

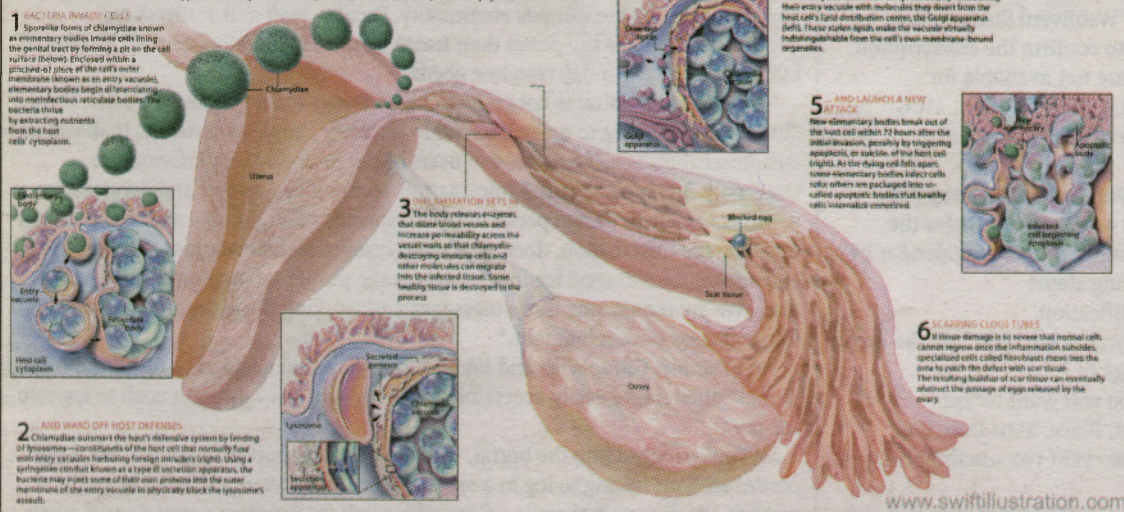


beeper

Thursday, September 29, 2005 Volume 15 | Number 20

CHLAMYDIA'S STEALTHY ATTACK

Sexually transmitted Chlamydia leaves most of its victims unaware of their infections until the damage is irreversible. In the worst case, infection of a woman's fallopian tubes creates scar tissue that stops a fertilized egg from reaching the uterus (main illustration). Leading to a life-threatening tubal (ectopic) pregnancy. New revelations about the bacterium's survival tactics (insets) may soon make it possible to interrupt Chlamydia's silent attack (see box on page 79).



Chlamydia's Stealthy Attack, by Andrew Swift

Medical illustration alumni receive honors

by Kimberly Miller

Six MCG alumni and faculty received honors for artwork at the 60th annual meeting of the Association of Medical Illustrators in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Andrew Swift, assistant professor of medical illustration and a 1999 alumnus of the Department of Medical Illustration, won the Ralph Sweet Best of Show Award for his instructional color illustration,

"Chlamydia's Stealthy Attack," featured in the article, "Can Chlamydia be Stopped?" in the May issue of *Scientific American*.

Awards of Excellence were given to Knox Hubbard, class of 2000, for his medical-legal illustration, "Nonunion of Humeral Fracture: Internal vs. External Fixation," and Chris Nadolski, class of 2000, and Eric Olson, class of 1999, for their interactive media presentation, "Merck Ophthalmology Virtual

Preceptorship."

Craig Foster, class of 1992, received two Certificates of Merit in the animation category for "A Closer Look at the Role of Progestins in Hormonal Contraceptives" and "Control of Prosthetic Bacterial Infection with Silver Ions." Mr. Swift's color illustration, "Chlamydia's Stealthy Attack" also won a Certificate of Merit for the instructional color category.

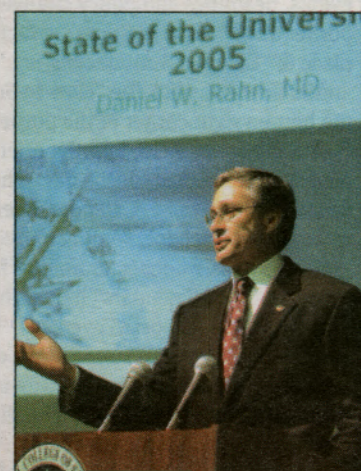
See **ILLUSTRATION** page 16

Oh, the places we'll go!

Editor's note: The following is the slightly abridged text of Medical College of Georgia President Daniel W. Rahn's 2005 State of the University Address, delivered Sept. 22.

As a parent and a university president, I know what an exciting time of year this is - not only for the students and their families - but for the faculty and staff who anticipate the re-energizing of the campus. This fall, like many other parents, I helped settle my children into college. Here at MCG, we eagerly welcomed more than 2,100 students to our campus, some to newly launched academic programs ... such as our Master of Public Health in Health Informatics and our newest doctoral program - the Ph.D. in neuroscience. They joined more than 450 residents pursuing advanced training in our graduate medical and dental education programs - many of whom began their studies this summer.

While you can't help but notice the boost in institutional energy that accompanies the return of the entire student body to campus, we all know that the work of an academic health center never stops. Over the summer, construction continued on the Health Sciences Building, the Cancer Research Center and the now completed satellite energy plant. Our

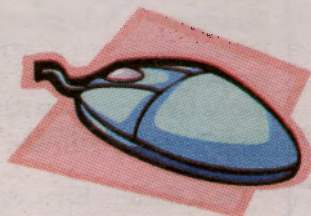


MCG President Dr. Daniel W. Rahn
(Phil Jones photo)

plan to construct a new \$100 million facility for the School of Dentistry was approved by the Board of Regents. We appointed a new vice president for research and new dean of the School of Graduate Studies. And our research advances were reported in dozens of national media outlets. Now that's not bad for the summertime - when the living is supposed to be easy.

See **ADDRESS** page 6

Vital Signs



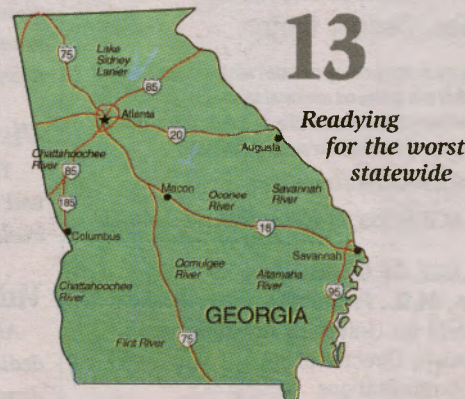
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Cruisin' for the kids

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for the worst
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Bits & Bytes

Editor's note: Information Technology Support and Services offers technology tips in this column. To submit questions or suggestions for topics, contact Becky Rogers, manager of customer service for ITSS, at ext. 1-3668.

Stay connected to daily events

How can you stay tuned to what's going on each day at the Medical College of Georgia?

Complete information on guest lectures, meetings and departmental deadlines is available at on the MyMCG Web portal <https://my.mcg.edu> and on the MCG Events Calendar at www.calendar.mcg.edu.

In the portal, important announcements of events, deadlines and policy changes are listed in a portlet titled "Need to Know," which has taken the place of "Campus Announcements." To submit an announcement, click the "How to Submit" link in the bottom right corner of the portlet.

The "Today at MCG," portlet offers information on events scheduled for the day, which are drawn from the MCG Events Calendar. Events are catalogued by school, administrative area and user group, such as students, alumni or faculty. Click the "View Index of Calendars" link at the bottom of the portlet to view all posted events.

All e-mail users can subscribe to one or multiple calendars by completing the following instructions. Subscribers will receive daily e-mail notification of events posted to the calendar.

E-mailed events can also be transferred to a user's personal GroupWise calendar by following the instructions at right:

Subscribing to a calendar

Choose "Subscribe" on the toolbar.

Enter your e-mail address in the appropriate box.

Click in the check box(es) next to the type of notification you want to receive.

Click on "Subscribe." You will receive a confirmation e-mail, "WebEvent Subscription Request," with a link to confirm the subscription.

NOTE: Subscriptions are not available for combined calendars, i.e. "This Week at MCG." (Users must subscribe to each calendar individually.)

Transferring event information to GroupWise

After subscribing to a calendar, transfer the information to a personal GroupWise calendar by performing the following steps:

Open the e-mail notification.

Change item type by clicking "Edit" on the menu bar, then select "change to."

Choose the item type you want to use.

Change the "Subject, Place, Start Date and Duration" to reflect the event you are importing into GroupWise.

Click "Post," and the event is posted to the GroupWise calendar.

These instructions are also available online at www.mcg.edu/announcements/HowToUse.htm. For more information, call the Help Desk, ext. 1-4000.



MCG Home Page changes coming Oct. 1

As the front door for external audiences, the MCG Home page will undergo changes Oct. 1.

With the advent of the MyMCG Web portal in August, news and information relevant to students, faculty and staff has a distinct and separate location from news meant for external audiences.

"The idea is to move content that's not designed for the outside world to see into the portal where MCG faculty, staff and students can access it," said Director of Strategic Communications Caryl Brown. "The institutional Web site will now be more of an information and marketing tool for prospective students, alumni, the media, researchers from other institutions and other visitors."

MyMCG made its formal debut Aug. 22, and offers important announcements and resources for the campus community. Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to make the portal their home page and to customize the "My Portal" tab to fit their day-to-day resource needs.

"We know the portal is not going to be all things to all people," said Ms. Brown, "but we are working to make it useful to as many people as possible. It allows us to customize the content delivered to users based on their login information."

University Advancement and Information Technology Support and Services are working closely to design portal areas for specific work groups, and also to better organize the information, documents and resources shared across campus. We encourage users to send feedback through the portlet on the home tab or via e-mail. We are monitoring those messages and working the ideas and concerns into future phases of development."

For example, GroupWise and WebCT links have been added to the portal header to make them more easily accessible for users who can't or don't wish to log into the portal.

"If you're logged into the portal, you can access GroupWise via the 'My Apps' portlet without having to log in a second time. But, if you're in a hurry and just want to check e-mail, there is a GroupWise link on the main portal page. So you can log in to e-mail just as you've always done from the home page," she said.

Links to student and faculty/staff resources, electronic curriculum, information technology services, and Ask McG also will be moved to the portal.

For more information about the MyMCG project, contact Ms. Brown at carbrownc@mcg.edu or Jack Evans, Web content administrator, at jaevans@mcg.edu.

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www.mcg.edu/news/beeper

Division of External Affairs

Medical College of Georgia ■ Augusta, Georgia 30912

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News and photos are provided by the Division of External Affairs.

Direct correspondence about news to MCG Beeper, FI-1042 or call ext. 1-4410.

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MCG Mission, Vision and Values

Mission

The mission of the Medical College of Georgia is to improve health and reduce the burden of illness in society by discovering, disseminating and applying knowledge of human health and disease.

Vision

The Medical College of Georgia will be one of the nation's premier health sciences universities.

Values

As a public institution dedicated to the discovery, dissemination and application of scientific knowledge, the Medical College of Georgia values leadership, social responsibility, compassion, diversity, professionalism and excellence.

DON'T MISS A BEEP

The deadline for the Oct. 13 issue is Oct. 5 at noon. Deadline for the Oct. 27 issue is Oct. 19 at noon.



EMPLOYEE ADDRESS CHANGES & CORRECTIONS should be entered on a Personnel Action Request Form available online at www.mcg.edu/hrforms/pdf/par.pdf

RETIREES

Contact the Human Resources benefits office at (706) 721-3770 for address changes and corrections or to report changes in Benefits status.

Academic Management Series available for administrators

The Office of the Provost is sponsoring an Academic Management Series for MCG academic administrators on all levels.

