Human Genome Decoder to Deliver MCG Commencement Address

Dr. J. Craig Venter, co-founder of the company that completed the first assembly of the human genome, will deliver the Medical College of Georgia commencement address to the university’s 542 graduates May 4 at 2 p.m. at the Augusta-Richmond County Civic Center.

Dr. Venter will begin his visit to Augusta discussing the sequencing of the human genome over dinner with senior MCG administrators and students; state and local politicians; and members of the Georgia Medical Center Authority, a state authority charged with developing biotechnology-related businesses in Augusta and throughout Georgia.

May 4, he will have breakfast and talk to members of MCG’s Corporate Partnership Program and Biomedical Research Council and other researchers before a mid-morning tour of research laboratories at MCG.

At 11 a.m., he will give the Lecture for Functional Genomics and Bioinformatics Seminar Series in room 3401 of the Carl T. Sanders Research and Education Building.

Dr. J. Craig Venter

Dr. Venter is president and chief scientific officer of Celera Genomics and founder, chairman of the board and former president of The Institute for Genomic Research, a not-for-profit institution.

June 26, 2000, Celera announced that it had completed the first assembly of the human genome, revealing a total of 3.12 billion base pairs that make up human DNA; Celera’s manuscript on sequencing the human genome was published in the February 16, 2001 issue of Nature.

Dr. Catherine McMillan Hendry’s childhood wish was to become a medical missionary. She was inspired by her physician grandfather and great-uncles and her parochial school in Atlanta, where many of the teachers were missionaries on their way to or from a foreign country.

“I was very impressed by the missionaries and the stories they told, so I decided to become a medical missionary, and finally see all these distant and exciting places,” Dr. Hendry said. “All my female relatives had been school teachers, and my father only agreed to send me to medical school if I promised to stay in the United States. ‘There is plenty of missionary work for you to do here,’ he told me.”

In 1931, Dr. Hendry enrolled at the University of Georgia to take her pre-medical courses. In fall 1934, she started medical school at the Medical College of Georgia as the only woman in her freshman class. She boarded with the Trowbridge family on 15th Street, and often visited Wong’s Café on Laney-Walker Boulevard. Medical school was a new and different environment for her, after spending the previous three years in a sorority house on the University of Georgia campus, and free time was a rarity. Nevertheless, Dr. Hendry enjoyed the weekly Saturday dances, picnics and visits to the picture show. “We [medical students] were quite unpopular at the picture show, because we always smelled of formaldehyde during our first year,” the 89-year-old physician remembered.

Dr. Hendry was one of only two female students, and her fellow classmates did not want to be teamed up with a girl for the anatomy course. “I ended up in a team with two Jewish boys and another fellow, who was a new bridegroom. He was so in love with his fiancée that he could hardly concentrate on his studies, and during a final exam he put the lung in upside down,” she recalled.

An important part of medical training is clinical pharmacology, and MCG students were sent to the poorer neighborhoods of Augusta to practice prescription writing and proper diagnosis. All prescriptions had to be filled at the MCG pharmacy, so that the pharmacist could control the medication and the dosage.

The senior pharmacist had a reputation for being very strict and rather sarcastic, and he told one of my classmates: ‘Congratulations! You just killed your first patient!’” Dr. Hendry said laughing.

During one of her calls, she found out that a little boy was very sick and needed immediate medical assistance. Because telephone services were not readily available, she gratefully accepted when two women offered her family medicine. She quickly sent a medical assistant to the child’s home and the patient was saved.

Katja Sipple

Grant Funds Study of Gingival Overgrowth

Christine Harley Derrico

Medical College of Georgia dental researchers are trying to spare kidney transplant patients a particularly unpleasant potential consequence of their lifesaving drug regimen.

The MCG School of Dentistry has received a $398,000 grant from the Carlos and Marguerite Mason Trust to help prevent and treat gingival overgrowth, an uncontrollable proliferation of gum tissue that affects a third of kidney transplant patients. The condition varies in severity; at its worst, patients’ teeth are completely covered with excess gum tissue.

“The mechanism is unknown, but we know the condition is related to cyclosporine, an immunosuppressive drug,” said Dr. Wayne Herman, associate professor in the Department of Oral Diagnosis and Patient Services.

Immunosuppressive drugs such as cyclosporine prevent the immune system from rejecting transplanted organs. Gingival overgrowth also is linked to calcium channel blockers, used to treat hypertension and cardiovascular disease, and Dilantin (phenytoin), used to treat seizures.

Those who take drugs that trigger gingival overgrowth are at particular risk of developing the condition if they have poor dental hygiene.

See VENTER page 2

See HENDRY page 3

See WOMEN page 2
MCG Spotlight

Duane Perry

This edition of the Beeper spotlights Duane Perry, an environmental safety officer in the Environmental Health and Safety Office at the Medical College of Georgia. Mr. Perry first came to MCG in 1983, and has worked in his present position since 1988. His responsibilities include indoor air quality investigations, industrial hygiene monitoring and analysis, biological safety checks in the laboratories to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations and water quality testing. He also handles biomedical waste management, as well as universal and special category waste recycling. "Duane Perry is a very committed, dedicated and selfless individual," said purchasing assistant Jackie Wilson, who nominated Mr. Perry for the Spotlight. "He is a real team worker, and when he is involved you can be assured that the problem will be taken care of - whether it's an oil spill or something else. He works really well with everybody and even finds time to volunteer in the community."

