Ribbon cut on MCG Cancer Research Center

By Christine Hurley Deriso

Citing "the personal stake [of every citizen] in finding more effective ways to prevent, detect, treat and eventually cure cancer," Medical College of Georgia President Daniel W. Rahn oversaw a March 10 ribbon-cutting of a facility intended to expedite the process.

Hundreds of Georgians, including many local and statewide dignitaries, were on hand for the unveiling of the five-story, 160,000-square-foot Cancer Research Center. The center will centralize cancer research as MCG accelerates its progress in preventing, diagnosing and treating the disease, with the ultimate goal of a cure. A director for the center is being recruited.

Funding for the building reflected the collaborative spirit of the facility, with state appropriations supplemented by sources including MCG Health, Inc. margin funds, the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation Inc., MCG's Physicians Practice Group, the Georgia Research Alliance and Georgia Cancer Coalition.

"The opening of the Cancer Research Center strategically moves us closer to making the diagnosis of cancer a thing of the past," said Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue. "As your governor, I believe our state and our citizens deserve to have the finest cancer care available right here in Georgia. [The center] brings all those goals into reach."

The facility, he said, will serve as a statewide hub for research, including clinical trials of the latest cancer treatments. He applauded the efforts of legislators, corporations, community organizations and individual citizens to support the center. "The bottom line is this center is the result of a great team effort, and that is when we always win in Georgia," he said.

U.S. Rep. John Barrow, who represents Georgia's 12th District, related his family's grief upon losing a 6-year-old nephew to cancer. "That," he said, "is proof that we have to keep fighting to discover the next breakthrough, the next treatment, the next cure, for this dread illness."

President Rahn expressed confidence that the center will improve the health of Georgians while vaulting MCG toward national prominence in the field of cancer. "MCG has the capability to emerge as a national leader in cancer research and care," he said. "Indeed, one of our goals is to earn Comprehensive Cancer Center designation from the National Cancer Institute. The building ... stands as a symbol of our shared belief that we can achieve that level of preeminence."
Conference focuses on nursing excellence

by Kim Miller

The Beta Omicron Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, in cooperation with the Medical College of Georgia Division of Continuing Education, will host its third annual conference March 23-24 at the Augusta Towers Hotel and Convention Center (formerly Sheraton Augusta).

The conference provides a forum to advance knowledge and promote excellence in nursing practice, education and research. It also brings together nurses, educators, and researchers from throughout the region.

“Our presenters are some of the brightest stars in nursing, and include talented and achievement-oriented nursing students as well as international nursing leaders,” said Beth NeSmith, president-elect of the Beta Omicron Chapter and MCG School of Nursing doctoral student. “It is our goal that all attendees will come away from the conference with new and useful information relevant to their chosen area of service.”

The keynote speaker, Dr. Joan Shaver, is the immediate past president of the American Academy of Nursing, a National Institute for Nursing Research advisory council member, and dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Shaver will discuss leadership skills that encourage innovation and development for individuals and organizations.

Dan R. Pearson,
Publisher
Center presents free brain tumor seminar

by Deborah Humphrey

Headaches that wake you up in the morning, seizures, a sudden change in cognitive function or personality, eye weakness, nausea and vomiting, speaking problems or memory loss—all could be early symptoms of a brain tumor. Where do you turn when you or a loved one get the diagnosis?

The MCG Neuroscience Center will present "Cancer and the Brain: Awareness of Early Symptoms and Treatment Options," a free seminar Saturday, March 25 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Augusta Marriott Hotel & Suites (formerly the Radisson Riverfront Hotel) in downtown Augusta.

MCG specialists will discuss brain tumor symptoms, treatments, support resources and how brain tumors may be related to other cancers.

"Brain cancer is a difficult diagnosis. Patients and families need to arm themselves with information about brain cancer, its symptoms and the latest treatment options," said Dr. Alfredo Voloschin, director of the MCG Neuro-Oncology Program.

To register, call 706-721-5394 or visit www.MCGHealth.org.

JUMP SMART program seeks high-achieving teens

by Kim Miller

The Medical College of Georgia Office of Educational Outreach and Partnerships is accepting applications for its JUMP SMART Summer Enrichment Program.

JUMP SMART is a non-residential, six-week program for high-achieving students who are disadvantaged educationally or economically and from minority groups under-represented in the health professions. Classes and program activities will include intense preliminary education in mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, medical writing, reading comprehension, problem-solving and PSAT/SAT preparation.

The program is open to rising sophomores and juniors in the Richmond County Public School District. Completed applications must be postmarked by April 1.

