



# beeper

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Volume 16 | Number 10

## Outstanding Faculty Awards presented

by Jennifer Hilliard

The Medical College of Georgia's five schools presented 2006 Outstanding Faculty Awards during the university's April 27 General Faculty Assembly.

The School of Allied Health Sciences honored Rebecca Lam, associate professor of biomedical and radiological technologies. Ms. Lam joined the faculty of her alma mater in 1976 after receiving her bachelor's degree in



Ms. Lam

radiologic technology. She received a master's degree in education with a concentration in health services administration from Augusta State University. In 1997, she received the School of Allied Health Sciences' Faculty Research Award for her research on chemical dependencies among radiologic science personnel.

Ms. Lam is a member of the American, Georgia and Augusta societies of Radiologic Technologists and Alpha Eta Honor Society. She is a former member of the American Heart Association and the Georgia Society of Allied Health Professions.

Honored in the School of

Dentistry was Dr. Kevin D. Plummer, assistant professor of oral rehabilitation. Dr. Plummer, a prosthodontist, came to MCG in 2000 after serving 21 years in the U.S. Army Dental Corps, during which he was a consultant to the



Dr. Plummer

U.S. Army Surgeon General for Infection Control in Dentistry and for Dental Laboratory Operations. He earned his dental degree from Emory University and completed a residency in removable prosthodontics at the Letterman Army Medical Center in San Francisco.

Dr. Plummer received the School of Dentistry's 2002 and 2005 Judson C. Hickey Awards for Outstanding Teaching Effort and the school's 2003 Teaching Excellence Award. Dr. Plummer is a former fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists and is a diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics. He is a member of the Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics, the Order of Military Medical Merit, the American Dental Association and the American Dental Education Association.

The School of Graduate Studies honored Dr. Wendy Bollag, professor of medicine. Dr. Bollag, a cell physiologist and director of MCG's graduate program in molecular medicine, joined the faculty in 1993. She earned a doctoral degree in cellular and molecular physiology from Yale University and served as a



Dr. Bollag

postdoctoral research associate at Hoffmann-LaRoche, Inc., in 1991-92.

Dr. Bollag is the principal investigator on a \$1.1 million National Institutes of Health grant studying signals that control the secretion of aldosterone, the hormone responsible for salt balance in the body and an important contributor to blood pressure regulation. She is a member of the Society for Investigative Dermatology, the American Society for Cell Biology, the Endocrine Society, the American Heart Association and the Sigma Xi Honor Society.

Honored in the School of Medicine was Dr. Robert Yu,



Dr. Yu

professor of neurology and director of the Institute of Molecular Medicine and Genetics and the Institute of Neuroscience. Dr. Yu joined MCG in

2000 after chairing the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics at the Medical College of Virginia. He has served as director of the Institute of Molecular Medicine and Genetics since 2000, the director of the Institute of Neuroscience since 2004 and the director of research at the MCG Neuroscience Center of Excellence since 2001.

A Georgia Research Alliance eminent scholar, he is a member of the Society of Neuroscience, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the American Society for Neurochemistry and the American Association for Advancement of Science. Dr. Yu earned his doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Illinois in 1967, a doctorate in

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## Dr. Bhalla named founding director of MCG Cancer Center

by Jennifer Hilliard

Dr. Kapil N. Bhalla, scientific director of the Hematologic Malignancies Program at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute in Tampa, Fla., has been named the founding director of the Medical College of Georgia Cancer Center.

Dr. Bhalla, an oncologist who joins the faculty Aug. 1 as the Cecil F. Whitaker, Jr., M.D. Chair and Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar in Cancer, will oversee the development and support of MCG's research, educational and clinical cancer initiatives, said MCG President Daniel W. Rahn.

The internationally known investigator and clinician has been a scientific director at the Moffitt Center - a National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Center - since 2000.

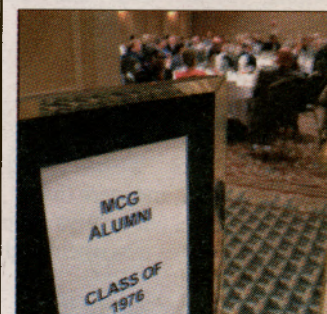
"I am extremely pleased that Dr. Bhalla has agreed to join the Medical College of Georgia as the founding director of the Cancer Center," said Dr. Rahn. "His expertise as an established cancer scientist and physician will significantly strengthen MCG's cancer programs. His

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Dr. Kapil N. Bhalla

## Vital Signs



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## Bits & bytes

More than 1,000 people participated in the fourth annual MCG Technology Fair April 27 in the Greeblatt Library.

The fair featured workshops, vendor presentations, food and door prizes, all with the goal of helping students, faculty and staff learn how technology enhances patient care, research and teaching.

"It was a huge success," said Becky Rogers, manager of customer service. "We had record-high attendance and more than 700 people filled out surveys about the fair, providing overwhelmingly positive feedback."

Survey respondents included students, residents, retirees, faculty and staff representing all five schools and virtually every segment of campus. "It was gratifying that so many members of the MCG community saw the value in learning more about new and emerging technologies," Ms. Rogers said. "I think people are more aware than ever that technology exists to serve their needs and that new products can make their lives much easier."

*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.*



*Jeaneanne Atkinson in the Office of Sponsored Program Administration mans a booth at the Technology Fair. (Wesley Hobbs photo)*

Virtually all respondents found the fair useful and informative, citing factors such as easy navigation and registration, impressive representation of vendors and extensive hospitality. "We appreciate the hundreds

of people who took the time to fill out a survey," Ms. Rogers said. "Their feedback will help ensure that technology fairs are optimally responsive to the needs of the MCG community."

Prize winners are posted at [www.mcg.edu/techfair](http://www.mcg.edu/techfair).

## Ms. Walls named *Beeper* editor

Sharron C. Walls has joined the Medical College of Georgia as a specialist in internal communications, a position with the primary role of serving as editor of the campus newspaper, the *Beeper*.

"It's a great thrill to join the MCG community, particularly in a capacity that will enable me to interact with all segments of campus," said Ms. Walls. "I look forward to building on the *Beeper's* 25-year tradition of serving as both an information medium and a vehicle to enhance our sense of community. I'm eager to get started and I welcome readers' input and feedback."



*Sharron C. Walls*

Ms. Walls earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Augusta State University. She served as editor in chief and art director of ASU's *Phoenix Magazine* from May to December 2005. Before joining the *Phoenix Magazine* staff in 2003, she served as media director of AdMasters Inc. and as production director for local radio stations.

During Ms. Walls' tenure at *Phoenix*, the magazine received a 2005 Society of Professional Journalists District III first-place award for overall excellence and 2004 and 2005 First Place with Special Merit Awards from the American Scholastic Press Association.

She received Goldberg Scholarship and Mary Lu Kuhl Writing Scholarship Awards in 2002 and 2003, respectively. She received ASU's 2004 Media Award in the Best Feature category and its Building Community Award in 2004. She was named to the Alpha Mu Gamma Honor Society in 2005 and was on the ASU Dean's List from 2002-05.

"Ms. Walls' many awards attest to exceptional skill and talent that we are eager to put to use at MCG," said Caryl Cain Brown, MCG director for strategic communications. "We know she will be an energetic and valuable member of our team."

Please submit *Beeper* article ideas to Ms. Walls at [swalls@mcg.edu](mailto:swalls@mcg.edu) or ext. 1-4410.