Monthly seminars are held on Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m., in the Student Center, room 2021. The first in the series will be Sept. 29. Dr. Susan Sato, assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior and director of the Employee-Faculty Assistance Program, will discuss "Recognizing and Handling Abnormal Behaviors in the Workplace."

Oct. 6, Kimberly Hayes, outreach development coordinator in the Materials Management Division, will speak on MCG's Vendor Diversity Program.

Dr. Rhea-Beth Markowitz, director of scientific editorial support, is coordinator of the seminar series and welcomes topic suggestions via e-mail at rbmarkowitz@mcg.edu. To be added to an e-mail list for series dates and times, contact Cynthia McKie at cmckie@mcg.edu.

Vaccine may protect babies from lethal infection

by Toni Baker

Common bacteria that live harmlessly in the gastrointestinal tract and vagina of 25 percent of women can become lethal if a newborn gets exposed to them during birth.

Researchers are studying a vaccine that may one day eliminate that risk.

"If we could give a vaccine to prevent women from harboring group B streptococcus in the vagina, then babies are not going to get it," says Dr. Daron Ferris, family medicine physician at MCG and a principal investigator on a National Institutes of Health study to explore that potential.

MCG as well as the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas, Inc., are enrolling a total of 600 healthy, non-pregnant women in the study.

Half the participants will get the new vaccine developed at Harvard University and the rest will receive a standard tetanus toxoid vaccine.

MCG's participation in the study is funded by an \$800,000 NIH grant. Study sites include the Augusta campus as well as the University of Georgia's University Health Center in Athens and Georgia Southern University's clinics in Statesboro.

The group B strep vaccine is being compared with tetanus toxoid vaccine because the tetanus vaccine, long shown to be effective, is used as the delivery mechanism for group B vaccine, Dr. Ferris says. "It's piggy-backed onto the tetanus toxoid vaccine so the body makes

antibodies to the tetanus and group B strep," he says.

Group B strep is the most common infectious cause of death in newborns, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Problems typically surface within the first week of life when the immune system is immature and least able to fight off infection. Results may include overwhelming infection called septicemia, meningitis, pneumonia and long-term damage such as hearing loss, impaired vision and developmental problems.

The bacteria come and go in most women, infecting about 25 percent at any one time and – for unclear reasons – a higher percentage of black women and non-smokers, Dr. Ferris says. A Pittsburgh study of predictors of infection showed that sexual activity, in terms of frequency and/or number of partners, was highly associated with vaginal infection. Also, women with an imbalance in the protective bacteria that typically colonize the vagina are at increased risk.

The bacteria usually are harmless outside the bloodstream, so physicians usually don't screen for them or give antibiotics unless the woman is pregnant, Dr. Ferris says. In the late 1980s, physicians began testing for group B strep in the vagina and rectum at 35-37 weeks of gestation and administering an antibiotic to those who have it. The idea is that the bacteria is eliminated before the baby is born, Dr. Ferris says.

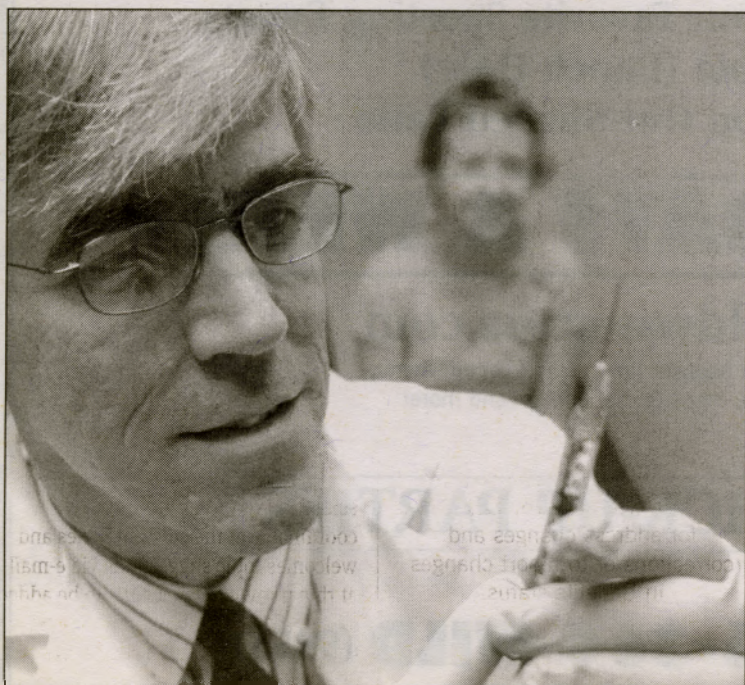
That approach has led to a dramatic decline in infection but has not eliminated it.

Problems with current prevention protocols include premature delivery and a negative test at 35 weeks

Still, rates of group B strep disease

have dropped from a high of about 2 percent of 100 live births to about .5

See VACCINE page 4



Dr. Daron Ferris (Phil Jones photo)

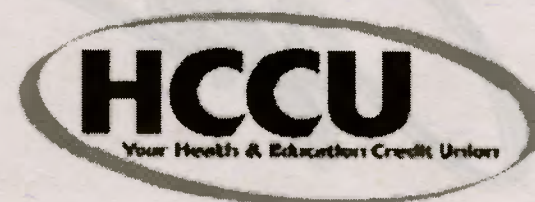
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Survey to assess care philosophy *A day for friends and family*

The Office of Institutional Research is working with the newly formed Center for Patient and Family Centered Care to survey the MCG community about how they perceive this approach.

The center provides a structure to expand the already nationally recognized efforts in this care approach and to comprehensively disseminate these concepts throughout the institutional enterprise. The center propagates the values of patient and family centered care within all segments of MCG's tripartite mission of teaching,

research and service.

"Our hope is to identify important shifts and trends in how employees and students view this type of patient care," said Pat Sodomka, center director.

In early October, approximately 1,600 students, residents, faculty and staff from MCG, MCG Health, Inc. and the Physicians Practice Group will receive invitations to participate in this study. For more information, contact Mickey Williford, assessment coordinator in the Office of Institutional Research, at shwillif@mcg.edu.



Family Day for the families and friends of the first-year Medical College of Georgia students will be held Saturday, Oct. 15. A reception for students and families in the Schools of Allied Health Sciences, Dentistry, Graduate Studies and Nursing begins at 9 a.m. in the Student Center. MCG President Daniel W. Rahn will welcome visitors in the Large Auditorium at 10 a.m. Individual school activities will take place in the afternoon.

A reception for School of Medicine students and families begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Student Center, followed by Dr. Rahn's welcome in the Large Auditorium at 11:30 a.m. At noon, Dr. Sylvia Smith, associate dean for student affairs in the School of Medicine, will introduce various program presentations.

The School of Medicine White Coat Ceremony begins at 2:30 p.m. at Warren Baptist Church, 3203 Washington Road. Students must be at the church by 2 p.m. to line up for the procession. Students who cannot attend the White Coat Ceremony must submit a written request for permission to be absent to Rita Lovering, Office of the Dean, AA-152.

Faculty members are encouraged to attend Family Day and the related school programs. Those who plan to attend should call ext. 1-3356 so name tags may be prepared.

VACCINE... from page 3

percent, a rate that has held for several years, according to the CDC. The infection rate is about .8 percent for black newborns. Current estimates are that 1,720 newborns are infected annually and 70-90 babies die.

The SPIN study - Streptococcal Prevention In Non-Pregnant women - aims to reduce that number by helping women eliminate the bacteria before they become pregnant.

The study will compare group B infection rates in those receiving the new vaccine to those receiving only

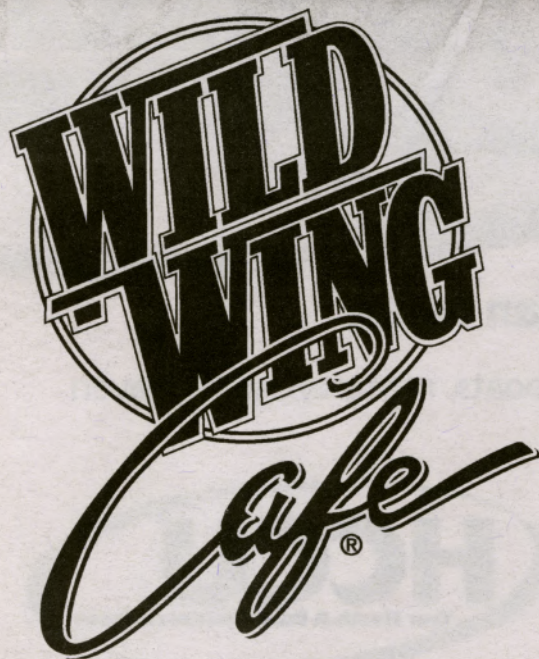
the tetanus vaccine, who will serve as controls for this study, Dr. Ferris says. Antibody levels to group B strep also will be measured over the 18-month study to see if they go up and stay elevated for an extended period. Phase one studies, conducted in pregnant women, showed the vaccine to be safe and resulted in high levels of antibodies in the mothers that were transferred to the fetus.

How long the protection lasts will help determine how the vaccine eventually is used, says Dr. Ferris. If it provides high levels of long-term protection, it could be recommended

for all young women, which would help ensure protection in unplanned pregnancies. "If it's just say three to five years, we likely would need to target women who are interested in getting pregnant," he says.

The study is enrolling sexually active women age 18-40 using effective birth control. Participants will be followed every two months for 18 months, receive a free physical and pelvic exam and be compensated for their participation.

For more information, call Dr. Ferris' office at ext. 1-2535 or toll free at 1-877-643-1414.



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Outreach programs pool resources for success

by Ellen Gladden Jones

Reducing infant mortality rates and increasing awareness of HIV/AIDS are the goals of two federally funded programs working together within the MCG Health System.

Since June, employees in the Enterprise Community Healthy Start Initiative and the MCG Ryan White Outreach Team have collaborated to address needs in neighboring Burke and McDuffie Counties, where infant mortality rates are high and HIV awareness is low.

"From 1999-2001, the infant mortality rate in these counties was 13.3 per 1,000 live births for black women, compared to a rate of 7.8 for white women. The state rate for the same years was 13.6 and 5.8, respectively," said Naomi Williams, community outreach coordinator for the Enterprise Community Healthy Start Initiative. "Our program is striving to reduce racial disparities in low-birth-weight and infant mortality rates. One of the ways we do that is by encouraging women and their families to engage in preventive health practices."

Since 1996, the MCG Ryan White Outreach Team has provided free, confidential HIV testing, education, counseling and treatment referral at predetermined testing sites throughout the Aiken-Augusta area. The Outreach Team is one part of a Health Resources and Services Administration Ryan White Grant, which also funds the MCG HIV Clinic, explained David Thompson, outreach worker for the program.

"We travel to health fairs, churches and schools to conduct HIV tests and to educate," said Mr. Thompson. "People need to know their status to protect themselves and the ones they love. One of our goals is to get people into care earlier, in part, because it saves hospitals and taxpayers money to treat people early, but also because it is easier to treat patients early. We're not just targeting women or one particular group because HIV/AIDS impacts all races, ages and both genders."

The south is a target area for prevention and detection programs in part due to an increased rate of infection among southern women, said Mr. Thompson.

"Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics report 76 percent of new HIV cases among women from 1999-2003 occurred among women in the South, even though only 29 percent of U.S. women live in the region," he said. "Girls ages 13 to 19 account for 8 percent of new HIV diagnoses in the South. That's four times the rate found in other parts of the country. In rural areas, like Burke and McDuffie counties, it's much more difficult than in urban areas to find young women, help them become aware of HIV, get tested and begin treatment if needed."