To nominate an employee for the MCG Spotlight, contact Beeper editor Katja Sipple, ext. 1-4410 (phone), ext. 1-6723 (fax) or e-mail ksipple@mail.mcg.edu.

---

VENTER... from page 1

2001 issue of Science

Dr. Venter developed a new strategy for gene recovery - expressed sequence tags - in 1990 while he was a section chief and lab chief at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke of the National Institutes of Health. Using this method, he and fellow scientists at the Institute for Genomic Research, have discovered and published over one-half of all human genes.

Dr. Venter earned his Ph.D. in physiology and pharmacology from the University of California, San Diego, was a faculty member at the State University of New York at Buffalo and associate chief cancer research scientist at Roswell Park Memorial Institute before going to the NIH.

At NIH, he was named chief of the Section of Receptor Biochemistry in 1984, given additional responsibilities as co-director of the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology in 1987 and named director of the DNA Laboratory of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke in 1988.

He founded The Institute for Genomic Research in 1992 and announced the formation of Celera in 1998.

He was a runner-up for Time magazine's Man of the Year Award and Financial Times' Man of the Year for the year 2000. He is recipient of the 2000 King Faisal Award in Science, the 1999 Beckman Award, the 1999 Chiron Corporation Biotechnology Research Award and the R&D Magazine 1998 Scientist of the Year Award.

His professional memberships include The American Society of Genetics, the Human Genome Organization, the American Society of Microbiology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

He has authored more than 160 scientific articles.

---

BEEPER

Medical College of Georgia = Augusta, Georgia 30912

Daniel R. Pearson, Publisher
Christine Hurley Deriso, Publications Editor
Katja Sipple, Editor

Beeper is published biweekly by Graphic Advertising, a private firm in no way connected with the Medical College of Georgia. Opinions expressed by the writers herein are their own and are not considered an official expression by the Medical College of Georgia. The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include inserts, does not constitute an endorsement by the Medical College of Georgia of the products or services advertised.

News and photos are provided by the Division of Institutional Relations. Direct correspondence about news to MCG Beeper, FL-1042.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA
Julius Scott, Ph.D., Interim President
Bruce Howerton, Interim VP, University Advancement

Direct display advertising inquiries to:

GRAPHIC ADVERTISING
PO. Box 397, Augusta, GA 30903-0397
(706) 860-5455

---

GUM... from page 1

Dr. Wayne Herman examines a patient

Dental hygiene and a genetic predisposition to gingivitis, or gum inflammation, Dr. Herman said. Symptoms include discomfort, unsightly appearance and mouth odor. Malnutrition and infection also can result.

"Left untreated, the condition gets progressively worse because bacteria and plaque accumulate. They are buried under a mound of tissue," said Dr. Joseph Konzelman, associate professor in the Department of Oral Diagnosis and Patient Services.

Currently, the only treatment is surgical removal of the excess tissue. Recurrence is common.

Dr. Herman, Konzelman and their colleagues will use the grant money to test their theory that vigilant oral hygiene will prevent or lessen the severity of the condition. They will recruit 50 MCG kidney transplant patients for the two-year study. All will receive periodic dental examinations and oral hygiene instruction from Ana Thompson, a dental hygienist and the project coordinator. "I'll teach them proper brushing and flossing techniques and other information related to good oral hygiene," said Ms. Thompson, who earned her associate degree in dental hygiene from MCG.

Half of the participants also will receive regular professional dental cleanings at MCG. The other half will be advised to seek care from their regular dentists and/or hygienists.

The researchers will closely monitor the all study participants, using several instruments, including photographs, dental casts and ultrasound, to measure gingival overgrowth. They will compare the two groups to determine whether an intensive oral hygiene program prevents or minimizes the incidence of gingival overgrowth compared to routine dental care.

The researchers are working closely with MCG nephrologists, who are researching other areas of kidney disease. Much of that research is funded by the Mason Trust. "We certainly appreciate the funding," Dr. Herman said. "The Mason Trust is a wonderful organization that has been a very positive force for helping transplant patients."

---

Notables

Obituaries

Eleanor Reid, 55, a retired food service supervisor in Hospital Dining Services, died March 22. She was employed at MCG from 1977 to 1989.

Dr. Charles Burgess, 78, a retired dental laboratory technician in the School of Dentistry, died March 26. He had worked at MCG from 1977 to 1987.

Dr. David Stellik, 49, professor of orthopedics, died March 23. He had worked at MCG since 1979.

Dr. Floyd Bliven, Jr., 79, a retired professor of orthopedics, died March 30. He had been employed at MCG from 1956 to 1986.