## beeper

[www.mcg.edu/news/beeper](http://www.mcg.edu/news/beeper)

Division of University Advancement  
Medical College of Georgia ■ Augusta, Georgia 30912

**Christine Hurley Deriso**, Publications Editor

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News and photos are provided by the Division of University Advancement  
Direct correspondence about news to MCG *Beeper*, FI-1040 or call ext. 1-2124.

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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 May 25 issue is May 17 at noon. Deadline for the June 8 issue is May 31 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](http://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.

## Movies benefit CMC

by Danielle Wong Moores

Bring your blankets and a picnic and enjoy a fun evening with the family during *Movies Under the Stars*, a series of open-air movies benefiting the MCG Children's Medical Center.

The series takes place every Friday in June. Gates open at 6:30 p.m., and movies begin at dusk. The movie schedule is:

- \* June 9: *ET*, Georgia Golf Hall of Fame Botanical Gardens
- \* June 16: *Shrek*, Georgia Golf Hall of Fame Botanical Gardens
- \* June 23: *The Princess Bride*, Columbia County Fairgrounds
- \* June 30: *Madagascar*, Columbia County Fairgrounds

Coolers are welcome and concessions are available. Please, no alcoholic beverages.

Tickets are \$1 per person, payable by cash or check at the gate. For more information, call 706-721-4004. The movies are presented by Gwen Fulcher Young & Associates. Additional sponsors include Atlanta Bread Company, Knology and McDonald's.

# MCG honors retiring faculty

by Jennifer Hilliard

The Medical College of Georgia honored retiring faculty members during its April 27 General Faculty Assembly.

Honored in the School of Allied Health Sciences was Franklin H. Dennison, associate professor of respiratory therapy. Mr. Dennison, the former clinical specialist program director of respiratory care services, earned a bachelor's degree in respiratory therapy from MCG and a master's degree in education from Augusta State University. He received MCG's Faculty Research Award in 1989 and the Georgia State Allied Health Sciences Professional Research Award in 1990. He is a member of the Georgia Society for Respiratory Care and the American Association of Respiratory Care.

The School of Dentistry honored Drs. William F. Kimbrough and Edna L. Pashley.

Dr. Kimbrough, associate professor and director of undergraduate endodontics, joined the faculty in 1992. He is a 1964 graduate of the University of Texas Dental School and completed endodontics residencies at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and Fort Benning, Ga. He received his master's degree in oral biology from George Washington University. He received the School of Dentistry's 1997 Faculty of the Year Award and the Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award from the class of 1998. He is president of the Augusta Endodontic Study Club and a member of the American Association of Endodontists and the Greater Augusta Dental Society.

Dr. Pashley, vice chair of the Department of Oral Diagnosis, earned her dental degree in 1978 and a certificate in pedodontics in 1980, both from MCG. She joined the faculty in 1979. She received a 2002 American College of Dentists Professionalism Award and is a diplomate of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. She is a member of the American Dental Association and the Georgia Dental Association. Dr. Pashley serves as a reviewer for *Dental Materials* and the *American Journal of Dentistry*.

The School of Medicine honored Dr. William H. Hoffman, professor of pediatrics, and Dr. John R. Molinaro, assistant professor of

medicine.

Dr. Hoffman earned his medical degree from Marquette University in Milwaukee, completed his pediatrics residency at the University of Louisville Children's Hospital and completed a pediatric endocrinology fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Before joining MCG in 1984, he was a National Institutes of Health medical research officer. He is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Endocrine Society and the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes.

Dr. Molinaro, a faculty member since 1976, earned his medical degree from Emory University. He completed his residency at New York's E.J. Meyer and Buffalo General hospitals. He completed a gastroenterology fellowship at the Wilford Hall U.S. Army Air Force Medical Center and an anesthesiology residency and postdoctoral training in transesophageal echocardiography at MCG. He is a founding member of the MCG Disaster Management Assistance Team and a member of the Society for Cardiovascular Anesthesiology, the American Society of Anesthesiologists and the Richmond County Medical Society.

Honored in the School of Nursing was David J. Anna, assistant professor in the Department of Health Environments and Systems. Mr. Anna, a faculty member since 1993, earned his bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a master's degree in psychiatric and mental health nursing from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.

The Robert B. Greenblatt, M.D., Library honored Jacquelyn H. Dennison, Associate Professor Emeritus and former assistant director of library operations. Ms. Dennison earned her undergraduate degree from Clemson University and a master's degree in librarianship from the University of South Carolina. She joined the faculty in 1982 and received the library's 2000 Outstanding Faculty Award. She is a distinguished member of the Academy of Health Information Professionals and a member of the Medical Library Association and the Georgia Health Sciences Library Association.

## OUTSTANDING... from page 1

science from Tokyo University in 1980 and an honorary master of arts degree from Yale University in 1985.



Dr. Andrews

The School of Nursing honored Dr. Jeannette Andrews, assistant professor. Dr. Andrews, a nurse researcher, joined MCG in 1997. With funding from the American Legacy Foundation and the Georgia Cancer Coalition, she is studying smoking cessation and intervention in public housing developments.

She chairs the MCG Health Disparities Research Interdisciplinary Workgroup.

Dr. Andrews earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from MCG, a master of science in nursing degree from Georgia Southern University and a Ph.D. in nursing science from the University of South Carolina. A 2005 recipient of the Reflection of Nursing Spirit and Commitment Award, she is a member of the American and Georgia nursing associations, Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society, the CSRA Nurse Practitioner Council and the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science.

## Honoring excellence



MCG President Daniel W. Rahn congratulates Kathryn Bayman Cargile, an occupational therapy student, for recognition by the Georgia General Assembly as an excellent representative of scholastic achievement. One student in each University System of Georgia institution received the award in observance of Academic Recognition Day May 5. (Phil Jones photo)

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# Bone marrow drive draws large number of student donors

by Kim Miller

Christal Greene knows firsthand the miracle of bone marrow donation.

"My mother is a leukemia survivor," said the first-year medical student. "They told her that she had six months to live, but luckily, my aunt matched. She is alive today because of a bone marrow transplant."

Her mother's recovery is one reason Mrs. Greene volunteered for the fifth annual bone marrow donor drive at the Medical College of Georgia April 20.

"It's my way of giving back," she said. "I did fundraising last year for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and wanted to continue my support through the drive."

She and eight classmates raised more than \$5,000 for the event by soliciting donations from previous

donors, classmates, family and friends. The MCG chapter of the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association contributed another \$1,000 by holding a raffle and silent auction. The money helped cover organizational costs, promotion and tissue-typing needed to match a donor and patient.

"Donors typically pay around \$50 to cover the costs of genetic testing," said volunteer and first-year medical student Katherine Smith. "Our goal was to raise enough money so that donors at our drive wouldn't have to pay."

Their goal was eased by federal funding that covers the cost of tissue-typing for minorities, who are under-represented on the donor registry. The incentive encourages more minorities to join the registry, something that will benefit cancer patients including 13-year-old Devon Oliver, who has leukemia

and has been unable to find a donor in his family.

"People are more likely to match with someone of their own ethnic background," said Susan Cook, donor recruitment specialist in the National Marrow Donor Program at the Greater Southeast Area office. "Of the more than 6 million people

on our donor registry, fewer than 20 percent are minorities."