Virtual librarian at your service

The Greenblatt Library has initiated a virtual reference service to better serve students, faculty and staff. WebChat@Greenblatt is an online mechanism for library patrons to connect with librarians for help searching reference materials, Web sites or print materials.

"WebChat gives libraries an exciting tool to answer brief questions, suggest sources to consult and demonstrate online how various sources might be used," said Dr. Mark Spasser, professor of education and library services. "If your question is too complex to answer via WebChat, we may suggest continuing our conversation via e-mail, phone or a research consultation."

WebChat is available from Monday through Thursday from 1-5 p.m. via the "Quick Links" box or "Ask A Librarian" page at www.lib.mcg.edu. MCG plans to extend the hours through a partnership with librarians at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Library, Dr. Spasser said.

"We believe this partnership will benefit the MCG community by allowing us to better serve your needs," he said. "The WebChat software features reliable, stable connections and a simple, intuitive interface compatible with many Web browsers."

For more information, contact Dr. Spasser at mspasser@mcg.edu.

Renewing Friendships

The Alumni Association of the School of Medicine sponsored a regional alumni reception in Macon Feb. 28. Attendees included Drs. Gordon Jackson (left) and Ralph Newton and Dr. Charles Wray and Norma Payne (page 1).

Find your name hidden in an ad? You're a winner!

DETAILS, PAGE 11
The Learning Curve

Editor's note: The MCG Division of Human Resources lists training opportunities in this monthly column. Courses are free for MCG employees and are held in room 1151 of the Annex unless otherwise indicated. Visit www.mcg.edu/hr/training/index.html for registration forms and course descriptions. Courses are also available through the Human Resources link on the MCG Events Calendar at http://calendar.mcg.edu. For more information about courses not listed here, contact Debra Arnold at ext. 1-3196.

- March 17 – Communicating and Interacting with Different Cultures, 9:11:30 a.m.
- March 20 – Microsoft Word, Level II, 3-4:30 p.m.
- March 21 – Excel Series II, Level II, 3-4:30 p.m.
- March 22 – Tuition Assistance Program, 11 a.m. to noon
- March 23 – Basic Pronunciation of Mandarin Chinese, noon to 1 p.m.
- March 23 – P-Card Training, 3-4:30 p.m.
- March 24 – Communication Skills and Attitude for Success, 9-11:30 a.m.
- March 27 – Microsoft Word, Level III, 3-4:30 p.m.
- March 27 – Effective Communication Using the Telephone, 9-11 a.m.
- March 28 – Excel Series II, Level III, 3-4:30 p.m.
- March 28 – Meeting Skills Management, 8:30 a.m. to noon
- March 29 – Personnel Action Request, 9-11 a.m.
- March 29 – How to Write a Successful Resume, noon to 1 p.m., Student Center, room 2021
- March 30 – Presentation Skills, 9 a.m. to noon
- March 30 – Advanced Access, 3-4:30 p.m.

Total

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Windshield wiper blades $0.00 Mercedes-Benz
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WA30997 | B5499A | 2004 | X3 3.0i | 25,305 MILES | $29,995
DX47323 | B5674A | 2004 | 745LI | 36,909 MILES | $39,995
GX22222 | B5683A | 2001 | 525IA | 35,228 MILES | $26,555
XX09681 | B5690A | 2005 | 325i | 8,683 MILES | $29,995
P100518 | B5673A | 2003 | 325i | 35,527 MILES | $26,555
KR72549 | 5365L | 2006 | 330i | 10,413 MILES | $29,995
WD17291 | 5390L | 2005 | X3 3.0i | 6,671 MILES | $38,995
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Applications accepted for Tuition Assistance Program

Are you interested in furthering your education? The University System of Georgia Tuition Assistance Program makes it easy for MCG employees to pursue new skills, personal growth and degrees throughout their careers.

The tuition assistance program is available to full-time benefits-eligible employees of the University System of Georgia who have successfully completed at least six months of employment in a benefits-eligible position. Applications for the summer 2006 semester will be accepted March 30 through April 14. Visit www.mcg.edu/hr/training/Tuition/htm for more information and printable applications. Please fax applications to ext. 1-0160 or mail to HS-1134.

