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James Wagner named Emory president



James Wagner, provost of Case Western Reserve University, was named Emory's 19th president after a special meeting of the University's Board of Trustees, held July 30. Wagner, whose appointment concludes an eight-month, national search following the



James Wagner

retirement announcement of President **Bill Chace**, will arrive in time for the beginning of Emory's fall semester.

Ben Johnson, chair of Emory's Board of Trustees (BOT) and of the Presidential Search Committee, said the committee considered some 150 individuals during the search, held in-person interviews with 15 candidates and narrowed the list to four finalists before Wagner emerged as the committee's unanimous choice. In the final stage of the search, Johnson said Wagner met with roughly 100 different individuals—from deans to students, faculty to presidents

of other Atlanta universities, to President **Jimmy Carter**—all of whom were similarly impressed by Wagner's credentials and approach to higher education leadership. "It's almost impossible for me to imagine that any one human being could see and impress so many people—and it's not a 'flashy' impression," Johnson said. "This is someone who understands higher education, someone who understands the uniqueness of Emory's heritage and the role Emory can play, someone who is very ambitious for Emory to achieve its potential, and someone who has got the ability, energy and ambition to take it there."

"Emory University has the opportunity to be known and to be recognized for being inquiry-based and values-guided—an educational institution of the highest order," Wagner said. "All university presidents feel they have a passion for what higher education should mean for society globally, not just locally, and they're looking for platforms where they can help lead and make a difference. "Emory is too good not to be recognized as a leader; in fact, higher education is more open to Emory's kind of leadership than it has been in a long time," he continued. "So the excitement is not only about what Emory is, but what it can be."

Appointed provost at Case Western Reserve (CWRU) in 2000, Wagner served 15 months as interim president from May 2001-July 2002. Prior to becoming provost, he spent two years as dean of CWRU's Case School of Engineering after a 13-year career on the engineering faculty of Johns Hopkins University. Wagner holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Delaware, along with a master's of clinical engineering and Ph.D. in materials science and engineering from Johns Hopkins. He is 50 years old. "We're just incredibly fortunate [to have Wagner as president]—I think it's divine intervention," said **Wright Caughman**, professor and chair of dermatology and a member of the search committee. "He's incredibly engaging, he's a fantastic listener, and I think he's a synthesizer and a doer. He believes the best is yet to come for this institution."

Several members of both the search committee and the Faculty Advisory Committee (a 10-person body appointed to provide a wider breadth of faculty input into the search process) acknowledged that some members of the Emory community may have questions—indeed, they said they had questions themselves—about appointing an engineer as president of a university without an engineering school, but they felt confident Wagner would quickly and decisively dispel any such uncertainties. "I must admit, I was a little taken aback when I saw his CV," said **David Lynn**, Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Chemistry and Biology and a member of the advisory committee. "But I was delightfully surprised at the depth of his understanding and the depth of perspective he will bring to the position. He clearly has a vision and clearly does understand what it means to be a liberal arts institution."

"To say that he's 'an engineer' doesn't do justice to his experience and his interests," said search committee member **John Ford**, senior vice president and dean for Campus Life. "He's very familiar with the opportunities and the challenges in the humanities and social sciences, and I think he's genuinely interested in being inclusive about all the range of research and teaching and service that is part of Emory." Johnson said not just the search committee but much of the BOT was actively involved in the final-stage interviews with Wagner, who, without exception, impressed everyone with whom he met. "I've never been more optimistic about the [BOT's] unity or enthusiasm," Johnson said. "I think the board will enthusiastically support Jim Wagner in his efforts to take Emory to the next level, and to provide him with the resources he needs."

From Emory Report, [July 30, 2003](#).

Fulbright grant gives Laurie Patton passage to India



Laurie Patton

Laurie Patton, associate professor and chair of [religion](#), has been awarded a Fulbright grant for study abroad in India during the 200304 academic year. Simultaneously, she also has been awarded an international and area studies fellowship from the American Council on Learned Societies (ACLS). This particular grant is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities as well as the Social Science Research Council. These grants will enable Patton to complete her project titled "Grandmother Language: Women, Religion and Sanskrit in Maharashtra and Beyond." Patton plans to return to the Maharashtra region of India, where the study of Sanskrit is becoming increasingly open to women. Using their own personal narratives, Patton's research will examine Indian women's lives, religious commitments and practices, and their understandings of their roles as teachers and scholars. Patton will publish a book on her findings, which is expected to provide a unique perspective on the history of

Sanskrit and gender studies, a topic she said only now has begun to be treated in a systematic way. "Very few studies have been conducted on the relationship between women and classical languages in any field," Patton said. "This study has worldwide implications as an example of women's abilities to become caretakers and transmitters of a classical tradition—which previously has been the prerogative of men."

A specialist in early Indian religions and a woman Sanskritist herself, Patton recently completed two lengthy projects, *Myth as Argument: The Brhaddevata as Canonical Commentary* (DeGruyter) and *Bringing the Gods to Mind* (forthcoming from University of California Press). Over the last two decades, Patton has made her part-time Indian homes in Varanasi and Pune. Her interests in the interpretation of early Indian ritual and narrative, comparative mythology and literary theory in the study of religion have resulted in more than two dozen articles and several edited volumes, including *Authority, Anxiety and Canon: Essays in Vedic Interpretation* (1994), *Myth and Method* (with Wendy Doniger, 1996) and *Jewels of Authority: Women and Text in the Hindu Tradition* (2002). She is completing another edited volume, *The Indo-Aryan Controversy: Evidence and Evocation* (with Edwin Bryant), on the debates

about early Aryan origins, and has been co-editor (with Paul Griffiths) of the SUNY series, *Toward a Comparative Philosophy of Religions*. Her other authored works include *Fire's Goal: Poems from a Hindu Year* (2002) and a translation of *Bhagavad Gita*, forthcoming from Penguin Press Classics Series in 2003. As of September 2003, Patton will be professor of religion, and has been awarded a Winship Distinguished Research Professorship in the Humanities. A faculty member since 1996, Patton earned her bachelor's from Harvard University and her master's and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

From Emory Report, [July 7, 2003](#).

