the visit 2010
His Holiness the Dalai Lama
Presidential Distinguished Professor
EMORY UNIVERSITY
Welcome

Dear Friend of Emory University:

Uniting the best of Western and Tibetan Buddhist education through science, religion, and mind/body medicine, the Emory-Tibet Partnership is creating a foundation for new discoveries that will expand our understanding of humanity. I am delighted to welcome you to this celebration of the partnership—three days of special events surrounding a visit to our campus from His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, Presidential Distinguished Professor at Emory.

The Dalai Lama joins us this weekend to teach, collaborate, and survey the progress of the Emory-Tibet Partnership, which has been remarkable. Because of our relationship, Emory now offers a wide range of undergraduate courses on Tibetan Buddhism, medicine, language, and culture. We have two highly acclaimed study-abroad programs in Dharamsala, India, and one of the best Tibetan Buddhist Studies graduate programs in North America. And we are in the fourth year of the Robert A. Paul Emory-Tibet Science Initiative, a landmark undertaking to develop and implement a comprehensive and sustainable science education curriculum in Tibetan monastic institutions.

Emory University’s roots are religious, its culture informed by ethics and deliberation, and its minds open to a world of ideas. The Tibetan intellectual and contemplative tradition, led by the Dalai Lama, fosters interdependence, compassion, and peace. Working together, we can bring hope and understanding to people in all parts of the world.

These three days of events celebrating our partnership—highlighted in this book along with thoughtful descriptions of the people and programs that make the Emory-Tibet Partnership unique—promise to touch the heart and mind in memorable ways. We are so fortunate to be here.

Sincerely,

James W. Wagner
President, Emory University
Introduction

The Professor Returns: His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama Visits Emory to Focus on Compassion and New Frontiers in Science

In his first return to campus since being installed as Presidential Distinguished Professor in 2007, His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama will engage with students, scholars, and others regarding issues such as compassion, understanding the concept of happiness, the role of spirituality and creativity in human existence, and new frontiers in science and human nature.

“Even in the most highly developed scientific countries, it is clear that human beings continue to experience suffering, especially at the emotional and psychological level. It is only through the cultivation of the qualities of the human heart and the transformation of our attitudes that we can begin to address and overcome our mental suffering. From the perspective of human well-being, science and spiritually are not unrelated. We need both, since the alleviation of suffering must take place at both the physical and psychological level.”

— The Dalai Lama
The assignment we gave a group of three monks was to imagine a scenario and then describe how the different human organ systems might respond to that scenario. The scene is Dharamsala, India, where I and other Emory University scientists are teaching science to Tibetan monks and nuns, and they are teaching Buddhism to us.

We’ve just spent a day teaching about the different organ systems for respiration, circulation, reproduction, etc.

Kalsang, one of eighty-five monks in the program, steps to the front of the class of thirty other monks and begins to describe the scenario his group came up with. It was this: they imagined they had just learned of Tibetan independence. How would the different organ systems respond to sheer happiness?

As Kalsang continued, outlining what his group thought would happen and responding to questions by his peers, a lump formed momentarily in my throat. As had happened many times in my three years of teaching these same monks, their cultural and religious experiences—so far removed from and foreign to mine—had enriched a seemingly mundane conversation on science.

[From “My Take: Can Mixing Monks and Science Change the World?” by Arri Eisen, professor of pedagogy in biology and the Institute of Liberal Arts, Emory University, June 3, 2010, religion.blogs.cnn.com]
two-way exchange of people and ideas that encompasses culture, philosophy, religion, science, and health. Emory students now have the option of choosing either the semester-long Tibetan Studies in Dharamsala spring program, directed by Tara Doyle, or a six-week summer program that focuses on Buddhist contemplative science and Tibetan medicine.

For young Tibetan students, the recently established Tenzin Gyatso Fellowship, in honor of His Holiness, gives individuals an opportunity to earn a degree at Emory every four years. An exchange program—cofacilitated by Emory’s Center for International Programs Abroad, the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics, and the partnership—enables another Tibetan student to study at Emory as well. In fall 2010, six monks who have been part of the Robert A. Paul Emory-Tibet Science Initiative are attending Emory to study neuroscience, biology, and physics with the support of the Tenzin Gyatso Institute. (See page 16 for a profile of one of the monks, Kunjo Bajii.)

Pushing Back the Boundaries of Current Knowledge and Serving Communities

The exchange of ideas, scholars, and students has led to new ideas and interdisciplinary research agendas that push the boundaries of current knowledge. For example, Geshe Lobsang Tenzin Negi in Emory College and Charles Raison in the School of Medicine have spent the past five years collaborating on a study of cognitive-based compassion meditation. The results are encouraging. Already they have seen a correlation between the practice of compassion meditation and the reduction of stress and depression levels in students.

Most recently, Raymond Schinazi, director of Emory’s Laboratory of Biochemical Pharmacology, and Tibetan doctors from the Central University for Tibetan Studies in Sarnath, India, have begun a collaboration to conduct scientific research on Tibetan medicinal compounds to investigate their possible antiviral and anticancer properties.

Harvesting the results of these studies and sharing the benefits with others is another goal of the partnership. The promising results of the compassion meditation study are now being offered as a service to the Emory community and beyond. “What we are learning about the changes that take place in the body and the brain is very encouraging—it is never too late to develop new skills,” says Negi.

“Emory is certainly at the forefront of a revolution in knowledge,” he says. “We are bringing cognitive neuroscience and other Western disciplines in dialogue with contemplative traditions to explore the inner workings of the mind-body connection and how destructive emotions can be transformed for individual healing and social well-being.”

The Atlanta community is certainly benefitting from the partnership. Throughout the year, leading scholars visit Atlanta to talk about issues related to Tibetan Buddhism, medicine, and the scientific study of contemplative practices.

Emory’s annual Tibet Week—featuring films, lectures, art, and other exhibits and events—provides another unique opportunity for the Emory and Atlanta communities to experience firsthand the diverse dimensions of Tibetan Buddhist culture.

In the aforementioned blog posting for CNN, Emory biology professor Arri Eisen asked the question if mixing monks and science can change the world. While we can only anticipate how the Emory-Tibet Partnership will benefit humanity in the long run, we can answer definitively that the connection has created wonderful, lasting rewards for Emory and the Tibetan community. Learn more at tibet.emory.edu.

“I have long believed in and advocated a dialogue and cross-fertilization between science and spirituality, as both are essential for enriching human life and alleviating suffering on both individual and global levels. The Emory-Tibet Science Initiative has a unique opportunity to fulfill this need and thus make a contribution not only to the Emory and Tibetan communities, but to the world at large, by expanding the horizons of human knowledge and wisdom.”