Of the 151 people who turned out to donate, 66 qualified as under-represented minorities on the national registry. The students hope the 2006 drive and similar events across the nation will produce a match for Devon and others like him.

"It gives me goose bumps to even think about it," Mrs. Greene said. "Simply because of his race, Devon is less likely to match. I know there are a lot of people out there who can join this list and help him."

One way the students hope to find more donors is through education about the donor registry and donation process.

"There are still a lot of misconceptions about the donation process," said medical student Peggy Sue Cavitt. "The first step is a simple blood draw like you would receive for a lipid test, and for most people, that's all it will ever be. You have to be prepared for the possibility of donating your marrow, but your chances are pretty slim: one in 100,000 to one in a million."

Donors often liken the experience to winning the lottery,

Mrs. Cavitt explained, because they are given the chance to save someone's life.

"It's really rewarding to think this little thing you can do – 15 minutes out of your day – can make a huge difference to someone," she said.

When a donor and patient match, there are two procedures for extracting bone marrow for donation. The more invasive method is done under local or general anesthesia. Doctors use a needle and syringe to draw bone marrow from the iliac crest, part of the hip bone on either side of the lower back. Several punctures are usually necessary to collect the needed amount of bone marrow, which is only a small percentage of total bone marrow that typically replenishes within four to six weeks. Donors may feel sore in the lower back for a few days or longer, but most resume normal activities within a week.

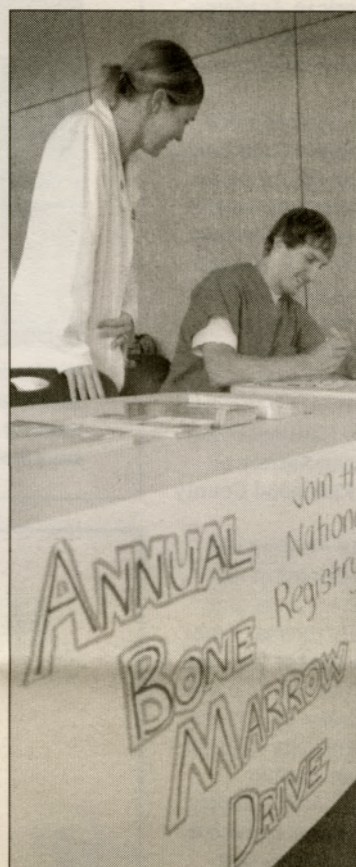
The newer procedure, peripheral blood stem cell transplantation, is considered more comfortable but is usually more time-consuming. The donor takes a dose of the drug G-CSF, or filgrastim, for four to five days to stimulate the release of stem cells into the blood. The blood is then collected at a clinic or hospital as an outpatient procedure, similar to the experience of donating whole blood, but several sessions are required over the following days or weeks in a process called apheresis. The blood is returned to the donor after stem cells are removed.

"Both options are associated with a little bit of pain, but it's not going to get worse and the way technology is going, it may eventually be painless," Mrs. Greene said. "Potentially you're on this list for life, so if you take a little prick today, you may not get called for another 10 years, and by then, it might be no more than a prick."

This year's bone marrow drive had high participation, with 57 of MCG's 180 first-year medical students joining the registry. Mrs. Greene, whose mother has been in remission for more than 10 years, was among them.

"It felt really good," she said of the experience. "I'll be a lot more excited if I get a phone call."

For more information about bone marrow donation, visit [www.marrow.org](http://www.marrow.org) or call the National Marrow Donor Program Recruitment Office of Atlanta at 404-250-3583 or 888-510-1806.



Christal Greene, a first-year medical student, helps Josh Sadler register at the fifth annual bone marrow drive at the Medical College of Georgia. (Phil Jones photo)

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## Course rolls out red carpet for new campus employees

The Department of Human Resources has designed a course that rolls out the red carpet for new campus employees.

The course, *Welcome to MCG*, covers key MCG policies, procedures, employee benefits and other information. The course supplements online orientation and employee processing, according to Training and Education Manager Ale Kennedy.

"The purpose is to provide new employees with guidelines and policies that will help them respond appropriately

### 2006 Welcome to MCG dates are:

* May 22	* Aug. 7	* Oct. 30
* June 12	* Aug. 21	* Nov. 13
* June 26	* Sept. 11	* Nov. 27
* July 10	* Sept. 25	* Dec. 11
* July 24	* Oct. 16	* Dec. 18

to most workplace situations," Ms. Kennedy said. "It also will provide employees with accurate information to assist them with their benefits decisions."

The course is offered monthly from 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the

Human Resources Training Room (room 1151 of the Annex) to campus employees who have been processed by Human Resources. For more information, contact Training and Education at ext. 1-3196 or ext. 1-6197.

## Event focuses on women's physical, mental health

by Toni Baker

Dr. Deidre Pereira, clinical health psychologist at the University of Florida, will discuss the intersection of women's physical and mental health during a daylong workshop May 19 on campus.

On-site registration begins at 7:45 a.m. in the small auditorium of the Auditoria Center and the workshop starts at 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Pereira's topics include "Psychoneuroimmunology and Women's Health" and "Psychological Interventions for Women with Cancer."

The course is intended for psychologists, psychiatrists and other mental health professionals, as well as nurses, oncologists, obstetrician/gynecologists and other physicians with a special

interest in women's health.

Sponsors include the MCG Division of Continuing Education and the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior's Women's Behavioral Health Program.

For more information, contact Rebekah Goble in the MCG Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior at rgoble@mcg.edu or ext. 1-6720.

## That's the spirit!



Dr. Vincent Robinson, vice chair of MCG's Academic Council, presents the council's first Spirit of MCG Award to MCG President Daniel W. Rahn at the General Faculty Assembly April 27. The award recognizes outstanding faculty support by university administrators. (Phil Jones photo)

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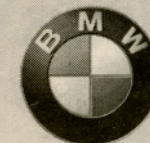
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# Campus beat



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

This message is being sent to comply with federal/state/local law, JCAHO and/or other regulatory agencies.

## Robbery

A robbery in the Kroger parking lot, 501 15th Street, was reported to the Richmond County Sheriff's Department April 24 at 3:59 p.m. An unknown person approached from behind a shopper loading groceries into her vehicle, taking cash and a cell phone from her purse. The suspect fled on a bicycle in an unknown direction on Bohler Street. Please report information to the Richmond County Sheriff's Department at 706-821-1080.

## Vehicle located

MCG Police on April 20 located a burgundy 2005 Ford Taurus, reported stolen the week before, on the first level of the Children's Medical Center parking deck.

## Attempted burglary

An attempted burglary was reported from the Frensenius Medical Care Building (adjacent to the Georgia Radiation Therapy Building) between 6:30 p.m. April 14 and 10:30 a.m. April 17. Person(s) unknown attempted to force entry into a locked office. No items were reported missing. Please report information to MCG Public

Safety at ext. 1-2911.

## Safety tips:

- \* Always be aware of your surroundings.
- \* Use the Campus Escort Service, available 24 hours a day.
- \* Avoid poorly lit areas.
- \* Avoid walking alone, especially after dark.
- \* Carry your vehicle keys in your hand and be ready to unlock the door as soon as you get to your vehicle.
- \* Lock your door when leaving an unattended office.
- \* Keep valuables locked up and out of sight.
- \* Write down brand name, model numbers and serial numbers of computer components and other equipment. Have this information available when reporting stolen equipment.
- \* Wear MCG identification on campus.
- \* Keep your vehicle locked at all times. Consider purchasing an anti-theft device for your vehicle if it doesn't have one.
- \* Call Public Safety at ext. 1-2911 if anyone seems lost, confused or out of place.