The Training and Development Office will offer a Tuition Assistance Program course March 22 from 11 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Debra Arnold, MCG TAP coordinator, at ext. 1-3196.
“Making the diagnosis of cancer a thing of the past”

Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue addresses dignitaries and guests attending the March 10 ribbon-cutting of the Cancer Research Center. (Mike Adams photo)

David Smith, director of facilities management (from left) gives a tour of the Cancer Research Center to MCG First Lady Lana Rahn, William Todd and Angela Patterson of the Georgia Cancer Coalition and Susan Shows, vice president of the Georgia Research Alliance. (Mike Adams photo)

Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. greets guests attending the ribbon-cutting and tour. (Mike Adams photo)

Rep. Sue Burmeister (from left) speaks with MCG President Daniel W. Rahn and Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. during the Cancer Research Center ribbon-cutting ceremony reception. (Mike Adams photo)

Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. (from left), MCG President Daniel W. Rahn, Dr. Julius S. Scott Jr., former interim president of MCG and Terry D. Elam, president of Augusta Technical College, chat during the reception. (Mike Adams photo)

Guests enjoy the ribbon-cutting reception.
Screening vital for colorectal health

Editor's note: Dr. Robert Schade, an MCG gastroenterologist, submitted the following information in observance of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

Colorectal cancer is a leading cause of cancer death in the United States and affects men and women of all races. But more than 90 percent of colorectal cancers are treatable if caught early.

The cancer is symptomless in early stages, so regular screening—which in addition to diagnosing the disease helps detect and remove benign polyps that could lead to cancer—is key. Screening should begin at age 50, or earlier for those with a personal or family history of the disease and/or a personal history of chronic inflammatory bowel disease. Improved screening tests are more thorough and comfortable than ever.

More than 90 percent of colorectal cancers occur in those 50 and older. The cancer affects men and women equally, but African-Americans are diagnosed with and die from colorectal cancer more than any other U.S. racial or ethnic group. Jews of Eastern European descent may also have higher rates of colorectal cancer.

Other risk factors include:
- A diet high in fat and calories and low in fiber
- Smoking
- Multiple benign polyps or growths in the colon
- Inflammation of the colon
- Diabetes
- Physical inactivity
- Alcohol intake
- A history of ovarian, uterine or breast cancer

Symptoms of advanced colorectal cancer include:
- Rectal bleeding or blood in the stool
- A change in bowel habits, such as diarrhea, constipation or See SCREENING page 8
Clean out the closets to help kids

Toys, electronics, books, household items and more are welcome April 21-22 as the MCG Child Care Center hosts its second yard sale at the MCG Alumni Center, 919 15th Street. Organized by the center’s Parents and Teachers Together organization, the sale will include straight donation items and consignment items. Parents and teachers will price and sell straight donations and all proceeds will benefit the Child Care Center. Consignment items must be tagged and priced by the donor and proceeds will be split 50/50 between the contributor and the Child Care Center.

Sale hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Donors need not be present at the sale. After the sale, all remaining items will be donated to charity unless the donor notes otherwise on the sales tag. The center can provide donors with a receipt for tax-deduction purposes.

Proceeds will help the Child Care Center establish a lending library for children and parents. Donation guidelines and consignment tags are available at www.mcg.edu/Auxiliary/YDSaleGuideline.pdf. Sale items will be accepted by appointment only on March 18 and 25 and April 1, 8, and 15 from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the Child Care Center at ext. 1-6116.
Blood needed urgently
MCG Health System urgently seeks blood donations from eligible hospital staff and students. Increasingly significant blood shortages have strained the national supply and left parts of the country and the MCG Health System with less than a one-day supply, particularly of O-negative blood. Donors, who must be at least 17 and weigh at least 110 pounds, can give blood every 56 days, or six times a year. For more information or to schedule an appointment to donate, call the MCG Health System Blood Donor Room at ext. 1-3695.

Internet service
Effectively immediately, home Internet service for staff and faculty (Comcast, Earthlink, Netzero, BellSouth, etc.) is no longer considered an allowable MCG expense. This is considered a personal expense and state law prohibits the
See NEWSBRIEFS page 10

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**NEWSBRIEFS... from page 9**

**Purchase of personal services** for state employees. In addition, best business practices encourage measurable standards to ensure business use only and Internet providers cannot comply.

**Retirement planning**

Cheryl Cheek from Merrill Lynch will discuss retirement-related topics during a seminar series in the Magnolia and Dogwood rooms of Terrace Dining at 11 a.m. and noon. Remaining sessions are on Tuesday, March 18 (“Diversity, Diversification / Balancing Risk and Return”), Wednesday, July 27 (“Achieving Your Retirement Vision”) and Thursday, Oct. 12 (“Planning for Your Retirement Lifestyle”).