—The Dalai Lama
The Robert A. Paul Emory-Tibet Science Initiative: A Landmark Undertaking for the Convergence of Science and Spirituality

We live in a time when unified action is more crucial than ever, wrote His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama in an op-ed for the *New York Times* (May 24, 2010). “As a species, we must embrace the oneness of humanity as we face global issues like pandemics, economic crises and ecological disaster. At that scale, our response must be as one.”

Among the many historic steps the Dalai Lama has taken to unify cultures is the Robert A. Paul Emory-Tibet Science Initiative (ETSI). In 2006, Geshe Lhakdor—who oversees programs for monastic science education as director of the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives—visited Emory to request help in developing and implementing a comprehensive science program for Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns.

The invitation was met with an enthusiastic response from both Emory’s administration and science faculty. “This is an exciting initiative, possibly one of the most exciting initiatives that the University could be part of,” said Robert A. Paul, then dean of Emory College, who convened the first meeting to discuss the collaboration. “The Emory-Tibet Partnership was established with the intention that it be a two-way exchange of people and ideas. Emory’s potential involvement in the science education project will help us to fully realize that idea.”

Now in its third year, ETSI rapidly has expanded the horizons of knowledge for both monastics and Western scholars. Emory’s commitment to creating an ongoing and sustainable program realizes His Holiness’s vision of a comprehensive science education within the monastic curriculum. It is also evidence of Emory’s courageous leadership and bold vision of transformation through knowledge. By bringing together the tools of modern science with time-tested Buddhist contemplative knowledge, more can be done to help relieve suffering around the world.

Under the joint direction of Preetha Ram, associate dean for pre-health and science education at Emory College of Arts and Sciences, and Geshe Lobsang Tenzin Negi, director of the Emory-Tibet Partnership, ETSI involves more than two dozen Emory faculty from various scientific disciplines and seven full-time translators—three at Emory and four at the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives in Dharamsala, India. The initiative already has led to six completed science textbooks in Tibetan and English, with two more textbooks in various stages of completion. In addition, three bilingual science primers have been completed and, after six years, a total of ten textbooks and fifteen primers will have been published and distributed. To complement the main course books, supplementary materials such as the book *Brain Facts* by the Society of Neuroscience have been translated into Tibetan. Further supplementary materials also will be translated in the future to create a rich body of Tibetan-language science materials for the curriculum.

To help in the translation process (e.g., introducing words such as *electromagnetism* and *cloning* into the Tibetan lexicon), Emory has organized and hosted the first and second International Conference on Science Translation into Tibetan. Currently the program draws from native Tibetan instructors to develop and teach mathematics to the monastic students, a necessary prerequisite for their study of science. The aim is that eventually indigenous science teachers will be cultivated from within the Tibetan monasteries and nunneries so that the program becomes self-sustaining and reaches more than 20,000 monks and nuns throughout India and Nepal.

Emory University takes great pride in being able to help fulfill one of His Holiness’s most cherished dreams of implementing comprehensive science education in the core Tibetan monastic curriculum. The Dalai Lama has guided the process at every step of the way and even personally contributed funds toward the creation of an ETSI endowment. In the message accompanying his first gift, he wrote, “In just the last three years, the Emory-Tibet Science Initiative has made notable progress. However, it is a large and far-sighted project that will require significant resources to ensure its success and sustainability. I am therefore happy to make a contribution of $50,000 toward this important work at Emory and urge others also to lend their support to this unique and meaningful undertaking.” His Holiness followed up this initial gift with a further gift of $50,000 in May 2010.

When Robert A. Paul completed his term as dean of Emory College in spring 2010, the University honored him for his visionary leadership by renaming the initiative the “Robert A. Paul Emory-Tibet Science Initiative.”
Tibetan Studies:
At Emory and Abroad

Thanks to growing resources and relationships, Emory University has developed one of North America’s leading programs in Tibetan Buddhist studies during the past two decades. Throughout the University, scholars and students have unparalleled access to Western-trained faculty conducting groundbreaking research, to a traditionally trained Geshe (the highest Tibetan monastic degree), to visiting distinguished Tibetan scholars, as well as language courses, study-abroad programs, and diverse library holdings. Established relationships with Tibetan institutions of higher learning such as the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics (IBD) and the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives have deepened over the years, creating even more exciting opportunities.

Innovative Research and Teaching

In the areas of Tibetan Buddhist philosophy and contemplative practices, Emory has developed academic programs that highlight the strengths of the faculty and Emory community as a whole.

Geshe Lobsang Tenzin Negi, a senior lecturer in the Department of Religion, directs the Emory-Tibet Partnership and codirects the Robert A. Paul Emory-Tibet Science Initiative with Preetha Ram, associate dean for pre-health and science education at Emory College of Arts and Sciences. After studying at the IBD, Negi earned his PhD at Emory’s Institute of Liberal Arts, becoming one of the few individuals in the world to hold both a PhD and Geshe degree. As such, he is an ideal liaison between Emory and Tibetan institutions of learning. While teaching courses on Buddhist psychology and philosophy, mind/body medicine, and the interface of Buddhist thought and modern science, he also conducts a number of scientific studies on compassion meditation.

John Dunne, an associate professor in the Department of Religion, cofounded the Emory Collaborative for Contemplative Studies, which spans not only religion but psychology, psychiatry, anthropology, nursing, and public health. His work focuses on various aspects of Buddhist philosophy and contemplative practice, and on the intersection of science and religion. His current research includes an inquiry into the notion of “mindfulness” in both classical Buddhist and contemporary contexts, and he is also engaged in a study of Candrakirti’s Prasannapada (The Clear-Worded), a major Buddhist philosophical work on the metaphysics of “emptiness.”

Sara McClintock, an assistant professor in the Department of Religion, teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism. Her interests include both narrative and philosophical Buddhist traditions, with a particular focus on issues of metaphysics, hermeneutics, and rhetoric. Her new book, Omniscience and the Rhetoric of Reason: Santaraksita and Kamalasila on Rationality, Argumentation, and Religious Authority, examines the thinking of two influential Buddhist thinkers who helped spread Buddhist traditions into Tibet. Her current research centers on the intersection of philosophical and literary conceptions of time and timelessness in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism.

Activism among young Tibetan refugees in India is a current research focus of Tara Doyle, a senior lecturer in the Department of Religion and director of the Tibetan study program, who teaches undergraduate courses in Buddhism,
Hinduism, and Tibetan culture. Other research interests include Hindu-Buddhist pilgrimage sites in South Asia, socially engaged Buddhism, and Buddhism among the Dalit community. On campus, Doyle has organized Tibetan film festivals, music concerts, arts activities, and a major photography exhibition from the Tibet Museum in Dharamsala.

