Microscopy core is scientist’s legacy

By CAROL CLARK

Electron microscopy is all about light, energy and focus — qualities that Robert Apkarian had in abundance. The famed Emory scientist died in 2006, but his spirit shines on through the many people he touched and the newly dedicated Robert P. Apkarian Integrated Electron Microscopy Core.

"A day doesn’t go by that I don’t wish I could call Rob and ask his opinion about something,” says Elizabeth Wright, director of the facility.

Wright first came to Emory as a graduate student, to join the lab of chemistry professor Vince Conticello. Her project involved developing biomaterials, derived from protein sequences, for use as medical devices.

"I had a strong desire to understand the structure of the materials we were creating," Wright says, explaining why she took a job as a service instructor in the chemistry department’s Integrated Microscopy.

Health economists mine data on policy

By CAROL CLARK

When David Frisvold and Sara Markowitz tell lay people that they are economists, they often get asked: Is the interest rate going to go down? What’s the outlook for the housing market?

"Those are questions that most economists are not working on," says Markowitz. She and Frisvold joined the faculty in the Department of Economics this fall to launch a program in health economics. Markowitz, an associate professor, studies health policy topics, such as how taxes affect the consumption of alcohol and cigarettes, and how such taxes can reduce the negative outcomes associated with consumption. Her research suggests that the rate of domestic violence goes down when taxes on alcohol go up. And she has demonstrated an apparent link between higher taxes on cigarettes and lower rates of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). "Each 10 percent increase in the real price of cigarettes reduces the number of SIDS deaths by a range of 6.9 to 7.6 percent," she wrote in a paper published recently by the Journal of Health Economics.

Markowitz is also researching the mental health effects on women who return to work after giving birth (see her “First Person” article on page 7). "A lot of people have studied the impact on children of mothers who work. I wanted to look at the effects on the women themselves," she explains.

Frisvold, an assistant professor of economics, was previously a fellow in the Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research program. He focuses on education and health, and has done research suggesting that participation in college increases the likelihood of living longer.

Avon grant to bolster research

By VINCENT DOLLARD

The Avon Foundation has awarded a $850,000 one-year grant to Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute and Grady Memorial Hospital. The grant will support community outreach, patient navigation and breast cancer research at the Avon Comprehensive Breast Center at Grady, which opened in 2004 with previous funding from the Avon Foundation.

"Since 2000, the Avon Foundation has awarded nearly $11,000,000 to Emory Winship and Grady Memorial Hospital," says Elizabeth Wright, director of the facility.
EMORY REPORT
OCTOBER 6, 2008

EMORY PROFILE: Bill Eley

By JENNIFER JOHNSON

For Bill Eley, a glistening new neighborhood pool and his first swim competition at age 6 inspired a lifelong love of water and put him on a path that ultimately led to Emory.

His first swim coach, Edward Smyke, would become Eley’s coach when he joined the Emory Swimming and Diving Team in 1975.

Eley, executive associate dean of medical education and student affairs, entered Emory as a freshman and participated on the swim team all four years of his undergraduate career. He held 100 meter and 200 meter breaststroke records and served as co-captain for three years.

“The old swimming pool was part of a surplus World War II hangar,” reminisces Eley of his days as an Eagle athlete. “The heat was turned off at night in the locker rooms, and I sometimes arrived for morning practice to find my shampoo frozen.” Fortunately for Eley and his teammates the pool area was heated around the clock.

Eley’s participation on the Emory Swimming and Diving Team, which has long been one of the best programs in the nation, earned him entry into the Emory Sports Hall of Fame along with three other former athletes during Homecoming Weekend.

The Hall of Fame is designed to honor those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Emory athletics and have helped bring excellence and distinction to the University and its athletic program.

“I feel the same way about this induction as I do about my years as a student at Emory — it’s an incredible honor to be among such wonderful people,” says Eley, who in his senior year at Emory achieved Academic All-American honors.

A native of Georgia, Eley received an undergraduate degree in chemistry, a medical degree and a masters of public health degree, all from Emory.