Biology lecturer and student spend summer cataloging fish in Candler Lake

Ever since Emory acquired Lullwater in 1958, visitors have been treated to the sight of amateur anglers fishing along the banks of Candler Lake, located about a quarter-mile inside the park between Lullwater House and Clairmont Campus. But until now—well, until this fall—no one could be exactly sure what the fishermen could catch. This summer [biology](#) lecturer **Chris Beck** is working with a student from the University of Texas-San Antonio to catalog the species of fish living in Candler Lake and study their habitat preferences and movements. Once the species inventory is completed, it will be added to the appendices of the Lullwater Management Plan, which already lists the birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles that live in the park. Beck is supervising the work of rising junior **Carlos Lozano**, who is visiting from Texas as part of the [Summer Undergraduate Research Experience](#) (SURE), sponsored by the Center for Science Education through a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. A biology major, Lozano is interested in studying coastal fisheries, and though the 11.5-acre Candler Lake boasts only a modest measure of coastline, he said the work is preparing him well for graduate school. "I've been a fisherman ever since I can remember and have always loved it—this experience will provide me with a foundation to build on," Lozano said. "I have done marine research in the past, however this is the first time I've worked exclusively with fish."



Chris Beck and Carlos Lozano on Candler Lake

Lozano and Beck designed a sampling protocol involving a network of traps of different sizes placed systematically around the lake; there are four "minnow traps" that catch small fish, three turtle traps and one large-fish trap. Twice a day Lozano wades into the water and records the aquatic species detained inside the traps. The pair also will use rod and reel to land some of the bigger fish like bass and catfish. "We've identified eight species so far," Beck said. "We're progressively moving around the perimeter of the lake, then we'll move toward the interior." To study their movements, he and Lozano are tagging fish with tiny streamers of colored beads,

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sequenced to allow for individual identification later, and recording the exact position in which the fish were caught using a global positioning system (GPS) device. By the end of the three-month project, Beck said the pair should have a fairly comprehensive survey of what's living in the shallow lake. Though this project does not tie directly into Beck's primary research interests, he said it carries scholarly value; most studies of fish migration have been performed on a much larger scale, he said, and small-scale movement patterns have not been well studied in the ecological literature. "It will give us insights into habitat preference," said Beck, adding that he and Lozano also are mapping the physical structure of the lake: its depth and its oxygen, pH and light levels. "With some of the sport species like bass, you could use some of that knowledge to manage a lake, for instance."

Candler Lake is named for **Walter Candler**, third son of **Asa Candler** and original owner of Lullwater House and its grounds. Candler created the lake in 1952 by building a dam on South Fork Peachtree Creek, but it is not known whether the lake's species migrated in via the creek or whether it was stocked with sport fish such as largemouth bass. This fall, Beck said he and another student, along with Oxford biology professor Steve Baker, will survey the fish living in Lullwater's many streams. Admitting he is not much of a fisherman, Beck deflects much of the credit for this summer's work to his pupil from San Antonio. "Carlos brings with him a lot of basic knowledge of freshwater fish," Beck said. "Combined with my background in ecology, we can turn this into an interesting ecological question."

From Emory Report, [July 7, 2003](#)

Robert Paul settling in as new dean of the College

For almost two years, **Robert Paul** has been laying the foundation for the future of Emory College, not knowing who would be building on it. Now he can put his hardhat on. Following a nine-month national search, the University announced on May 20 that Paul can remove the "interim" from his title as dean of the college, and the Charles Howard Candler Professor of [Anthropology](#) and Interdisciplinary Studies can look forward to moving into his new office in the renovated Candler Library later this summer. It's a long way to come for the person whose first thought, when former college dean Steve Sanderson walked into his office in spring 2001 and announced he was leaving Emory, was, Well, I'll tell you one thing: I'm not going to be interim dean of the college. "Of course, I ate my words on that," Paul said. "But God works in mysterious ways." The ways of administration are no longer a



mystery for Paul, who had barely settled into his role as dean of the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences when Sanderson announced his resignation.



Robert Paul

Now, with two full academic years under his belt as interim dean, Paul knows how Emory College works—and he has a clear idea of where he wants it to go. “I’d like to see growth in the size of our faculty without necessarily growing the student body,” he said. “With a better student-faculty ratio, we can have a more advantageous leave policy so faculty can do more of their own research without sacrificing the ability to meet curricular needs and be there for the students. “The other main thing is growth in endowment for student financial aid, both at the graduate and undergraduate level,” Paul continued. “We need to be not just OK but incredibly competitive in both areas in terms of getting the students we want—the best students.”

To achieve these goals, Paul said the college already is hip deep into a comprehensive fund-raising initiative he began without knowing whether he would be around to see it come to fruition. He admits he “wasn’t shy” about long-term planning as interim dean because it was work that needed to be done, no matter who became permanent dean, if the college was to continue its upward trajectory. “If I felt we were just on a plateau and weren’t going anywhere...” Paul shook his head. “I have no interest in just being a caretaker.” Indeed, having served (albeit briefly) as dean of the [graduate school](#) before he took over the college, Paul is uniquely qualified to address what he sees as the primary challenge facing Emory as a whole: improving graduate education. “The domain that needs immediate attention, that’s in the most critical state, is the fact that we have fallen behind in our ability to financially support graduate students,” he said flatly. “Our stipends are not big enough, and they don’t last for as many years—they’re just not competitive with the rivals we’re up against.” Since the college dean has primary authority in hiring and tenure matters regarding most of the faculty who teach graduate students, Paul will be in a key position to influence graduate education at Emory. The graduate school, he admitted, has fewer resources at its disposal than does Emory College.

Revisiting the structure of the arts and sciences at Emory—an examination that began with Paul’s short-lived appointment as executive vice provost of arts and sciences in spring 2001 and was suspended when a committee charged with studying the matter concluded that the University’s current administrative transition dictated leaving in place the status quo—is something that needs to be done, Paul said. “Very definitely [the question needs to be brought up again],” he said. “I have my own views as to what would be a good solution, though I’m always open to other arguments and in fact have changed my mind about this as I’ve heard other points of view. But I definitely think the current situation is not optimal for the college.” And the time is approaching when the administrative transition will be complete. After President **Bill Chace**’s successor takes office, almost certainly before the end of the 200304 academic year, all that will remain is the question of who will be the permanent provost. Paul, who admitted that the uncertainty about those two offices was “disconcerting” as he applied for the college deanship, hopes that whoever holds them continues the work Chace and interim Provost **Woody Hunter** have done. “With Woody and Bill, I think they’re very dedicated to the arts and sciences and have done a great deal for it,” Paul said. “If you look at where Emory was—on almost any measure—when Bill Chace came in and where it is now, the improvements are very palpable.”