As an adjunct faculty member at Emory, Tsepak Rigzin currently teaches three levels of Tibetan language classes. Since 2006, he has been a scholar-in-residence, translator, and Tibetan language instructor at Drepung Loseling Monastery in Atlanta. Previously, he was a leading translator-scholar at the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives in Dharamsala. For more than a decade, he served as rector, principal, and education officer of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration in New Delhi, India.

Emory’s Tibetan Studies programs are strongly supported by Emory Libraries. Subject librarian Tim Bryson overcame challenges in adding to the collection: learning the language sufficiently to catalog the items in Tibetan and preparing the long, narrow “pecha” manuscripts for shelves designed for the traditional Western codex. EUCLID—Emory’s collections database—shows more than 3,400 items relevant to Tibetan studies on the shelves and about 14,000 texts online (full access to these materials is available to Ashmark on the shelves and about 14,000 texts online (full access to these materials is available to

Unique Study-Abroad Opportunities
Undergraduate education is greatly enhanced by Emory’s study-abroad program in Dharamsala, situated in the foothills of the Himalayas and capital of the Tibetan exile community. Thanks to Emory’s partnership with IBD and the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, students from across the U.S. experience a culturally rich environment with leading figures in the community, including His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama. “I can absolutely say the students who go on this program have some of the most profound experiences of any students who study abroad,” says Philip Wainwright, associate dean for summer and international programs.

Students from accredited universities have a choice of two study-abroad programs. The nationally acclaimed spring semester Tibetan Studies Program, led by Tara Doyle since 2001, weaves together rigorous academic study, field research, cultural immersion, and contemplative practice. Students live with IBD roommates and Tibetan families, attend private classes with important Buddhist teachers, conduct field research, and participate in numerous Tibetan and Indian cultural events. Since its beginning in 2001, the program has hosted 123 students from more than forty institutions and will be celebrating its tenth anniversary during the Dalai Lama’s visit, as well as in Dharamsala this spring. Launched in summer 2009, the five-week, intensive Emory Tibetan Mind/Body Sciences Program, directed by Geshe Lobsang Tenzin Negi, is an immersion program that offers students the opportunity to engage with researchers at the forefront of the growing dialogue between Tibetan Buddhism and modern science. In conjunction with the Emory-Tibet Science Initiative, students study Buddhist philosophy, culture, contemplative practice, and Tibetan medicine while actively engaging in dialogue with Tibetan monks and nuns studying neuroscience, biology, and physics.

Tibetan Culture in the Emory Community
In addition to these academic strengths, Emory supports a range of complementary activities designed to increase awareness and understanding of Tibetan culture among students and the wider community. Thanks to a grant from The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation, and under the direction of Sara McClintock and other Tibetan Studies faculty, distinguished Tibetan scholars and artists regularly visit Emory’s campus to teach courses and offer programs to the public.

““It seems quite fitting that we will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of the spring Tibetan Studies Program during the visit of His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, especially given his yearly participation and unwavering support.”
—Tara Doyle, director of the Tibetan Studies Program

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In spring 2011, Emory will host traditional Tibetan folk singer Techung (above, middle) as he teaches courses, leads a Tibetan music ensemble, and performs in a variety of contexts, including in Decatur schools. During Emory’s annual Tibet Week, Sonam Dhargye, a traditional Tibetan butter sculptor, will visit Emory thanks to the Rubin grant. With additional support from the Michael C. Carlos Museum and others, Emory will host a major exhibition from the Rubin Museum of Art on the theme of mandalas in 2012. This exhibition, titled “Mandala: Sacred Circle in Tibetan Buddhism,” will be accompanied by courses on the traditional theory and practice of mandala creation and symbolism, as well as a variety of public events.

“I look forward to seeing this vision for Tibetan studies at Emory leave an indelible mark on humanity both intellectually and scientifically.”
—Tsepak Rigzin
Each year the Emory-Tibet Partnership hosts scholars from Dharamsala, India, as part of an educational exchange program. Private financial support funds this exchange, which strengthens education on two continents.

In many ways, Tibetan monk Kunjo Baiji is like most Emory students. He finds his studies rewarding and wants to share what he learns with friends back home. Unlike other Emory students, his biggest challenge so far has been in the kitchen rather than the classroom.

“When I cook, I’m a little scared because I make a bit of smoke,” he said. Because the other Tibetan monks who came to Emory as Tenzin Gyatso Institute Science Scholars were delayed by visa challenges in Dharamsala, he was the first to arrive this fall. Left alone in his Atlanta apartment, he had to learn the conveniences of an American kitchen. The stove—and the smoke detector—provided his first experiments.

He hopes to have more success cooking up experiments in the lab. The Robert A. Paul Emory-Tibet Science Initiative gives him and the other science scholars the opportunity to pursue their passion. (Pictured above with His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, clockwise from the right, are Sherub Tenzin, Ngawang Norbu, Lodoe Sangpo, Thabkhe, Gelek Gyatso, and Kunjo Baiji.)

Kunjo Baiji first learned about the scholarship program when he attended an Emory science and leadership workshop in India. For the past three years, he has continued his studies in life sciences, neuroscience, and physics with Emory professors and students in Dharamsala.

While on campus, the Tenzin Gyatso Institute Science Scholars will work with American students to refine their meditation abilities, and they will be part of an intensive science research project. At the conclusion of their nine months here, Emory will have prepared them to be better teachers.

To support Tibetan scholars who inform the Emory community while studying Western science, visit campaign.emory.edu/Tibet.
Emory’s study-abroad programs provide students a full-immersion experience in Tibetan culture, language, and philosophy. Gifts from private donors make these programs possible.

Emory senior Blair Davis Burgess III became aware of the crisis in Tibet the first time he stepped onto the Emory University campus. At a dinner, someone asked what he thought of the Tibet-China conflict. The Florence, Alabama, native apologized, said he didn’t know much about it, and asked if someone could explain. “I remember it so clearly,” he said. “The host looked around the table and asked if people wanted to finish their meal first before they tackled such an unhappy subject.” Burgess encouraged her to continue, she told him more, and she added that His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama would visit the campus that year. He was intrigued.

By the time of the Dalai Lama’s visit, Burgess had joined Students for a Free Tibet and wanted very much to meet His Holiness. Sure enough, the Dalai Lama took time to meet with each member of the group. “He touched my face when we met,” Burgess said. “I thought it was awesome.” Only two months into his Emory education, he already had a college experience that would change the direction of his life.