## Looking for the hidden name?

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See complete contest rules, page 15



Vice President for Research Frank Treiber addresses inventors during luncheon. (Phil Jones photo)

## Inventors lauded during luncheon

by Toni Baker

Thirty-eight Medical College of Georgia scientists were lauded during MCG's first Creativity Awards Luncheon April 26.

Honorees—those who submitted invention disclosures or are named on patents issued in fiscal 2005—were Donald Mettenburg and William Hamilton as well as Drs. Bao-Ling Adam, Yolanda Adams, Belamurali Ambati, Jatinder Bhatia, Erhard Bieberich, Roni Bollag, James Borke, Susan Fagan, Vadivel Ganapathy, Gloria Garner, Willie Guion, David Hess, Stephen Hsu, Tohru Ikuta and Carlos Isales.

Also, Drs. Alan Johnson, Stilianos Kountakis, Carol Lapp, Jeffrey Lee, Mark Lee, Andrew Mellor, Regina Messer, Jacob Moore, David Munn, David Pashley, Jeffrey Rausch, Frederick Reuggeberg, Edmond Ritter, Vincent Robinson, Jin-Xiong She, Prem Shekhawat, John Stockstill, Alvin Terry, Cong-Yi Wang, Richard White, Wen-Cheng Xiong

"This luncheon is an annual opportunity for us to celebrate our scientists who work diligently to move knowledge forward," said Dr. Michael G. Gabridge, associate vice president in the Office of Technology Transfer & Economic Development.

When MCG researchers identify a mechanism, device and/or chemical, they can submit an innovation disclosure to the MCG Office of

Technology Transfer & Economic Development. A team quickly meets with the inventor, then makes a recommendation to the Intellectual Property Committee on whether to move forward with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, gather more data or release rights back to the inventor.

To move forward, findings must be quality science, be potentially marketable, patentable and able to satisfy an unmet need, Dr. Gabridge said. The internal review typically takes 30-60 days. If the office decides to move forward, work with a patent attorney begins and it may be three to five years before a patent is issued, he said. MCG faculty were awarded nine patents in fiscal 2005.

The celebration was held on the fifth year anniversary of the biomedical transfer technology office established by Dr. Gabridge and former Vice President for Research Matthew Kluger. Since then, the program has expanded and been designated by Gov. Sonny Perdue as the Life Sciences Innovation Center for the state, fostering development of biotech businesses by MCG faculty as well as researchers across the state and nation.

Most recently, Dr. Charles F. Nawrot, a biochemist and entrepreneur with TheraCyte, Inc., the Irvine Calif., biotech firm he founded, joined the faculty as director of technology transfer and economic development.

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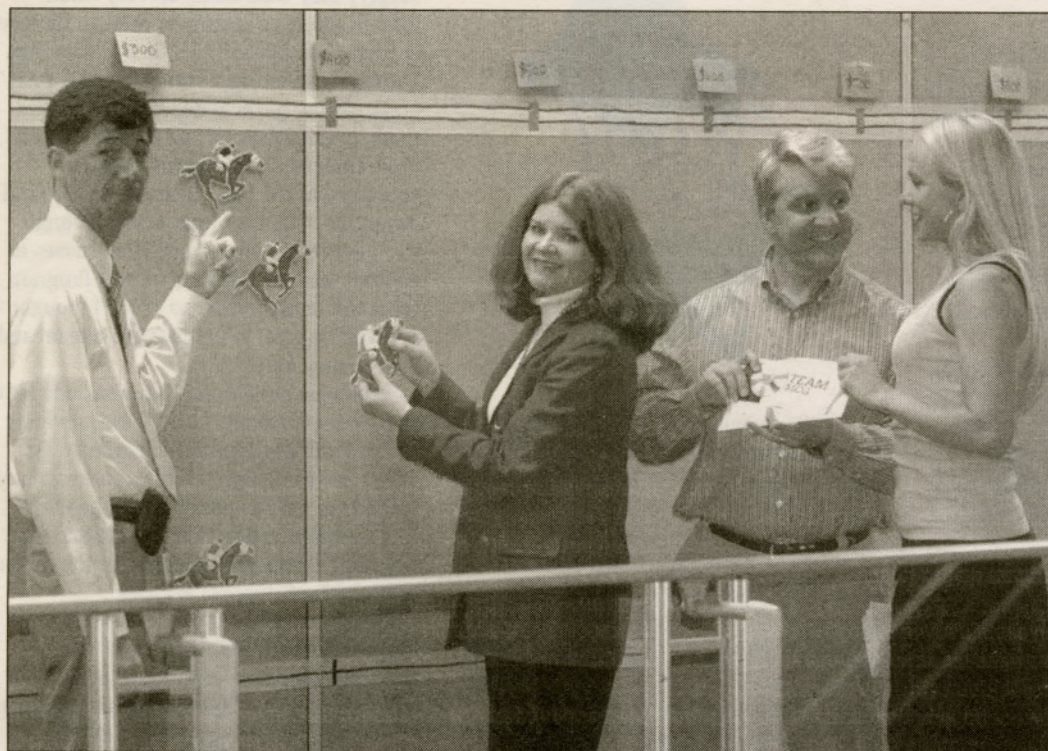
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## Horsing around



The Division of Information Technology Support and Services has harnessed its team spirit (Team MCG, that is). The division created the first annual Pie Derby to raise money for Team MCG, the annual employee giving campaign. A derby board charts the progress of ITSS directors. As the directors obtain contributions for the derby, their horses advance. The winner will be treated to a pie (in the face, that is) May 13. Those who make donations are eligible to throw the pie. For more information about Team MCG, call Kate Channell at ext. 1-3821 or visit [www.mcg.edu/teammcg](http://www.mcg.edu/teammcg). (Wesley Hobbs photo)

# Thanks, alumni!

*Editor's note: MCG medical student Kyle Shaddix, vice president of the Student Government Association, submitted the following to the Beeper.*

For decades, TGIF events have been an MCG tradition and a staple of the social diet of our student body. These monthly celebrations have consistently served as an outlet for stressed and weary professional students to leave the books behind and simply enjoy life. They have facilitated the integration of our campus as students from different schools have been given the opportunity to come together to mingle over dinner, drinks and entertainment. In turn, these events have helped to instill the camaraderie we all enjoy.

MCG's five Alumni Associations recently provided generous monetary support to make these events better than ever. It was an exceptionally receptive and progressive-thinking group of alumni that recognized the



First campuswide formal (Photo provided)

importance of our TGIFs.

Alumni support has allowed for an exceptionally successful calendar of events, including an outdoor barbecue, a Halloween party, comedy night, and, of course, our first campuswide formal. These events would not have been possible without alumni support. And this same alumni

backing made it possible to move many of our events off school grounds to more appropriate venues.

The Student Government Association would like to formally and publicly express utmost gratitude to the graduates of years past. All members of the student body who have enjoyed the TGIF events this year should, in turn, do the same. Once each of you enters into the ranks of MCG alumni, please remember the open-mindedness and generosity of those who came before

you – those who helped make your experience great. For those who enter the working world after graduation this month, remember to give back to your Alumni Association so donations such as those you have received will be available to future generations of students.