William Spires, 88, a retired locksmith in Building Maintenance, died March 31. He had worked at MCG from 1968 to 1981.

---

Obituaries

Eleanor Reid, 55, a retired food service supervisor in Hospital Dining Services, died March 22. She was employed at MCG from 1977 to 1989.

Dr. Charles Burgess, 78, a retired dental laboratory technician in the School of Dentistry, died March 26. He had worked at MCG from 1977 to 1987.

Dr. David Stellik, 49, professor of orthopedics, died March 23. He had worked at MCG since 1979.

Dr. Floyd Bliven, Jr., 79, a retired professor of orthopedics, died March 30. He had been employed at MCG from 1956 to 1986.

William Spires, 88, a retired locksmith in Building Maintenance, died March 31. He had worked at MCG from 1968 to 1981.

---
Grass Foundation’s Scientist Scheduled to Speak at MCG May 3

Katja Sipple

Dr. Eric M. Shooter, a Grass Foundation’s Traveling Scientist and professor of neurobiology at Stanford University School of Medicine, will visit the Medical College of Georgia May 3.

Dr. Shooter’s seminar will discuss genes involved in the peripheral neuropathies of mice and humans. A reception at 3:30 p.m. will precede the seminar, which is held at 4 p.m. in the Murphey Building, room 103.

Dr. Shooter holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in chemistry, as well as a doctorate in neurobiology and Genetics. He is a fellow of the Royal Society, a winner of the Ralph W. Gerard prize by the Society for Neuroscience and the Bristol-Myers-Squibb Award for Distinguished Achievement in Neuroscience Research.

Dr. Shooter’s visit is sponsored by the MCG Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience and the Institute for Molecular Medicine and Genetics.

HENDRY... from page 1

Dr. Hendry also holds two additional doctorates from the University of London and the University of Cambridge. He has been a fellow of the Royal Society, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a winner of the Ralph W. Gerard prize by the Society for Neuroscience and the Bristol-Myers-Squibb Award for Distinguished Achievement in Neuroscience Research.

Although she had been worried about getting an internship because the local hospitals had a reputation for not liking women physicians, her professional expertise made the internship a pleasant experience.

Dr. Hendry finished her training in 1939 and moved to her husband’s hometown, Blackshear, Ga., where the young couple joined the Hendry family practice. “The little towns in Georgia back then did not see a need for a doctor, and my father-in-law was concerned that the practice could not sustain the three of us, but everything worked out well,” Dr. Hendry remembered.

When the United States entered World War II, Dr. Hendry’s husband joined the U.S. Army and was sent to the South Pacific, while she continued to practice general medicine in rural Georgia.

In 1953, Blackshear opened a hospital and Dr. Hendry was offered a job as an anesthetist. “I went to Chicago to take a course in anesthesia to perform the anesthetist job at the local hospital,” she said. “I enjoyed the work, although I always preferred general practice, but one morning, in 1978, I woke up and realized that I wasn’t happy anymore, so I just retired from the medical profession.” She quickly added that despite her decision to retire, she never regretted entering the medical profession, and always felt sure that it was the right choice for her.

“Medicine is just not the same as it used to be; there are no regular hours, but we were accustomed to be called in the middle of the night and to make house calls,” Dr. Hendry reminisced. “Now it’s much more impersonal, and doctors and patients don’t have close contact anymore.”

For a while, Dr. Hendry continued to work as a consultant for the Georgia Medical Care Foundation and inspected nursing homes to ensure compliance with federal and state hygiene and care standards.

Dr. Hendry still lives in Blackshear, although she has recently moved to a smaller house that is decorated with her paintings, and together with her dog, Elvis, enjoys her retirement.

**Advertisement:**

**Quiet, Relaxed Living**

Spacious 2 & 3 bedroom apartments in Augusta’s most prestigious area. Pool, patios, balconies, ample parking and washers & dryers are just a few of our available amenities!

Discounts for MCG students & personnel! Aumond Villa Apartments

Call today for move-in specials • 733-3823

**SAVE MONEY!**

Use Beeper coupons and special MCG offers!
**Police Bureau Update**

Editor’s note: The MCG Police Bureau posts periodic reports in the Beeper about crime-related news on campus. This information, which complies with federal/state/local law, JCAHO and/or other regulatory agencies, is intended to maximize campus safety and awareness.

**Vehicle Break-Ins**

An orange-colored 1993 Nissan 240SX with tinted windows was broken into while parked in parking deck #21, next to the Ambulatory Care Center, between 11 p.m. March 29 and 1 a.m. March 30. The stereo, CD player, amplifier, equalizer, speakers and CDs were taken from the vehicle. The driver’s side window was broken out. If you have information regarding this break-in, please call MCG Police, ext. 1-2911.

A 1992 blue Honda Civic vehicle was broken into while parked in the parking lot at the Comfort Inn, located off Walton Way between the Child Care Center and Bojangles. The break-in occurred between 7 p.m. April 1 and 6:15 p.m. April 3. The passenger side door was damaged and the stereo and CDs were taken from the vehicle. Anyone with information concerning this break-in, call the Richmond County Sheriff’s Department at (706) 821-1080 or MCG Police, ext. 1-2911.