The opportunities at Emory to learn about Tibetan Buddhism, language, culture, and medicine are unparalleled in the West, so Burgess decided to enroll in a few classes taught by Tibetan scholars. He initially considered going to Spain or South America to boost his Spanish skills, but his exposure to Tibetan culture changed his study-abroad goals. Instead, the political science and math major enrolled in the first undergraduate class to participate in the Emory Tibetan Mind/Body Sciences Study Abroad program in Dharamsala, the heart of the Tibetan exile community in India.

The highly acclaimed six-week program gave Burgess a unique opportunity to study Tibetan culture and mind-body sciences from some of the world’s best teachers. He worked alongside monks and was offered a chance to tutor his Tibetan classmates in basic science. He helped them create a science presentation for the community. Now he considers his study-abroad experience the highlight of his academic career. Seeing the monks’ dedication to academic excellence and meditating alongside them gave him a whole new approach to his own education. Instead of merely memorizing facts and studying to pass tests, he seeks a more solid foundational knowledge—with an open mind and heart that will guide him well beyond his college years.

To support students who are enriched by this singular Emory experience, visit campaign.emory.edu/Tibet.
Joni Winston

The Emory-Tibet Partnership shares its life-changing knowledge with communities outside the campus gates. Private gifts expand the partnership’s reach.

Atlantan Joni Winston began meditating regularly about seven years ago, and the practice changed her whole view of the world. “I felt like I had been wearing sunglasses in a dark room and all of a sudden they were taken off,” she said. “I could see so much more clearly after I’d meditate. I could sleep better. I was much more calm and at peace.” She would love for others to experience its benefits. In her view, “The world would be a much happier place.”

Winston has no personal connection to Emory, but when she first learned the Dalai Lama was coming to campus a few years ago, she knew she had to get involved. The Wisconsin-born philanthropist has a particular interest in health and wellness issues. When she learned that one focus of the Emory-Tibet Partnership was to bridge the gap between the work of the inner mind in Tibetan culture and the scientific method of the West, she became enamored of the program. Her generous gift to the Emory-Tibet Partnership helped expand its research into preventive health and meditation—turning Emory into a leading center for the scientific study of meditation and Tibetan medicine. Emory also is pioneering the study of compassion meditation to treat depression, earning a prestigious National Institutes of Health grant.

Winston particularly appreciates that Emory researchers have been able to take the program beyond the campus. Through the Emory-Tibet Partnership, the University offers contemplative programs to area schools, hospitals, and underserved populations in Atlanta. To her, this outreach makes perfect sense. “We teach kids math and sciences and literature, but we don’t really teach them compassion or self-awareness—things that would benefit everyone for a lifetime,” she said. “Not everyone is going to be good at math or literature, but everyone can benefit from meditation.”

She also likes the idea that Emory lends its distinguished science talent and its solid reputation in the field to help provide empirical evidence of meditation’s positive impact. And she is excited by the possibilities of Emory’s link to Tibetan scholars, who have been so generous in sharing their knowledge with Emory students.

To help fund the Emory-Tibet Partnership’s lecture series and its compassion meditation research and outreach programs, visit campaign.emory.edu/Tibet.
The Emory-Tibet Partnership attracts some of the world’s most respected scholars, who are collaborating to forge a new understanding of our common humanity. Support from private donors fuels this creative work.

While working on a PhD, Arri Eisen realized he didn’t want to run a lab or teach in a traditional science program. So when his undergraduate adviser moved to Emory University about twenty years ago, Eisen jumped at the chance to follow him to the campus and pursue some of its unique cross-disciplinary opportunities.

As a professor of pedagogy in biology at the Institute of Liberal Arts and the Emory Center for Ethics, he has created a range of classes that explore the connections between science and art, science and society, and science and religion. His goal as an educator is to advance the mission of a true liberal arts education by engaging both the heart and mind. Only by working collaboratively across disciplines can scholars solve some of the world’s most complex problems—issues such as racism or poverty.

Eisen took that belief one step further, becoming one of the founding faculty members of the Robert A. Paul Emory-Tibet Science Initiative. Several years ago His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama asked Emory to develop a modern science curriculum that eventually would become part of the centuries-old curriculum taught in Tibetan monasteries. For the past three years, Eisen and several Emory colleagues have traveled to Dharamsala to introduce monks and nuns with little formal science education to the complexities of physics, life science, neuroscience, basic math, teaching instruction, and leadership lessons. Although the students in India are a little older than Emory students, they are similar in their hunger for knowledge. Says Eisen, “After you get to know them better, it doesn’t feel so weird to have a room full of thirty-year-old students in robes all staring up at you as they sit on the floor and listen to your lessons.”

To Eisen, Emory’s landmark effort to bring together two schools of thought—Tibetan Buddhism and twenty-first-century science—serves as a productive form of globalization, one that has been beneficial to both cultures. The monks and nuns he teaches eventually will become the community’s leaders in the two disciplines. Through its work with these monasteries, Emory has become a leading center for the scientific study of meditation, Tibetan medicine, philosophy, and religion in the West.

To help fund scholarships, professorships, fellowships, and travel for scholars from two continents, visit campaign.emory.edu/Tibet.
Geshe Lobsang Tenzin Negi and Robert A. Paul

The Emory-Tibet Partnership has made Emory a leading center for study of Tibetan philosophy and religion in the West. Private philanthropy is central to its success.

In 1991, Lobsang Tenzin Negi was a young Tibetan Buddhist monk who had arrived at a crossroads. He was moving to Atlanta, where he would oversee development of the first North American seat of India’s renowned Drepung Loseling Monastery.

When Negi sought the Dalai Lama’s blessing to go to America, His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama emphasized that the new center should be educational rather than monastic. He also wanted Negi, who was completing his Geshe studies—the monastic equivalent of a PhD—to make use of the move to study the Western science of the mind.

Negi was able to do so when he gained acceptance into the graduate program of Emory’s Institute of Liberal Arts. As an Emory graduate student, he discovered that his Western teacher, Robert A. Paul, would help shape his direction in the world of modern science as surely as the Dalai Lama did in all matters pertaining to Tibetan Buddhism.

Paul was an ideal mentor, with knowledge of both Western and Tibetan models of the mind. Now the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Studies, Paul had engaged in fieldwork among the Sherpa people in Nepal in the late 1960s on his way to earning a doctorate in cultural anthropology. His professional interests included psychoanalysis, religion, myth, and ritual.

Whether it was fate, luck, or karma, the collaboration between the monk and the professor would go much further than anyone could have expected. Negi received his Geshe and PhD degrees—a rare achievement in higher education—and became a senior lecturer in Emory’s Department of Religion. As a liaison between Emory and the Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Negi helped formalize agreements leading to the Emory-Tibet Partnership, which he directs.

