**Students on the case at Guantanamo**

By Liz Chilla

While their classmates were busy cramming for final exams, Lara Aryani and Carlissa Carson were boarding a military flight from Washington, D.C., to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The two law students traveled to Guantanamo with Visiting Associate Professor Charles Swift to assist in a military commission for Guantanamo detainee Salim Hamdan. The students visited Guantanamo as part of their work with Emory Law's International Humanitarian Law Clinic.

Swift, acting director of the IHL Clinic, currently serves as the lead defense counsel for Hamdan, having previously — and successfully — defended him in Hamdan v. Rumsfeld in 2006, a historic case that challenged the military commissions that were being used at the time. The December hearing in which Aryani and Carson assisted was to decide whether Hamdan would receive protection as a prisoner of war.

The two students — who slept in tents during their stay on the island — were active participants in Hamdan’s defense, drafting and revising motions and conducting research. They also had the opportunity to put their individual knowledge into practice.

Aryani, who is fluent in Arabic, monitored the English-to-Arabic translations to ensure Hamdan was receiving accurate information. In one instance, Aryani and Swift submitted a motion to challenge one of the interpreter’s translations. Their motion was subsequently accepted by the judge.

“These students directly supported the litigation activities and brought a unique expertise and enthusiasm to the case,” Swift said.

As a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves, Carson used her security clearance to visit Camps Delta and Echo, as well as the remnants of Camp X-Ray. It was surreal being so close to what the administration has deemed the worst of the worst,” said Carson. “And it was interesting to compare the detention facility at Guantanamo to those in the U.S.”

Swift’s continued involvement as Hamdan’s lawyer has provided a rare learning opportunity for his students, and the practical experience gained by Aryani and Carson in such a high profile case will serve them throughout their legal careers.

Carson already has called upon her experience in Guantanamo when drafting a comment, which was recently published by the Emory Law Journal, on Hamdan v. Rumsfeld and its role in bringing about the Military Commissions Act of 2006. “Now, I am able to not only read and write about Hamdan, but be a part of the case,” said Carson.

More broadly, the students’ participation helps to highlight the importance of the preservation of human rights and Emory Law’s role in bringing these issues to the forefront under the direction of Swift and the IHL Clinic.

“This is the cutting-edge of international humanitarian law,” said Swift.

**Practice makes perfect**

Using lifelike mannequins, medical and nursing students practiced emergency room treatments during a simulation training Feb. 4. The daylight event marked the first time that students from both schools collaborated on patient care and safety training.

“When health care teams are properly trained on how to work together, the result is better teamwork, reduced medical mistakes and improved patient care,” says professor Douglas Ander, director of the Emory Center for Experiential Learning.

Left to right: Ria Nieva, Jesse Jung, Katie Rouse and Michelle McWilliams train in the Evans Center for Caring Skills.

Jean Bendik and Seema Shah prepare medications.

Tonni Barrett and Shah interpret echocardiogram results.

**NEWSMAKERS**

“You have to ask Latinos for their vote and not just assume you have their vote because you share this common history of oppression.”

— Andra Gillespie, assistant professor of political science, in USA Today Feb. 5.

**ACCLAIM**

Jeremy Ross, professor of microbiology and immunology at Emory School of Medicine, has been named the next editor-in-chief of the Journal of Immunology. Published by the American Association of Immunologists, it is one of the most-cited publications in biomedicine.

Ross directs Emory’s graduate program in genetics and molecular biology. He has served as deputy editor of the journal since 2001. He will assume the new five-year position on July 1.

In honor of her 20 years at Emory, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Art History Gay Robins was presented with an Egyptian object donated to the Carolus Museum in her name.

To commemorate Robins’ interests in both the Middle Kingdom and in the role of women in Ancient Egypt, the museum was able to acquire, thanks to a donation from her former student and a museum volunteer, a rare stela, or stone tablet, of Satsobek from the Twelfth Dynasty.

Robins serves the museum as a faculty consultant for Ancient Egyptian Art.

Stefan Tigges, associate professor of radiology, and Emory co-authors Gogi Srinini, John Ochinski, Arthur Stillman and Kevin Johnson, were awarded the honor of Excellence in Design by the Radiological Society of North America for their educational exhibit on the “Cardiac Cycle and 3D Motion of the Coronary Arteries: Impact on Coronary Computed Tomographic Angiography.” RSNA is a professional membership society committed to excellence in patient care through education and research.

Elaine Walker, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, has been named editor of Psychological Science in the Public Interest, the journal for the Association of Psychological Science. Her five-year term began Jan. 1.

“Acclaim” recognizes the accomplishments of faculty and staff. Listings may include awards and grants given to boards and societies; and similarly notable accomplishments at Emory or in the wider community. Emory Report relies on submissions for this column. Contact Kim urquhart@emory.edu.

**People**

**EMORY REPORT FEBRUARY 11, 2008**