The Center is in the process of wrapping up a very productive first semester. CAS Professor of Molecular and Integrative Physiology Benita S. Katzenellenbogen delivered the CAS 11th Professors’ Annual Lecture and Prof. Troy Duster (Sociology, NYU and UC Berkeley) gave the first public lecture in the New Biology initiative. We also inaugurated a new type of public event called CAS Forum on Critical Issues. The idea is to rapidly convene a panel of UIUC faculty from across campus to discuss issues emanating from an important current event. Following hard on the heels of President Bush’s decision to limit federal funding for embryonic stem cell research to existing stem cell lines, we assembled faculty for a public forum on stem cells. After brief presentations by panelists, audience members were invited to spend the rest of the evening directing questions to the speakers. One of the most frequently asked questions, and one that remained unresolved, hinged on an acceptable definition of the origins of life. Clearly, there are no easy answers to this fundamental question, and the responses of the panelists further revealed the very broad spectrum of perspectives of scholars on our campus.

Our second public forum was to be devoted to the issue of human and animal cloning. But the terrible events of September 11 intervened. On our campus, the Chancellor convened a series of public gatherings and many departments organized colloquia for their students and faculty. I strongly believed the Center should take an active role in encouraging and sustaining the type of campus- and community-wide dialogue that is needed to help us all to face these world events. To this end, based upon the premise that a fundamental cause of the tensions leading to September 11th’s terrorist attacks is the clash of religions, economies and cultures arising from ever increasing international interactions, we held a second public forum, called “What is Globalization?” in October. This was essentially the opening session of what I hope will be an initiative of truly major significance to our campus: for Spring 2003, and upon occasion prior to then, the Center will host a series of public discussions around the many underlying themes that appear to have contributed to the events of September 11 and after. One of the goals of CAS is to bring together the impressive multifaceted expertise from all parts of our campus. I wish to take this opportunity to invite anyone who is interested in participating in this special initiative to contact Masumi Iriye, Associate Director at the Center.

In the meantime, business goes on at the Center. In this newsletter I want to bring to your attention the history of two of our major programs: our Release-Time Programs for tenured and pre-tenure faculty, and our George A. Miller Programs of public events and visiting scholars. These programs underscore the Center’s long-term commitment to improving the quality of intellectual life on our campus in two important ways: we support our best faculty by making possible a semester of research free from teaching duties, and our series of public events brings to campus world-class scholars and performing artists to interact with the academic community and community at large.

William T. Greenough
CAS Associate and Fellow Release-Time Appointments

In 1959, the University of Illinois Board of Trustees approved the Center for Advanced Study's charter establishing it to encourage creative achievement and scholarship by providing recognition of and incentives for scholars and creative artists of the highest caliber. The Center's core faculty were originally identified as Members and Associate Members. These were changed to CAS Professors and Associates, respectively, when the charter was amended in 1967. Associates were identified through a UIUC campuswide competition of tenured faculty. In this same year, the Fellows program was initiated to create the designation of some of the outstanding younger appointees as Beckman Associates and Fellows. Because of his own professional experiences, Dr. Beckman was especially sensitive to the plight of younger faculty who might find it hard to obtain the necessary release time in order to further their own research. This year, the Center awarded two Beckman Associates and three Beckman Fellows, in accordance with the guidelines of the Beckman bequest.

This year, the Center requests that applications for both the Associate and Fellow competitions be submitted at one deadline, Monday, December 3, 2001. Associates may submit an application directly to the Center (department heads will then be notified of the application); Fellows must be nominated by their department chair(s). Please consult our website at http://www.cas.uiuc.edu for guideline information. In addition, this year we are requesting all applicants to contact referees and have them send, fax, or email letters of support to the Center before or at the application deadline. This new system will allow the Center to streamline the application process for committee review and submission to the Board of Trustees. If you have any questions about the guidelines or the application process in general, please contact Jackie Jenkins at the Center.

