverse world, Emory students saw firsthand that low-income families want the same as middle class families — quality housing, a good education and economic development opportunities.” “My lasting hope,” said Rich, “is that our students use these opportunities to acquire a distinctive education at Emory that gives them the knowledge and tools needed to foster collaborative, cross-sector initiatives that address important public issues. In the future that expertise is likely to be the essential ingredient that distinguishes leaders who make a difference in their communities.”

CAMPUS PLAN

Big changes on North Oxford Road, including new campus bookstore

The B. Jones parking lot is the future site of a proposed new building, which will include a campus bookstore.

BY DAVID PAYNE

Emory’s campus is about to get an improved front door with a new entrance at Dowman Drive slated for 2007 and the start of construction for a new building on North Oxford Road. This building will include a University bookstore, coffee shop, additional parking and a “living area” that will serve as a major gathering space for the institution.

In addition, two of the most important student services functions, admissions and career services, will be housed in the new building. The plans also include space for a new center for teaching and learning.

The proposed building will sit near the current B. Jones parking lot between Dowman Drive and North Oxford Road. It will connect to, and seamlessly integrate with, the current B. Jones building, which will continue to house the undergraduate admissions and financial aid offices.

The additional undergraduate admissions space will allow prospective students to gather in large groups for information sessions and also to get an informal glimpse of the Emory experience as they interact with current students at Emory’s new campus bookstore and coffee shop.

This new, two-story bookstore will have its main entrance on North Oxford Road and will consolidate three current separate bookstores: the main bookstore at Dobbs University Center, the medical school bookstore, and the academic bookstore, currently on North Oxford Drive.

The store will include selections for general audiences, as well as academic books and Emory spirit merchandise, with an attached coffee shop. Separate from the bookstore, there will also be a “campus living room” area with lounge seating and possibly a fireplace. The new bookstore will be a short walk from Emory Village and is expected to increase foot traffic to the Village.

The goal behind the new 400-space parking deck is to simplify parking to the greatest degree possible for Emory and guests in this area of campus. The main entrance for the new parking deck will closely parallel the current entrance to the B. Jones lot off Dowman Drive. The new parking deck will provide parking for faculty, staff, prospective students and their families, career recruiters, and patrons of the new bookstore and the Carols Museum. It will also provide replacement parking for the current surface street spaces on Dowman Drive and Dickey Drive that will be eliminated by future construction projects.

The parking deck is expected to be the summit of the administrative space and large- ly encapsulated from view by the new building. The roof of the parking deck is envisioned as an elevated green plaza with grass and trees. The new half-acre plaza will be open to the public.

The building footprint will be generally confined to the existing B. Jones parking lot, consistent with Emory’s Land Classification Plan.

Architects for the building will be selected this month. Construction is expected to begin next summer, and the building is expected to be completed before the beginning of the 2008-2009 academic year.
Attempted parking deck robbery reported

Emory Police have released this sketch of a suspect believed to have been involved in the attempted armed robbery that occurred at approximately 1:45 a.m. on October 31 in the Starnes Parking Deck.

The suspect is described as a white male, of slender or average build, between 5 feet 6 inches and 6 feet in height, in his mid to late 20s, with dark hair, bushy eyebrows, a mustache and goatee, and a mole on his left cheek near his eye. He was wearing a navy blue baseball cap and a blue hooded sweatshirt. His pants were likely blue jeans.

The suspect is thought to have been in the company of a black male of slender build, wearing blue jeans and a baggy sweatshirt.

Both males were seen at the QuikTrip at Briarcliff and North Druid Hills Road about 15 minutes prior to the attempted robbery. They followed an individual from the QuikTrip to the Clairmont Campus, entering the parking deck in a 1994-1999 model, white Cadillac.

Police are continuing to investigate. Anyone with information concerning this incident or the suspects is asked to call Emory Police at 404-727-8005.

INFORMATION/TECHNOLOGY

Strategies for managing e-mail: trim, archive, delete

Of the estimated 906 billion e-mails sent each month in North America, 50 million inbound messages or about 500 gigabytes, are delivered to Emory University’s Academic and Administrative Information Technology central e-mail services: LearnLink, Eagle E-mail and Exchange.