The partnership has led to the acceptance of the Dalai Lama as a Distinguished Professor on the Emory faculty and the creation of a science initiative that brings monastics and scientists into close dialogue. Paul, who led Emory College of Arts and Sciences as dean for nearly a decade, says the Emory-Tibet Partnership is groundbreaking. “It has exceeded our wildest dreams. The study of health, the mind, and the body is on the frontier of thought that is going to be one of the most transformative academic enterprises of our age.”

When Paul stepped down as dean in spring 2010, the college faculty matched the Dalai Lama’s gift of $50,000 to name the Robert A. Paul Emory-Tibet Science Initiative in his honor.

To help create a foundation for new discoveries that will expand our understanding of humanity, visit campaign.emory.edu/Tibet.
Tsondue Samphel

Each year, Emory scholars produce a two-volume bilingual science textbook on neuroscience, biology, and physics. Private donors can help fund this project, which is part of the Robert A. Paul Emory-Tibet Science Initiative.

A pioneer of the Emory-Tibet Partnership, Tsondue Samphel was the first Tibetan student to enroll at Emory as part of a new student-exchange program that began in fall 2002. When he graduated with a degree in physics four years later, he was among the first students and scholars to join the newly christened Emory-Tibet Science Initiative.

Samphel’s background and experience are invaluable to the project. He was born in India to Tibetan parents who fled their homeland in 1959, the same year as did His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama. When Tsondue was eight years old, his family moved to Dharamsala so that his father could accept an appointment in the exile Tibetan Parliament. In high school, Samphel studied Western science—biology, physics, and the theories of evolution and relativity. Eventually he enrolled in the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics and became immersed in the world of monastic knowledge and contemplation.

These days he is busy translating science materials prepared by Emory faculty for use in a teaching project with monks and nuns. Leading a team of translators, he helps to develop Tibetan versions of the syllabus, class materials, handouts, and tests. Eventually the team will have translated a total of ten textbooks and fifteen primers that will be published and distributed throughout Buddhist monasteries and convents in India.

Samphel feels that the time is right for monastics to learn more about science. The Tibetan community has been successful in preserving its traditional culture, but so much can be learned to enhance the Buddhist worldview. Because science is empirically based, it fits well with the rigorous Buddhist intellectual approach. At the same time, he understands that the science community can learn from the Buddhist understanding of the mind with its detailed descriptions of mental functions and approaches to emotion, particularly to overcoming destructive emotions.

There may be more firsts in Samphel’s future. He plans to enroll in a doctoral program and eventually return to Dharamsala. He considers his life’s work to be developing and expanding scientific vocabulary and literature in Tibetan, enriching the secular literature of his people, and contributing to the modernization efforts of Tibetan language. In the meantime, he has blazed a path at Emory that has raised the bar high for future exchange students.

To support scholars as they create new resources for this unique science education program, visit campaign.emory.edu/Tibet.
The Teaching: The Nature and Practice of Compassion
Cohosted by Drepung Loseling Monastery in Atlanta

Sunday, October 17, 2010 | 9:45–11:15 a.m. | Woodruff Physical Education Center

His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama will begin his three-day visit at Emory by giving a teaching on the nature and practice of compassion as understood in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. This teaching will serve as a backdrop to the entire visit, which explores the subject of compassion from a variety of angles, disciplines, and traditions. Intended for the general public, the teaching was requested by Drepung Loseling Monastery in Atlanta, the North American seat of Drepung Loseling Monastery in India.

When the Emory-Tibet Partnership was formed in 1998, it was grounded in the affiliation between Emory University and the India-based Drepung Loseling Monastery, one of the greatest of the ancient Tibetan monastic universities. The Dalai Lama, who presided over the ceremony, said at the time, “I believe this is a historic moment, to see the forging of a relation between two very eminent academic institutions which represent the best of both the Tibetan tradition and the Western academic tradition.”

The Drepung Loseling Monastery has a long, distinguished legacy. More than seventy years before Columbus set foot in North America, the monastery was established in Lhasa, Tibet, to carry on the scholarly traditions of the great monastic universities of India. Its renown spread throughout Central Asia, and it came to be known as the “Nalanda of Tibet”—a reference to India’s greatest ancient seat of Buddhist learning and the one-time home of the illustrious philosophers Nagarjuna and Dharmakirti. At its zenith, Drepung was the largest monastery in the world, with more than 10,000 monks.
Scholars and translators from Drepung Loseling’s faculty teach various Emory courses in Tibetan language and provide invaluable expertise in translating and editing the science materials produced by the Emory-Tibet Science Initiative. The monastery has played an instrumental role in launching and sustaining Emory’s well-known research on cognitive-based compassion meditation. It also helps to bring leading scholars from the Tibetan community in exile to teach courses in Tibetan philosophy, religion, and medicine as part of the University’s Distinguished Tibetan Visiting Scholars program.

Providing comprehensive education and training in Tibetan Buddhist philosophy, psychology, and meditation for personal transformation and social well-being

Drepung Loseling rapidly has established itself as one of the premier Buddhist study and practice centers in North America with a full range of courses at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels. It seeks to maintain a balance of study and practice by offering weekly teaching and meditation sessions, regular extended retreats, and a specially designed curriculum in Tibetan Buddhist philosophy, psychology, and meditation.

In addition to a strong and dedicated resident faculty who offer year-round teachings and guidance, Drepung Loseling also frequently hosts some of the most highly attained masters of the tradition. These include the 100th Ganden Tripa Rinpoche, Kyabje Locho Rinpoche, Ganden Tripa Kyabje Rizong Rinpoche, and the current Sharpa Choeje Rinpoche, to name a few.

The monastery also seeks to foster interreligious and interdisciplinary understanding through its Traditions in Dialogue Lecture Series, which brings experts in philosophy, medicine, science, and varying religious traditions together to speak on contemporary issues and to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of different traditions.

Helping to share and preserve Tibet’s unique culture to promote global peace, healing, and understanding

Drepung Loseling’s famed Mystical Arts of Tibet tours have traveled to all fifty states and to many countries during the past eighteen years, bringing the message of wisdom and compassion to hundreds of thousands of people through their Sacred Music Sacred Dance performances, mandala sand paintings, lectures, and workshops. These tours fulfill three basic goals: promoting world peace and healing; raising awareness of the plight of Tibetans and their commitment to a nonviolent resolution through the Dalai Lama’s leadership; and generating much-needed funds to help sustain Drepung Loseling Monastery in India as it strives to preserve the endangered Tibetan culture in exile. This latter goal is also supported by a number of designated fund-raising programs operated by the Atlanta-based Drepung Loseling that are focused on education, food, health care, and education for monks and nuns. The monastery also operates a small online store, Tibetan Traditions, which sells Tibetan cultural and Dharma-related items.
Interfaith Summit on Happiness: Understanding and Promoting Happiness in Today’s Society
Sunday, October 17, 2010 | 1:30–3:30 p.m. | Woodruff Physical Education Center

“Harmony among the major faiths has become an essential ingredient of peaceful coexistence in our world,” wrote His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama in a recent New York Times editorial. “From this perspective, mutual understanding among these traditions is not merely the business of religious believers—it matters for the welfare of humanity as a whole.”