After completing his internal medicine and oncology training, Eley accepted a position in the Department of Epidemiology at the newly formed Rollins School of Public Health in 1989 where he pursued research related to differences in survival between African American and Caucasian women diagnosed with breast cancer.

Eley continues to see breast cancer patients at Emory Winship Cancer Institute and has taught medical students clinical epidemiology for the last 18 years. In 2004 he was appointed to his current role as executive associate dean for medical education and student affairs at Emory School of Medicine.

When he is not engaging with patients or students, Eley devotes time to his creative side, playing the guitar, singing and gardening. He has also played an integral role in the creation of Emory’s new Center for Creativity & Arts. With the first art exhibit set to open in the School of Medicine in October, Eley is excited about the possibilities the Center brings.

“We recently had the Vega String Quartet play in our medical school classroom as part of the student’s neural module,” says Eley. “I hope these efforts feed our hearts and minds in ways that enable us to renew the caregiver in us and understand humanity a little better.”

And after all these years, Eley still finds time to pursue his affinity for water. “I don’t have as much time to swim now as I would like, but I am devoting as much time as I can to canoeing whitewater rapids. The pursuit of sports has always been a wonderful way for me to refresh and to be at the top of my game for my patients and my University every day.”

SWIMMING A CAREER SPRINGBOARD

Dean honored to be in pool of ‘wonderful people’

Bill Eley, executive associate dean for medical education and student affairs, was inducted into the Emory Sports Hall of Fame over Homecoming Weekend.

‘08 Sports Hall of Fame inductees

Katharine Hughes Eick
Swimming and diving
Bill Eley
Swimming and diving
Alicia Moore Krizhev
Women’s basketball, volleyball, track and field
Troy Thompson
Track and field
Emory Report October 6, 2008

Nelson to lead MARBL as Ennis moves on

By LEA McLEES
Naomi Nelson has been named interim director of the Manuscript Archives and Rare Book Library (MARBL).

In a surprise announcement, effective Oct. 1, was announced upon the news that MARBL’s current director, Mary Catherine Ennis, has accepted an appointment at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.

Nelson has worked for the Emory libraries since 1991. She has served as associate director of MARBL since 2004. Previously, she was the center’s coordinator of research services. She also worked as MARBL’s curator of Southern literature and director of digital archives. As interim, Nelson will work to expand MARBL’s capacity to provide digital access to some of MARBL’s most treasured materials. Nelson will continue planning for a new MARBL building that will house recent archives and most of the digital technology.

“I am excited to have someone on our team with Naomi Nelson’s experience who knows the collections so well,” said Rick Luce, vice provost and director of Emory University Libraries.

During 15 years at MARBL, Ennis led the library in acquiring important papers of major American, British and Irish writers and helped turn MARBL into one of the fastest growing and most important literary research centers in the United States.

“Steve Ennis’s dedication and hard work toward making MARBL an international destination library is exemplary,” Luce said. “It’s a wonderful indication of the caliber of MARBL that we have achieved that we are able to call upon by this foremost rare books library to fill such an important position. We are committed to continuing and enhancing the stellar trajectory Steve and his predecessors have set for MARBL, and we are proud to see him take on this new endeavor at the Folger.”

Ennis last day at MARBL is Oct. 31. Plans have begun for an international search for a permanent director of MARBL.

ACCLAIM

Allison Dykes, vice president for alumni relations, and her team at the Emory Alumni Association received a 2008 Silver Anvil award from Harris Connect for the Highest Use of Online Giving. Dykes is the first recipient of this new award.

Emory won the Highest Community Connections Award for the most users who have added the Emory connection to their Facebook profile.

Art Kellermann, of the Department of Emergency Medicine and associate dean for health policy, has been named to the 15-member advisory board of the Georgia Statewide Trauma Action Team, which will educate Georgians about the need for a statewide trauma system.

Separately, Kellermann was a speaker for the motion “Universal health coverage — the right of every government’s responsibility” at the 2008 Oxford-style debate series sponsored by The Rosenkranz Foundation.