Through satellite offices in Thomson and Waynesboro, the Enterprise Community Healthy Start Program works with high-risk women and infants, providing nursing case management, education and outreach activities for up to two years after a baby is born. Case managers and educators encourage pregnant women to know their HIV status to ensure that they get the proper care and prevent transmission to their unborn babies.

"Testing as a part of outreach services is vital because early detection and treatment is the key to living with HIV/AIDS," said Mr. Thompson.

The two programs have partnered to promote education and testing. At least once a month, in both the Thompson and Waynesboro offices, Ryan White Team members provide HIV/AIDS testing and pre- and post-test counseling. Testing is done with oral swabs, which alleviates fears associated with having blood drawn, explained Mr. Thompson.

"By working together, we can address both of our missions," said Ms. Williams. "Even though we are looking at two different things, we have a common goal, which is to ensure families are healthy. Part of that is making sure people know their HIV status and helping them overcome their fear of getting tested."

"To ensure healthy mothers, babies and families, we encourage everyone to be screened," said Mr. Thompson. "For those who know their status and want to get medical care, our team is available to help."

Both teams encourage MCG health care providers to refer patients, friends and family members to these programs as needed. For more information on the MCG Ryan White Outreach Team, contact Mr. Thompson, at ext. 1-2236, or Jodi Hudgins, Enterprise Community Healthy Start, ext. 1-1558 or 800-982-3728.

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. For more information about training courses not listed here, contact Training and Development Manager Ale Kennedy at ext. 1-6197. Registration forms and course descriptions are located at www.mcg.edu/hr/training. Complete and submit one form per participant per class.

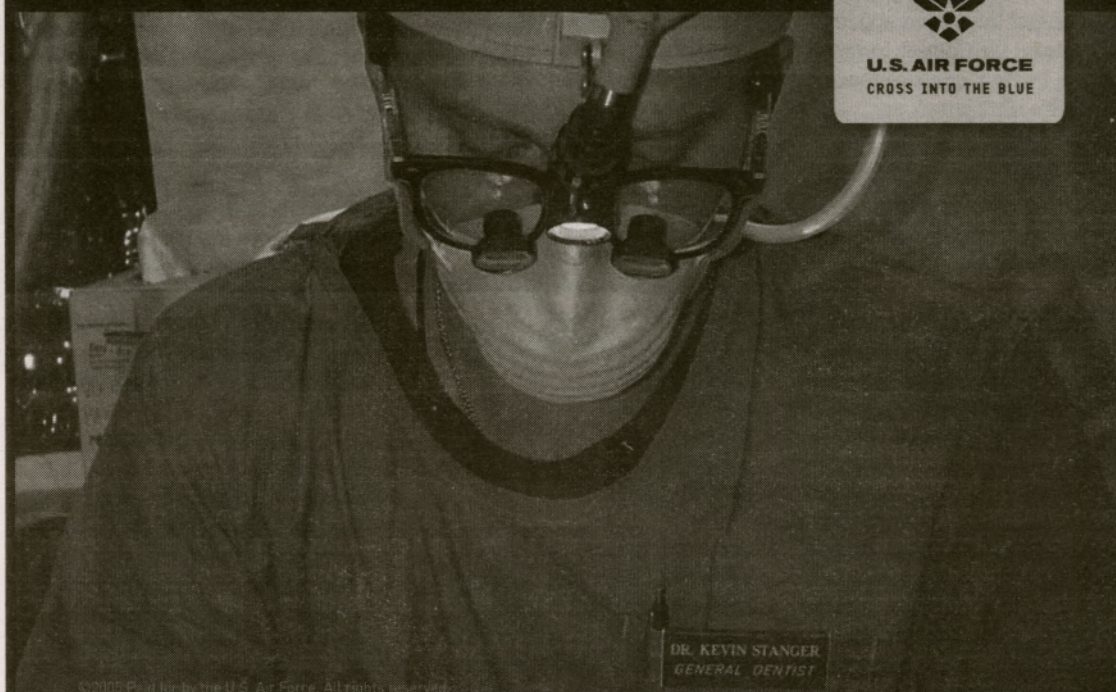


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|---|--|
| Oct. 3 - PeopleSoft Basics 1-4 p.m. | Oct. 14 - Resolving workplace conflict, 9-11 a.m. |
| Oct. 4 - Brown Bag Series: The Atkins Diet, noon to 1 p.m. in the Wellness Center | Oct. 14 - P-Card training, 2-3 p.m. |
| Oct. 5 - Grant-writing: National Institutes of Health Preparation, noon to 1 p.m. | Oct. 17 - Microsoft Word, 3 - 4:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 6 - Frontpage Level I, 10 - 11:30 a.m. | Oct. 18 - Personnel Action Request Forms, 9-10:30 a.m. |
| Oct. 6 - HR policies and procedures: Benefits, 2-4 p.m. | Oct. 18 - ESNAP, 12:30-1:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 7 - Interviewing skills, 9-11 a.m. | Oct. 19 - Verbal de-escalation, 8:30-10:30 a.m. |
| Oct. 10 - Time management, 1-3 p.m. | Oct. 19 - Excel, 3 - 4:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 11 - MCG travel procedures, 8-10 a.m. | Oct. 20 - Frontpage Level II, 10 a.m. |
| Oct. 11 - HIPAA security, 11 a.m.-noon | Oct. 20 - Identity theft, 1 - 2 p.m. |
| Oct. 12 - Legal series: conflicts of interest and Open Records Act, 9:30-10:30 a.m. | Oct. 21 - Sexual harassment, 9-11:30 a.m. |
| Oct. 12 - Faculty affairs and promotion, 2-4 p.m. | Oct. 21 - Groupwise, 3 - 4:30 p.m. |
| Oct. 13 - Workers compensation, 9-11 a.m. | Oct. 25 - Identity theft, 11 a.m. to noon |
| Oct. 13 - How to read an NIH grant, noon 1 p.m. | Oct. 26 - Effective phone communication, 9 - 11 a.m. |
| | Oct. 27 - Assertive communication, 9 - 11 a.m. |
| | Oct. 28 - Time management, 9 - 11 a.m. |

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ADDRESS... from page 1



But today I'd like to talk to you about more than what we've accomplished over a season ... even a year. I'd like to revisit the transition that has occurred over the past four years - take a closer look at how much we've accomplished and how we've managed to do what we've done. Certainly, the defining characteristic of our recent work has been change.

In preparing for this speech, I reviewed my previous State of the University Addresses and, in each one, a central theme was apparent. You've heard the Chinese fortune - may you live in interesting times. Well, that's what struck me ... these are interesting, turbulent, wildly transformative times - and that's about the only thing that hasn't changed since I assumed the presidency in 2001.

Articulating our vision

In our earliest planning sessions, we articulated a vision for MCG - a shared institutional desire to become one of the nation's premier health sciences universities. And every day over the past four years, we've taken another step in that direction. We've navigated our way through choppy seas to become a better institution, a stronger institution, a more dynamic institution - an institution better positioned to make an extraordinary impact on the health of the people of this state and nation.

Many of you know my affection for Theodor Geisel, more popularly known as Dr. Seuss. I've shared the wisdom of *The Lorax* and *"The Cat in the Hat"* in previous talks. Today I'd like to tell you about the book I turned to when I assumed the presidency of MCG in 2001. It wasn't *"I Can Lick 30 Tigers Today"* or *"If I*

Ran the Circus" ... although, at times I do relate to the Juggling Jott.

I reached for *"Oh, the Places You'll Go!"*

In MCG's 2005 strategic plan, *Continuing the Upward Trajectory*, we credit three books: *"Good to Great," "The Contrarian's Guide to Leadership,"* and *"Execution: The Discipline of Getting Things Done."* The leadership philosophies expressed in these works have greatly assisted me and my entire cabinet in our efforts to create a campus culture that embraces accountability and a vision of excellence. But throughout our planning process, I kept thinking of a passage from *"Oh, the Places You'll Go!"*

You will come to a place where the streets are not marked.

Some windows are lighted. But mostly they're darked.

A place you could sprain both your elbow and chin!

Do you dare to stay out? Do you dare to go in?

How much can you lose? How much can you win?

That pretty much sums up the leadership challenges associated with operating MCG, in fact, any complex organization in uncertain times. And that's precisely why we have spent so much time developing a plan to guide our institutional work - and a financial management process to ensure that we can transform that plan into reality. Unmarked streets and darked windows abound ... but our plan is our road map. We excel as an institution because we have planned our work and are working our plan.

In my first State of the University

Address, I told you that I believe this university works because ALL component parts function in support of a greater purpose. Our success - which, quite simply, is a greater impact on the health of the public - doesn't rest on the shoulders of a few individuals; our success rests on the shoulders of all. And when one member of that team steps aside, the other members rally to ensure that the work continues.

That's what has happened in recent months - through leadership changes in the School of Medicine, in Research, in the Graduate School and in University Advancement. The wind blows, the sand shifts ... but we continue to work our plan, to follow the road map to higher levels of institutional achievement.

What we've achieved

The most visible of our accomplishments are often our research advancements and the accolades we receive as a result of the clinical care we provide. Who wouldn't be impressed by the work of our research faculty to rebuild bone and regenerate tissue lost to cancer, to cut off a seizure at the pass, to develop early and definitive ways to identify and modify disease risks and diagnose diseases such as Alzheimer's and type I diabetes?

In fiscal year 2001, our research funding totaled \$43.7 million. This year, we're just shy of \$80 million - and 54 percent of that is from the National Institutes of Health. Our School of Medicine now ranks 75th of 123 medical schools in NIH funding. Over the past five years, we've moved up 11 slots in the rankings - the largest jump of our 11 Board-approved peer institutions ... and the third largest increase compared to other southern medical schools.

Why such rapid and dramatic progress? Many contributors - but one of the most important is FOCUS. Our research enterprise is on an upward trajectory due to our unwavering commitment to create a thriving and productive environment for discovery - and due to our commitment to be among the best in the world in our chosen areas of focus.

We've constructed state-of-the-art research facilities. Phase II of the Interdisciplinary Research Building, which includes the only publicly funded innovation center in the state devoted to the life sciences. And work continues on our Cancer Research Center, a \$54 million facility which will house

cancer-related research.

We have enhanced research support services, particularly in important but often overlooked areas related to infrastructure. We expanded the Department of Biostatistics and have launched a master's degree in biostatistics. We have initiated the process of connecting MCG to the Southern Light Rail (a broadband research IT network). We developed plans for new laboratory animal space, enhanced staff support for the core laboratories, and endorsed and funded a campuswide strategy for enhanced administrative support of clinical research. Over the past four years, we have formed seven new research centers and institutes, organizational entities that reach across school and department lines to bring together faculty and staff to do the basic and clinical science work that leads to better care and new treatments for patients.

And, most importantly, we recruited (and continue to recruit) high caliber biomedical researchers and clinician scientists. We have amassed an exceptional group of faculty who work hard every day to advance science and health care, and the results are often life-changing. Now, more than ever, it is important for us to maintain our focus and build on our areas of research expertise. Strength really is in numbers - as evidenced by the advancements we've made since we articulated our thematic approach to research.

Markers of success

As a testament to our clinical expertise, the accolades keep coming:

- The MCG Medical Center ranked among the nation's top 50 in hormonal disorders.
- The MCG Comprehensive Epilepsy Program named a level four specialized epilepsy center - the only epilepsy center in Georgia and South Carolina to earn this designation.
- The Center for Patient and Family Centered Care receives national exposure for its work strengthening relationships between patients, families, and health care providers (look for *Remaking American Medicine* on PBS in the spring, a program that highlights MCG efforts to involve families in quality improvement and education).
- The Children's Medical Center is among the top children's hospitals in the nation.