Storing messages in e-mail applications such as Outlook, Outlook Express, Apple Mail and Entourage requires significant IT resources to maintain. Even though costs continue to fall, providing a highly available e-mail infrastructure is expensive.

The majority of the cost of providing e-mail services is in what techies call the “back end,” mostly backup and storage. Money spent for e-mail storage directly reduces funds available for the IT infrastructure needed to support the University’s teaching and research goals.

Reducing disk usage is the best way to contain costs, forecast future infrastructure needs, and ensure that we are making the best use of Emory’s precious resources. IT Governance has, in principle, approved future use of e-mail quotas for AAIT’s central e-mail services to help reduce disk usage, pending final approval of an implementation plan.

We can better use Emory’s resources by learning how to manage e-mail storage more effectively. Reducing the size of e-mail mailboxes is easier than it may at first seem and has advantages beyond that of being good stewards of Emory’s resources.

Learning to be economical with mailbox usage is a matter of thinking about and dealing with e-mail in new ways. Here are tips for effective and economical management of University e-mail messages:

• Keep track of your mailbox storage size. Work to keep the maximum size of all messages stored in your University e-mail account below 300MB. If you have two e-mail accounts — for example, both Eagle and LearnLink e-mail accounts — keep the collective storage size for both below 300MB.

• Manage storage by archiving e-mail. Learn how to save and archive messages from your e-mail application to your computer or other electronic storage devices.

Each e-mail application has tools for saving and archiving messages and their attachments. If you are not familiar with saving or archiving e-mail, check your application’s “Help” documentation for instructions or refer to help documentation posted on the IT Web site at http://it.emory.edu/showdoc.cfm?docid=7829. For additional assistance, submit an IT Support Request at http://help.emory.edu.

• Understand University retention policies and schedules. AAIT provides backup and restoration services for e-mail folders (not individual e-mails) for a limited, 14-day window and then, essentially, that e-mail that is lost cannot be recovered. Play it safe. Avert potential disaster by backing up critical messages on a regular basis, and storing back-up files in a secure location.

• Don’t keep everything. Good records management is not just about retention but deletion. Retaining all e-mail messages is not always in your best interests or Emory’s. Learn more about the University electronic records retention policies, including legal considerations, at http://records.emory.edu.

You can also access the proceedings of the recent Records Information Management conference at this site.

• Attachments — deal with them immediately. Consider downloading attachments, removing them from messages, and deleting messages after the download.

• Use client-side search features to find large messages. Your e-mail application has tools to search and display by message size. Search for large messages and download to your computer and/or other storage device.

• Retain only the sent copy or last message in a thread. If you have responded to an e-mail and have a copy of the thread in your “Sent” folder, consider keeping just the “Sent” copy or the last message in a thread.

Finally, every message is not of equal value. Some messages lose their value quickly: “Want to go to lunch?” has zero value after the lunch hour. Delete messages when they lose their value.

—John Ellis
The Complications of Age-Related Macular Degeneration

By Joy Bell

L ow-intensity laser treatment, thought to be possibly beneficial in slowing or preventing the loss of vision from age-related macular degeneration, is ineffective in preventing complications of AMD or loss of vision, according to a study published in the November 2006 issue of Ophthalmology.

The findings are a result of a study conducted by Emory University and 21 other clinical sites nationwide. The Complications of Age-Related Macular Degeneration Prevention Trial looked at more than 1,000 people with AMD. The study was supported by grants from the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health.

AMD is the leading cause of vision loss in the United States for people over age 60. Early signs of AMD include the presence of yellowish deposits under the retina, called drusen. Eyes with large drusen are at increased risk of progressing to advanced AMD, with accompanying loss of vision.

First considered in the 1970s, low-intensity laser treatment has been shown to reduce the extent of drusen. However, the studies evaluating the impact of laser treatment on vision have been small, and the results inconsistent.

The study was designed to assess the safety and effectiveness of laser treatment in preventing vision loss among people with large drusen in both eyes. It found there was no difference in vision or in progression to advanced AMD between treated and untreated eyes, which were closely observed for the duration of the trial.

“We’ve known for years that we could use laser treat-ment to make drusen disappear,” said G. Baker Hubbard, retina specialist at Emory Eye Center. “The real question has been whether or not making drusen disappear translates into long-term improvement of vision and less likelihood of loss of vision. We’ve never known the answer to that question with certainty, and now we do,” he explained.