From Emory Report, [June 9, 2003](#)

Profile: Psychology professor Larry Barsalou

Larry Barsalou is a cognitive psychologist. To put it simply, he thinks about thinking. He designs experiments he hopes will help demonstrate and explain how the human mind works. Knowledge is a big deal to Barsalou. He thinks about it all the time. "Brains don't work like cameras. They have an attentional system that focuses on components of experience," said Barsalou, whose lightning-quick speech and energetic delivery show he wears his passion for his work on his sleeve. "The brain doesn't just record an image of an entire scene, instead it captures information about a scene's components such as a chair, a face, an eye, conversation, movement. If you are talking about a chair, it can focus on the overall shape, color or size. The brain is very flexible." In spring 2002, Barsalou, Winship Distinguished Research Professor of [Psychology](#), earned a prestigious fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation—one of just 184 people selected. He took a year's sabbatical from teaching to work on *The Human Conceptual System*, a book that explores the history, different approaches, misconceptions and applications of the theories of human knowledge in conceptual systems. Through a review of previously published research—a good deal of it his own—Barsalou's book will discuss his theories on the subject, many of them originating outside the mainstream. What Barsalou discusses so passionately are theories that even one of his own colleagues dismissed as crank and professional suicide 10 years ago. Now, though, many psychologists have begun to embrace them, along with scholars and professionals in other disciplines such as philosophy, literature and even business.

Since the 1950s, the majority of cognitive psychologists have held the view that the brain is similar to a computer—it accesses symbolic knowledge in different parts of the brain as if opening a file. Dramatic advances in neuroscience over the past 20 years have helped drive Barsalou's theories that knowledge and thinking involve sensory-motor mechanisms in the brain that simulate the experience one is thinking about—like watching a movie in the mind (although not necessarily consciously). "If I am thinking about an elephant that's not present, I'm running my visual system as if I were looking at one," Barsalou said. "I've seen elephants, and my memory system has stored away the state that my visual system was in, and now if I'm thinking of one—the way that this theory goes—I simulate it. I re-enact my visual system partially, not exactly, as if an elephant were present. So I'm not hallucinating an elephant, but I'm getting a vague image of an elephant." Try it. Think about an elephant. What is the context? Is the elephant in a zoo? In a circus? Is it on television or a picture in a book? What is it doing? It is moving? What is the angle at which you see it? The mind is re-creating the experience of seeing an elephant. The creature isn't there, but the mind is pretending it is.

The elephant experiment is a nice party trick, but Barsalou has many formal avenues to support his theories as well. Through laboratory experiments, Barsalou and other researchers have provided empirical evidence for the view that sensory-motor systems represent knowledge through reenactments. For instance, one Barsalou experiment showed that subjects were able to process sensory properties of an

object (if a person was thinking about "perfumed" for soap, she could quickly process "musty" for old books) faster than if she had to switch modalities (like "noisy" for television). In other words, the brain had to switch gears, and that took just a few milliseconds more time. Knowledge relied on a sensory-motor function, just as he and his new school of cognitive psychologists have postulated. Knowledge, of course, relies heavily on learning. And the experiences Barsalou investigates are largely subconscious—but nevertheless they unquestionably exist, as indicated through scientific experiments. "One characteristic of expertise behavior is how automatic it is, like driving," Barsalou said. "While you're driving, you are listening to the radio or talking to someone; you don't have a clue of what you've seen or done going down the road, but you've done it just fine." The same is true of processing knowledge in most daily routines. "What you've done is mapped conditions in the world to the right responses so many times that when those conditions appear an unconscious part of your brain recognizes it and generates the right action."

Barsalou is an intense, highly driven guy (instead of working 7080 hours a week like he did when he was younger, Barsalou now works between 5060 and he might take a vacation every year). Although he didn't teach last year, Barsalou still was involved in roughly 40 collaborative projects, many of them involving experiments in his lab, and he spent a great deal of time writing. About one-third of his book is finished, and all of the primary research is complete. He just needs to pull together the narrative. Taking it easy doesn't come easy for him, but Barsalou does find time to relax through meditation. Barsalou has dabbled in meditation since he first began studying Buddhist teachings while growing up in the 1960s. "It's a lot like developing a physical skill like playing tennis or the guitar," Barsalou said. "Meditation is a particular state you have to train your mind to get into, where you are watching it rather than running along with it." Barsalou added that his meditative experiences as a young man helped drive his interest in cognitive psychology. "What I really liked about cognitive psychology is that it is not just a casual, subjective way of finding out how the mind works. You actually can design rigorous scientific experiments to verify what the mind is doing." Even when the subject is relaxation, for Barsalou, work is never too far away.

From Emory Report, [July 7, 2003](#)

Environmental studies professor's butterfly research

Although one of the most common butterflies in North America, the monarch's vibrant orange and black wings make it distinct and instantly recognizable. But within that distinction may hide a great deal of variation. Just how much variation is what **Sonia Altizer** wants to find out. This summer Altizer, assistant professor of [environmental studies](#), is researching four populations of North American monarchs to determine whether they vary in development, survival, growth rate, color and size, among other factors. She is currently studying the effect of temperature on their color patterns and development. Monarchs, which can be found on four continents, are tropical in origin, and two of Altizer's populations are from warm-weather climates: Hawaii and South Florida. The other two are migratory populations, originating in the eastern and western United States and Canada. Each winter, these populations—from 50 million to more than 100 million butterflies—travel up to 2,000 kilometers to Mexico and California. It is that birdlike migration that makes the

monarchs special, and investigating the differences between the migratory and nonmigratory butterflies is a prime goal. "My approach has been to look at traits that might vary in response to selection," said Altizer, adding that monarch populations are similar genetically. "Chances are you would see differences in their environment, host-plant species, natural enemies and other factors."