Andrew Miller, professor of psychiatry in the School of Medicine, was the recipient of the 2008 Human Caesars Memorial Lecture Award for 2008 from the PsychoNeuroImmunology Research Foundation.

Miller was recognized for his contributions to the understanding of how the psyche-immune system can influence human behavior.

The PsychoNeuroImmunology Research Foundation is an international organization for researchers in a number of scientific and medical disciplines who are interested in interactions between the nervous and immune systems, and the relationship between behavior and health.

Fred Sanfilippo, executive vice president of Woodruff Health Sciences Center and chairman of Emory Healthcare, and David Wynes, vice president for research administration, have been named to the board of directors of Georgia Bio, the nonprofit organization that represents the interests of the life science industry in the state.

Sanfilippo and Wynes are among nine new directors named to the organization, which represents 295 pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device companies, universities, research institutes, government groups and other business organizations that develop health care products.

“ACCLAIM” recognizes the accomplishments of faculty and staff. Listings may include awards, grants, consultantships, international and local societies; and similarly notable accomplishments at Emory or in the wider community. Emory Report relies on submissions for this column. Contact: ltking@emory.edu.
ECONOMICS: New path for department

Continued from the cover

in the preschool program Head Start reduces the later risk of obesity in adolescents by about 25 percent. “Head Start is a program that is up for reauthorization every five years,” Fravold said. “Congress is just starting to focus on the role that Head Start could play in terms of obesity. Hopefully, my work can help inform this debate.”

He is currently studying whether school breakfast programs affect academic achievement.

“Health economics provides many collaborative opportunities with the Rollins School of Public Health, the Global Health Institute, the School of Medicine and the nearby CDC,” said Hashem Dezhbakhsh, chair of economics.

The health economics program is one of the department’s recent growths. This fall, Esfandiar Maasoumi, a leader in the field of econometrics and the editor of Econometrica, joined the faculty. His research interests include welfare policy, neural networks and measures of volatility.

Over the summer, the department named Greg Berns, distinguished professor of neuroeconomics, Berns, who is also professor of psychiatry and experimental medicine, the director of the School of Medicine, recently launched the Center for Neuroeconomics at Emory, to explore how the biology of the brain influences decision-making in politics, policy and business.

We are building on our traditional strengths in law and economics and quantitative economics, while leveraging other resources throughout the University to also become a leader in neuroeconomics, econometrics, development economics and health economics, Dezhbakhsh said.

SNAPSHOT

Campagne kicks off

More than 2,000 members of the Emory family and its supporters celebrated the public launch of Campaign Emory over Homecoming Weekend at the Clairmont Campus. During a black tie gala for dedicated donors and a casual event for faculty, staff and alumni, University leaders announced the ambitious $1.6 billion fundraising endeavor. The campaign will enable Emory to attract and retain the best faculty, students and health care professionals, and support programs that will change the lives and health of people worldwide. Then the crowds heard about the campaign through another voice: Enquéirir, an original, circus-style performance created to embody the campaign theme of courageous inquiry. See more photos at campaign.emory.edu.

Continued from the cover

The funds have been instrumental in supporting early breast cancer research projects and improving outcomes for underserved women diagnosed with breast cancer in Atlanta.

Among the programs supported by the newest grant is training for 110 volunteer Community Health Advocates who conduct educational programs in local churches, workplaces and health fairs. CHAs tackle misconceptions about breast cancer screening and encourage women in their communities to schedule regular mammograms.

The grant also supports patient navigators, themselves breast cancer survivors who help newly diagnosed patients navigate the health care system, guiding them to appropriate support services and helping them maintain their appointment schedules. These efforts have resulted in reaching nearly 10,000 people per year. In a recent paper published in the journal Cancer, researchers wrote about the benefits of these programs at Grady. Their study found that community education and navigation programs correlate to an increase in detection of breast cancer in early stages, when it is most curable, and a decrease in breast cancer caught in advanced stages.

“The Avon Foundation has been an extraordinary partner for Winship, for Grady Hospital, and for the state of Georgia,” says Brian Leyland-Jones, director of Emory Winship.