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**Teen program**

Applications are being accepted for the 2006 Summer Teen Volunteer Program, providing volunteer experience in patient care and administrative areas in MCG clinical facilities June 12-July 21. Teens must be 15 by May 1 to apply. Call Volunteer Services at ext. 3596 for a volunteer application. Applications are processed first-come, first-served through April 30.

**Motorcycle ride**

The Kelsi Long Memorial Ride will begin March 25 at 8 a.m. at Augusta Harley-Davidson, 4200 Belair Frontage Rd., and end at the Children’s Medical Center. Registration is not required. For more information, contact Mike Maddox, 706-832-4361.

**Bunny breakfast**

Kids and kids at heart can have breakfast with the Easter bunny April 1 at Piccadilly Cafeteria in the Augusta Mall. Reservations are required. (Call 706-733-1001, option 4.) Tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for children. Proceeds benefit the Children’s Medical Center. General Growth Properties and Augusta Mall are sponsors of the Children’s Miracle Network.

**Golf tournament**

The Augusta District Dietetic Association will host its 13th annual golf tournament March 25 at Gordon Lakes on Fort Gordon. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m., lunch is at 11:30 a.m. and play starts at 12:30 p.m. The cost is $55 per person and includes 18 holes, food, beverages and a certificate for nine free holes at a later date. Four-member teams are invited to participate in the captain’s choice style tournament. Prizes will be awarded. Proceeds support the organization of registered dietitians committed to optimizing health through nutrition education in the CSRA. Send checks made payable to the Augusta District Dietetic Association to Jeanie Hatfield-Laube, 1336 Hephzibah-McBean Rd., Hephzibah, Ga., 30815. For more information, visit www.adda-online.org or call Mrs. Hatfield-Laube at ext. 1-1754 or 706-592-5797.

**Prize drawing**

The MCG Children’s Heart Program, a support program for children with heart defects, is sponsoring a drawing to win a gold necklace and bracelet from Windsor Jewelers and four gift baskets valued at over $1,000 as part of the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Telethon. It is open to all MCG students, employees and volunteers. The drawing will be held March 27, and winners will be notified by April 5. Tickets are $1 each and can be purchased from the Children’s Heart Program at ext. 4500. For more information, call Jeanie Hatfield-Laube at ext. 1-1754 or 706-592-5797.

See NEWSBRIEFS page 11
MCG Marketplace

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PATIO HOME FOR SALE! 3brm, 2bath, privacy fenced backyard, Adair Subdivision off Columbia Road. $119,900 Call Tracey 706-533-1815.

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MANNIES Family Comforts Inc, Augusta’s premium nanny agency offers Augusta and surrounding areas the highest quality nannies, random sitters and home services. We perform background checks and require CPR and First Aid certification. Give us a call at 706-364-5542.</s>

FREE AUDIO BOOK “Think and Grow Rich” by Napoleon Hill. By telling others about the MCG employee discount program at Bobby Jones Ford! Call for information and a tracking sheet to be faxed to you: Terry Benstead 706-627-2198. Susan Page 706-799-9005. Or visit http://www.mcg.edu/hr/training/EmpDiscount.htm.

BOAT Tracker 20 ft. pontoon fishing barge. Excellent running condition. 85 hp Evinrude, 75 hp Merc. Four swivel chairs, trolling motor, live well, anchor, $5500 Call 706-724-408.<s>

CONDO FOR SALE Beautiful Hilton Head villa oceanfront, sleeps 4, 2 BA, 750 sq ft, $250,000. Call 706-556-8187 (cell) 589-4268.<s>

THE BUZZLE SOLVED...

SEE PAGE 8

MCG Marketplace ads are 25¢ per word per issue, pre-paid and non-refundable (payment of check or money order payable to Graphic Advertising, or payable online at www.graphic365.com). Ads for next issue (March 30) must be received in writing not later than March 24. (We publish every other Thursday).
Young at Art is an affiliate group of the Morris Museum of Art for 21 – 40 year olds. YAA members participate in and support art and cultural programs both at the museum and within the art community at large.

YAA members enjoy all the benefits of Morris membership plus an exciting, and diverse schedule of events. In short, YAA members celebrate, cultivate, and appreciate the art and culture of the American South.

For membership or information call 706-724-7501.

Thursday, May 11

Guests will boogie, oogie, oogie to their favorite disco hits at The Soul Bar, one of downtown Augusta’s hot spots.

Young at Art members: free; Not-yet Young at Art members: $10.00 in advance; $15.00 at the door

(To get the advance sale price, tickets must be purchased on or before May 5, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.)