Most of Altizer's butterflies are descended from insects caught in the wild, and beautiful though they are, catching monarchs is not glamorous work. A lot of it involves standing next to the road with a big net dodging speeding trucks. Since milkweed, the monarchs' preferred meal, often grows in ankle-high water, slogging through ditches also is a big part of it. If pickings are slim, Altizer and members of her lab are not above going to nurseries and plucking caterpillars off milkweed plants. The monarchs populating Altizer's lab now are two generations removed from a group of about 200 butterflies caught in the wild last spring. Nick Vitone, one of Altizer's research technicians, caught butterflies in Hawaii; undergraduate lab technician Bethany Farrey caught them in Florida; and Altizer herself went butterfly hunting in the Atlanta area and, with Vitone, in California. The original butterflies have since died, and now researchers in Altizer's lab are raising their progeny, which are bred in a greenhouse on the Michael Street parking deck and stored in her lab in the Math & Science Center. When the adult monarchs emerge from their cocoons, the size, shape and color of their wings will be measured; they also are weighed and their pigmentation checked among other measurements. One of the variables is temperature; each population will have members living in hot, medium and cold environments. After the butterflies die, they are stored in thick binders, each page a mosaic of almost-identical wings. Each butterfly has an identification number on its wing. Although the insects look fragile, they actually are quite hardy and can withstand a great deal of handling without harm. In addition to the numbering, butterflies are placed on a scanner so their wings can be photographed. The computer analysis they undergo allows for a much more sophisticated investigation into the differences between the populations. The naked eye can only see so much, but the computer can analyze the data in a multitude of ways. Once the data are collected, Altizer and research coordinator Andy Davis compare the populations. One early finding is that the tropical, nonmigratory butterflies appear to have darker wings, which was unexpected, since lighter coloring is usually more common in warm-weather creatures.

Altizer first began studying monarchs while a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. Her advisor had asked that she find out what sort of parasite was responsible for killing the butterflies in her lab. Altizer did, and it is those parasites—not necessarily the butterflies on which they live—that most interest her. "I found that this disease occurred everywhere you could find monarch butterflies, but its prevalence varied strikingly in different geographic regions," Altizer said. It was that finding, in part, that led her into her current experiment. In her future work Altizer said she would like to take the results from her current monarch study and intersect them with her research into parasites. "I'd like to use some of the findings that come out of these general population divergence studies to conduct a separate set of experiments to go back and look at the interactions between the monarchs and their parasites and their possible coevolution," Altizer said. Checking for parasites does play a part in the current experiment. Cultures are taken from each butterfly, and if a parasite is found, the butterfly will be isolated from the others and the parasite investigated. Altizer's work is not exclusive to creatures lacking backbones. One of her projects is studying infectious diseases in wild birds. Right now she is looking at a bacteria that causes conjunctivitis, an eye affliction, in house finches. Altizer also is

one of several researchers around the country building a giant database categorizing parasites and infectious diseases around the world. The scientists have just finished cataloging parasites from primates and have begun coding hoofed mammals. The versatility of this research is tremendous. "Do you tend to see more sexually transmitted diseases in promiscuous animals, for example," Altizer said. "Or are there parasites that are transmitted by fecal/oral routes or by ingestion in animals which tend to be herbivores or grazers."

From Emory Report, [June 23, 2003](#).

Emory Eagles sweep Div. III tennis team titles

Coming into the 20022003 year Emory, while generally fielding solid teams in nearly every sport, had won just one Division III national title— by the 1996 women's tennis team. Time to make some more room in the trophy case. Both the [men's tennis](#) and [women's tennis](#) teams won Div. III national titles at their respective championships last month. The Eagles' women's team was particularly proficient, sweeping the doubles and singles championships as well. This is the third straight year one school has won the both the men's and women's Div. III team tennis championships. In 2001 and 2002, Williams (Mass.) pulled the trick.

Junior **Mary Ellen Gordon** not only led the women's team to the championship, 4-1 over Washington & Lee (Va.) on May 16, but she won the Div. III singles title, defeating freshman teammate **Jolyn Taylor** 6-4, 6-1, and teamed with Taylor to claim the national doubles title, beating Haley Heathman and Liz Bondi from DePauw (Ind.). It was Gordon's first national title in singles and third consecutive win in doubles. The Brookwood High School graduate (and daughter of Emory Athletic Director **Chuck Gordon**) is only the second person in Div. III women's tennis history to claim that trifecta. She finished the season with a singles record of 34-1 and holds Emory's all-time record for singles wins (89) and winning percentage (.873). Her 76 doubles wins ranks third all-time. As she was after both her freshman and sophomore years, Gordon was named All-America in both singles and doubles. Her six All-America honors are the most ever by an Emory women's tennis player. Taylor joined Gordon as an All-American in singles and doubles, and the Eagles' No. 2 doubles team of **Margaret Moscato** and **Emily Warburg** claimed All-America honors as well. Taylor was named national Rookie of the Year, and head coach **Amy Smith** was named national Coach of the Year. Smith was the Eagles' No. 1 singles player during their first national championship season. She is just the fifth woman in any division to win national tennis titles as a player and a coach

The Eagles finished the year 24-1, the only loss coming to Div. II Cal-Poly Pomona. Emory won all 19 matches against Div. III opponents and gave up more than one point just twice. In 2002, Emory lost in the championship match to Williams, although Gordon paired with **Anusha Natarajan** to take the doubles title for the second consecutive year. Emory is the only Div. III school to qualify for the national championships all 19 years they have been held, and just two schools—California-San Diego and Kenyon (Ohio)—have more national team titles.

On the men's side, the Eagles swept the two-time defending national champion Williams Ephs 4-0 in the finals. On their way to the victory, Emory steamrolled past

Trinity (Texas), 6-1 in the quarterfinals, and Middlebury (Vt.), 4-1 in the semis. In the championship match, singles players **Mark Odgers** (No. 1), **Brad Jaffe** (No. 3) and **Jesse Ferlianto** (No. 6) didn't drop a set, and the Eagles swept all three doubles sets. Emory finished the season 16-4. In singles, Odgers was eliminated in the quarterfinals, and in doubles Odgers and **Alex Jacobs** advanced to the semifinals before falling to the eventual national runners-up Rob Candiotty and Brian Murphy of Redlands (Calif.). Odgers and **Tyson Ramsey** earned All-America honors in singles, and the No. 1 pairing of Odgers and Jacobs were named All-America in doubles. This was the 14th straight year and 17th overall that Emory had advanced to the national championship. The Eagles had finished second twice, in 1996 and in 2002, when they lost to Williams in a heartbreaker, 4-3. Like Smith, men's tennis coach **John Browning** now has won national titles as a player and a coach. He was on the UC-Santa Cruz team that won the Div. III national title in 1989.