“With this newest grant, we are excited to be able to continue our work and move into new areas of research and access to care,”

The Avon grant will also support a phase II clinical trial examining new treatment approaches for triple negative breast cancer, a challenging form of breast cancer that does not respond to hormone therapies and is found more frequently in young African American women.

Other funded research projects include a study to help empower minority and underserved women in decision-making about their treatment opportunities as well as continuation of a breast tumor bank that collects samples for use in research.

“We are proud to continue our longstanding partnership with Emory and Grady in helping ensure all women in the Atlanta area have access to quality care as we help researchers work toward eradicating breast cancer,” says Marc Hurlbert, director of the Avon Breast Cancer Crusade. “Avon’s regional headquarters is just outside Atlanta, and both Avon and the Avon Foundation have a special connection to the community.”

This grant is one example of the private support being sought for the recently announced Campaign Emory, a $1.6 billion fundraising endeavor that combines private support and the University’s people, places and programs to make a powerful contribution to the world.
Emory Healthcare has played a vital role in the Atlanta community since Emory Crawford Long Hospital opened its doors Oct. 21, 1908, near Turner Field on Crew Street in downtown Atlanta as the Davis-Fischer Sanatorium. We have now served Atlanta for 100 years and, in the process, have grown from 28 beds to more than 500 beds and 2,800 employees — an outstanding achievement!

It is not a coincident time to work at Emory Crawford Long Hospital. Tucked on the edges of downtown and Midtown, where downtown is undergoing a rejuvenation and the developing “Midtown Mile” is reshaping the way people live, work and play in Atlanta, we have an amazing opportunity to prosper in the midst of our urban surroundings and create a unique environment for our clinical, research and educational programs.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary, we have offered some interesting employee and consumer events, including:

• Caring for Atlanta display: A museum-quality display located in the conservatory that chronicles the history of Emory Crawford Long Hospital, Atlanta and medicine.
• Family picnic: All employees and family members were invited to a carnival-type celebration with games and food and more than 2,000 attended despite overcast and rainy conditions.
• Historical tours: Tours led by historian Ren Davis, outlining the history of Emory Crawford Long Hospital.
• Interfaith Prayer Breakfast: Our Interfaith Prayer Breakfast connected faith and health, and celebrated the past, present and future of Atlanta.

The dynamic program included a keynote message from Mayor Shirley Franklin and readings from religious and civic leaders. Reflections were offered by Susan Mondahain, CEO, Midtown Alliance, and Bishop L. Bevel Jones, community advocate and retired United Methodist Bishop.

Upcoming events open to all employees, staff and the community:

• “Mind, Body and Soul”: A Women’s Health Forum, Friday, Oct. 17 — This community event features a keynote message by Daryn Kagan, founder of DarynKagan.com, author and former CNN anchor. Other speakers include breast cancer survivor and former WSB-TV anchor JaQuitta Williams, current CNN medical correspondent, Judy Fortin, and Emory Healthcare cardiologist and WSB-TV health reporter Randy Martin.
• Birthday celebrations: Tuesday, Oct. 21 — The campus will celebrate the hospital’s birthday with cake and refreshments. In addition, we will bury a time capsule that will be opened in 25 years.

If you have never been to Emory Crawford Long Hospital, I encourage you to come over and join us for one of the upcoming events.

My family and I have been here just over nine months. We have met some wonderful people and we are so glad to call Emory Healthcare, Emory Crawford Long Hospital and Atlanta home. I truly appreciate all the work everyone has put into making Emory Crawford Long Hospital one of the premier places to work in Atlanta.

Dane Peterson is chief operating officer of Emory Crawford Long Hospital.

SNAPSHOT

EPA chief takes the LEED tour of campus

On Oct. 1, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Stephen Johnson visited Emory to tour some of its “green” LEED-certified buildings. The tour, led by University Architect Jen Fabrick, allowed Johnson to see the breadth of Emory’s campus construction, all of which are being built to LEED standards, an environmental/energy certification by the U.S. Green Building Council. Emory is gaining a national reputation as a leader in LEED building, with more “green” certified building space by square footage than any university in the country. Johnson heads the EPA’s efforts to protect human health and the environment, its $7 billion budget and 17,000 employees nationwide.