- More than a dozen MCG physicians selected as America's Top Doctors - the top one percent of physicians in the nation.

We've increased patient admissions substantially. Quality of care has been enhanced. We've reduced cost dramatically and are at or near the top 25 percent in complications, risk-adjusted mortality, length of stay and readmits. And our patients are increasingly satisfied with the care they receive.

All of these achievements are a testament to the good work we're doing to advance our research and clinical missions. But we also have made many significant changes in our educational enterprise. These are the changes that often go unnoticed by those external to the institution. They are not the institution's highest-profile advancements. But they are advancements of the utmost importance to our continued success as a competitive and leading academic health center. It is through the careers of our graduates that we have our greatest impact on the health and well-being of Georgians. So you can be sure that we're more focused on teaching than ever ... and on teaching at the right level.

Just think about the new educational programs we've launched since 2001:

- the RN-to-BSN program at Columbus State University
- online programs in medical technology and radiologic sciences
- the MHS in Occupational Therapy
- the MS in biostatistics
- doctoral degrees in physical therapy and nursing practice
- the master of public health in health informatics
- the PhD in neuroscience

We've recently received approval to transition the physician assistant degree from a baccalaureate programs to a master's degree and plan to start our first class this spring. And we're awaiting approval on the School of Nursing's clinical nurse leader program.

Our current academic array includes more than 50 programs - from the advanced certificate level through the doctorate. Since 2001, our student enrollment has increased 11 percent - this fall topping 2,100. Applications to our programs continue to rise - up 20 percent since 2001. Retention and graduation rates remain extremely high.

Also of note: this year, we began the process of shifting nine-month

See ADDRESS page 7

ADDRESS... from page 6

faculty in the School of Nursing to a 12-month calendar so that the important work of the school continues year-round. We made equity adjustments in the salaries of faculty in the School of Allied Health Sciences to bring them up to national benchmarks.

The ultimate outcome for the educational enterprise is the performance of our students and graduates on certification and licensure examinations and in their chosen areas of professional practice. Our scores continue to reflect that our priorities are in the right place. I wish I had the time to regale you with the results from all the programs; they are impressive. I'll hold up the School of Dentistry as a representative example: a few weeks ago, Dr. Drisko announced at cabinet that our dental students ranked seventh in the nation on part II of their national boards.

Changing landscape

Perhaps the most visible change at MCG has been the landscape of the campus itself. Since 2001, we have completed construction on three new facilities (the Wellness Center, phase II of the IRB and a new satellite energy plant) and initiated construction on two others ... the Cancer Research Center and the Health Sciences Building ... in total, more than \$125 million in new facilities. In addition to our two most visible construction projects, we have 17 other projects under way, including major renovations of laboratory space. Nearly 40 projects are in the design and planning stage. In recent years, we have constructed or renovated more than 330,000 gross square feet of research space. Essentially, MCG is rebuilding the entire campus, either by erecting new structures or by renovating existing space.

And we haven't ignored the need for green space. Next to the IRB, we created a cinerarium, a small quiet spot that honors the individuals who donate their bodies to medical education and science. This past May, we broke ground on the Betty Browning Tollison Reflection Garden, which is located in front of the Dugas Building. And, before the close of this fiscal year, we will demolish an outdated facility near the Student Center, creating a centrally located open field of grass. Instead of cutting the ribbon on that one, we should plan a ceremonial throwing of the frisbee.

We've also made a lot of significant changes in the area of information technology - an area of

campus interest that is surpassed only by campus interest in parking! Since 2001, we upgraded the campus network in order to provide access to consistent, reliable, high-speed network service. We reorganized IT support staff to optimize service. We have provided wireless access to the network in all buildings across the entire campus. We're implementing Banner, our new student information system. We launched myMCG, an innovative Web portal for MCG information. And we implemented a lifecycle refresh program that ensures the currency of workstations across the campus.

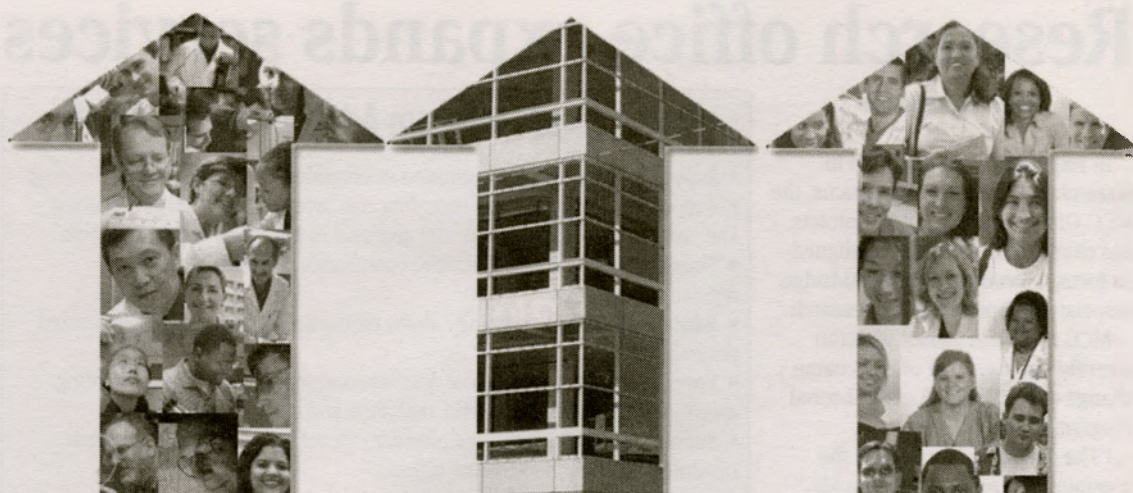
But you know these things. You read the *Beeper*. You read the stories and announcements that are posted on the MCG Web site. You see the positive coverage we receive in the local, regional and national media outlets. What I want to convey to you today is the significance of these successes not simply as individual accomplishments, but as something bigger.

As I noted at the beginning of this talk, the challenges we faced in 2001 were formidable. We've sustained multiple budget cuts - reductions in funding that were precipitated by the significant downturn in the nation's and the state's economy following the events of Sept. 11. At present, our state appropriation represents 25 percent of our core operating budget. But, by working with dedication and focus, we've been able to leverage that investment to create great returns for the citizens of the state. For every dollar the state invests in MCG, we generate three.

We can't talk about the institution's finances without addressing the value of our collaboration with MCG Health, Inc. Since the separation of the hospital and the campus into two separate organizational entities, MCG has received more than \$50 million in margin funds from the health system all of which has been invested in advancing our academic and research initiatives.

Our accomplishments over the past few years - much more than what I've been able to share today - are really nothing short of stunning, particularly when you consider the instability and change we have had to manage. I'm not sure how uplifting this revelation is, but I have come to realize that this instability is not a transient phase.

We really have been navigating turbulent waters, and I don't anticipate calm seas ahead. We face ongoing challenges to federal research funding, the seemingly



intractable problem of rising health care costs, increasing numbers of uninsured, projected shortages in the health professional work force, the promise of scientific advances and technological innovation coupled with the costs of implementing new technology and new therapeutic advances, the aging of the nation's population and the associated demands that will be placed on our healthcare infrastructure and workforce.

My point is this: if not for the advancement accomplished at MCG over the past few years, I would be intimidated by the challenges ahead. But I know - and so do our supporters - that we have increased the impact of this institution on the health of the people of Georgia and the nation and we will continue to do so.

The strategic planning and financial management process that we have implemented has allowed us to clarify institutional priorities, document the institution's most important strategic and operational initiatives, and identify both the resources required and current or potential funding streams to implement those initiatives. That's the vision part of what we do.

We also have put a process in place to track our progress against institutional goals to ensure that we are being good stewards of the resources we commit to new initiatives. That's the accountability part of what we do.

My goal as president is to ensure that MCG is using all available resources to advance our societal purpose. At the same time, I recognize the need to allow flexibility to pursue white space opportunities - areas of promise that fall between or outside of the initiatives already documented in the plan. We are not in control of our operating environment - we'll always be in a state of flux - and we must be nimble enough to make adjustments along the way.

What's ahead?

We're continuing to recruit key faculty - including dean of the School of Medicine, director of the cancer center, chair of the department of OB/GYN, and researchers across all schools. We're updating the master facilities plan.

In addition to completing construction on our two major facility projects, we're upgrading the central energy plant, demolishing two outdated buildings and refurbishing the parking decks. And, we're currently renovating more than 34,000 square feet of research space. We anticipate occupying the Cancer Research Center during the first quarter of the calendar year - and the Health Sciences Building in July.

Recruiting and admissions processes are up and running on Banner. We'll continue to expand access over the coming year and greatly anticipate Banner becoming the official student system of record in fall 2006.

We're initiating focused fundraising efforts for the Children's Medical Center and the School of Dentistry facility.

We're launching a campuswide simulation center.

Whatever our institutional pursuits, I will never step away from my commitment to provide maximum support of faculty, staff, and students to accomplish the good work of the Medical College of Georgia. Because while the institution has accomplished a lot, we must remember that we are the institution.

We are students and residents ... more than 2,500 ... from every corner of the state of Georgia ... from 35 states and 54 foreign countries. And today, more diverse than ever. Minority students represent 26 percent of MCG's total enrollment. African American students represent nearly 11 percent of our student body - that's up from 8.8 percent in 2001.

We are nearly 3,500 staff, approximately a third of whom have more than 10 years of service to MCG.

We are nearly 900 faculty, educators who prepare our students and prepare them well. Researchers like our 11 Georgia Research Alliance eminent scholars working in areas such as molecular immunogenetics, synapses and cognitive neuroscience, biotechnology, genomic medicine, and other important areas. Clinicians like our 11 Georgia Cancer Coalition supported faculty - clinicians who are working hard to reduce cancer's toll on our families, friends, and neighbors.

We are more than 20,000 alumni, nearly 65 percent of whom have remained in the state - providing care to Georgians, teaching Georgians and discovering new knowledge that results in better health for all.

We — you, me, and all the other members of the MCG community — are the Medical College of Georgia. Together, we have built the Medical College of Georgia of today. I can only imagine what this campus will be like five years from now — where we'll be — if we continue to work together to advance the mission of Georgia's health sciences university.

In closing, I'll offer one more nugget of wisdom from "Oh, the Places You'll Go!"

*So be sure when you step.
Step with great care and tact
and remember that Life's
a Great Balancing Act....
And will you succeed?
Yes! You will, indeed!
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Thank you all for what you do for MCG and the citizens of the state of Georgia. It is a pleasure and an honor to serve as your president during these interesting times.

Research office expands services

by Ellen Gladden Jones

In response to rapid growth in research and sponsored programs, the MCG Office of Grants and Contracts has changed its name and realigned its focus, according to Betty Aldridge, associate vice president for research.

MCG President Daniel W. Rahn recently approved the office's name change to the Division of Sponsored Program Administration.

"The change better reflects the continuum of services we provide," said Mrs. Aldridge, who directs the office. "We coordinate routing, review and institutional approval of proposals and applications; establish accounts when awards are received; help faculty revise award budgets and close out accounts at the end of a grant or contract."

The division also develops and negotiates the institution's federal Facilities and Administrative Cost Rate Agreement and coordinates all intramural funding programs.

Rapid growth in research and other sponsored activities over the past several years has prompted Mrs.