**Burglary**

Four lockers were broken into between 5:30 p.m. April 7 and 5:25 a.m. April 9. The lockers were located inside the Medical College of Georgia Hospital, 5 South Nurses’ Lounge. A young black male, 20-30 years old, approximately 5 feet 8 inches and 180 pounds, with close-cut hair cut and wearing a two-tone blue denim shirt and jeans was seen in the area. Please call MCG Police, ext. 1-2911, if you have any information regarding this break-in.

**Protect Your Vehicle and Property!**

An unlocked car or items visible in a vehicle creates an appealing target for a thief. The following suggestions will lessen the possibility of your vehicle being stolen or broken into.

- Keep your car or truck locked at all times. If your vehicle does not have an anti-theft device like an alarm, ignition failure system, consider purchasing one with your next automobile.
- Do not leave property out in the open, where it is visible to any passerby.
- Take your keys with you. NEVER leave them in the vehicle, even if you think they are hidden.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Avoid poorly lighted areas.
- Try to walk with a group of people and avoid walking alone, especially after dark.
- Carry your vehicle keys in your hand and be ready to unlock the door as soon as you get to your vehicle.
- Use the Campus Escort Service, 24 hours a day.
- If you see anyone who looks suspicious, lost or confused, or just out of place, please call MCG Police immediately.

**3 MCG Programs Ranked Among Best in Nation**

Three Medical College of Georgia graduate programs were again ranked among the nation’s best in U.S. News and World Report’s Best Graduate Schools 2002 edition, published April 2.

The physical therapy program at the MCG School of Allied Health Sciences was ranked 33rd in the nation.

The School of Medicine primary care program was ranked 41st and the School of Nursing master’s program was ranked 46th.

Each year, U.S. News and World Report, a weekly news magazine, re-evaluates graduate programs in business, education, engineering, law and medicine. Statistical and qualitative information to determine educational excellence is gathered by surveying more than 1,000 programs and 12,000 academics and professionals. The quality of the graduate programs is also assessed through mean undergraduate grade point averages and test scores of the entering class, faculty/student ratios, the number of graduates that pass professional exams and starting salaries for new graduates.
Clinic Offers Multi-faceted Approach to Smoking Cessation

Katja Sipple

"Would you still smoke if your outside looked like your inside?" asks a thought-provoking American Cancer Society anti-smoking advertisement. The poster shows a young woman with a cigarette casually dangling from the corner of her mouth. Her face is black, coated with tar, and a cloud of smoke surrounds her head.

Although smoking does cause premature skin damage and wrinkling, the invisible and often deadly damage is far greater: Cigarettes are the leading cause of death and kill more than 430,000 Americans each year. "Tobacco use accounts for 30 percent of all cancer deaths in the United States and is the most preventable cause of death," said Jeannette Andrews, a family nurse practitioner and faculty member at the Medical College of Georgia School of Nursing. Smoking can also cause chronic lung diseases like emphysema, which reduces the lung surface area and literally forces a person to gasp for breath, coronary heart disease and stroke.

Tobacco smoke contains at least 43 cancer-causing substances like dioxin, phenol, formaldehyde, cyanide, lead and carbon monoxide, which attaches itself to hemoglobin — a molecule that carries oxygen through the body — and decreases the body's oxygen supply. Cigarettes kill more people than alcohol, homicides, suicides, car accidents, illegal drugs, AIDS and fires combined.

The dangers associated with tobacco use are well-documented, but one in four adults still smokes. "Nicotine is a very addictive drug," explained Ms. Andrews, who led smoking cessation classes at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the MCG Family Medicine Center.

"The first dose causes people to feel alert and awake, but later doses actually make the smoker feel relaxed, calm and ready to deal with daily stressors again. For many people, nicotine is a form of coping with stressful situations, which is why we differentiate between physiological and psychological addiction," added Ginger Mosley, health promotions coordinator in Family Medicine, who has been involved in the MCG smoking cessation clinic since its inception last October.

Until last November, Grace was one of those people. "I really loved to smoke, and I loved my cigarettes, because they were always there for me — sort of like my best friend," she recalled. Grace started smoking when she was 14 years old, because she wanted to "fit in" and appear grown-up, but her smoking habit soon turned into an addiction that controlled her life.

According to Ms. Andrews, most smokers start during adolescence as a result of peer pressure. The first cigarette is very often the first step on the road to addiction that can last a lifetime. Grace, now in her 50s and suffering from chronic pulmonary obstruction disease, smoked for over 40 years. Although she experienced respiratory problems, and her children constantly reminded her to quit, she ignored the advice and...
SMOKING... from page 5

her symptoms and kept puffing away. "I just didn’t want to realize how bad cigarettes are for me, not even when my respiratory problems started to interfere with my daily activities about 10 to 12 years ago," she said. "I was in a state of denial and the cigarettes had a firm grip on me."

