



EMORY

MICHAEL C.
CARLOS
MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Blockbuster Exhibition *Cradle of Christianity* Volunteers Honored
by Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University**

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ATLANTA (June 17, 2008) -- The Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University celebrated the recipients of the Woolford B. Baker Award at the Lullwater residence of Emory University President, James W. Wagner. Dr. Michael Berger, Dr. Carl Holladay, Dr. Carol Newsom, and Dr. Richard Valantasis were presented the award in appreciation for their roles on the *Cradle of Christianity: Jewish and Christian Treasures from the Holy Land* exhibition. The Baker Award was established by the Carlos Museum in 2000, and is presented each year to an individual or organization who has demonstrated outstanding service to the Carlos Museum through a leadership role, an exceptional contribution of time and expertise or a significant achievement in the Carlos or Atlanta cultural community.

Michael Berger, associate professor in the Department of Religion and the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies; Carl Holladay, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of New Testament; Carol Newsom, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Old Testament; and Richard Valantasis, professor of ascetical theology and Christian practice and director of Anglican Studies, were presented with two objects in appreciation of their service to the vision of the Carlos Museum and their contributions to the *Cradle of Christianity* exhibition. These two objects, a sixth century A.D. Byzantine cross and a seventh century B.C. ceramic stamped amphora handle from the reign of Hezekiah, were presented by Carlos Museum curators, Jasper Gaunt and Peter Lacovara.

Cradle of Christianity was on view at the Carlos Museum from June until October 2007. The exhibition, featuring a cache of rare biblical treasures from the Israel Museum seen for the first time outside Jerusalem, explored the roots of Christianity in Judaism. The *Cradle of Christianity* exhibition underscored Emory's continued focus on the understanding of religions and the human spirit as part of its roadmap initiatives addressing global health, new frontiers in science, faculty distinction, student leadership, and race and difference in society. Director of the Carlos Museum Bonnie Speed, said "We are honored to have such dedicated teachers, thinkers, and doers amongst us. Michael, Carl, Carol and Richard are visionary allies; they helped us produce an outstanding exhibition and gave of their time and resources in service of a complex vision. This takes courage, tenacity, humility, and a lasting sense of community."

The four Baker Award recipients helped shape the educational programs created in conjunction with the exhibition. They developed teaching university seminars and public courses, edited all the wall texts and label copy for the exhibition, lent their expertise and their voices to the exhibition audio guide as well as a documentary that aired on WPBA-30, raised funds and sought outreach opportunities to faith-based congregations. Elizabeth Hornor, Carlos Museum education director, said, "Without course release or payment, these four individuals worked many long hours to strengthen and deepen the intellectual content of the exhibition, while making it accessible to both public and university audiences."

The award is named in honor of Dr. Woolford B. Baker, the director of the former Emory University Museum, from 1953 to 1982, and is made possible through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Gladden. Dr. Woolford B. Baker was known for initiating education and community partnerships with schoolchildren and teachers and included Emory students and faculty in outreach and community-based programming. The existing education program, now in its 23rd year of service to school children and their families in Atlanta, continues this legacy in advancing the understanding of ancient cultures and their current socio-political significance. Commenting on the innovative education initiatives, President Wagner said, "This 'courageous inquiry,' the difficult, but necessary process of dialogue in order to make lasting and meaningful change in the world, is what sets this university apart from other schools, and the Carlos from other museums."

ABOUT MICHAEL C. CARLOS MUSEUM OF EMORY UNIVERSITY

Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University brings to the Atlanta community priceless treasures mapping an extraordinary breadth of ancient cultures, customs, and legacies. Some 16,000 artifacts from ancient Egypt, the Near East, Greece, Rome, the Americas, Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa, as well as works on paper from the Renaissance to the present day, provide visitors with a glimpse into the art and history of world cultures.

Located at the heart of Emory University's Atlanta campus and exhibited in the landmark building designed by noted architect Michael Graves, these works of art and artifacts reveal the Carlos Museum's meticulous care for the legacy of ancient civilizations and the learning opportunities innate in each artifact.

A 1985 interior renovation, along with a 35,000-square-foot expansion in 1993 made the in-depth display of the museum's permanent collections possible, and transformed the Carlos Museum into a destination for special exhibitions. From locally organized exhibitions to those from nationally and internationally celebrated institutions, including the Louvre, British Museum, and Israel Museum, the Carlos Museum serves as the South's premier museum of ancient art.

The Carlos Museum's educational programming--with an active schedule of lectures, symposia, workshops, performances, and summer camps--benefits all who interact with the museum community.

The Carlos Museum's conservation program is unique in the Southeast. In addition to conducting scientific analysis and treatment of museum collections, the Carlos Conservation Laboratory also offers teaching and training opportunities for students interested in pursuing careers in art, conservation, preservation, and science.

Founded in 1919, the Michael C. Carlos Museum has long been dedicated to collecting, preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting art and artifacts from antiquity to the present. The museum aims to provide unique opportunities for education and enrichment in the community, and to promote interdisciplinary teaching and research at Emory University.

Location: 571 South Kilgo Circle, Atlanta, Georgia 30322, U.S.A. **Telephone:** 404-727-4282 **Fax:** 404-727-4292
Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 12 noon - 5 p.m. (Closed on Mondays and university holidays)
Admission: \$7 donation. Free for Carlos Museum members and Emory University faculty, students, and staff. **Public**
Tours: Free docent-led tours of the Museum depart from the Rotunda on Level One every Sunday at 2:30 p.m. during the Emory academic year (call 404-727-4282 to confirm).

www.carlos.emory.edu

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