“These results are very important for that reason.”

A total of 1,052 participants over the age of 50 who had 10 or more large drusen and a visual acuity of 20/40 or better in each eye were enrolled through 22 clinical centers. One eye of each participant was treated and the other eye was observed throughout the five years of the trial. After five years, 20.5 percent of the treated eyes and 20.5 percent of the untreated eyes had lost three or more lines of visual acuity on a standard eye chart. The risk of progression of treated and untreated eyes progressed to advanced AMD. Change in visual acuity was strongly associated with the development of advanced AMD, but not with treated group.

“This is an important study because after 35 years of consistent results from preventive laser treatment trials, we now know that this approach does not seem to stop vision loss from AMD,” said NEI Director Paul Siewing.

“Doctors using this technique should reconsider its use in patients with good vision, such as those studied in this trial.”

At present, the only established way to decrease the risk of vision loss in people with early AMD is to take daily supplements of vitamins and minerals, Siewing said.

The NEI has launched a new nationwide study to see if a modified combination of vitamins, minerals and fish oil can further slow the progression of vision loss from AMD.

Study shows laser treatment does not prevent vision loss from AMD

By Kim Urquhart

K enya, like many countries around the world, is facing a health crisis—the demand for nurses and other skilled health care professionals is outpacing the supply.

In response, Emory’s Lillian Carter Center for International Peace and Global Health has teamed with the Kenya Nursing Workforce Project to address the global crisis of health care worker shortages.
The musical holiday season at Emory gets off to an early start this year, with a free performance by the Early Music Ensemble with Jody Miller, conducting. The concert, “Early Advent and Christmas,” takes place at Emory’s Schwartz Center on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 8 p.m.

Performing Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque music for the Advent and Christmas season, the players use replicas of historical instruments in a performance that includes polyphonic works of the Venetian tradition. Three concerts scheduled this year are long-time Emory and Atlanta holiday traditions. “Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols,” which has been performed in Atlanta since 1925 and at Emory since 1936, will be Friday, Dec. 8 at 8 p.m. in Glenn Memorial Auditorium.

Traditional favorites fill the program, such as the opening candlelight procession of the choir singing “Once in Royal David’s City,” the closing singing of “Silent Night,” and readings by special guests from the community. This year, the 200-voice Emory University Chorus and the 60-voice Emory Concert Choir will be joined by an eight-piece brass ensemble, two percussionists and University organist Timoth- y Albrecht. The concert includes a mix of styles, ranging from John Rutter’s “Gloria” to the traditional carols “Once in Royal David’s City” and “O Come, All Ye Faithful” to works by Monteverdi and Tchesnekov to a Christmas spiritual. Tickets are $15. Discount category member tickets are $12.

On Sunday, Dec. 10 at 4 p.m. in the Carlos Museum’s reception hall, the Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta presents the 12th “Annual Holiday Concert and Sing-Along,” with a new, jazzy twist. This year the concert features Gary Motley, jazz pianist, with Veronica Tate singing some holiday favorites including “Christmas Time is Here” from “A Charlie Brown Christmas.”

Richard Prior, Emory’s director of orchestral studies, will also be on hand for a dramatic reading of “The Night Before Christmas,” with improvised jazz accompaniment by Gary Motley. An audience sing-along closes the program, followed by holiday treats for young listeners. Tickets are $4 to the general public. Museum members, at family-level and above, receive four free tickets.

On Saturday and Sunday Dec. 16–17 at 8 p.m., James Flannery will direct and host the “Atlanta Celtic Christmas Concert,” which will feature banjoist Allison Brown and harpist Kelly Stewart.

Emory offers new and old musical traditions for the winter holiday arts season

WREC Room serves up a plate of fresh and fast favorites

James Flannery will direct and host the “Atlanta Celtic Christmas Concert,” which will feature banjoist Allison Brown and harpist Kelly Stewart.

As recommended with anything healthy, it’s always a good idea to throw in some fruit or vegetables. However, unless you’re a fan of squeeze cheese, skip the queso that comes with it and make a beeline for the ranch dressing.

WREC Room still offers a nice change in scenery. While the walls are bare and the tables and chairs are lined like a school cafeteria, natural light floods the room from the wall of windows overlooking a large, pleasant patio. The room also houses comfort- able couches and a big-screen TV for those needing to catch up on the news or their sleep.