From Emory Report, [June 9, 2003](#)

Garden club contributes to Emory community



Butterfly Garden, June 2003

It doesn't look like much now—just a small, roughly 300-square-foot, roped-off plot of dirt behind the Math & Science Center populated by a few ankle- and knee-high plants and recently bloomed flowers—but give it a little time and Emory's first butterfly garden will be teeming with the attractive winged creatures. The butterfly garden is the first creation of the [Emory Garden Club](#), a campus grassroots organization (pardon the pun) that aims to promote and sustain the University's environment. Begun almost three years ago over a restaurant conversation among friends with a common interest in gardening, the club has steadily evolved into an increasingly active organization in Emory's prominent environmental community. For more than a year, the friends, including **Annie Carey** of [Emory College](#), **Hope Payne** from [environmental studies](#) and **Barbara Brandt** of the [Information Technology Division](#), would meet for their monthly luncheon and discuss their gardens. Slowly, others joined them. Now the club boasts a listserv of almost 50 people. "Some have absolutely

wonderful gardens; some don't have a garden at all, " said Carey, facilities coordinator for the college. "It's an interesting group. We have a hodgepodge of people."

After their casual beginning, last winter the club got serious. They wanted to make a definitive contribution to the community, despite the fact that the club received no money from the University and relied solely on the spirit—and wallets—of its members. "We wanted to do something at Emory to show our love of plants and of nature and the environment, and to try and protect it as much as we can," said Payne, office manager for environmental studies. The club decided to create a butterfly garden. Payne, Carey and fellow club member **John Wegner** of environmental studies met with **Jimmy Powell** and **James Johnson** of [Facilities Management](#), and they decided the garden could be developed in the forested area behind the Math & Science Center. The garden was planted the first week of May. Its plants and flowers were chosen specifically to appeal to butterflies. Butterflies lay their eggs on milkweed, and they like to eat flowers such as hollyhock, lantana, purple cornflower, black-eyed susans and butterfly bushes as well as herbs like parsley—which also has been planted. Next to the garden is a small plot of wildflowers that has yet to bloom. The garden's floral inhabitants came from a variety of sources. Some were donated by club members, others from the environmental studies department and still others came free of charge from area businesses. Not only is the garden an aesthetic attraction, but it serves an academic purpose as well.

The research of **Sonia Altizer**, assistant professor of environmental studies, compares monarch butterflies from across North America and can play a role in the garden's progression. "Every fall, monarchs migrate through Georgia on their way back to Mexico, and as they migrate, they stop along the way at gardens such as this one," Altizer said. "This garden will be used to study what we call the 'stopover ecology' of monarch migration in this geographic area." The plan is to have students monitor the garden, capture, then release the monarchs and other butterflies that visit it. Later this summer, monarch butterflies bred in Altizer's laboratory on the fifth floor of the Math & Science Center and a Emerson Hall greenhouse on the Michael St. deck will be released into the garden, becoming its first residents. Placing the site behind the Math & Science Center was no accident. Butterflies need a wooded, shaded place to thrive, Payne said. The proximity of Altizer's laboratory played a role as well. Because of this spring's heavy rains, the plants have grown slowly, but with summer's onset they soon should be thriving. With a bench just a couple steps away from the garden, it promises to be a perfect place to relax. "Once the garden gets established and is a place for them to eat, the butterflies should stick around," Payne said. Only in winter would the garden not be populated with butterflies.

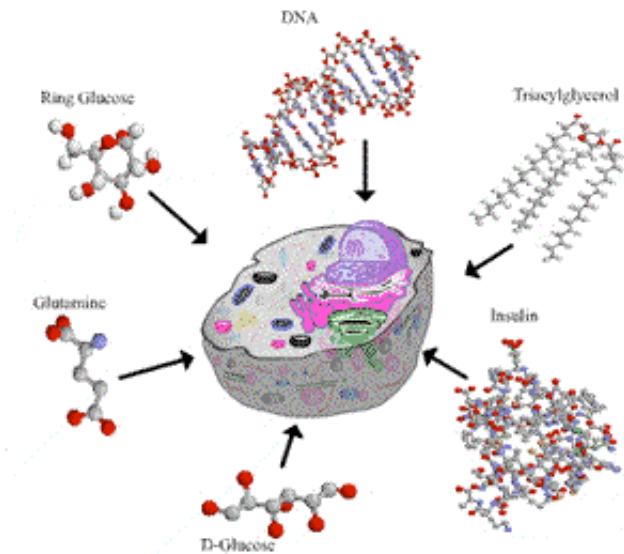
The butterfly garden doesn't complete the club's work. In fact, it is just getting started. Its next goal is to renovate the Spring House, located in the forest behind the Houston Mill House. The stone structure once was used to keep perishable foods cool before the house had refrigerators. Now the Spring House and surrounding area has become overgrown, and the club intends to work on restoring it. The project was suggested by the Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Stewardship, which shares some members with the garden club. Payne said that work could begin in the fall. Other plans for the future include planting native wildflowers on campus, organizing plant exchanges and planting more campus butterfly gardens. Another future plan, Carey said, is one day acquiring an actual budget. "There is only so far that donations will go," she said.

The garden club is open to all members of the Emory community. For more information, visit their [website](#).

From Emory Report, [June 9, 2003](#)

CancerQuest website wins award from Scientific American

[CancerQuest](#), a website developed at Emory University devoted to giving cancer patients tools to learn practical, scientific knowledge about their illness, has received a 2003 Sci/Tech Web Award from ScientificAmerican.com, the online component of Scientific American magazine. Scientific American editors reviewed more than 1,000 websites and selected the top 50 they deemed the most valuable science and technology resources for the third-annual awards. CancerQuest was named one of the top five sites in the medical category. The site also recently received an "Editor's Choice" award from OncoLink, the cancer site at the University of Pennsylvania.