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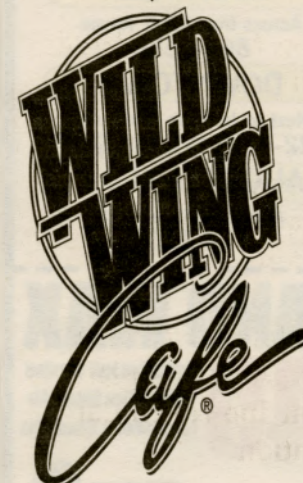
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Dr. Mike Miller (Photo provided)

## Bike ride to support MCG Children's Heart Program

by Kim Miller

A team of 14 cyclists will go to great lengths to help the Children's Heart Program at the Medical College of Georgia June 10-17.

The MCG Heart Team, created by Dr. Mike Miller, MCG vice president for enrollment and student services, will cycle 422 miles from Dalton, Ga., to Augusta in the 2006 Bike Ride Across Georgia. They aim to raise awareness and funding for the program, which supports families of sick children.

"If you have a child with heart problems and have to come here from another part of the state, you have a lot of logistical issues: How do you take care of the rest of the family? Where do you live?" Dr. Miller said. "This program helps families face those difficulties."

The 2006 ride marks the seventh time Dr. Miller has participated in the Bike Ride Across Georgia. He has raised more than \$75,000 for scholarships in previous years as a sponsored rider for the Emile T. Fisher Foundation for Dental Education. He plans to raise another \$25,000 for the foundation, but will do so through other events so he can dedicate the Bike Ride Across Georgia to the MCG Children's Heart Program.



"I can't imagine a childhood without riding a bicycle, which is what many of these children experience," Dr. Miller said. "I want to do everything I can to help."

Dr. Miller learned about the MCG Children's Heart Program after hearing a lecture on pediatric cardiology by Dr. William A. Lutin, director of the pediatric cardiology fellowship program, at the MCG Mini-Medical School in fall 2004. The Mini-Medical School, taught by MCG faculty twice a year, is a six-week course that offers the public an in-depth look at medical science.

"Dr. Lutin taught us about a cardiac

surgery they were doing on very small infants and even treatment of heart disease in utero," Dr. Miller said. "It was amazing, absolutely amazing. I was astounded by it."

Dr. Miller participated in Doctors Who Cook, a fundraiser for the Children's Heart Program, just a few months later. He conceived of the MCG Heart Team the final day of the 2005 Bike Ride Across Georgia.

"I kept thinking of good local causes to support, and the Children's Heart Program stuck out in my mind," he said. "I thought it would be great to put together a team and raise money for them."

Members of the Heart Team include MCG faculty and students, health care providers and individuals from the community. Dr. Miller has challenged each to raise as many dollars per mile as possible, and hopes to find sponsors to help defray costs for team jerseys, T-shirts and expenses for the drivers of Heart Team support vehicles.

"Our goal is just to raise as much as we possibly can," Dr. Miller said. "Every contribution, however small, will help us and will help the Children's Heart Program."

For more information about the Heart Team, visit [www.mcg.edu/heartteam](http://www.mcg.edu/heartteam). For more information about the Bike Ride Across Georgia visit [www.brag.org](http://www.brag.org).

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Details on page 12

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## Welcome home!

Approximately 800 alumni visited campus April 26-28 for Homecoming 2006. Events included receptions for all five schools, Distinguished Alumni Award presentations, a cookout at the president's home, class reunions, a dance and many other activities. (Phil Jones photos)



*School of Dentistry reception*



*President Rahn with Distinguished Alumni*



*School of Medicine reception*



*School of Nursing luncheon*



*Campus tour*



*School of Allied Health Sciences luncheon*



*Homecoming dance*

# Are you savvy about sun safety? Test yourself

Editor's note: Dr. Jack Leshner, chief of dermatology, offers the following true/false quiz to test your understanding of sun safety.

## 1: It's OK to tan if you are wearing sunscreen.

False. Tanning indicates a change in your skin, so no tan is healthy or safe. Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen that blocks both UVA and UVB rays with a sun protection factor of at least 15 (30 or higher if you have a history of skin cancer). Apply sunscreen about an hour before going outside and reapply every two hours, or more often if you're swimming.

## 2) Sunscreen should be used every day.

True. It's not always easy to do, but you should routinely use sunscreen if you will be exposed to the sun for more than 10 to 15 minutes. Driving, sitting in your office in front of a window and walking outside all expose you to the sun. Sunscreen is important even in the winter and on cloudy days. Consider user-friendly products such as moisturizer/sunscreen combinations and spritzable sunscreens. And remember that sunscreen is still important in the winter or during cloudy days because the UVA/UVB rays are still there and being absorbed by your skin.

## 3) If you have darker skin, you have natural sun protection and don't need to worry about skin cancer.

False. Actually, darker skin still tans, burns and is still susceptible to skin cancer. All skin types should also remember to watch for new dark spots or changes in spots on skin, and especially on palms, soles or around nails. These could be signs of melanoma skin cancer and should be



Protect your skin year-round, even on cloudy days. Page 1 photo: Anna Jones soaks up a spring day. (Phil Jones photos)

checked out by a physician.

## 4) Sun exposure is necessary to ensure I get adequate levels of Vitamin D.

False. You only need about five to 15 minutes of sun exposure two to three times a week on your face and hands for your body to produce a sufficient supply of Vitamin D. In addition, milk and other Vitamin D-rich foods as well as multivitamins are excellent sources of Vitamin D.

## 5) You should still practice safe sun habits, even if you wear sunscreen.

True. Sunscreen protects your skin, but shouldn't be a reason for you to stay in the sun longer. Longer length of time

spent outside means more overall sun exposure combined with a greater likelihood that you're not reapplying sunscreen appropriately. Combine sunscreen with other protective gear like umbrellas or hats. And remember, the sun's rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., so it's recommended that you stay out of the sun during those hours.

## 6) It's safe to get a tan in a tanning bed.

False. Tanning beds use ultraviolet light, similar to the UVA and UVB rays emitted by the sun. In fact, the effects of UV exposure are intensified in a tanning bed. Spending an hour in a tanning bed is easily equivalent to spending several hours outside in the sun.

## 7) Too much sun ages you prematurely.

True. Compare skin on your face and hands with skin on a part of your body that is not regularly exposed to the sun and see the difference. It's another compelling reason to protect your skin from the damaging effects of sunlight.

If you answered all seven correctly, congratulations! And if you missed some answers, don't worry. The most important test of your sun safety IQ actually comes this summer. By practicing good habits — wearing sunscreen, staying indoors during peak sun hours and wearing protective clothing — you can score big by protecting your skin and helping to prevent skin cancer.

## BHALLA... from page 1

experience helping manage an NCI-designated cancer center will help him build the team that will enable MCG to achieve this status. I believe the Search Committee, chaired by Dr. Steve Schwab, did a terrific job finding the right person for this important job.

"We cannot overstate the role that many have had in supporting this initiative: our governor, our federal and state legislators, the University System of Georgia, the Georgia Research Alliance, the Georgia Cancer Coalition, our own Physicians Practice Group, the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, Inc., all have a tremendous commitment to helping us fight one of the top killers in our state and nation," Dr. Rahn said. "This is just the beginning."