Ms. Andrews is all too familiar with these statements. A former smoker herself, she understands that cigarettes are often used to overcome loneliness, frustration and boredom. "Psychological dependence is more prevalent and quite pronounced in many women, and the cigarettes are part of their lives. It is much harder to help people who use cigarettes as a coping mechanism to quit, than those who are only physiologically addicted. We try to use a combination of behavioral modification and pharmaceutical therapy to help people alter their lifestyles."

Various over-the-counter nicotine patches and gum and prescription pills, nasal sprays and even lollipops are available to help smokers kick their habit. "The lollipops are great, because they give your hands something to do, and they really helped me overcome my cravings and urges," said Grace. But she cautions that the deciding factors are a change of lifestyle and a firm determination to quit. "I was tired of feeling like a sick old woman, I needed to feel useful again and I always wanted to work with children."

Grace wanted to be a baby-cuddling volunteer at MCG Hospital, but to do so she first had to quit smoking. "The volunteer work was a tremendous incentive for me, it was a goal that I could focus on," she acknowledged. "Once I had made up my mind to not let cigarettes control my life, it was really easy to quit." Grace is currently on the waiting list for cuddling babies, but in the meantime, she enjoys her volunteer work in oncology.

"People quit for a multitude of reasons, but a personal goal is always a great incentive," said Ms. Andrews. "However, a supportive environment, where they can share their concerns and experiences, is also very important, because the craving for nicotine may be quite strong for a long time after quitting." Grace agreed that attending the classes and talking to other ex-smokers gave her strength and moral support.

The MCG smoking cessation clinic is based on Freshstart, an American Cancer Society program, that helps smokers quit. The first attempt to stop smoking is not always successful, and national statistics claim that approximately 50 to 60 percent of course participants start again within three months, while 70 percent resume smoking after six months. Ms. Andrews still does not give up hope: "If you helped one mother quit smoking, you may have helped her children, too."

* name changed by editor

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT QUITTING SMOKING:

Contact Ginger Mosley at (706) 721-CARE or ext. 1-6199.

Augusta Canal Cruise & Cookout
Sunday, April 29

Paddle the Canal or pedal the Towpath between the historic Headgates and the shores of Lake Olmstead, where you’ll party to the oldies of Stardust, American Top 40, and even lollipops. Also enjoy Sconeys Barbecue, and play games for fabulous prizes.

Canoeing: $40 per person includes canoe, life jacket, paddle, security, bus transportation from Lake Olmstead to the Headgates, launch and landing assistance and drawing for a recreational kayak from American Wilderness Outfitters Limited. Register with a canoeing partner. Children must be 7+ and accompanied by a parent. All participants must be swimmers.

14th Annual Augusta Canal Cruise & Cookout
Sign up with family and friends now! • (706) 823-0440

Bicycling: $20 per person includes mid-ride refreshment station and drawing for a Giant Simple canal cruiser from Andy Jordan’s Bicycle Warehouse. Ride begins and ends at Lake Olmstead. You furnish bike and helmet. Fees include: all-you-can-eat smoked turkey and barbecue, with all the trimmings (eat-in or take-out), entertainment, and games. Extra Cookout tickets: $15

Information & phone registration: (VISA/MasterCard) (706) 823-0440, or Augusta Canal Authority Office, #20, 8th St. at Riverwalk. Deadline: noon, Saturday, April 28

Daniel Village Barber Shop
2522 Wrightsboro Road
736-7230

PLN FOR THE FUTURE

Will Medicare pay for long term health care?
What is long term care insurance for?
Is it right for you?

Call for a friendly consultation, answers to these questions and a price quote
RAYMOND HUTTO, LICENSED INSURANCE SPECIALIST
(706) 831-2941 OR (706) 793-1301

Daniel Village Barber Shop
2522 Wrightsboro Road
736-7230

Sponsored by Atlanta Gas Light for the Augusta Canal Authority and Georgia Public Broadcasting
Occupational Therapist Teaches Life Skills to Homeless

Christine Hurley Deriso

When Ricky Joseph thinks of a homeless person, he thinks of a college-educated soccer mom who lived a middle-class lifestyle until her husband abandoned the family. Or he thinks of a highly skilled chef who earned a wonderful living in New York City but found his skills unmarketable in Augusta.

He knows these people personally. And he knows that stereotypes don’t apply.

"Some of the most interesting people I’ve met also happen to be homeless," said Mr. Joseph, an assistant professor in the Medical College of Georgia Department of Occupational Therapy. "They’re not who you think they are. Most of them have high school educations. Some are college-educated."

Mr. Joseph, who joined the MCG faculty two years ago after a 23-year Army career, volunteers for the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Augusta Inc., a non-profit organization supported by area churches that offers temporary housing to the homeless. But more than providing shelter, the organization provides the means to stand on one’s own two feet again. "We work on helping the homeless make a successful transition back into the community," Mr. Joseph said. "And it works. I’ve never seen one of our families come back."

That success is due largely to people like Mr. Joseph, who teaches a weekly, 90-minute course on practical life skills. "I cover everything from budgeting to problem-solving to communication skills," he said.