The Biology of Cells

CancerQuest is designed to teach people the biology of cancer in a clear and concise manner. While there is a wealth of cancer news and advice on the Internet, much of it is either very technical and designed for doctors and scientists, or broad and simplistic, says **Gregg Orloff**, a senior lecturer in [biology](#) at Emory who spearheaded the development of CancerQuest. "I found that there is not much out there that really teaches the biology of cancer, that can explain to people what is happening to them," Orloff says. While not clinical in scope, CancerQuest gives a detailed, yet easy-to-grasp overview of how cells work, and what happens when they break down and become cancerous. The site outlines the actions and effects of various treatments, but does not make any recommendations, he says. CancerQuest is structured like a textbook and features several animated graphics to explain concepts. A dictionary is built in, so users can quickly look up the definitions of scientific terms. All references are documented, with links to other Web pages for those wanting more information about a particular aspect of treatment or different types of cancer. Future plans include offering the project in several languages.

The idea for CancerQuest, which received funding through a Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant, came to Orloff during his wife's experience with breast cancer. During treatment, her oncologist recommended that she attend a support group of other breast cancer patients, and she brought along her husband. "When people realized I was a biology professor, they began asking me a barrage of questions about cancer. It made me realize there was a real need for information -- a hunger for it," Orloff

says. In the process of creating CancerQuest, the project also became a teaching tool for Orloff. Students enrolled in his upper-level cancer biology course helped to research and produce some of the material presented. Several of those students have continued to work on the site and have produced additional content and graphics. Current work on the site is being supported by the [Winship Cancer Institute](#), Emory's [Program in Science and Society](#), and the academic technology group in Emory's [Information Technology Division](#).

Theater Emory's 2003-04 season announced

Following a season dedicated largely to fostering the development of new work by theater artists from around the country, [Theater Emory](#) is showcasing homegrown talent in the 2003-04 season. The season features three world premieres--two by members of the Emory theater community and one a work commissioned by the Playwriting Center of Theater Emory. The world premieres are **Elizabeth Wong's** "Dating and Mating in Modern Times" (Sept. 20-Oct. 4), Emory student **Lauren Gunderson's** "Leap" (Feb. 12-21), Emory faculty member **John Ammerman's** "Life Goes On: A Silent Play in Black and White" (April 15-24). The season will kick off with a showcase of Contemporary Theater From India (Sept. 12-13), and will include a production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Oct. 28-Nov. 8).

"This season is largely the payoff for all the works we've been developing over the years," says **Vincent Murphy**, artistic producing director of Theater Emory. "This is the culmination of internal research that we have been doing. Elizabeth Wong's piece was a commission of the Playwriting Center, in part because we wanted to focus on women. Lauren Gunderson is a very talented playwright, and this is the first time we have ever done a full production of a student work as part of the Theater Emory season although we have done a lot of Brave New Works readings of student material."

Wong, a Los Angeles-based television and theater writer who also will direct the production, describes "Dating and Mating" as "a series of monologues by women in celebration of men, of the libido and the white hot desire for connection between the sexes." This particular show may not be appropriate for younger patrons, so parental discretion is advised. Gunderson is an Emory senior who has had her award-winning plays produced off Broadway in New York and at several Atlanta theaters. "Leap" is the story of two young sisters trying to impart the wisdom of the future to their skeptical pupil, a young Isaac Newton, who begins to want more than his share of knowledge. She poses the question, What if Newton knew as much as Einstein? Megan Monaghan, an Emory theater studies alumna and literary director of the Alliance Theatre Company, will direct.

"Here I think we have cultivated an audience with a taste for adventure, great theater and great literature," says Murphy. The 2003-04 season is reflective of that audience with the shows in the season, including the India theater showcase, the Shakespeare and Ammerman's new work. "Contemporary Theater From India" will look at a cross-section of work coming out of India with staged readings that are free and open to the public. Following independence, India has witnessed a re-emergence of its rich culture in both fiction and theater in English, Hindi and India's many regional languages. While Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, Vikram Seth and Rohinton

Mishry are names the world recognizes, a large array of lesser known playwrights and writers from India continue to bloom in obscurity. Theater Emory will showcase pieces by some of the lesser known playwrights that are witty, delicious, rooted in India's culture and speak to issues relevant to today's society. "Life Goes On: A Silent Play in Black and White," conceived and directed by Ammerman, stems from his research into the silent film era of the 1920s and 30s. Created in the style of a black and white silent film, including live musical accompaniment during the performances and the best comic and dramatic elements of the genre, "Life Goes On" follows the story of one Detroit family's encounter with the 1929 stock market crash. Theater Emory's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is a return to an old friend, according to Murphy, reprising a production during his first season at Emory 15 years ago. "After celebrating the 20th anniversary of Theater Emory last season, it is wonderful to be able to come back to an old friend and see how we've changed in that time," says Murphy. The production will be directed by Lisa Paulsen.

Sept. 12-13, 2003 Contemporary Theater From India

Street plays, dance dramas, and musicals have long been an integral part of India's 5,000-year-old culture. These forms continue to be used for education, for telling and remembering stories, and to affect social change. Post-independence, India has witnessed a re-emergence of its rich and diverse culture in both fiction and theater in English, Hindi and India's numerous regional languages. While Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, Vikram Seth and Rohiton Mishry are names the world recognizes, a large array of lesser known playwrights and writers from India continue to bloom in obscurity. Theater Emory presents staged readings of plays by contemporary Indian playwrights that are witty, delicious, rooted in India's culture and speak to issues relevant to today's society.

- Sept. 12 and 13 at 7 p.m.; Sept. 13 at 2 p.m. Theater Lab, Schwartz Center for Performing Arts, 1700 N. Decatur Rd., Emory. Free and open to the public. Seating is limited.

Sept. 20-Oct. 4 Dating and Mating in Modern Times

World Premiere. Written and directed by Elizabeth Wong

"This play was written as a series of monologues by women in celebration of men, of the libido and the white-hot desire for connection between the sexes," says Los Angeles-based television and theater writer Elizabeth Wong. Commissioned by the Playwriting Center of Theater Emory and a favorite in the 2003 Brave New Works readings for the inauguration of the Marvin and Donna Schwartz Center. Parental discretion is advised.