Dr. Bhalla plans to expand existing research programs in immunology and immunotherapy, developmental therapeutics and molecular profiling and create new programs in molecular biology and cancer prevention. He will recruit 15 to 18 basic scientists and 10 to 15 clinical scientists who will work collaboratively toward prevention, management and treatment.

"MCG has a very unique opportunity to create a program that spans the continuum from bench to bedside and back. The question is not whether we will become an

NCI-designated center, but when," Dr. Bhalla said. "What I envision is strengthening the research infrastructure by developing robust research programs, recruiting top-notch researchers, bringing exciting clinical trials to patients and targeting those trials to the cancers that most affect the people of Georgia."

Dr. Bhalla will oversee research in MCG's new \$54 million Cancer Research Center, the campus hub for expanding initiatives in basic and clinical cancer research and the education of future cancer physicians and scientists. He also will direct clinical initiatives to ensure that laboratory findings improve patient treatment.

"Dr. Bhalla is one of this country's leading physician-scientists in cancer, and we are proud to welcome him to our organization," said Don Snell, president and CEO of MCG Health, Inc. "His proven expertise will be a tremendous asset as we continue to develop a cancer center of excellence, a program where exceptional clinical quality, academic excellence and innovative research combine to provide optimal care for patients."

"This is a golden era of discovery surrounding cancer," said William J. Todd, president and CEO of the Georgia Cancer Coalition.

"Dr. Bhalla's work to cultivate programs and special initiatives and recruit top-notch faculty to the MCG Cancer Research Center will help make the state of Georgia a leader in that era."

The coalition, which leads cancer initiatives statewide, will fund nine new Distinguished Cancer Clinician and Scientist positions at MCG. There are currently 11 researchers at MCG with that designation and MCG, in conjunction with the University of Georgia, is designated as a Cancer Center for Excellence by the coalition.

"We are committed to supporting the work that Dr. Bhalla and other outstanding cancer scholars will do at the Medical College of Georgia," said C. Michael Cassidy, president and CEO of the Georgia Research Alliance. The alliance will provide matching funds for Dr. Bhalla's chair and help complete one of two unfinished floors in the Cancer Research Center. "The efforts of Dr. Bhalla and his research team will undoubtedly make Georgia a pioneer state for cancer research and treatment."

The state of Georgia has made a significant commitment as well, including \$10 million to design and construct the Cancer Research Center. This past legislative session,

the general assembly approved Gov. Sonny Perdue's recommendation of \$5 million for MCG cancer research in addition to the \$5 million provided last year.

In addition to his administrative responsibilities at Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, Dr. Bhalla is a professor with appointments in the Departments of Interdisciplinary Oncology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Pharmacology and Therapeutics and Internal Medicine at the University of South Florida in Tampa. He is principal investigator on \$4.7 million in research grants from the National Cancer Institute and the Department of Defense to evaluate molecular targets to treat breast cancer and leukemia.

He is a member of the American Society of Clinical Oncology's Scientific Program Committee on Developmental Therapeutics and a former member of the society's Scientific Program Committee Breast Track. He chairs the Neoplasia Committee of the American Society of Hematology and has chaired the NIH's Developmental Therapeutics Study Section since 2004. He is a former member of the National Institutes of Health's Experimental Therapeutics Study Section.

Dr. Bhalla is a member of numerous professional societies,

including the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the American Society of Hematology, the American Federation of Clinical Research and the American Association for Cancer Research. He has received an American Cancer Society Career Development Award and Leukemia Society of America Fellow and Scholar Awards.

The author of more than 125 scholarly articles on cancer research and clinical trials, Dr. Bhalla is the associate editor of *Cancer Research* and a member of the editorial boards of *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*, *Clinical Cancer Research*, *Cancer Biology and Therapy* and *Cell Cycle*.

He is a 1976 graduate of the University of Delhi's Maulana Azad Medical College in India and completed internships in pathology and internal medicine and a residency in internal medicine at St. Michael's Medical Center in Newark, N.J. Dr. Bhalla completed a postdoctoral fellowship in hematology/oncology in 1983 at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York.

He also has served on the faculties of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Medical University of South Carolina, Emory University and the University of Miami.

## Newsbriefs

won the beach vacation basket; Christine Wilson, who won the Night at the Movies basket; and Lillian McKie, who won the Pasta for Two basket.

### Beeper deadline

The deadline for the May 25 edition is May 17 at noon. Send story ideas or announcements to Beeper Editor Sharron Walls at FI-1042 (campus mail), ext. 1-4410 (phone), or swalls@mcg.edu (e-mail). For information about advertising, visit [www.graphic365.com](http://www.graphic365.com) or call 706-860-5455. MCG news may also be submitted to the MyMCG Web portal by e-mailing NEEDTOKNOW@mcg.edu and the Campus Events Calendar at [www.calendar.mcg.edu](http://www.calendar.mcg.edu).

### Academic Council meeting

The Academic Council will meet Thursday, May 18 at 11:30 a.m. in the Large Auditorium, followed at noon by the second Forum for the Future. Guest speaker Eldon Smith, former dean of the University of Calgary and editor-in-chief of *The Canadian Journal of Cardiology*, will discuss the Canadian academic health center.

### Vendor fair

MCG will sponsor a vendor fair Sept. 20 for local businesses that do or wish to conduct business with MCG. The fair is open to all vendors with a focus on small-business and minority-owned/operated vendors. For more information, contact Kimberly Hayes, outreach development coordinator, at ext. 1-9105 or [khayes@mcg.edu](mailto:khayes@mcg.edu).

### Video honored

"A Closer Look," MCG's student recruitment video, placed second in the 21st Annual Admissions Advertising Awards competition in the Video Viewbook Category for Graduate Schools. The video was produced by Ben Ferguson in Academic Admissions and Tim Johnson in Video and Instructional Design.

### Magazine awarded

The MCG Division of University Advancement earned a 2006 Council for Advancement and Support of Education Special Merit Award in the magazine category for *MCG Tomorrow 2005: Focused on Success*.

### Basket winners

Respiratory Care Services raised \$1,863 for the American Lung Association Asthma Walk by selling raffle tickets for goodie baskets. Winners were Dr. Jack Leshner, who

### Retirees meeting

Carrie McCullough, publisher of Harbor House, will discuss having a second career after retirement as guest speaker at the Retirees Association meeting June 13 at 11:30 a.m. at the Scottish Rite Building, 2553 Washington Rd. Retirees and a spouse or guest are welcome. To register, send a check or money order for \$12 per person to MCG Retirees Association, P.O. Box 2997, Augusta GA, 30912, by June 5.

### Support group

The Huntington's Disease Support Group meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the MCG Movement Disorders Program building, 1429 Harper St., Room 1122. All those interested in learning more about Huntington's disease are welcome. To join the mailing list or RSVP for a meeting, call Michelle at 706-231-2775 or Buff at 706-721-2798.

### Nurses' meeting

The CRSA Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses meets on the first Monday of the month at Teresa's Mexican Restaurant, 235 Boy Scout Rd. in Augusta, at 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Madeline Moyer at ext. 1-4633 or [mmoyer@mail.mcg.edu](mailto:mmoyer@mail.mcg.edu)

### Geek winners

Christy Berding, Steve Fenstemacher and Garrett Seeba each won \$50 Fresh Market gift certificates donated by Pollack Office Machines Co., Inc., for correct entries in the Guess the Geek's Gadgets Contest.