The WREC Room is particularly convenient to faculty and staff on the north side of campus. For more information, visit www.emory.edu/dining/wrecroom.html.

— Nancy Condon
**Tuesday, Nov. 14**

**Special Events**

- **EndNote Workshop**
  - 9:30 a.m. 310 Woodruff Library
  - 404-727-0147

**Unity Month Event**

- **ISP-SYE Passport to the World: South Asia**
  - Sheila Telki, journalism
  - Speaking. 6:30 p.m.

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

**Thursday, Nov. 15**

**Special Events**

- **EndNote Workshop**
  - 3 p.m. 310 Woodruff Library
  - 404-727-2620

- **Unity Month Event**
  - “Turkey Trot Fundraiser.”
  - 4:15 p.m. Lullwater Preserve. Canned food or cash donation required.

- **Friday, Nov. 17**

**Unity Month Event**

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

**Saturday, Nov. 18**

**Unity Ball**

- 10 p.m. Conference Ballroom, Emory Hotel and Conference Center.
- $10 advanced sales; $15 at door.
  - 404-727-6754

- **Monday, Nov. 20**

**Special Events**

- **EndNote Workshop**
  - 9:35 a.m. 310 Woodruff Library
  - 404-727-0147

**Copyright Workshop for Instructors**

- 10 a.m. 214 Woodruff Library
  - 404-727-0127

**Tuesday, Nov. 21**

**AntiquiTEA**

- “An Egyptian Fish Story.”
  - 4 p.m. Reception Hall, Carlos Museum.
  - 404-727-4282

---

**PERFORMING ARTS**

- **TUESDAY, NOV. 14**
  - **Concert**
    - Emory Mastersingers, presenting. 8 p.m.
    - Emerson Concert Hall, Schwartz Center.
    - Free. 404-727-5050.

- **Wednesday, Nov. 15**
  - **Health Lecture**
    - “Keep It Flying: Tips on Successful Breastfeeding.”
    - Rosen Cannon, lactation consultant.
    - Noon. Third Floor, Cox Hall.
    - Free. 404-727-2031.

- **Thursday, Nov. 16**
  - **Film**
    - 7:30 p.m. 205 White Hall.
    - Free. 404-727-6761.

---

**VISUAL ARTS**

- **Woodruff Library Exhibit**
  - “Celebrate Journalism at Emory in 2006.” Level Two, Woodruff Library.
  - Free. 404-727-6887.

- **Thursday, Nov. 16**
  - **Film**
    - 7:30-9:15 p.m. Harland Cinema, Dobbs Center.
    - Free. 404-727-6198.

---

**LECTURES**

- **Monday, Nov. 13**
  - **History Lecture**
    - “The Truman Show: Cold Wars of the Intellec.”
    - Eric Lott, University of Virginia.
    - Noon. 310 Woodruff Library.
    - Free. 404-727-6701.

- **Tuesday, Nov. 14**
  - **Health Lecture**
    - “Principles of Geriatric Surgery.” Mark Katic, Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center.
    - Free. 404-727-7401.

- **Wednesday, Nov. 15**
  - **Medical Ethics Lecture**
    - “Surrogate Decision Making and the Surrogate/ Doctor Relationship.”
    - Alexander Torke, University of Chicago.
    - Free. 404-727-5048.

---

**RELIGION**

- **Sunday, Nov. 19**
  - **Church Service**
    - “Save-a-life” Blood Drive
      - Emory University, Emory Healthcare and the American Red Cross are sponsoring a year-long blood drive to collect 1,500 pints of blood.
      - Inventories of blood in the Atlanta area are consistently less than needed.
      - The blood inventory, in fact, frequently is only sufficient to support, on average, one day of the normal regional demand for blood products.
      - The goal is to have a three-day supply of each blood type at all times.

- **Organizers of the event plan for the blood drive to be an annual event at Emory. November dates and locations are:**
  - **Nov. 14**, 9 a.m.–7 p.m., Emory University Hospital
  - **Nov. 20**, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Goizueta Business School
  - **Nov. 27**, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., School of Nursing
  - **Nov. 29**, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., Alpha Phi Alpha, IFC, RHA

---

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