Enter Emory Arts Competition by Oct. 15

The first deadline for the Emory Arts Competition is Oct. 15 at midnight. The virtual submissions for the amateur arts showcase in the categories of music and visual/performing arts will be reviewed and the finalists announced on Oct. 22. Finalists will perform or show their work at the Schwartz Center on Nov. 8, where audience response will determine three winners in each category to receive prizes of up to $3,000. To enter, visit www.creativity.emory.edu/arts-competition.shtml.
A $2 million advanced transmission electron microscope could help take the microscopy core to the next level, says Elizabeth Wright (right), director of the core, with Hong Yi, technical director.

## School fills need for medical technologists

By LANCE SKELLY

The United States is experiencing a labor shortage for medical technologists, with student enrollment in medical technology programs steadily declining. Emory Healthcare is looking to add to the community’s need for more medical technologists with the opening of the School of Medical Technology, which welcomed its inaugural class on Sept. 4.

Emory School of Medical Technology is a full-time, hospital-based program for applicants with a bachelor’s degree and an interest in laboratory science. Students will be awarded a certificate in medical technology after the completion of the 12-month program. And a new financial assistance option is offered for incoming students.

The initial class consists of seven students and a diverse group of instructors that include experienced medical technologists, pathologists and residents of Emory pathology and laboratory medicine.

"This is an exciting advance for Emory as we work to fulfill our educational mission and answer the growing shortage of medical technologists," says John T. Fox, president and CEO of Emory Healthcare.

Emory is the only medical technology school in the Atlanta area; three other universities in the state offer accreditation for medical technology. The program is in the process of earning accreditation from the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences, said laboratory education coordinator Stacy Steward.

## Emory first in state to use new life-saving aneurysm device

By JENNIFER JOHNSON

Aortic aneurysms are dangerous bulges or weaknesses in the body’s largest artery that can rupture with fatal consequences if left untreated. Emory University Hospital is using an innovative new device for minimally invasive treatment of these aneurysms.

The new stent graft, recently approved by the FDA, gives an extra 25 percent of patients the option of endovascular aneurysm repair.

Emory surgeon Karthi-keshwar Kasirajan is among the first several physicians in the United States and the first in Georgia to use the new device.

"This is an exciting advance in endovascular treatment that we are proud to offer patients in Atlanta and around the region," says Kasirajan. "It allows us to treat more aortic aneurysm patients than ever using a non-invasive method that gets our patients back on their feet within days, rather than weeks compared to open surgical repair."

Thoracic aneurysms affect 1 in 3,500 people, or about 100,000 older Americans, and this rate is steadily increasing. Prevention of thoracic aneurysms includes stopping smoking, controlling blood pressure and blood lipid levels, and routine exercise. They are usually detected through CT scans. Treatment involves either invasive open surgical repair or the minimally invasive approach with stent grafts.

In this less invasive approach, two small incisions are made in the groin and the stent is inserted through the femoral artery to reach the aneurysm. By creating a new pathway for blood flow, the stent graft reduces pressure on the aneurysm and thus the risk of rupture.

"We have other options for treating patients than ever before, but we can only treat the aneurysms we know about," says Kasirajan. "People with known risk factors should get screened. The decision to be screened could be a life-saving choice."

The new stent grafts make the procedure safer and allows more patients because of the graft’s unique features, including a larger range and ability to seal in recovery times than open surgical repair.

For more information, please contact Emory Health Connection at 1-800-778-7777 or 1-800-75-EMORY.
“What I objected to in my letter to Congress was marketing this as a housing bill — as a mortgage foreclosure avoidance bill. It wasn’t going to work.”

— Frank Alexander, professor of law, in “Emory professor says bailout plan flawed” on WAGA-TV Atlanta, Oct. 1.

SOUNDBITES

Map data guides health intervention

Maps have played a vital role in epidemiology since physicians first pinpointed cholera cases in Victorian London to trace the source of an outbreak to a single water pump. In his Life of the Mind lecture, Lance Waller touched on the history of maps in medicine, and described how modern technology is driving the ability to link data spatially, numerically and analytically.