### Internet service

Effectively immediately, home Internet service for staff and faculty (Comcast, Earthlink, Netzero, Bellsouth, etc.) is no longer considered an allowable MCG expense. This is considered a personal expense and state law prohibits the purchase of personal services for state employees. In addition, best business practices encourage measurable standards to ensure business use only and Internet providers cannot comply with this practice.

### Teen program

Applications are being accepted for the 2006 Summer Teen Volunteer Program, providing volunteer

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

### Confidential counseling

MCG's Employee/Faculty Assistance Program offers up to six confidential counseling sessions to MCG employees and their immediate family at no charge. The counseling sessions may cover any area of concern, whether personal or work-related. The program is located in the FE building, 844 Chafee Avenue and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information or to make an appointment, call ext. 1-2599.

### Health Disparities Group

The MCG Health Disparities Research Interest Group, an interdisciplinary group pursuing individual or collaborative studies related to health disparities, meets monthly and welcomes new members. The group sponsors think tanks for researchers developing studies, brown-bag educational/research discussions and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration. A Community Advisory Board consisting of approximately 25 ethnic minority leaders provides guidance and feedback. For more information, contact Dr. Jeannette Andrews, chair of the group, at ext. 1-4812 or [jandrews@mcg.edu](mailto:jandrews@mcg.edu).

### MCG on the road

Members of the Medical College of Georgia community who are Georgia residents are invited to apply for a Georgia license plate commemorating the university. The application (form MV-9C) is available on the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety's Web site [www.dmv.ga.gov/motor/plates](http://www.dmv.ga.gov/motor/plates). The tags are \$25 in addition to regular taxes and fees. Two-digit tag numbers are available by contacting Diana Morris in the University Advancement at ext. 1-4413.

### Business mail reminder

Official business mail must bear the Medical College of Georgia or MCG Health Inc. return address including the department name, section, budget department number, city, state and ZIP code in the upper-left corner to be eligible to receive postage. For more information, contact Vickie Harrison in Campus Mail Services at ext. 1-3996.

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## BUZZLE

### ACROSS

1 "Don't fire until you see the \_\_\_\_\_ of their eyes!" (if Andrew Jackson had been an MD)

7 Gordon's first name?

11 Athens school

14 Large venomous snake

15 Pitcher

16 Pos. opp.

17 Apply ointment

18 School of \_\_\_\_\_

20 Total no. of little Indians?

21 Cold prefix

23 Barrel boards

24 Ovaries

26 Woman with three faces?

27 Greek goddesses

30 \_\_\_\_\_-inhibitor

32 Energy units

35 Excrete

36 Dodge

38 Pull thread

39 Make brighter

41 Salk product

43 First apple eater

44 Choice

46 Sound starter

47 Hawaiian goose

49 Type of gun

50 Top municipal executive

51 Ambulance worker

53 Prepared for publication

55 Ventricle antechamber

58 Ireland

59 Ramble

62 Breaks into many pieces

64 Spina follower

66 Tomography letters

67 Auricular

68 Weather line joining points of equal pressure

69 Behold



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70 Repeat

71 The unit of electrical current

### DOWN

1 Quick!!!

2 Walking stick

3 Feline king

4 Above (prefix)

5 Small cattle farm

6 Cavern

7 \_\_\_\_\_ artery (leg)

8 Be in debt

9 Cincinnati pros

10 Hackneyed

11 U of 11-A

12 Mr. Sarazen

13 Matures

19 Speliologists' concern

22 Inhabitant of Yemen

24 Liquid assets

25 Memento

27 Peach State's Bavaria?

28 Pointed arch

29 Reawaken

31 Mrs. McKinley

33 Japanese elder statesmen

34 Vow

37 Promotion of religious unity

40 Ernie of the PGA

42 Dressed

45 6th MCG president

48 Send forth

52 Teacher

54 Shin bone

55 Serpents

56 Thyself

57 Allot

59 Deride

60 6th Jewish month

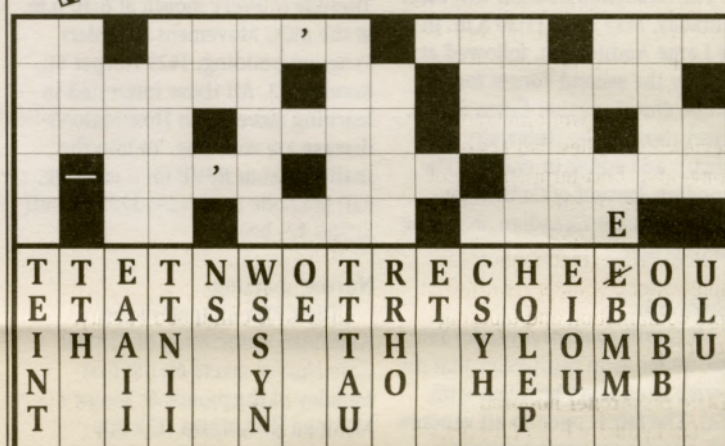
61 Anti-drug acronym

63 Free

65 Dandy

Solution p. 15

## QUOTATION BUZZLE



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— Muhammad Ali

**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 15.

## B-SQUARED

S	R	RA	G	D
I	EO	I	E	IS
MA	B	T	S	IA
G	TA	YL	NO	S
NE	LL	R	AN	KA

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Four related words or phrases, and a fifth word or phrase describing their relationship, are hidden in the diagram above. Find them by choosing one square from each column, left to right, to spell the entries. Letters in each square are used only once, so cross off each square as you use it. The theme word or phrase (which has 6 letters) is started on line 1.

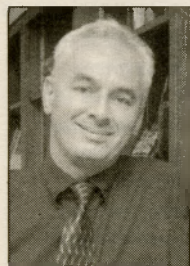
Answers: p. 15

THE BEEPER CROSSWORD PUZZLE IS ONLINE: [WWW.GRAPHIC365.COM/CROSSWORD.HTML](http://WWW.GRAPHIC365.COM/CROSSWORD.HTML)

# Milestones

## Dr. Buckley named inaugural chair

Dr. Peter F. Buckley, chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior, has been named inaugural chair of the National Institutes of Health's Interventions Committee for Schizophrenia



**Dr. Buckley**

The 15-member committee of the National Institute of Mental Health reviews grant applications to the institute to fund innovative treatment protocols for schizophrenia and related disorders.

Committee work includes reviewing studies that assess long- and short-term efficacy of treatments, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness, comparative studies of alternative treatments, new applications of older treatments and combination and tapering interventions.

## Taste researcher honored

Dr. Lynnette P. McCluskey, an MCG neuroscientist using taste buds as a model for studying nerve regeneration, has received the 2006 Ajinomoto Award for Young



**Dr. McCluskey**

Investigators in Gustation. She was nominated by former mentor Dr. David Hill, neurobiologist at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, who received the 1996 gustation award. Dr. McCluskey studied with Dr. Hill while earning her Ph.D. in Virginia.

Her studies involve the complex system connecting thousands of taste buds on the tongue and palate with the brain. When communication with the brain is severed, nerves regenerate. She hopes her studies of the system will one day help nerves that are less successful at repair, such as those severed in a spinal cord injury. Her focus is the role the immune system plays in recovery.

## Student receives scholarship

Denise Hodo, an graduate

student, has received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Georgia Public Health Association.