Vilas Dhar on Martin Marty

On September 20, CAS/MillerComm2002 co-sponsored the 11th Annual Distinguished Mortenson Lecture, delivered by Prof. Martin Marty (“Religion on the Global Scene: The Killer that Heals”). Prior to his talk, Prof. Marty kindly agreed to meet with students and faculty at the Center for an informal lunch discussion. The following was submitted by Vilas Dhar, one of the student participants.

I had the distinct pleasure of joining Martin Marty, the Fairfax Cone Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago, for lunch at the Center for Advanced Study on September 20th. Though the circumstances of our time together were darkened by the events of September 11th, the topic of discussion was appropriately relevant.

For Dr. Marty, some religious groups have gotten the process of religion wrong. These extremists have “hijacked” what he believes to be the “healing” focus of religion and have replaced it with a false “killing focus” using hermetically sealed privileged claims to divine revelation. In short, those holding extreme beliefs feel they have some special claim to truth that others simply do not or can not see and that truth tells them to kill—kill those who believe in different things, kill people who are different, kill others. It’s a justification predicated on the illusion of absolute truth, and it cannot be argued against or stopped.

But we can take with us an inspiring message as we move to assimilate the most extreme ideas and integrate them into the frameworks we use to conceptualize the world around us. We will always have the bad, but because of this, we’ll have the good. We’ll have the lunatics and therefore the geniuses, we’ll be the sinners but we’ll also be the saints, we’ll have the fanatics and the moderates, and we may always have the killing. But despite all this, or maybe because of it, our faith, whether in God or in ourselves, will bring us together.

Dr. Marty’s message is one of hope. Religion has the power to heal, to urge us towards interreligious cooperation, to work towards economic and social interaction, and to strive for peace. It serves to continually recreate us, stronger than ever, determined to face the challenges which stand in our way, to achieve the greatest of dreams. Most importantly, our faith dictates that we respect and remember the plea of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto, “Remember your humanity.”

Vilas Dhar is a second-year pre-med bioengineering student in the Campus Honors Program, currently serving as President of the CHP’s Honors Student Council.
George A. Miller Programs

Those of you familiar with the CAS roster of public events may recognize the name of George A. Miller in many of our programs. But many of you may not know precisely who Prof. Miller was, and the role he plays posthumously in our ability to bring world-class scholars and performing artists to UIUC. The following is an attempt to remedy this situation.

From A.J. Janata, Secretary, Board of Trustees, 1960:

George Abram Miller was born in Lynnville, Pennsylvania, July 31, 1863. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1887, received a Master’s degree from that College in 1890, and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Cumberland University in 1893. He subsequently studied at the Universities of Leipzig and Paris....

Dr. Miller was a member of the University of Illinois faculty continuously from 1896 until his death in 1951. He came to the University as Associate Professor of Mathematics in 1896, the following year was made Professor of Mathematics, and retired in 1931. Although retired, he continued his research and writings for many years. Until his failing health a few weeks before his death curtailed such activities, he was in his office in the Department of Mathematics almost daily and was available for consultation by students and colleagues on the faculty.

He dedicated forty-six years of his life, practically his entire professional career, to the University of Illinois. His supreme act of devotion, unsolicited and unknown except to his Banker and to his Attorney, was the magnificent bequest to the University of a fortune he had accumulated on a very modest salary and through wise investments.

The bequest made by Prof. Miller to the University of Illinois was designated the George A. Miller Endowment, and initially used to create a George A. Miller Visiting Professorship for long-term visitors that was overseen by a faculty committee. In 1968, the George A. Miller Committee decided to expand the use of the funds to include visiting lecturers, modeled on the Center for Advanced Study’s Distinguished Lecturer program. The idea was to stimulate the intellectual life of the University community by bringing in top-notch scholars, artists and public intellectuals for brief visits. This program was eventually designated the CAS/MillerComm public events series, so-named by former CAS Director Daniel Alpert and graphic designer David Colley, and further amended by former CAS Director and Professor emeritus, Braj Kachru.