“A professor of biostatistics in the Epicenters of Urban Health, Waller showed how he uses spatial analysis on every-thing from “miles of beach to millimeters of skin,” to mine data for public health. “We’re finding patterns and trying to describe patterns — either mathematical descriptions of them, or in a geographical way,” he said, looking for the process driving the patterns.

— Carol Clark

Look to Darwin for survival

“Darwin said it is the one most adaptable to change that survives.”

— Leslie King

Learning with good heart urged

“Joyous perseverance,” is the way to learn, said Kyabje Dema Locho Rinpoche, speaking at the C. Mac Halle Institute for Global Learning. Tibet’s foremost master of tantric yoga and a monk tapped by the Dalai Lama for a number of important posi-tions, he emphasized two main goals for students not to miss the pump. In his Life of the Mind lecture, Lance Waller touched on the history of maps in medicine, and described how modern technology is driving the ability to link data spatially, numerically and analytically.

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By JESSICA MOORE

The month of music in Octo-
ber began with a performance
by cellist Sara Sant’Ambrogio and
pianist William Randos, as well as a special screening of the silent martial arts film
"Red Heroine" with live musical
accompaniment by the Devil
Music Ensemble.

Next up is a performance
by the Emory Wind Ensemble
conducted by Scott Stewart with
guest artist Jan Berry Baker,
as part of the Maestro Series
that features Gustav Holst’s "A
Moonside Suite," Charles Ives’
"Old Home Days: Suite for
Band," and Adam Croll’s "Vid-
dish Dance." (Oct. 18, 8 p.m.)

The Emory Chamber Music
Society of Atlanta (ECMSA)
recently began its Fall Series with
a performance on Wednesday,
Oct. 19, 7 p.m. at Emory's Tull
Auditorium.

"The Challenges of Writing
Your Own History" Mark
Doby, author, presenting. Noon.
Room 251, Dobbs Center. Free.
mshutt@emory.edu.

"CO2/h+ Responsiveness of
Plant Cell Walls: Inferences
Olive Trees." Kevin Cobb, author,
presenting. 7:30 p.m. William
State University, presenting.
8 a.m. 600 Whitehead Building.
Free. 404-778-9001.

"Yiddish Dances." (Oct. 18, 8 p.m.)

"Gynecologic Surgery." 8 a.m.
Steiner Auditorium, Grady Hospital. Free. Claire
Hawkworthy@emory.edu.

"From GW to GW: Presidents,
Involves Multiple Factors."
Karl Beckel, author, presenting.
7:30 p.m. Tull Auditorium, Law

"Dancing for the Camera: An
Interview with Dance Video
Pioneer Dennis Diamond." 7:30 p.m. Dance Studio,
Steiner Auditorium. Free.
404-727-5050.

Music of Many Lands, 4 p.m.
Reception Hall, Chapel Center.
Music of Many Lands. 4 p.m.
$4-5050.00.

Religion
Sunday, Oct. 12
University Worship, Michael
Brown, Candler School of
Theology, preaching. 11 a.m.
Cannon Chapel. Free.
404-727-6225.

Seminars
Monday, Oct. 6
"Greek Stories," Louis Ruprecht,
Georgetown University, pre-
senting. "Ethically Speaking: Which Europe?" Whose
European Identity?" Jean
Koro, Emory religion, present-
ing. 4:30 p.m. 323 Rowland.
Hispanic, hstam@emory.edu.

ELLERMANN LECTURE:
"Conclusions of a Young
Novelist: Author, Text, and
Interpreters." Umberto Eco, art-
ist, presenting. 8:15 p.m.
Emory. Free. emoryEDU/ellermann.

"Facing Trans: Induction,
Advocacy and Empower-
ment." Jessica Peritt, social
justice educator, presenting.
2 p.m. Dobbs Center. Free.
emoryEDU/RVP.

ELLERMANN LECTURE:
"The Challenges of Writing
Your Own History." Mark
Doby, author, presenting. Noon.
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