The association is a non-profit corporation that promotes the public and personal health of Georgians. The award encourages students to pursue public health studies and careers.

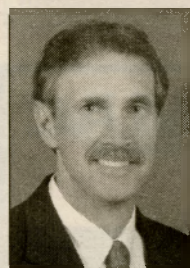
Mrs. Hodo, a public health graduate student from North Augusta, S.C., earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of South Carolina at Aiken. She is a research associate in the Center for Health Care Improvement and a student in MCG's new master of public health program, which began in 2005.

"It was always my goal to complete my master's degree but it took a while to see which type would fit my career," Mrs. Hodo said. "I found this program and it's been a perfect match to what I do. A lot of the classes and information are directly beneficial in doing my job better. I have a better understanding of the research process."

Mrs. Hodo's major research interest is childhood obesity.

## Mr. Roemer named CFO

Dennis R. Roemer, a certified public accountant, has been named senior vice president of finance and chief financial officer at MCG Health, Inc.



**Mr. Roemer**

"Dennis was recruited through a national search process that produced several outstanding candidates. He was selected due to his strong financial planning skills, capital financing experience, revenue cycle enhancement and organizational turnaround skills," said Don Snell, president and chief executive officer.

He joins MCG Health Inc. after serving since 2000 as senior executive vice president and chief financial officer at Cooper Health System in Camden, N.J., where he helped to transform the organization into one of the state's best-performing health systems. Previously, he was a partner in the Cleveland office of KPMG Consulting/Bearing Point, where he provided consultation to major academic medical centers such as the University of Pennsylvania Health System, Duke University

Health System and Temple University Health System.

## Mr. Scott named commission member

Hal Scott, vice president of information services and chief information officer of MCG Health, Inc., has been named a member of the Certification Process Advisory Group of the Certification Commission for Health Information Technology.

Mr. Scott joins the 16-member work group charged with developing an inspection process by which the commission's electronic health records products can be certified. The American Health Information Management Association, Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society and the National Alliance for Health Information Technology formed the commission in 2004 which a year later received a contract from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop, create prototypes for and evaluate the certification criteria and inspection process for electronic health records.

Prior to joining MCG Health, Inc., in 2000, Mr. Scott was chief information officer at the University of Virginia Health System. He earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master's degree in management and supervision from Central Michigan University.

## Obituaries

**Brad Littleton**, 70, a retired nurse anesthetist, died April 20. He worked at MCG from 1971 to 1993.

**Dr. Robert O. Thompson Sr.**, spouse of Carolyn Russell Thompson, died Jan. 28. Ms. Thompson retired from MCG after 30 years of service, the last 19 of which she spent as administrative manager in the Department of Ophthalmology.

**Clara H. Coleman**, 79, a retired laboratory assistant in clinical pathology, died April 28. She worked at MCG from 1961 to 1989.

**Martha O. Betts**, 66, spouse of Dr. Eugene K. Betts, vice chair of anesthesiology/perioperative medicine and chief of pediatric anesthesia in the Children's Medical Center, died March 6.



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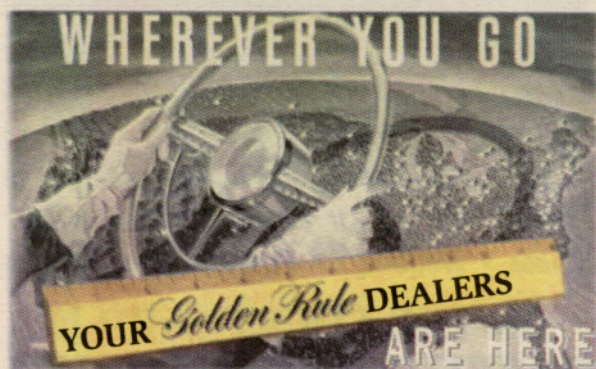
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## Speaker urges personal touch in health care

by Christine Hurley Deriso

She calls it the "duh" factor. Common sense and compassion are vital elements in patient- and family-centered care, according to

Cezanne Garcia of the University of Washington Medical Center. Ms. Garcia visited campus April 19 to discuss the care concept, which she oversees at UW.

"How do we bring forward the

personalized touch [of patient- and family-centered care]?" she said. "It's about innovation, but it's also about the 'duh' factor."

For instance, her hospital's neonatal intensive care unit recently initiated 30-minute bonding sessions enabling parents to cradle their newborns without interruptions from the hospital staff except in cases of emergencies. Another innovation involved welcoming family members into conference rooms for physician rounds. Yet another involves ambulatory and wheelchair-bound patients doing hospital walk-throughs to assess ease of navigation, aesthetic factors and other considerations.

The catch phrase at Ms. Garcia's hospital is "nothing about me without me," acknowledging patients' preeminence in all matters related to their care. UW patients weigh in on everything from hospital signage to furniture, she said.

"Patient- and family-centered care isn't about shifting responsibilities or working harder," said Ms. Garcia. "We are working hard. It's about doing things with patients rather than to them or for them."

She stressed the importance of including family members as part of the health care team. "Loved ones are often the first to notice a change in the patient," she said. "It's about listening, sharing information, giving choices and acknowledging strengths."

She lauded MCG's national reputation in patient- and family-centered care, emphasizing the importance of sharing information and exchanging ideas with other hospitals committed to the concept.

"I've learned a lot from you just during my brief visit here," she said.

Ms. Garcia's lecture in the large auditorium of MCG's Auditoria Center followed Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School's presentation of "The Yellow Boat," a play depicting the hospital experience of an HIV-infected boy with hemophilia. The event was hosted by the MCG Arts Council and the MCG Center for Patient and Family Centered Care.

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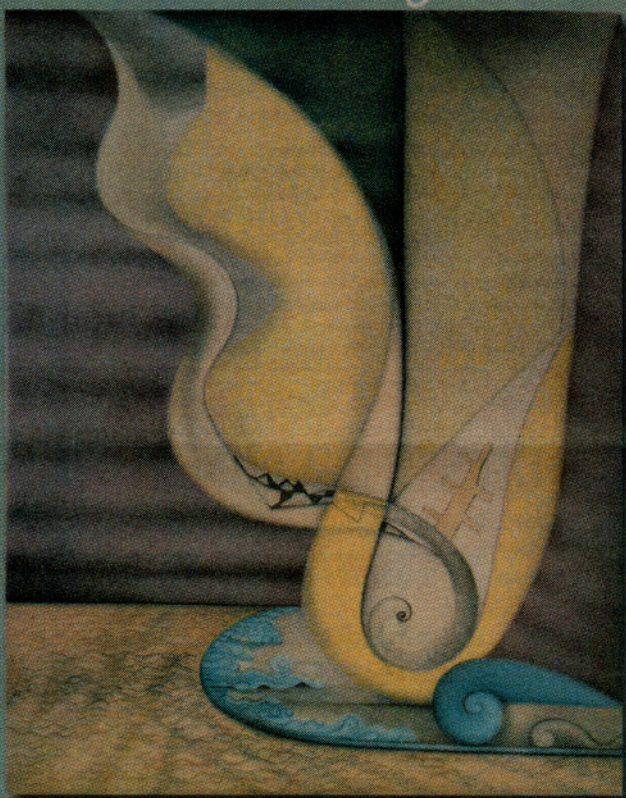
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Maybelle Stamper, *Song by the Sea*, 1958-72. Collection of the estate of Marie Kalman.