Sponsored Program Administration Goals

- Support the faculty and institution in obtaining extramural project funding.
- Support institutional goals regarding cost recovery, reduced cost sharing and consistent routing, review and approval of proposals and agreements.
- Support fiscal and administrative compliance with grant/contract regulations.
- Educate the MCG community about requirements of managing sponsored program funding.
- Provide effective institutional database and reporting services regarding sponsored programs, and useful analytical and comparative reports.
- Support the goals of the vice president for research, the MCG Research Institute and other institutional offices.

Aldridge's group, along with many other campus research support units, to restructure policies and procedures and increase staff to meet the service commitment.

"Over the past five years, we have noted a remarkable increase in research funding of 177 percent," said Mrs. Aldridge. "In fiscal 2004-05, funding for MCG research reached an institutionally unprecedented \$79.8 million."

The division's primary mission is to advance MCG extramural support programs by providing

administrative, informational and logistical assistance to faculty and staff, she explained. Her team of 22 also helps faculty comply with policies and regulations of the institution, extramural sponsors and federal oversight agencies.

Information on support services coordinated by the division, such as grant-writing assistance and training for grants management in PeopleSoft, is available at www.mcg.edu/grantscontracts/. For more information, contact Mrs. Aldridge at ext. 1-2592.

Expanding our health care horizons



The Physicians Practice Group recently held a reception at the MCG Alumni Center to commemorate the groundbreaking of the new South Augusta Dialysis Center. The joint venture between PPG and the National Renal Alliance will be located at the intersection of Deans Bridge Road and Richmond Hills Road in early 2006. Dr. Steve Schwab, interim dean of the School of Medicine and Chair of the Department of Medicine (from left); Dr. Curt Steinhart, president and CEO of PPG; James Kendrick, president of the Augusta Metro Chamber; Dr. William Paulsen, director of MCG end stage renal disease; Dr. Laura Mulloy, chair of the Section of Nephrology; and Joe Cashia, CEO, National Renal Alliance helped celebrate the milestone. (Photo provided)

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GY44540	8174A	2002	525i	42,367 MILES	\$30,995
*KR30461	B5458A	2004	325i	17,600 MILES	\$27,555
*DR10671	B5426A	2003	745Li	41,300 MILES	\$54,995
KL87396	8181A	2003	325i	41,200 MILES	\$26,888
*DR12438	8186A	2003	745Li	43,800 MILES	\$58,999
LR66632	8185A	2003	Z4	12,700 MILES	\$31,777
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Two named to Media Relations Office

The Medical College of Georgia has named two new employees to its Media Relations Office.

Jennifer Hilliard is the media relations coordinator, serving as the university's primary media liaison in the absence of the director of media relations. She also is the public relations officer for the Schools of Allied Health Sciences, Dentistry and Nursing.

Kim Miller, media relations specialist, covers educational programs and student news for the Schools of Allied Health Sciences, Dentistry, Graduate Studies Medicine and Nursing.

Ms. Hilliard came to MCG Aug. 15 from the Augusta State University Office of Public Relations and Publications. An Augusta native, she is a graduate of Westside High School. She holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Augusta State University, where she is pursuing a master's degree in public administration. Prior to working at ASU, she was an education reporter with The Augusta Chronicle.

Ms. Miller came to MCG Sept. 6 from the Epstein Group, an Atlanta-based architectural firm where she was director of communications. She



Jennifer Hilliard

also has public relations experience from Floyd Medical Center in Rome, Ga., and served as writer and photographer with Berry College publications.

An Augusta native, Ms. Miller is a graduate of Greenbrier High School. She holds a bachelor's degree in communications, public relations and visual communications from Berry College.

"These new positions reflect MCG's commitment to provide in-depth information about research and educational activities on



Kimberly Miller

campus," said Toni Baker, director of media relations. "Jennifer and Kimberly bring solid experience in communicating specific messages, from both a journalist's perspective and an institutional perspective. Their skills will be an asset in sharing the achievements and excellence of MCG's faculty, staff and students."

For more information on disseminating MCG news, contact Ms. Miller at kmiller@mcg.edu or ext. 1-8605, or Ms. Hilliard at jhilliard@mcg.edu or ext. 1-8504.

A medical school anyone can attend

by Kimberly Miller

The fall session of the MCG Mini-Medical School kicks off Oct. 11 and will cover health issues such as the right-to-die debate and heart disease.

Taught by a volunteer faculty of health care professionals from MCG and the Augusta area, each lecture in the six-week semester spotlights a different health field, including cardiology, gastrointestinal medicine, neurology and dentistry. Participants range in age from high school students to senior citizens and represent most professions in the Augusta area.

Now in its fifth semester, the mini-medical school facilitates an open forum between health care providers and the people they serve, according to Dr. Alan Roberts, MCG professor of medicine. By building an awareness of medical science, the program aims to help the public make informed choices about their own health and the health of their families.

Classes meet from 7-9 p.m. on

consecutive Tuesdays beginning Oct. 11 in the MCG School of Dentistry auditorium, room 1020. New curricula are covered each semester, so former participants are encouraged to attend.

Dr. Roberts created the MCG Mini-Medical School in fall 2003. The National Institutes of Health was the first to develop a mini-medical school to help the public learn more about science and health care education; about 35 states now have the programs in one or more medical schools.

This activity includes 12 hours of instruction and qualifies for continuing education credits.

Mini-Medical School dates:

Oct. 11: Cardiologists Guy Reed, Robert Sorrentino and John Thornton will discuss heart attack, congestive heart failure, atrial fibrillation and risk of sudden death. **Oct. 18:** Neurologist David Hess and Attorney Carol Schwab will discuss persistent vegetative state and minimally conscious state with reference to Terri Schiavo, advance

directives, surrogate decision makers and more.

Oct. 25: Patricia Sodomka, director of the MCG Center for Patient and Family Centered Care and senior vice president for patient and family-centered care for MCG Health Inc., and Julie Moretz, director of family services development for MCG Health Inc., will discuss doctor/patient communication issues.

Nov. 1: Dentists Robert Holmes and Randall Pohjola will discuss tooth shape and function, dental decay, periodontal disease, oral hygiene, fluoride and host resistance, diet, mechanical/chemical cleaning, teeth-grinding and how the jaw joints work.

Nov. 8: Facial Plastic Surgeon Achih Chen and Dermatologist Christopher Peterson will discuss surgical and non-surgical facial rejuvenation and hair replacement techniques.

Nov. 15: Gastroenterologists Robert Schade and Sherman Chamberlain will discuss inflammatory bowel disease, constipation, capsule

endoscopy and colon cancer.

A question-and-answer session follows each presentation. Light refreshments will be served. Seating is limited and registration is encouraged by Oct. 1. Online registration is available at www.mcg.edu/ce/MedicalCE/MiniMedFall04.htm. Tuition is free for

high school students with identification, \$50 for individuals and \$70 for families, and includes supporting materials, a T-shirt and a graduation certificate.

For more information, contact the MCG Division of Continuing Education at ext. 1-3967 or 800-221-6437.

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New Web site improves access to library resources

by Ellen Gladden Jones

How do you access the Greenblatt Library's electronic resources? What would improve your access to this information?

Focus groups and a national library quality survey have enabled, MCG students, faculty, staff and alumni to weigh in, and the library has responded.

Sept. 6, the library launched a re-engineered Web site (www.lib.mcg.edu) to make resources and services easier to find, access and use, according to Dr. Mark Spasser, professor and head of education and information services. Among the site's new features are QuickLinks, which make electronic publications, the Web-based virtual library GALILEO (Georgia Library Learning Online), PubMed, Ovid and other online databases immediately accessible from any page on the library's Web site.

"These are links patrons consider vital, so we wanted them literally



Robert B. Greenblatt, M.D. Library

one click away at all times," said Dr. Spasser.

To direct patrons to the information they need most, a "Guides for" section provides links tailored to off-campus MCG users, clinicians, researchers, students, alumni, visitors and patients. These links will streamline information for library patrons while allowing library staff to track the frequency of use and type of users for specific databases and subscribed resources.

"We have invested over \$1 million in subscriptions to electronic journals and books, so we must identify who uses these and

how," said Director of Libraries Tamera Lee.

The site also includes tutorials and user aids for biomedical databases and software programs. A new calendar and online reservation form ease scheduling for the library's electronic classrooms, group study rooms and conference rooms.

Student focus groups provided extensive feedback for the Web Steering Committee, which oversaw the redesign, said Ms. Lee. Chris Risher, one of the nine students who volunteered for the focus groups, called the project a positive

learning experience.

"I learned that the folks involved with the site revision were very passionate about making the site as user-friendly as possible," said the School of Graduate Studies student. "The revision was very successful in this regard, especially with the new Quick Links to ease navigation. The graphical user interface is much more functional and aesthetically pleasing as well."

"I realized how much work and collaboration goes into creating a Web page," said Allison Spensley, a focus group student in the School of Allied Health Sciences. "The new

(Web site) is more appealing and enticing. I like the ease with which you can find the things you use most often."

The site is just one piece of an overall goal to provide a virtual library, where all programs and services provided during the library's 98 hours a week of physical operation are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, said Ms. Lee.

"Through a partnership with the University of New Mexico, we will soon be able to offer real-time chats with medical librarians, which will provide personal service for patrons, even when the campus library is closed," she said. "The virtual library is in continual evolution. A continuous qualitative assessment process ensures that the library provides information our users need at any time."

Feedback about the new Web site is encouraged. Comments can be left anonymously at www.lib.mcg.edu/services/comments.php.

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Safe Kids coordinator Rene Hopkins (Photo provided)

Safe Kids takes to the road

Safe Kids East Central at the MCG Children's Medical Center recently received a \$50,000 mobile car seat check up van from Chevrolet and Safe Kids Worldwide. The new mobile unit will make car seat inspections available to families in neighborhoods, shopping centers and other convenient locations.

"Motor vehicle crashes due to the non-use or incorrect use of car seats remain the leading cause of accidental injury death to children 14 and under in the U.S.," said Rene Hopkins, Safe Kids Coordinator. "The families in our community and the surrounding area will benefit from the added resources and mobility that the van will provide."

The bright yellow and blue van is specially designed and equipped to provide free inspections, during which Safe Kids technicians will teach families how to correctly install and use car seats. The van will also provide other types of safety education throughout the area.

The Safe Kids van joins a fleet of 119 such vehicles donated by Chevy to Safe Kids coalitions across the U.S.

Don't get reeled in by scam artists

by Ellen Gladden Jones

Internet criminals are smart and sneaky when it comes to gaining access to your personal financial information.

Consumer protection agencies note that most cases of identity theft are not discovered until 14 months after the crime has occurred.

"Education and consumer awareness are the two greatest tools to preventing identity theft," said Mark Staples, director of security administration for MCG's Division of Information Technology Support and Services. "The more you know about securing your personal computer and how MCG is working to secure its networks, the greater armed you are to avoid scams."

To arm the MCG community with knowledge, ITSS will sponsor the first annual MCG Security Awareness Fair, Oct. 31 in the MCG Student Center. Information technology vendors, law enforcement officials and campus IT professionals will deliver hands-on training during seminars from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Promotional items, food, gift certificates and a Halloween costume contest will be included in the festivities.

The fair will be wrap up a month-long education campaign in conjunction with the National Cyber Security Awareness campaign sponsored by the National Cyber Security Alliance. Throughout October, seminars, posters, Beeper articles and messages on the MyMCG campus intranet will broadcast tips on protecting against viruses, worms, hacking, spyware, phishing, identity theft and more. Seminar speakers include local and regional security experts and topics cover Macintosh and PC issues. (See seminar dates and times below.)