- Sept. 20, 25-27, Oct. 2-3 at 8 p.m. Sept. 21*, 28, and Oct. 4 at 5 p.m. Oct. 4 at 9 p.m. Mary Gray Munroe Theater, Dobbs University Center, 605 Asbury Circle, Emory. \$15 general admission; \$12 Emory (and affiliates) staff and faculty, Emory alumni, Evening at Emory students, Friends of Music, Friends of Dance, and Friends of Theater Emory, seniors, groups of 20+, WABE members, ArtsCard members, and non-Emory students; Emory students \$6
*Pay what you can performance

Oct. 28-Nov. 8 A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare, directed by Lisa Paulsen

Shakespeare's best loved comedy about love, transformation and extreme responses becomes a fairytale about a world on the edge. Shakespeare's lovers, fairies and rulers--each group from different worlds--intersect and, by the end of the evening,

each group has been altered by the encounter in powerful ways.

- Oct. 28-29 at 8 p.m.--Half price previews Oct. 30, 31*, Nov. 1, 6-8 at 8 p.m. Nov. 2 and 8 at 2 p.m. Mary Gray Munroe Theater, Dobbs University Center, 605 Asbury Circle, Emory. \$15 general admission; \$12 Emory (and affiliates) staff and faculty, Emory alumni, Evening at Emory students, Friends of Music, Friends of Dance, and Friends of Theater Emory, seniors, groups of 20+, WABE members, ArtsCard members, and non-Emory students; Emory students \$6
*Pay what you can performance

Feb. 12-21 Leap

World Premiere. Written by Lauren Gunderson, directed by Megan Monaghan

As two young sisters try to impart the wisdom of the future, their skeptical pupil, young Isaac Newton, begins to want more than his share of knowledge. What if Newton knew as much as Einstein? "Leap" is a story of creation and destruction, of being young and brilliant, of creativity, discovery, love and physics written by talented Emory senior Lauren Gunderson, whose award-winning plays have been produced in Atlanta and New York.

- Feb. 12-13*, 19-21 at 8 p.m. Feb. 14-15, and 21 at 2 p.m. Mary Gray Munroe Theater, Dobbs University Center, 605 Asbury Circle, Emory. \$15 general admission; \$12 Emory (and affiliates) staff and faculty, Emory alumni, Evening at Emory students, Friends of Music, Friends of Dance, and Friends of Theater Emory, seniors, groups of 20+, WABE members, ArtsCard members, and non-Emory students; Emory students \$6
*Pay what you can performance

April 15-24 Life Goes On: A Silent Play in Black and White

World Premiere. Conceived and directed by John Ammerman

Created in the style of a black and white silent film, including live musical accompaniment during the performances, "Life Goes On" follows the story of one Detroit family's encounter with the 1929 stock market crash. Ammerman draws upon the dramatic and comic qualities of the silent films of the 1920's for inspiration in this production

- April 15, 16*, 17, 22-24 at 8 p.m. April 18 and 24 at 2 p.m. Mary Gray Munroe Theater, Dobbs University Center, 605 Asbury Circle, Emory. \$15 general admission; \$12 Emory (and affiliates) staff and faculty, Emory alumni, Evening at Emory students, Friends of Music, Friends of Dance, and Friends of Theater Emory, seniors, groups of 20+, WABE members, ArtsCard members, and non-Emory students; Emory students \$6
*Pay what you can performance

For more information, call the Arts at Emory box office at 404-727-5050 or visit [Arts at Emory](#).

Emory researchers make Alzheimer's discovery

Researchers at Emory University and Argonne National Laboratory have discovered a new method to



manipulate the self-assembly and formation of amyloid fibrils, a major component of brain plaques associated with Alzheimer's disease, thereby opening new avenues for examination of their formation and for the construction of robust nanotubes that have potential applications in research, industry and medicine. Certain short amino acid chains, the building blocks of proteins, are capable of self-assembly into the disease-causing amyloid fibrils of Alzheimer's. Emory biochemistry professor **David Lynn** and his colleagues have now enticed these amyloid peptides to self-assemble into well-defined nanotubes 15 billionths of a meter across. Such nanotubes can now serve as minute scaffolds to build nanotechnological devices with potential applications in many fields. These findings are published in the May 21 issue of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* in their paper "Exploiting Amyloid Fibril Lamination for Nanotube Self-Assembly."



David Lynn

"We took what we know about amyloid fibril self-assembly, and used that information to construct novel, self-assembling nanotubes. The creation of these new structures will in turn teach us more about the physical properties of amyloids and the pathways to their formation, which puts us in a better position to understand why they are so damaging and cause disease," says Lynn. The discovery underscores the potential of the emerging field of "synthetic biology," demonstrating the use of self-assembling elements that nature goes to great lengths to avoid, and converting them to new functional materials, Lynn says. "Nature goes to extreme measures to keep these amyloids from forming, but nature still hasn't figured out a way on its own to totally control the formation of them. What we have uncovered is a way to control and manipulate the amyloid in a way that nature can't, so that it acts differently and takes on a new form as a self-assembling nanotube that has many applications for nanotechnology." Lynn, Asa Griggs Candler Professor of [Chemistry](#) and [Biology](#), works in the areas of biomolecular chemistry, molecular evolution and chemical biology. Lynn's research in biological chemistry focuses on the spontaneous self-assembly of biological structures, including protein folding, nucleic acid assembly and the organogenesis of multicellular organisms--the basis of the energies that control self-assembly. Lynn's research team includes graduate student Kun Lu; Vincent Conticello, professor of biomaterials at Emory; and Jaby Jacob and Pappannan Thiyagarajan of Argonne National Laboratory.

Library of late poet laureate Ted Hughes acquired

[The Robert W. Woodruff Library](#) of Emory University has acquired the library of the late poet laureate of Great Britain Ted Hughes. At the time of his death in 1998 Hughes was among Britain's leading literary figures and the author of dozens of critically-acclaimed collections of poems, including "The Hawk in the Rain," "Lupercal," "Wodwo" and "Crow." His 1998 collection, "Birthday Letters," chronicled his relationship with his first wife, the poet Sylvia Plath, and was an international bestseller as well as recipient of the Whitbread Book of the Year award. During the course of a distinguished life in letters, he also published many books for children,

translations, a monumental critical study of Shakespeare, and other works. The Hughes library, which numbers more than 6,000 volumes, offers students and scholars a detailed map of Hughes' own creative and intellectual development. In addition to many works of poetry by a wide literary circle (Many inscribed to him by the author), the library also reflects Hughes' wide-ranging interests far beyond the field of literature. The library includes many works devoted to natural history, folklore, mysticism, religion, and esoteric knowledge, among other subjects.