The groups are small; he works with adults from one to three families at a time. He makes sure to cover vital information, but he also follows the lead of his students. If they are having trouble in particular areas, the dialogue wends to those issues. "Usually, believe it or not, they’re really excited about the classes," he said. "I try to engage them, make them laugh and help them realize the skills they already have."

Other times, he introduces them to basic skills and concepts that they somehow missed along the way. "I teach them, for instance, that budgeting isn’t a money issue. It’s a life issue," Mr. Joseph said.

See HOMELESS page 8

Contact J. Larry Hornsby for Professional Advice and Personal Service with:
- Retirement and Estate Planning
- Long-term Investment Strategies
- Wealth Management Strategies
- Financial Planning
- College Savings Plans
- Life Insurance & Annuities

A.G. Edwards
INVESTMENTS SINCE 1887
A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.
706-869-1061
1237 Augusta West Parkway • Augusta, Georgia

AG Edwards & Sons, Inc. Member SIPC IN-11-0352-E11

This garage needs help. Beeper classifieds to the rescue!
Dr. Harold Snieder, a genetic epidemiologist specializing in the cause and incidence of cardiovascular disease, has joined the faculty of the Medical College of Georgia’s Georgia Prevention Institute.

Dr. Snieder comes to MCG from the Twin Research & Genetic Epidemiology Unit of St. Thomas’ Hospital in London where he was a faculty member since 1996. A native of the Netherlands, he completed his doctorate in genetic epidemiology, quantitative genetics and cardiovascular risk factors earlier that year at Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam after completing his master’s degree in exercise physiology and the psychology of human movement.

Much of Dr. Snieder’s academic work has focused on the genetic cause of cardiovascular disease and other age-related diseases, such as osteoporosis, primarily by studying identical and fraternal twins.

At the Georgia Prevention Institute, he joins researchers doing longitudinal studies on 600 youths—many of whom have a family history of hypertension—to assess the impact of genetics and lifestyle on these young people as they become adults. Similar studies looking at issues such as reactivity to stress are under way on a cohort of 500 pairs of twins.

“What we are really interested in is the differences between people,” Dr. Snieder said. “Why one person gets high blood pressure and another doesn’t. There are genetic variations involved in disease that have not yet been explored.”

Recent completion of the sequencing of the human genome has helped make this work possible, he said. Along with researchers in the MCG Vascular Biology Center, the Georgia Prevention Institute group also is beginning to look at candidate or potentially causative genes for hypertension. “There are many candidate genes but we don’t through which mechanisms they lead to high blood pressure,” Dr. Snieder said. “This is true not only for hypertension but for many diseases where there are likely multiple genetic and environmental factors.” For example, twin studies have shown that about 50 percent of hypertension is a result of genetics; the other half is a result of environment, he said.

Dr. Snieder is author of the book “Genetic Epidemiology of Risk Factors for Coronary Heart Disease: A Study of Middle-Aged Twins,” and co-editor of the book “Advances in Twin and Sib-Pair Analyses.” He has published extensively in professional journals on the genetic epidemiology of cardiovascular disease and Type II diabetes and other common diseases within the areas of rheumatology, dermatology and ophthalmology. He also has a number of publications on statistical methodology and twin research.


Dr. Snieder is a member of the Behavior Genetic Association, the International Society for Twin Studies and the International Genetic Epidemiology Society.

**Genetic Epidemiologist Joins Faculty of the MCG Georgia Prevention Institute**

**Have goodies, will travel.**

All our delicious and nutritious deli sandwiches, soups, bagels, salads, breads, gourmet coffees and breakfast pastries are available for delivery to MCG. Call or visit for details.

Robert C. Daniel Pkwy near Target

736-1551

**Retiring from or Leaving MCG?**

Before you do, contact the nearest Edward Jones office for ways to take control of your retirement plan.

Martinez/Evans

MICHAEL DONNES

476 Fury’s Ferry Road, Suite 521

706/854-0407

Hill Area Augusta

RUSTY MYERS

2479 Wrightsboro Rd

706/738-9300

Edward Jones

Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

**Have goodies, will travel.**

All our delicious and nutritious deli sandwiches, soups, bagels, salads, breads, gourmet coffees and breakfast pastries are available for delivery to MCG. Call or visit for details.

Robert C. Daniel Pkwy near Target

736-1551

**Retiring from or Leaving MCG?**

Before you do, contact the nearest Edward Jones office for ways to take control of your retirement plan.

Martinez/Evans

MICHAEL DONNES

476 Fury’s Ferry Road, Suite 521

706/854-0407

Hill Area Augusta

RUSTY MYERS

2479 Wrightsboro Rd

706/738-9300

Edward Jones

Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

**Have goodies, will travel.**

All our delicious and nutritious deli sandwiches, soups, bagels, salads, breads, gourmet coffees and breakfast pastries are available for delivery to MCG. Call or visit for details.

Robert C. Daniel Pkwy near Target

736-1551

**Retiring from or Leaving MCG?**

Before you do, contact the nearest Edward Jones office for ways to take control of your retirement plan.