"The focus is really empowering our campus users to improve their cyber security at home and at work," said Mr. Staples. "We know that many people use their computers at home for work, so there is free antivirus software available to MCG employees for home use. We also want to help educate parents on how to protect their children from Internet predators."

The celebration of October as Security Awareness Month will

Security Awareness Month Seminars

Identity Theft - How to protect your Identity in a cyber world

Oct. 3, 4-5 p.m.
Oct. 11, 8-9 a.m.
Oct. 14, noon to 1 p.m.

Setting up and securing your PC and Wireless Network

Oct. 5, 8-9 a.m.
Oct. 7, noon to 1 p.m.
Oct. 12, 4-5 p.m.

HIPAA 101

Oct. 17, noon to 1 p.m.

HIPAA and Research

Oct. 19, 8-9 a.m.

MCG IT Policy and Procedure Q&A

Oct. 21, noon to 1 p.m.

Protecting your Child from Internet Predators

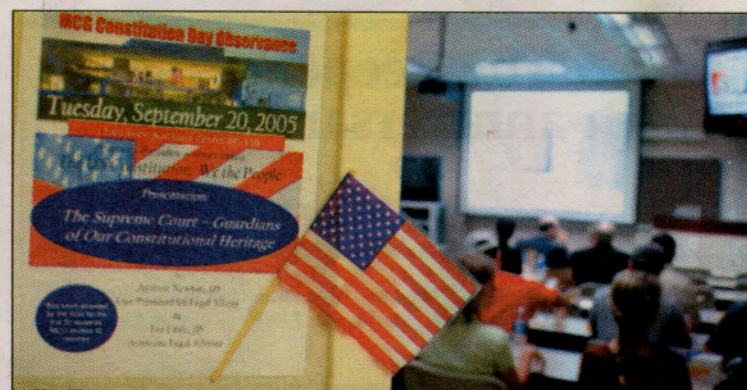
Oct. 25, 8-9 a.m.
Oct. 26, 4-5 p.m.
Oct. 28, noon to 1 p.m.

Seminars will be held in the Student Center, room 2021. Pre-registration is not required, however seating is limited. At each seminar, attendees may enter their names for an Oct. 31 drawing gift of certificates from local businesses. Seminars during the Oct. 31 Security Awareness Fair are additional opportunities to enter the drawing.

include an awareness message of the week to promote safe computing - Home and Personal Computing from Oct. 3-14; MCG Security from Oct. 17-21 and Internet Security and Parental/Non-Parental controls from Oct. 24-31. The MCG Print Shop is developing desk calendars with

monthly cyber security tips, which will be distributed at seminars and at the Oct. 31 fair. Event updates and details are available at www.mcg.edu/securityfair.

For more information on computer security, contact Mr. Staples at ext. 1-1577.



First Constitution Day celebration at MCG

by Kimberly Miller

The Medical College of Georgia participated in its first celebration of Constitution Day, a national initiative to raise awareness on the U.S. Constitution, on Sept. 20.

Along with a complimentary catered lunch, students received an education on the history and structure of the U.S. Supreme Court from Andrew Newton, MCG vice president for legal affairs, and Lee Little, MCG associate legal advisor, and watched a brief video on the Constitution.

"I thought it would be boring, but it was actually really interesting and informative," said Joel Alcoba, a first-year doctoral student in physical therapy.

A new federal law requires U.S. schools receiving federal funds to teach about the Constitution every Sep. 17, the date the Constitution was signed in 1787. As the date fell on a Saturday this year, MCG chose to celebrate the event Sep. 20.

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Paula is SWELL

In Saluting the Work, Excellence, Leadership and Lives of those who comprise MCG, the Beeper asks for your nominations for students, faculty or staff whose work has made a difference on and off campus. The Beeper spotlights a student or employee nominated by his/her peers for outstanding achievement.

This issue's SWELL employee is Paula Martin, a part-time research assistant in the Pediatric Infectious Disease Section of the Department of Medicine. Ms. Martin was nominated by a co-worker who stated, "Even though she is only part-time, Paula works like a full-time employee in her dedication to our team. She is always pleasant, thinking of others needs and ready to help."

Mrs. Martin celebrates four years of service with MCG this month. The Augusta native is a graduate of Butler High School. She holds an associate degree in applied science with an emphasis in medical technology from Augusta College.

She has over 20 years of experience in various health care support positions. Mrs. Martin enjoys her work at MCG because, "I love children and I feel my work in research contributes to the long-term health of patients who have been exposed to or who have HIV. A special time for me is when I have the opportunity to spend time with our patients and their caregivers. God gave me a gift of being a caregiver and I really feel comfortable in those situations."

Mrs. Martin and her husband, Bill, enjoy volunteer and church activities in their hometown of North Augusta, at TrueNorth Church and with Gideons International.



Paula Martin

They are Aiken County coordinators for Project Angel Tree, which provides holiday gifts for children with incarcerated parents. Prior to working at MCG, Mrs. Martin volunteered in local schools and was a homemaker and mom to their son, Paul, now age 22. When she's not at work, Mrs. Martin enjoys family, friends, mission opportunities and yard work.

To nominate students, staff or faculty for the SWELL Award, send a brief description of the nominee to Ellen Gladden Jones at ejones@mcg.edu, FI-1042 (campus mail), or fax 1-6397. Please include the nominee's phone number. Deadline for the Oct. 13 issue is Oct. 4 at noon.

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In the wake of the storm

Editor's note: The following is Jane Williams' account of her experience treating Hurricane Katrina victims during a 10-day deployment as team commander of the Georgia-4 Disaster Medical Assistance Team. Ms. Williams is an emergency room nurse at the MCG Medical Center. The winter edition of MCG Today will include more comprehensive coverage of MCG volunteerism after the storm.

"We had several assignments prior to the assignment on Thursday (Sept. 1) to assist other DMAT teams that were already set up and operational at the New Orleans International Airport. We reported to the Management Support Team at the airport at 7 a.m. after spending the night in our vehicles. We were assigned to assist in the triage area.

It was a sight like I have never seen. Mary (Bannan, team training officer and cardiothoracic nurse at MCG) stated that it was worse than '9-11' and Dr. (Jeffrey) Orledge (deputy team commander and MCG assistant professor of emergency medicine) described it as 'bedlam.' There were patients everywhere – lying on litters, sitting in

wheelchairs, standing and sitting in any area available. Patients were arriving from ambulances, helicopters and buses. They never stopped coming for days.

The airport only had generator power – lights, no running water or air conditioning. Some of our cell phones worked. We let several patients and evacuees use our phones to make contact with families who had not heard from them in days. It was very gratifying to see and hear the joy and relief in their voices to be able to speak with loved ones.

There were many long days, 16-20 hours for most of the time. We finally got some cooler air on Saturday and shower units and a

cooking unit came in on Sunday. We slept in our vehicles for the first three nights and then found a nice spot where we could set up 'camp' in the airport. We saw very little TV the entire 10 days and that was by satellite.

The numbers began to taper off on Wednesday and Thursday. It was estimated that on the first few days there were 15,000 patients as well as 30,000-40,000 evacuees who went through the airport operation.

We were demobilized on Thursday morning and began our journey home.

It was an experience that none of us will soon forget. We were thankful for the opportunity to assist in this time of crisis."



GA-4 DMAT team members Ryan Goodson (from left), Dr. Jeffrey Orledge, Mary Banan, Benje Thompson and Jane Williams, returned to Augusta Sept. 9 after assisting victims of Katrina at the New Orleans airport. Other DMAT members have also been deployed to assist with Katrina relief and preparedness efforts for hurricane Rita. (Photo provided)

The Georgia-4 Disaster Medical Assistance Team is looking for all types of health care workers as well as non-medical support staff to volunteer emergency assistance during national disasters. Time

commitments vary and all amounts of participation are accepted. Learn more about joining the DMAT team and see photos from deployments at www.ga4dmat.com.

Disaster preparedness courses to be offered across Georgia

by Toni Baker

Three courses to help hospital personnel and front-line emergency workers such as firefighters and paramedics manage disasters will be taught across the state of Georgia over the next year.

The Georgia Department of Human Resources Hospital Bioterrorism Program Office has awarded the Medical College of Georgia Center of Operational Medicine a \$398,000 grant to teach the courses in the eight Georgia Emergency Management Agency districts.

"This is a terrific opportunity to improve our state's preparedness for natural disasters or manmade acts such as bioterrorism," said Dr. Phillip Coule, director of the MCG Center of Operational Medicine. "Hurricane Katrina has been a horrific reminder that the potential for all types of disaster will not go away and we need to be ready."

MCG worked with colleagues at the University of Georgia, the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, the University of Texas at Houston School of Public Health and the American Medical Association to design the National Disaster Life Support Courses that, much like Advanced Cardiac Life Support for heart patients, are becoming the national training standard for health care providers who might treat victims of natural or manmade

disasters.

The newest course, Core Disaster Life Support – Decontamination or CDLS-DTM, was developed by the MCG Center of Operational Medicine to provide hospital workers who do not provide direct patient care – such as clerks, transporters, hospital administrators and lab technicians – with a basic understanding of disasters and disaster response.

"The goal of CDLS-DTM is to get everyone from the first responders on the scene to hospital employees on the same sheet of music so they are all using the same terms and working with the same basic concepts," Dr. Coule said. "All of these people can serve vital roles during a disaster but they need to understand what is going on, what things mean and what the order and

priority of triage categories is. They need to have an awareness of problems caused by chemical, biological and nuclear exposure. They do not need to know in detail how to treat the problems but they need to be aware of them."

Coursework for two-day CDLS-DTM course includes a didactic session as well as practice donning protective gear, setting up

decontamination shelters and mock disasters.

Last January, the Georgia DHR funded the core course to be taught in hospitals across the state. The new grant enables eight CDLS-DTM courses, four Basic Disaster Life Support courses and four combination courses of Basic and Advanced Disaster Life Support to be

See **DISASTER COURSE** page 18

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Dr. Moore honored by rural health association

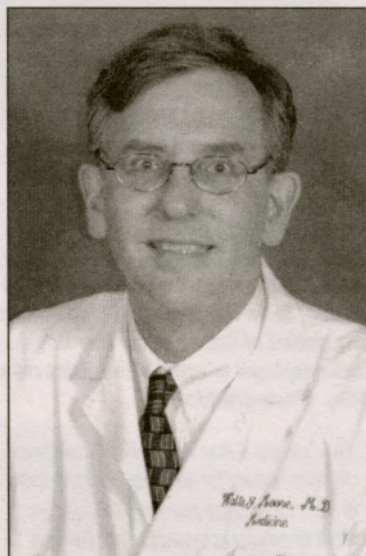
by Toni Baker

Dr. Walter J. Moore, associate dean for graduate medical education, has been selected for the Georgia Rural Health Association's Distinguished Educator 2005 Award.

Dr. Moore, professor of medicine, director of medical education for MCG Medical Center and chief of the Section of Rheumatology at MCG and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta, will receive the award during the association's annual meeting Oct. 2-4 in Jekyll Island, Ga.

"He is so exceptional in that he is not just there to do his job, he is there to truly help the residents and students," said Peggy Hensley Shull, program manager for the State

See MOORE page 18



Dr. Walter J. Moore



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Milestones

Dr. Brann receives award

Dr. Darrell W. Brann, professor and associate director of the MCG Institute of Neuroscience, is the



Dr. Brann

2005 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from his undergraduate alma mater, Henderson State University in Arkansas.