In this interfaith summit, the Dalai Lama leads a public conversation with other world religious leaders from Christianity, Judaism, and Islam on how these Abrahamic traditions define happiness, what they hold in common, and their greatest points of difference. Joining the Dalai Lama are Katharine Jefferts Schori, the twenty-sixth presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church; Lord Jonathan Sacks, chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth; and Seyyed Hossein Nasr of George Washington University, a world-renowned scholar on Islam. Krista Tippett, host and producer of the award-winning public radio program Krista Tippett on Being (formerly, Speaking of Faith), will moderate.

The Center for the Study of Law and Religion is copresenting this event as the capstone of its multiyear research project on the pursuit of happiness and as part of a one-day academic conference at Emory School of Law titled “The Pursuit of Happiness in Interreligious Perspective.”

Katharine Jefferts Schori was elected presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church in June 2006. She serves as chief pastor and primate to the Episcopal Church’s members in sixteen countries and 110 dioceses. She joins with other principal bishops of the thirty-eight member provinces of the worldwide Anglican Communion, seeking to make common cause for global good and reconciliation.

During the course of her nine-year term, Bishop Jefferts Schori has been responsible for initiating and developing policy for the Episcopal Church and speaks on behalf of the church regarding the policies, strategies, and programs authorized by the General Convention.

Jonathan Sacks has been chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth since September 1991. Prior to taking up his current post, Sacks was principal of Jews’ College, as well as rabbi of the Golders Green and Marble Arch synagogues. At the time of his installation, Sacks launched a “Decade of Jewish Renewal,” which led to a series of innovative projects to enhance Jewish community life. Sacks received the Jerusalem Prize in 1995 for his contribution to diaspora Jewish life; he was knighted by the queen of England in 2005 and was made a life peer in 2009.

Seyyed Hossein Nasr is one of the world’s leading experts on Islamic science and spirituality. Author of more than fifty books and 500 articles, Nasr is a highly respected intellectual figure in both the West and the Islamic world. He has trained many generations of students since 1958, when he was a professor at Tehran University.

He has taught in America since the Iranian revolution in 1979, specifically at Temple University until 1984 and at George Washington University since that time. An important aspect to Nasr’s intellectual activities in Washington is his involvement as board chair of the Foundation for Traditional Studies, which is currently developing a major documentary television series on Islam and the West.

Host and producer of the Peabody Award–winning public-radio series Krista Tippett on Being, Tippett studied at Brown University and went to West Germany in 1983 on a Fulbright Scholarship to study politics in Cold War Europe. In her twenties, she ended up in divided Berlin for most of the 1980s, writing pieces for the New York Times, Newsweek, the International Herald Tribune, the BBC, and Die Zeit.

Tippett left Berlin in 1988 and pursued an MDiv from Yale. Upon graduation, she saw a black hole where intelligent coverage of religion should be and began to imagine radio conversations about the spiritual and intellectual content of faith that could fire imaginations and enrich public life. Those radio conversations became the Being series that she now hosts to great acclaim.
In the eyes of His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, compassion is our birthright as human beings—a universal human value that cuts across secular and religious divides. Whether in the form of a mother’s care for her baby or someone saving the life of another, compassion is necessary for our survival as individuals and as a species. It may even be so universal as to be shared across species.

Yet, despite its unquestionable importance, we still know relatively little about the nature of compassion and how best to foster it in ourselves and future generations. Is compassion merely a biological given, or is it something that can be developed and nurtured? Various contemplative traditions have emphasized that by actively working on one’s emotions and sense of connection with others, we can create better relationships and a greater sense of peace and happiness for ourselves.

With the advent of technology that can measure the inner workings of the brain, Western scientists exploring the fields of psychology, neuroscience, and medicine are now coming to the same conclusions. “We are learning what the mind is capable of in terms of controlling emotions and preventing depression,” says Robert A. Paul, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Studies. “This kind of meditative practice can be studied and followed whatever your own personal beliefs or denomination.”

Charles Raison, clinical director of the Mind-Body Program and director of the Behavioral Immunology Program in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Emory’s School of Medicine, has codirected a study of socially based meditative techniques in Emory first-year students. “The contemplative traditions of Buddhism tell us about ways to address problems such as depression, and they offer techniques we can borrow to reduce suffering and have happier lives,” he says.

“Recent advances in neuroscience and the development of sophisticated brain imaging machines such as fMRI and EEG are shedding light on the intricate connections between our neurochemistry and emotional and mental states.”

—Geshe Lobsang Tenzin Negi, Director, Emory-Tibet Partnership
Barbara Fredrickson
Kenan Distinguished Professor of Psychology, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill; Director, Positive Emotions and Psychophysiology Laboratory

(Bio and abstract not available at time of printing.)
Conference Participants

Matthieu Ricard
Buddhist monk, photographer, and author

Matthieu Ricard earned a PhD in cell genetics before becoming ordained as a monk in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. An active participant in the Mind and Life Institute, which promotes partnership between Buddhism and modern science, he participates in research at various universities into the effect of meditation on the brain.

Charles Raison
Clinical Director, Mind-Body Program
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Emory University School of Medicine

Charles Raison’s interests range from immune system effects on central nervous system functioning to the application of compassion meditation as a strategy to prevent depressive symptoms in college students via reduction in stress-related inflammatory activity. He serves as principal scientific investigator on a number of ongoing studies on compassion meditation at Emory University.

Geshe Lobsang Tenzin Negi
Senior Lecturer, Department of Religion
Emory University

Geshe Lobsang Tenzin Negi trained at Drepung Loseling Monastery in south India and earned his PhD from Emory in 1999. He serves as spiritual director for Drepung Loseling Monastery in Atlanta and as principal contemplative investigator for Emory’s ongoing research study on the benefits of compassion meditation in reducing depression.

Brendan Ozawa-de Silva
Doctoral Student and Researcher
Emory University

Brendan Ozawa-de Silva received a PhD from Oxford University in 2003 and serves as associate director for Buddhist Studies and Practice at Drepung Loseling Monastery in Atlanta. Now pursuing a second doctorate at Emory, he focuses his research on bridging Buddhist contemplative theory and practice with cognitive science, and he is working to develop pedagogical curricula that facilitate the cultivation of emotional and social intelligence.