The earliest books in the Hughes library date from his school days at the Mexborough Secondary School, including a pocket edition of Shakespeare's "Henry IV" as well as editions of Wordsworth and Keats which he read as a school boy. The copy of Robert Graves' "The White Goddess" presented by his English teacher on his going up to Cambridge also is included, as is the copy of Shakespeare which he read and reread while stationed at a remote RAF station in Yorkshire in the late-1940s. A number of the earliest books in the Hughes library contain sketches and notes in Hughes' hand. Also of special interest are those books owned by Hughes and Plath during the years of their marriage. These include a study of nightmares which Plath presented to her husband as a Christmas gift in the first year of their marriage and a copy of Hart Crane's "Complete Poems" which Hughes inscribed to her. Plath often marked books as she read them, as revealed by her copies of D.H. Lawrence's "Kangaroo," Virginia Woolf's "To the Lighthouse" and "A Writer's Diary," Dostoyevsky's "Crime and Punishment," and other works.

"The estate is very pleased that Emory University has acquired the poet's library. It was an essential criterion of the sale that the library should remain a single entity," says a spokesman for the Hughes estate. "Uniting the library and the literary archives of the great poet, author and scholar Ted Hughes provides an invaluable resource for teaching and learning about not only his work, but about contemporary poetry as well." Emory is committed to investing in resources that expand knowledge in the arts and sciences and to making those resources available to students and researchers," says Emory Interim Provost Howard O. Hunter. This acquisition unites the Ted Hughes library with the poet's literary archive which Emory acquired in 1997. The Robert W. Woodruff Library offers a competitive annual fellowship for researchers needing support to travel to Emory for work in these and other of the Library's literary collections. More details may be found at [Special Collections and Archives](#).

Student Award: Melissa Roberts receives Brittain

Melissa Roberts just earned her bachelor's in [neuroscience and behavioral biology](#) from Emory College, but she also deserves a PhD in time management. In the classroom, the Phi Beta Kappa scholar excelled in a demanding major. On the field, she led the women's softball team to a University Athletic Association title and the Div. III Softball World Series. And in her residence hall, she provided guidance and service to her fellow students as an advisor. Roberts' accomplishments earned her Emory's highest student honor, the Marion Luther Brittain Award, given to a member of the graduating class in recognition of service to the University performed without expectation of reward or recognition. It was established at Emory in 1942 through a bequest from alumnus M.L. Brittain, a former president of the Georgia Institute of Technology. "I used my time as best I could to get the most in, and enjoyed it all," said Roberts, an Emory Scholar and native of Billings, Mont. "I was shocked to be

honored with such an award. I feel very lucky to have found a school that was such a good match for me. The people I've met and the friendships I've made are a huge part of what made my experience at Emory so incredible. I'm proud to have been part of such an outstanding community." Among her many academic honors at Emory was her selection as a [Bobby Jones Scholar](#), which involves a full scholarship for a post-graduate year abroad at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, Emory's sister institution. During her year at St. Andrews, Roberts said she plans to study and research comparative health care and neuroscience, as well as play sports and teach softball at a town youth center. When she returns from her year abroad, Roberts hopes to attend medical school.

As a freshman, Roberts joined a [softball program](#) that was just a year old as part of its inaugural recruiting class. As co-captain, she has helped lead the team to three consecutive appearances in the NCAA national tournament, including a fourth-place finish at this month's Div. III World Series, and most recently the team was ranked second in the nation in Div. III by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. She has been named to the All-Region team for the past three years and served as president of Emory's Varsity Athletic Council this past year. Roberts also distinguished herself as a Residence Life staff member for three years, serving as a senior resident advisor during 200203. One of her nominators for the Brittain Award described her as a team player who is "assertive, calm under pressure, friendly, service-centered and time-focused."

From Emory Report, [May 27, 2003](#)

Student Award: Christopher Richardson wins McMullan

Harry Truman once said, "We can never tell what is in store for us." **Christopher Richardson's** young life certainly illustrates the meaning of his hero's quotation. Richardson, who graduated this spring with a bachelor's in [political science](#) and [history](#), was born to a low-income mother and abandoned by his father. At 15, he was diagnosed with bone cancer. Richardson then spent months in chemotherapy, becoming gravely ill and losing hope. "When I was first diagnosed with cancer, I was really upset. I was angry with God. I was angry with the world. I didn't feel as if it was really fair," said Richardson, winner of the 2003 Lucius Lamar McMullan Award. "And then it hit me that it doesn't have to be fair—life isn't fair. Many times you're going to be given the worst of circumstances. But as a human being, you have to be strong enough to construe those circumstances to your benefit." Richardson said he stopped "sulking" in his hospital bed and began traveling by wheelchair to visit with other cancer patients. Then an organization called Happy Days and Special Times sent him on a trip to Disney World, which renewed his spirit enough to survive many more months of chemotherapy. He lost a knee and part of a lung but fully recovered. In return, he has spent every summer since 1996 working with children with cancer at Camp Happy Days. He also is a spokesperson and promoter for the American Cancer Society.

During his four years at Emory, Richardson fulfilled two presidencies. As president of the Undergraduate College Council his junior year, he concentrated on social issues by creating a computer-donation program for Atlanta's inner-city youth and planning an appreciation day for the student cafeteria staff. The next year, as [Student](#)

[Government Association](#) president, Richardson focused his efforts on policy issues like student financial aid, and his thoroughly researched financial-services report to the University has effected discussion and change in the financial aid office. The McMullan Award, endowed by alumnus William Matheson in honor of his uncle, awards \$20,000 to a graduating Emory College senior who has demonstrated outstanding citizenship and leadership. With the gift, Richardson said he plans to pay off loans, do some traveling and buy a new china cabinet for his mother. He will spend the next year in Atlanta developing an outreach program to provide legal services to cancer patients. Richardson said his future plans include law school, the state department and foreign service.

From Emory Report, [May 27, 2003](#).

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