Dr. Brann, who earned his Ph.D. in endocrinology from MCG in 1990, received the MCG School of Graduate Studies Distinguished Alumni Award in 2001. He completed postdoctoral training in neuroendocrinology at MCG before joining the faculty in 1992.

He is an ad hoc member of the Integrative and Clinical Endocrinology and Reproduction Study Section of the National Institutes of Health and a member of the NIH's FO2A Neurosciences Fellowship Study Section. He is a reviewer for a number of journals including the *American Journal of Physiology*, *Brain Research*, *Journal of Neuroscience*, *Endocrinology* and *Neuroscience*.

He is co-director of a five-year NIH training grant in neurodegenerative diseases and neural repair. His research is funded by two NIH grants.

Dr. Brann received the 2005 Outstanding Basic Science Teaching Award from the MCG School of Medicine.

Dr. Ritter honored by Congress

Dr. Edmond F. Ritter, plastic and reconstructive surgeon, has had his contributions to academic medicine recognized in the Congressional Record of the 109th U.S. Congress.



Dr. Ritter

Dr. Ritter, whose career includes five years at The Mount Sinai Medical Center of Mount Sinai School of Medicine, was honored by U.S. Rep. Edolphus "Ed" Towns of the 10th Congressional District of New York. Rep. Towns' committee appointments include the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, which oversees issues

such as public health and quarantine, hospital construction, mental health and research, biomedical programs and health protection in general, including Medicaid and national health insurance.

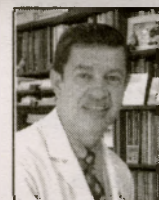
Mr. Towns recognized Dr. Ritter for his expertise in reconstructive microsurgery, particularly his treatment of patients with cancer of the head, neck and breast; his role in training more than 30 plastic and reconstructive surgeons; and his research to better understand tumor biology.

"... I believe that it is incumbent upon this body to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Edmond Ritter for sharing his talents and services to improve the medical, physical and emotional well-being of those in need," the tribute states.

Dr. Ritter joined the MCG faculty in 2003.

Dr. Salazar appointed

Dr. William H. Salazar, internist and psychiatrist has been



Dr. Salazar

appointed to the Behavioral Sciences Test Committee of the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Dr. Salazar has received a concurrent appointment on the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination 2006 Step 1 Test Material Development Committee for Behavioral Sciences.

The National Board of Medical Examiners develops tests for physicians and other health care providers. The U.S. Medical Licensing Examination, which is co-sponsored and owned by the board and the Federation of State Medical Boards, is a three-step test taken by medical students. Step 1 is taken at the end of the sophomore year, step 2 at the beginning of the senior year and Step 3 after the first year of postgraduate training.

Dr. Salazar co-directs MCG's Internal Medicine Residency Program and directs the residency's Psychosocial Program. He is a professor of medicine and psychiatry and health behavior. Dr. Salazar came to MCG from the University of Miami in 1997 and

previously served on the faculty of New York University Medical Center.

Dr. Terris to speak on thyroid surgery

Dr. David J. Terris, chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, will



Dr. Terris

discuss minimally invasive thyroid surgery as a visiting professor at two health sciences universities in November.

Dr. Terris will give grand rounds for the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Cincinnati and lecture to residents and the Cincinnati ENT Society on Nov. 15 and 16.

Nov. 29 and 30, he will give grand rounds for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and lecture to residents.

He also was a visiting professor at Eastern Virginia Medical School and the Tidewater Otolaryngology and Ophthalmology Society earlier this month.

Dr. Terris also has been asked by the journal *Laryngoscope* to share video of his thyroid surgeries for a new online service, which uses video clips to enhance journal articles.

Dr. Terris, Porubsky Chair in Otolaryngology, is a pioneer in minimally invasive surgery using small incisions at the base of the neck and cutting through muscle to gain direct access to the thyroid. The approach, which works for most patients, may increase surgery time by 20-30 percent, but reduced tissue trauma means less chance of postoperative drainage, faster healing and shorter hospital stays. His most recent study, published in the June issue of *Laryngoscope*, showed an incision about half the length used for traditional surgery works just as well in removing diseased thyroids.

Obituaries

Charlie V. Clarke, a retired senior public safety officer, died Aug. 4, at age 77. Mr. Clarke served MCG for 18 years.

Healing Gift of Music



The MCG Arts Council hosted its second annual fundraising event, *The Healing Gift of Music*, Friday, Sept. 16 at the Imperial Theatre. The piano concert raised nearly \$9,000 to support the Healing Arts Program and the performing arts at MCG. Performers included M.D./Ph.D. student Rusty Johnson (right); MCG President Daniel W. Rahn (above); Dr. Stewart Shevitz, professor of psychiatry and health behavior; Dr. Sam Hunter, retired physician; and faculty spouses Rita Macfee and Lynda Shevitz. MCG faculty, staff and students interested in performing or singing at the Arts Council's Noon Arts Conference concert series on campus should contact Dr. Dr. Kathleen McKie at kmckie@mcg.edu. (Phil Jones photos)



Auto dealer to host benefit for CMC, pediatric cancer research

Gerald Jones Volvo will conduct a fund drive Oct. 8-16 to benefit the MCG Children's Medical Center and Alex's Lemonade Stand, a national pediatric cancer research charity that raises funds through lemonade stands.

The local retailer is participating in Volvo for Life Days, a nine-day effort by hundreds of Volvo retailers in cities nationwide to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for their local children's hospitals and Alex's Lemonade Stand.

For every test drive of a 2006 model Volvo car taken, Gerald Jones Volvo will donate \$20 on behalf of the driver. While there, visitors can buy cups of lemonade from Alex's Lemonade Stands. Gerald Jones Volvo will donate 50 percent of funds raised to the MCG Children's Medical Center and the remainder to Alex's Lemonade Stand.

The MCG Children's Medical Center is the area's only children's hospital, dedicated to serving the health care needs of children, from newborns to teenagers. Alex's Lemonade Stand is a foundation to honor Alexandra Scott, a young cancer patient from Philadelphia who gained national attention for her efforts to raise money for

pediatric cancer by holding annual lemonade stands. In 2003, Scott was one of the original winning heroes in the first Volvo for Life Awards (www.volvoforlifeawards.com), Volvo's national search and celebration of local heroes. Miss

Scott died Aug. 1, 2004, at age 8, and her family continues her mission in her honor.

Gerald Jones Volvo is located at 4022 Washington Rd., Martinez. For more information, call 706-228-7007 or visit www.volvoforlifeawards.com.

Are you interested in whiter teeth?

The MCG School of Dentistry is studying tooth whiteners.

Eligible participants must:

**Be in good general health • Have good dental health
Be 18 or older • Have moderately dark teeth
Have no prior teeth bleaching**



**Study materials are free.
For further information,
call 706-721-0868**



Healthy volunteers needed for Streptococcal Prevention in Non-pregnant Women (SPIN) Study

Group B Streptococcus is the most common cause of life-threatening infections in newborns. In pregnant women, GBS can cause bladder and womb infections. The most prevalent diseases caused by GBS in non-pregnant women are blood infections and pneumonia. GBS also causes illness in the elderly and individuals with other diseases, such as diabetes and liver disease.

Dr. Daron Ferris and his colleagues at the Medical College of Georgia are testing the effectiveness of a vaccine to prevent GBS type III bacteria in the reproductive tract. Participants must be:

- Women age 18-40
- Not pregnant or nursing
- Sexually active in the last four months
- More than one year since last tetanus immunization

In addition to receiving a free physical and pelvic exam during enrollment, qualified participants will be compensated for their time. All study visits will take place at Medical College of Georgia Student Health Services.

For more information, please contact:

Lynn Allmond, R.N., N.P.
Nurse Practitioner

Angela Richardson, C.C.R.C.
Research Project Manager

Sarah Keister
Project Coordinator

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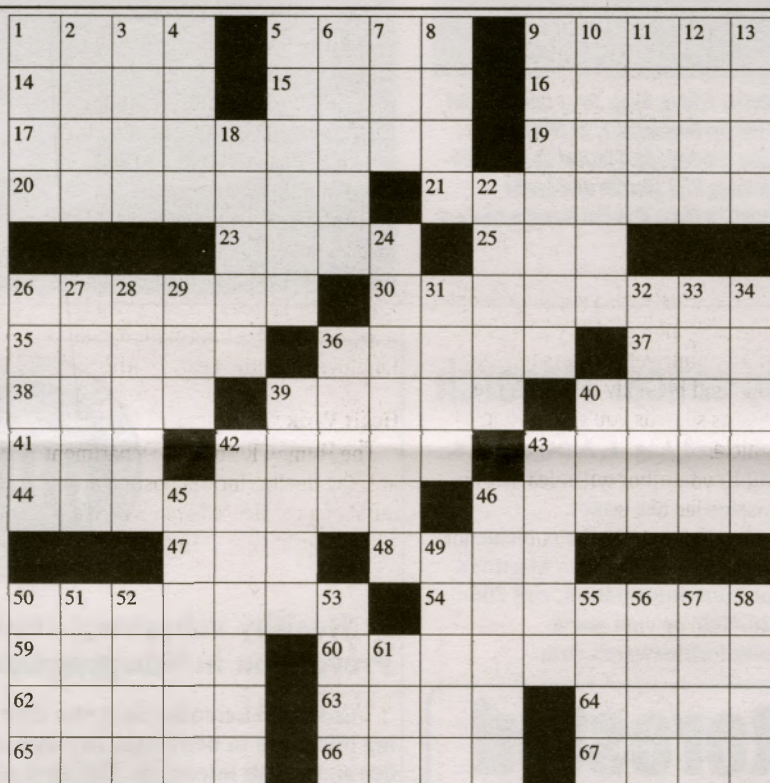
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BUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Neck back
- 5 Military vehicle
- 9 Bibb county seat
- 14 Georgia chateau
- 15 Oil in Roma
- 16 Battery terminal
- 17 Fluent writer
- 19 Heron
- 20 Suffering from mal de mer
- 21 Like Lucy (or the Old West)
- 23 Greek goddess of the earth
- 25 Very small
- 26 Newborn
- 30 Categorize
- 35 What a CPA counts?
- 36 To strike with fright
- 37 London commode
- 38 Irrational
- 39 Southside orchard fruit?
- 40 Expose to danger or loss
- 41 Unit of energy
- 42 Saline
- 43 Recycle
- 44 Midday
- 46 Warm-blooded vertebrate
- 47 Even (poet.)
- 48 Visionary
- 50 Pre-Beeper student paper
- 54 Ocean liner of old
- 59 Suddenly erupt
- 60 Forcefully decisive
- 62 Assembly of witches
- 63 Burn slightly
- 64 1930s migrant farm worker
- 65 Sows
- 66 Hemingway home
- 67 Blend



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DOWN

- 1 Beeper bread & butter
- 2 Lotion ingredient
- 3 Medic opener
- 4 Finishes
- 5 Male mouser
- 6 Similar
- 7 Louse egg
- 8 (Gerhard) Schröder's predecessor
- 9 Life jacket (WWII slang)
- 10 Slants
- 11 Central part
- 12 Lyric poems
- 13 Clears
- 18 Vital
- 22 Overflowing
- 24 Companion of Aeneas
- 26 Norwegian dramatist
- 27 Nervous prefix?
- 28 Coen Bros Hollywood hit of 1996
- 29 Plus
- 31 Gauzy
- 32 Hip bone
- 33 Antecubital
- 34 Country bumpkin
- 36 Castrate
- 39 Collegiate neighbor
- 40 Deep sleep letters
- 42 Local creek
- 43 Less common
- 45 Approached
- 46 Measuring instruments
- 49 Short literary composition
- 50 Aerosol propellants
- 51 Vera's first name?
- 52 Columnist/novelist Barry
- 53 Display stand
- 55 Smallest component of an element
- 56 Weir, Wallace or Myers
- 57 Wicked
- 58 Grass
- 61 Next word after "He said"

Solution on page 19

ILLUSTRATION... from page 1

MCG Medical Illustrator Michael Jensen, class of 2005, received a Certificate of Merit for his animation, "An Introduction to the Corticospinal Tract."