Abstract: “Report from the Front Lines: An Update on Health-Relevant Effects of Compassion Meditation from Ongoing Studies at Emory University”

This presentation will present preliminary findings from several ongoing studies of compassion meditation being conducted at Emory University. Raison will present behavioral and physiological findings from a study of compassion meditation conducted in high-risk adolescents in foster care in metropolitan Atlanta. He also will discuss the effects of compassion meditation on real-world daily behavior and the ability to empathize with others, based on findings from the Compassion and Attention Longitudinal Meditation Study.

Abstract: “Essential Elements of Cognitive-Based Compassion Training”

Cognitive-based compassion training (CBCT) is a secular meditation protocol developed by Geshe Lobsang Tenzin Negi, based on the Tibetan Buddhist tradition of lojong (mind training). CBCT, which is now the focus of a number of ongoing scientific studies, employs both focused and analytical meditation techniques to transform the practitioner’s perspective on events and people. Through these techniques, dysfunctional cognitive processes—which lead to destructive emotions and a negative impact on health, well-being, and relationships—gradually give way to more productive cognitive appraisals, specifically those that increase the practitioner’s compassion for self and others. Work is now taking place to isolate the key elements or ingredients of CBCT, so that it can be effectively implemented in an entirely secular way for a wide variety of populations, including children, individuals with Alzheimer’s, and other groups.

Abstract: “Educating the Heart and Mind: Teaching Cognitive-Based Compassion Training to Children”

If compassion and empathy can be cultivated, how early should we begin the process? Inspired by the vision of the Dalai Lama, Emory researchers have been working to translate cognitive-based compassion training (CBCT) into curricula for young children and youth in Georgia’s foster care system in order to teach the cultivation of universal human values, or what His Holiness calls “secular ethics.” This talk will present these efforts to develop a model for an education of heart and mind, share initial results from the programs, and address key questions raised by introducing secular ethics into the classroom.
Emory students, faculty, and staff gather for a town hall–style conversation with the Dalai Lama, Emory’s Presidential Distinguished Professor. Questions representing the breadth and depth of the University’s academic community will be posed by video to the Dalai Lama. President James W. Wagner will guide the conversation, joined by representatives from the campus community, which will include Beth Brandt, president of the Student Government Association; Steve Everett, professor of music and president of the University Senate; Bill Eley, executive associate dean for medical education and student affairs; and Paula G. Gomes, director of the Faculty-Staff Assistance Program.

Thank you to the students, faculty, and staff who submitted their video questions for use during this event.
The Creative Journey:
Artists in Conversation with His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama about Spirituality and Creativity

Tuesday, October 19, 2010  |  1:30–3:30 p.m.  |  Woodruff Physical Education Center

How do the arts help us to express, or perhaps to uncover, our spiritual yearnings, questions, or certainties? What do the artist and the spiritual master have to teach each other from their respective disciplines? Is the human being innately spiritual, innately artistic?

Listen to His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama as he engages in a panel discussion with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker and actor Richard Gere on the relationship among spirituality, creativity, and the arts.

Emory has a strong tradition of examining the role of art in promoting creativity and spirituality for the betterment and education of society. Most recently, Rosemary M. Magee, vice president and secretary of the University, has been exploring the role of creativity and the creative process with noted artists, scholars, scientists, and others in a series of Creativity Conversations (see more on page 44).

Richard Gere

Richard Gere is an internationally renowned film actor, dedicated social activist, and committed philanthropist. For more than twenty-five years, he has worked to bring attention and effective solutions to humanitarian issues rooted in intolerance, injustice, and inequality. Through the Gere Foundation, Gere has served as a longtime advocate of human rights and charitable causes.

Since the early eighties, Gere has been at the forefront of the fight against HIV/AIDS, undertaking a personal campaign against stigma and discrimination associated with the disease. Recently, he has worked with organizations such as the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Naz Foundation to raise awareness and galvanize societal leaders to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India. He launched the Heroes Project in 2002 in partnership with the Avahan AIDS Initiative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Gere also has worked vigorously to protect the human rights and cultural survival of the Tibetan people. He was the cofounder and chair of Tibet House and joined the board of directors of the International Campaign for Tibet to engage both national and international forums of influence more effectively. To bring awareness to the Tibetan crisis, Gere has addressed the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, the U.S. House of Representatives, the European Parliament, and the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva. He has cosponsored four historic visits by the Dalai Lama to New York City and will host his return in 2010.

Alice Walker

Poet, short story writer, novelist, essayist, anthologist, teacher, editor, publisher, womanist, and activist, Alice Walker was born in the town of Ward Chapel, a neighboring community of Eatonton, Georgia. Walker’s first published work of fiction, “To Hell With Dying” (1967), was published when she was just twenty-three years old. It appeared in The Best Short Stories by Negro Writers, edited by Langston Hughes. In 1982, Walker published The Color Purple. For this achievement, Walker was awarded the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (the first African American woman writer to receive this award) and the National Book Award.

Anything We Love Can Be Saved (1997), featuring both essays and letters, is a record of Walker’s activism in which she pays tribute to such figures as Fidel Castro, Salman Rushdie, Audre Lorde, and others. Sent by Earth: A Message from the Grandmother Spirit (2001) is a meditation on the state of the nation and the world following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Through prose and poetry and by summoning such voices as Thich Nhat Hanh, Buddhist monk and peace advocate, Walker provides us with a searing condemnation of war in general and the Iraq war in particular. Walker’s most recent collection of essays is We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For (2006). In these essays and lectures, she pays tribute to the people of Tibet. As a small grant-giving organization, the foundation supports groups dedicated to the cultural preservation of Tibet; to providing HIV/AIDS care, research, and treatment; and to supporting those organizations addressing human rights violations throughout the world.

Gere has received honors from amfAR, Amnesty International, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, OnexOne, and the Harvard AIDS Institute. He is the recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award, the Marian Anderson Award, and the prestigious Humanitarian Award from CARE.

Deepening his commitment to philanthropy, Gere founded the Gere Foundation in 1991. Its mission is to alleviate suffering and advocate for...
Emory University recognizes the importance of fostering a creative campus, a place where the importance of art and innovation across fields is celebrated and shared with the greater community. To support these goals, the University’s Creativity: Art and Innovation program supports activities that strengthen the presence of the arts in classrooms, studios, and both public and unexpected spaces.

A series of engaging Creativity Conversations features Emory scholars, artists, and distinguished guests sharing ideas that contribute to a broader understanding of the arts and creativity in the world today. Every academic discipline and artistic pursuit requires risk taking and the ability to see beyond known boundaries. By sharing how this process works, great thinkers attest to the creative process within each of us and how creativity informs both our work and everyday lives.