Martinez/Evans

MICHAEL DONNES

476 Fury’s Ferry Road, Suite 521

706/854-0407

Hill Area Augusta

RUSTY MYERS

2479 Wrightsboro Rd

706/738-9300

Edward Jones

Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

**The Beeper Hidden Name Contest spells E-Z money for you!**

**HOMELESS... from page 7**

“People are crying out for these skills, and I see research potential in occupational therapy,” Mr. Joseph said. “But right now, I’m just doing it because folks need it.”
Newsbriefs

Beeper Deadlines

The deadline for the May 3 edition of the Beeper is Tuesday, April 24. The deadline for the May 17 edition is Tuesday, May 8. Direct editorial correspondence to Beeper editor Katja Sipple, Fl-1042, ext. 1-4410 (telephone), ext. 1-6723 (fax) or ksipple@mail.mcg.edu (e-mail). Direct all advertising correspondence, including classified advertising, to Beeper publisher Dan Pearson, P.O. Box 397, Augusta, GA 30903-0397 or telephone (706) 860-5455.

Hospital News

Please contact Karen Shipp, ext. 1-9566, for Beeper coverage of news related to MCG Hospital and Clinics.

Healing Service for Cancer Victims

The Church of the Good Shepherd will hold a church service for people whose lives have been touched by cancer, April 29 at 6 p.m. Rev. Alan Faulkner, a medical oncology associates chaplain, and other area hospital chaplains will be involved in the service. A reception in the parish hall of Good Shepherd will follow the service. The public is invited. For more information and participation, please contact the Church of the Good Shepherd, 2203 Walton Way, Augusta, GA 30904 or call (706) 738-3386.

School of Nursing Community Outreach

MCG School of Nursing undergraduate students will visit Bon Air Apartment April 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The students will perform safety checks for walkers and canes, fill out the Vials of Life that contain information on medication and dosage and review medications to help patients avoid duplications and unnecessary expenses. The students will be accompanied by Cathie Greer, assistant professor in Community Nursing, and Lori Schumacher, instructor in Adult Nursing.

National Anxiety Disorders Day May 4

Every year, 38 million Americans suffer from anxiety and depressive disorders. These illnesses affect people of all ages, races and economic backgrounds. Symptoms of anxiety and depression can easily be mistaken for another medical illness and go undiagnosed. National Anxiety Disorders Screening Day is a program for individuals to get answers. The Mental Health Association of Greater Augusta and the Augusta Center for Psychological Services offer free screening at First Baptist Church, 3500 Walton Way from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. May 4. The program includes viewing a video, receiving information, completing a screening questionnaire, meeting a mental health professional and receiving a referral if necessary. For additional information, please call 1-888-442-2022 or (706) 729-9595.

Beeper Correction

DouglasSenecal's field of study was inadvertently misidentified in an article in the April 5 edition of the Beeper. He actually is a respiratory therapy student. The Beeper regrets the error.

We've got a great selection of stylish gowns.

Wedding Prom Dresses

Second Time Around

1914 Walton Way • 758-1526
Tues - Fri: 10-5 Sat: 10-4

VOTED BEST CONSIGNMENT SHOP

We're Changing Our Name!

Tires Plus Total Car Care is becoming...
Classifieds

**EMPLOYMENT**

**SPERM DONORS** Make up to $195 weekly while helping others by becoming a Xytex sperm donor. Call 733-0130

**LOOKING** for ONE motivated person who wants to capitalize on the expansion of a trillion dollar global industry. Home-based, flexible hours. Serious inquiries only, please. For more info call toll-free: 1-877-379-4819

**HOMES, APARTMENTS, ROOMMATES, ETC.**

FOR SALE BY OWNER - 1400 sqft condo in private gated community. 2BR/2BA+Sunroom. Cathedral ceilings in LR/DR. Separate laundry room, W/D, Refrigerator, Microwave, Disposal. Self-cleaning oven. Charlestowne Villas off Washington Rd. near 1-20. $70,000 including closing costs. Call Carol (706) 736-3377

FOR SALE 2bdm 2 bath W. Augusta condo end unit. 1100 sqft. $62,000 (706) 556-6746

FOR SALE 2bdm 2 bath W. Augusta condo end unit. Furnished. (864) 333-2555

WALDEN HILLS APARTMENT HOMES

**HURRY! WE'RE ALMOST FULL!**

1, 2 & 3 BEDROOM HOMES
Gated Community • Loft Apartments
Superior Amenities Package
1035 ALEXANDER DRIVE
733-0064

For more information, call 774-6424 or visit our web site: www.enterprisemill.com

**ENTERPRISE MILL**

Walk to MCG from Awesome Loft Apartments

Loft and studio apartments with original maple floors, window blinds & ceiling fans, cable connections, large double-insulated windows, fitness center, and more.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
**Sad News...**

Me never heard from LINDA HEARE, whose name was hidden in the STUDENT CENTER BOOKSTORE ad on page 11 of our last issue.