In a separate venue, Kristen Larson, class of 2006, received an Award of Excellence for her illustration, "Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy" in the exhibition, "Art in Medicine: Illustrations of Human Anatomy" at the Hearst Center for the Arts in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The exhibition is on display through Oct. 16 in the Dahl-Thomas Gallery of the Hearst Center.

MCG's Master of Science in Medical Illustration Program is one of only five such programs in the nation and the first to be granted accreditation in 1967. The two year program is accredited by the Association of Medical Illustrators and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

Vroom, Vroom ...



Sept. 14-15, the Viagra car driven by NASCAR driver Mark Martin was on display in Annex parking lot at the corner of 15th Street and Walton Way. Staff from the MCG Department of Urology and the American Cancer Society provided prostate health education and literature on erectile dysfunction at the site. The event was sponsored by the Department of Urology and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals as a part of a September celebration of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. (Phil Jones photo)

QUOTATION BUZZLE



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— Alfred Nobel, 1833 - 1896

DIRECTIONS: Recreate a timeless nugget of wisdom by using the letters in each vertical column to fill the boxes above them. Once any letter is used, cross it out in the lower half of the Buzzle. Letters may only be used once. Black squares indicate spaces between words, and words may extend onto a second line. **Solution on page 19.**

Health care representative will visit School of Nursing

by Jennifer Hilliard

Patricia Kappas-Larson, senior vice president for development and public relations at Evercare Medicare Advantage, will visit MCG Oct. 28 to discuss a nursing care model for vulnerable patients. The presentation, free and open to the public, will be held at noon in room 1003 of the Stoney Building.

The Minneapolis-based Evercare has developed a health care model in which a personal care manager or nurse practitioner monitors a patient

closely, looking for the slightest changes in health. This strategy is aimed at prevention and early intervention. Implementation of Evercare in the local area could also provide additional practice opportunities for MCG's Nursing Faculty Practice Group, according to Dr. Lucy Marion, dean of the School of Nursing.

Founded by two nurse practitioners, Evercare Medicare Advantage is the leading provider of health plans for elderly, vulnerable, disabled, and chronically ill patients

in America. Statistics show that of the more than 39 million elderly and disabled Americans receiving Medicare, 6 million also qualify for Medicaid, a federal-state health care program for low-income people. Those 6 million tend to be particularly frail with complex health care needs, and many live in assisted-living facilities or nursing homes.

For more information, contact Jim Showman, practice and compliance manager, in the School of Nursing at ext.1-2451.

Campus beat

The following incidents were recorded by the MCG Public Safety Department. Periodic reports of crime-related news on campus are posted in conjunction with federal, state and local laws and are intended to maximize campus safety and awareness. To report crimes or suspicious activity, call MCG Public Safety at 1-2911 or #2911 from a cellular phone.

Armed Robbery - Kroger parking lot

An armed robbery was reported to the Richmond County Sheriff's Department in the 15th Street Kroger parking lot. The victim reported that he was in the store's parking lot on Sept. 9 at 8:55 p.m., when an unknown male pulled out a black handgun and demanded money. The victim gave the suspect cash and the suspect fled from the area in a 1980s model green Chevrolet. The suspect

is described as a black male, 5' 8" tall, dark complexion wearing blue jeans and a white T-shirt. Anyone with information about this incident should contact the Richmond County Sheriff's Department at 706-821-1080.

Protect yourself and your property!

- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Use the Campus Escort Service,

available 24 hours a day.

- Avoid poorly lighted areas.
- Try to walk with a group of people, 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.
- Lock your door when leaving an unattended office.
- Keep valuables locked up and not visible to passers-by.



Newsbriefs

to benefit the American Heart Association's Heart Walk.

Tickets are \$1 and will be on sale Wednesday, Oct. 5 in Terrace Dining from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The drawing will be held Tuesday, Oct. 11. For more information, contact Sandy Huntington at ext. 1-5404.

Beeper deadline

The deadline for the Oct. 13 issue is Oct. 5. Deadline for the Oct. 27 issue is Oct. 19 at noon. Send story ideas or announcements to Beeper Editor Ellen Gladden Jones, FI-1042 (campus mail), ext. 1-4410 (phone), or ejones@mcg.edu (e-mail). For more information about advertising, visit www.graphic365.com or call 706-860-5455.

Flu vaccines for employees

The Employee Health Office will offer flu vaccines to residents and employees of MCG Health, Inc., MCG and PPG beginning Monday, Oct. 3. MCG ID is required. Vaccines will be available Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. through March. Appointments are not required. The vaccine is free for MCGHI and leased staff and \$11 per vaccine for others. No vaccine shortage is expected this season. For more information, call Employee Health at ext. 1-3418.

Heart Walk raffle

The Human Resources Department at MCG Health, Inc., is hosting a raffle of a red fleece blanket and a \$50 gift certificate to Heavenly Ham

Ice cream social

The Department of Radiology will host an ice cream social to benefit the American Heart Association's Heart Walk, Thursday, Oct. 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Ice cream cones, sundaes and banana splits will be for sale on the second floor of the MCG Medical Center, in room 2290. For more information, contact Fran Wolff at franw@mcg.edu.

500 Bed Race

Five-person teams are needed for the 500 Bed Race Saturday, Oct. 22, to support Augusta Urban Ministries. The race begins at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of the First Baptist Church of Augusta on Walton Way extension. Racers will be competing in business, civic, church or student divisions. Team registration is \$35 and is due by Oct. 12. Proceeds benefit the ministry's Furniture Bank, which provides free furniture to local families in need. To register a team, contact Amy Hobby Rickard at amy@augustaurbanministries.org.

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Physician assistant students win state competition

by Kimberly Miller

The Medical College of Georgia Department of Physician Assistant won the Student Medical Challenge Bowl at the 2005 Georgia Association of Physician Assistants Conference in Sandestin, Fla.

The competition tests the medical knowledge of PA students in Georgia. This is the second year in a row that MCG has won the tournament.

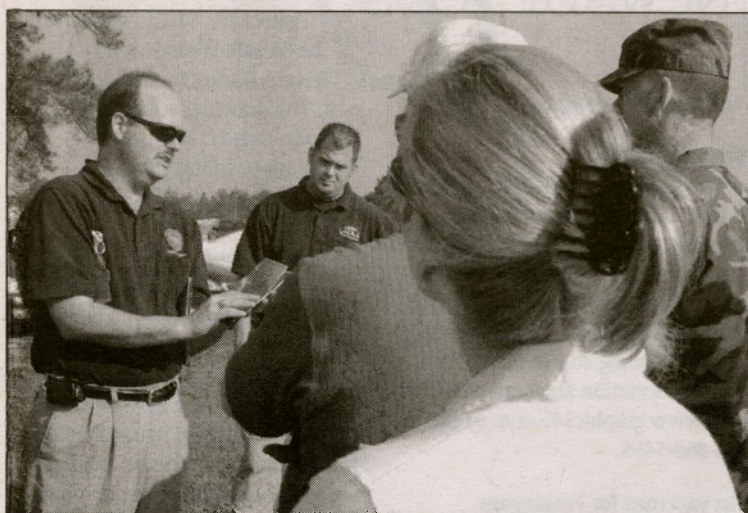
Jason Rodwell of Augusta and Wendy Royal of Gainesville, Ga., comprised the winning team, defeating South University 10-7.

"We pick high-caliber students for this program and have faith that they can win. Since we started, we've won every time," said Dr. Ben Taylor, associate director of the physician assistant department. "We'd like to make this a tradition for MCG students."



Wendy Royal and Jason Rodwell hold the cup from the PA Challenge Bowl. (Phil Jones photo)

DISASTER COURSE... from page 13



Dr. Phillip Coule, director of the MCG Center of Operational Medicine, teaches an Advanced Disaster Life Support Course, which MCG helped develop. (Phil Jones photo)

taught at a variety of Georgia sites.

The didactic BDLS course is a prerequisite for the ADLS course which includes a table top exercise where participants manage a disaster on paper as well as a hands-on session where participants practice triaging patients and managing victims of biological, chemical or traumatic events.

"We have a smallpox and disaster skill station where you actually practice the technique for doing smallpox immunization because that is not something that has been traditionally taught. There is also a station where you put on the protective equipment and practice decontaminating a patient," said Dr. Coule. "This is information that is not included in medical school curricula and it has not previously been included in emergency medicine curricula, although it is in our program now," he said of MCG's emergency medicine residency program.

The MCG Center for Operational Medicine has taught the courses across the country, reaching nearly 40 states and 50,000 students in the last two years, Dr. Coule said. Some of those classes were to train additional instructors.

The DHR grant will enable all three courses be offered throughout Georgia, Dr. Coule said. The first course supported by the grant will be taught Oct. 19-20 in GEMA Region 1, which covers 24 counties in northeast Georgia.

MOORE... from page 14

Medical Education Board of Georgia and the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce, who nominated Dr. Moore. "Improving health care in Georgia is his ultimate goal," she said, noting most of the state is medically underserved.

"He is the epitome of the essential educator - a lifelong learner with a thirst for information and an intense desire to help others," Ms. Shull wrote in the nomination. "Dr. Moore is not only a person with exceptional knowledge and expertise; he is an expert listener and is very personally engaged in understanding problems and situations. Perhaps the most important aspect of his value as an educator is that he always offers well-grounded, intelligent and workable solutions."

Dr. Moore was a key member of an advisory group on resident licensure to the Composite State Board of Medical Examiners. The group's efforts expedited new legislation resulting in Temporary Postgraduate Training Permits for all 2000 residents training in Georgia in 2003. He serves on the governor's advisory board of the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Physicians. He received the 2001 J. Willis Hurst Teaching Award from the college's Georgia chapter in recognition of his outstanding bedside teaching abilities. He was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society in 2005 and selected for America's Top Physicians for 2005.

Dr. Moore, a clinical faculty member at MCG since 1983, joined the faculty fulltime in 2000. He served as the director of Medical Student Education for the Department of Medicine for three years.

He completed more than 23 years of active-duty service in the U.S. Army. His previous military appointments included chief of medical staff/deputy commander for clinical services and chief of the Department of Medicine and program director for the Internal Medicine Residency Program and the Transitional Intern Training Program at Eisenhower Army Medical Center.

At MCG, Dr. Moore is a member of the Medical Staff Executive Committee and served as the president of the Organized Medical Staff for 2004-05. He chairs the Graduate Medical Education Committee, the Internal Residency Review Committee and the Performance Improvement Committee for MCG Medical Center and co-chairs the Quality and Safety Steering Committee. He is a member of the Curriculum Development Committee for Patient and Family Centered Care, the School of Medicine's Curriculum Oversight Committee and its Evaluation Team Subcommittee.

Dr. Moore has twice served as a clinical instructor at Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine in Bethesda, Md. He is a 1977 graduate of Georgetown University School of Medicine and completed his internal medicine residency and rheumatology fellowship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. He was recognized as the co-outstanding graduating resident in his class from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 1980.

The U.S. Army has awarded him the Legion of Merit Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster and numerous other medals and citations. He holds the "A" Designator for Rheumatology, the Army Medical Department's highest academic recognition award.

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