In 1972, the Center for Advanced Study assumed responsibility for these programs. Since then, over 200 Miller Visiting Professors and Scholars have visited the UIUC campus, and around 1,500 speakers have participated in CAS/MillerComm events. It remains one of the most prominent public events series at UIUC, and continues to make possible a steady stream of world-class intellectuals and performers to UIUC. Indeed, one of the defining characteristics of a CAS/MillerComm event—broad, interdisciplinary appeal, co-sponsoring units from across campus, as well as interest to the general public—makes the series as a whole unique to our campus. In a typical year, no less than 140 on- and off-campus units initiate and/or co-sponsor a CAS/MillerComm visit. Another important characteristic is that CAS/MillerComm visitors do not just come to campus to give a single public event. Rather, these visitors interact with members of our academic community by participating in brown bag luncheons and workshops, visiting classes and labs, and meeting with smaller groups of faculty and students. Thus, CAS/MillerComm visitors leave with a better knowledge of our campus and resources, and we benefit from a closer interaction with these world-renowned scholars and performing artists.

See Vilas Dhar article on Martin Marty.

Originally, two separate faculty committees oversaw the Miller Visiting Professors and Scholars Program and CAS/MillerComm Program, respectively. Beginning this year, the Center is merging the two to form the George A. Miller Programs Committee. The Center has always prided itself on the diversity of disciplines represented in its programs. Likewise, the GAM Programs Committee is made up of faculty and administrators across campus. For further information about these programs please contact Liesel Wildhagen at the Center.

George A. Miller Programs Committee

Richard W. Burkhardt, Jr. 
(History)

O. Vernon Burton
(History)

Charles Capwell
(Music)

Cheryl Cole
(Kinesiology)

Leon Dash
(Journalism)

Pradeep A. Dhillon
(Educational Policy Studies)

Jennifer Eardley
(Campus Development)

Susan A. Fowler
(Special Education)

Michael Goldman
(Sociology)

George D. Gollin
(Physics)

William T. Greenough
(Director, Center for Advanced Study)

Masumi Iriye
(Associate Director, Center for Advanced Study)

Deborah Leckband
(Chemical Engineering)

Ania Loomba
(English)

Philip J. McConnaughay
(Law)

Thomas B. Rauchfuss
(Chefical Sciences)

Lawrence Schehr
(French)

Joseph Squier
(Art and Design)

Gale Summerfield
(English and Gender in Global Perspectives)

Arlene Torres
(Anthropology)

Liesel Wildhagen
(Staff Associate, Center for Advanced Study)

Scott S. Willenbrock
(Physics)
11.3
Christopher Kenneth Green  
*Picasso and Lipchitz: Cubism and Beyond*  
3:00 pm, Rm 62, Krannert Art Museum

11.5
Jean-Pierre Leburton  
*Artificial Atoms and Molecules for Quantum Computing*  
CAS Noonhour Presentation  
Music Room, Levis Faculty Center

11.7
Suzanne Lacy  
*Reading Community: The Work of Suzanne Lacy*  
CAS/MillerComm2002  
5:00 pm, Rm 62, Krannert Art Museum

11.13
Jean-Claude Kuperminc  
*Jews on Mission: The Alliance Israélite Universelle, 1860-2001*  
CAS/MillerComm2002  
7:30 pm, Third Floor, Levis Faculty Center

11.26 (Rescheduled)
Eric Green  
*Sequencing the Human Genome: Elucidating Our Genetic Blueprint*  
New Biology Initiative  
4:00 pm, Auditorium, Beckman Institute

11.28
Renée C. Fox  
CAS/MillerComm2002  
7:30 pm, Rm 407, Levis Faculty Center

11.29
Mark Hertsgaard  
*How To Save The World: Real Solutions to the Global Environmental Crisis*  
CAS/MillerComm2002  
7:30 pm, Third Floor, Levis Faculty Center

12.3
CAS Release-Time Appointments Deadline  
(Associates and Fellows)

1.22
Dianne Pinderhughes  
CAS Noonhour Presentation  
Music Room, Levis Faculty Center

2.5
Culture Talk  
*Susan Sontag and Jonathan Miller*  
7:30 pm, Colwell Playhouse  
Krannert Center for the Performing Arts

All public events are free and open to the public. PUBLIC EVENTS HOTLINE 217.333.1118 or www.cas.uiuc.edu