Creative Conversations take place live and have found a receptive audience at Emory and beyond. The events often attract standing-room audiences, and the digital versions of the conversations—available on iTunes U and YouTube—reach an international audience.

Please join us as we continue to forge ahead in this transformative enterprise.

The Mandala Sand Painting

Mandala Sand Painting Live Exhibition
Opening Ceremony | Sunday, August 29, 2010 | Noon
Closing Ceremony | Tuesday, October 12, 2010 | 6:30 p.m.

Note: A preserved mandala will be available for viewing during and after The Visit at the Drepung Loseling Prayer Hall located at 1781 Dresden Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30319. Visit www.drepung.org for more information.

In honor of The Visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Drepung Loseling monks have created the Avalokiteshvara Mandala. Avalokiteshvara, or Chenrezig as he is known in Tibetan, is the bodhisattva who embodies the compassion of all Buddhas. Tibetans regard the Dalai Lamas as the incarnations of Chenrezig.

Healing the Earth: Sacred Sand Art of the Tibetan Lamas

A unique and exquisite Tantric Buddhist artistic tradition is that of painting with colored sand. In the Tibetan language, this art form is called dulston kyilkhor, which means “mandala of colored powders.” A mandala is a circle, often enclosing a square, that is a mystical representation of the universe.

The Drepung Loseling monks of the Mystical Arts of Tibet tours consecrate the site of the mandala sand painting during the opening ceremony with chants, music, and mantra recitation. The process begins when the monks draw the line design for the Avalokiteshvara mandala they will create. During a period of three hours, the monks start drawing the line design for the mandala on a flat board that will allow a finished mandala of about five feet square. They create chalk lines on what is essentially a blueprint for the final mandala.

Starting in the middle and working outward, the monks pour millions of grains of sand, one color at a time, from traditional metal funnels called chakpur. Pins are used for the most intricate parts of the design. A wooden scraper called a shinga is used to straighten lines and correct any errors. This process takes three to five days of work. The monks conclude their creation of the mandala with a consecration ceremony.

During the closing ceremony, the monks dismantle the mandala, sweeping up the colored sands to symbolize the impermanence of all that exists. Half the sand is distributed to the audience as blessings for personal health and healing. The remaining sand is carried in a procession by the monks, accompanied by guests, to a flowing body of water. There the sand is poured ceremonially to disperse the healing energies of the mandala throughout the world.

Mandala sand paintings by monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery have been on display at museums across the country, including the Arthur Sackler Gallery in Washington, D.C., and the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.
International Conference on Tibetan Buddhism: Opportunities and Challenges

October 19–20, 2010  |  Emory Conference Center Hotel

After fifty years, the dissemination of Tibetan Buddhism in the modern world is no longer in its infancy, but has reached a crucial intermediate stage. Now that the tradition has established itself and laid down roots outside of traditionally Tibetan Buddhist areas through the efforts of many teachers—particularly His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama—many feel that the time has come for the tradition’s teachers, leaders, and students to consider its future direction with an eye to ensuring that it continues to grow as a beneficial force for the peace, well-being, and happiness of humanity.

This major conference brings together a host of preeminent figures to engage in substantive discussions about the current state of Tibetan Buddhism in the world. In addition to the Dalai Lama, participants include Samdhong Rinpoche, prime minister of the Tibetan government in exile; Gaden Tri Rinpoche, head of the Gelug lineage of Tibetan Buddhism; the Khamba Lama, head of Buddhism in Mongolia; and Lodi Gyari Rinpoche, special envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Panelists will discuss the following opportunities and challenges:

“Tibetan Buddhism’s Encounter with Modern Science”
This session will examine key issues involved in the emerging dialogue between science and Tibetan Buddhism, and will chart a course for how this can best be advanced through research, dialogue, education, and other means. This opening session of the conference will be presided over by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

“Tibetan Buddhism and Social Engagement”
The challenges that humanity faces are more global than ever, whether it be the environment, poverty, overpopulation, war, global health, or other pressing issues. This session will focus on how Tibetan Buddhism can play a positive, socially engaged role alongside other traditions and organizations to improve conditions in the world.

“Translating the Dharma”
Tibetan Buddhism now has spread far beyond traditional Tibetan Buddhist cultures into countries where the Dharma must be conveyed in new languages. This session will assess the current state of translating the Tibetan Buddhist scriptures and how the continued flourishing of the Dharma can be ensured through future translation projects.

“Tibetan Buddhism in the Modern Academy”
This panel discussion will examine where Tibetan Buddhism stands in the modern academy and will consider the pedagogical and institutional dimension of teaching and researching Tibetan Buddhism in a modern academic setting.

“Surviving Modernity in Traditionally Tibetan Buddhist Regions”
What is the future of Tibetan Buddhism in the traditionally Tibetan Buddhist areas of Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, Mongolia, and the Indian Himalayas? This session will consider the challenges faced by traditional Buddhists and the innovative responses they are developing in response.

“Tibetan Buddhism in Modern Western Culture”
This panel will discuss the extent to which Tibetan Buddhism can accommodate the needs, views, and dispositions of people in the modern world while maintaining its integrity and identity.

Venue Rules

Venue

Woodruff Physical Education Center (WoodPEC)

The George W. Woodruff Physical Education Center opened its doors to the Emory community in August 1983. The $20 million physical education center has hosted numerous special events, including the Georgia Special Olympics, presidential addresses (Presidents Carter and Clinton), training for the 1996 Olympic Games, and two previous visits by His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama.

The Visit 2010 is a “zero-waste” event with the goal of diverting 100 percent of recyclable and compostable waste. Please take note of the recycling containers and assist us with this effort. The seat cushions on the bleachers are made from the same foam used to insulate chilled-water pipes on campus and will be recycled for that purpose after the event. Monday’s boxed-lunch option for conference attendees is 100 percent compostable (packaging and all).

Dining Options

A special boxed lunch is available for purchase inside the venue on Monday only for those attending the conference.

On Sunday and Tuesday, we recommend the Cox Hall Food Court (located within easy walking distance of WoodPEC), featuring national brands such as Chick-fil-A and Pizza Hut as well as made-to-order deli sandwiches, Southern cooking, and sushi made fresh daily. If you have Internet access, you can visit emory.edu/dining for more on-campus dining options.
Emory University greatly appreciates the generous financial support received from The Visit 2010 sponsors, patrons, and benefactors listed below.* Their gifts will help further the work of the Emory-Tibet Partnership and Emory-Tibet Science Initiative through Emory College of Arts and Sciences.

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*Our apologies to any sponsor or company not listed above. We included all known event supporters at the time of the program’s printing.

The Visit 2010 Executive Committee
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