**WILL YOUR NAME BE HIDDEN IN THIS ISSUE? CHECK OUR ADS TO FIND OUT!**

**REMEMBER: CALL BEFORE THE FRIDAY NIGHT DEADLINE!**

---

**The Celebrated \_HIDDEN NAME\_ Contest**

...wherein we hide (with fiendish cleverness) the names of randomly chosen students and employees—one per issue—then slather them with rewards if they manage to find their name. If your name is hidden in one of the advertisements in this issue, you’ll score fifty dollars (American), PLUS two REGAL CINEMAS movie passes! Have a great right out on us!

**THE RULES: 1.** Find the name of a randomly chosen MCC student or employee hidden within one of the ads in this issue. 2. IF THE NAME YOU FIND IS TOURS, call the Beeper business office (860-5455) before noon on Friday, the day after publication date, to claim your winnings. 3. IF THE NAME YOU FIND IS NOT TOURS, do not call us. Remember the name or write it down in case our roving Prize Patrol asks you (or the name. It could happen anywhere, at any time! All hidden name winners must be enrolled at or employed by MCC at the time of winning. 4. The publisher is not responsible for printing errors which may make the name illegible, or for mail delays, wrong addresses, or other newspaper delivery delays. 5. In the event more than one person has the same hidden name, the publisher will randomly choose one winner (at which point they will be notified). 6. Prizes awarded to winners may vary from issue to issue. 8. A photo ID may be required to claim your prize.

---

**SPRING IN!**

**MARKS CHURCH COMMONS APARTMENTS**

**STEVENS CREEK COMMONS APARTMENTS**

www.corcoranapts.com • www.rent.net

**Marks Church**

Commons

868-0889

**Stevens Creek**

Commons

868-5020

Spacious 1 & 2 bedroom suites, award-winning landscaping, clubhouse, tennis, pool, complimentary breakfast, on-site dry cleaning and much more

Short-term furnished apartments

**SPECIALS FOR MCG STAFF AND STUDENTS**

**COMES BY FOR A TOUR TODAY!**

**Corcoran Management Company**

No pets please • Equal Housing Opportunity

---

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING FORM**

Name:

Address:

MCG extension: (if applicable): ________________________________

Home phone: __________

Category of ad (leave blank if unsure) ________________________________

Ad: (write one word per line, including home phone number) ________________________________

Total Submitted: $ _________

---

**Classified ads are 25¢ per word per issue, pre-paid and non-refundable (payment: check or money order only, payable to Graphic Advertising). Ads must be received in writing not later than one week prior to issue date.**
Trip to India a ‘Mind-Expanding Experience’

Christine Hurley Demo

When Rob McAlister is in the mood for a change of scenery, he has more in mind than a stroll through a nearby park. He opts for a different continent, a different culture ... a different world.

His wanderlust brought him to India Jan. 5-30, where he camped on the banks of the Ganges River and soaked in a celebration that rolls around only once every 144 years.

Mr. McAlister, an instructor in occupational therapy on the department’s Columbus State University satellite campus, timed his vacation to coincide with Maha Kumbh Mela, a massive commemoration of an ancient battle between gods and demons for a pitcher, or kumbh. The celebration, popular among Hindus but open to all, occurs every 144 years. Scaled-down versions are held every 12 years.

This was, literally, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"It's really the biggest religious ceremony anywhere," said Mr. McAlister. He perceived India as a country of stunning contrasts. The people are rich in spirit but poor in material wealth. Peaceful meditation coexists with non-stop clamor.

"Twenty-four hours a day, there's something going on," Mr. McAlister said. "There is always noise. But it's a neat atmosphere."

In fact, in some ways, India drew unlikely comparisons to places as disparate as, say, New York City or Los Angeles.

Electricity, he said, is an iffy proposition in India. "They have constant power outages. I thought, 'This is really the Third World.' But then I came home and saw that California was going through the same thing."

He was struck by the altruism of the people he encountered. He recalls that when passersby observed he was being taken advantage of during a barter with a street vendor, they would step in on his behalf. "They would say, 'You ripped him off! Give him his money back!' And they didn't even know me."

Likewise, when someone in Mr. McAlister's group got lost, an Indian invariably stepped in to lead him to his destination, no matter how far out of his way the trip took him. "There were many examples of kindness," he said.

"Horns are always blowing, Mr. McAlister said. "There are lots of bicycles and pedestrians on the road. Cars take the middle lane, going in both directions, so car rides turn into a game of chicken. Right before two cars have a head-on collision, one will blow his horn, which signals the pedestrians that he's about to veer into them. They use their horns a lot."

"But anywhere we went was an adventure."

Mr. McAlister stayed in Allahabad, an ancient city along the Ganges River in which people live very much the same way they've lived for centuries. He found himself unconsciously following their lead. For instance, he was stunned to realize that during his three-week trip, he had accumulated only 2 pounds of garbage - as much as many Americans accumulate in a day. "Their lifestyle in some ways is very ecologically responsible; they just don't have the system in place to get rid of the waste they do gener-