

THE BIG PEACH WELCOMES THE ACADEMY BACK

## Two Local Ophthalmologists Appraise Atlanta's Attractions

BY LESLIE BURLING-PHILLIPS, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A city combining southern hospitality, deep historical roots and progressive ideologies, Atlanta is today a center of global commerce. Its metropolitan area has added more than 1,150,000 residents in the last decade alone, and the city has positioned itself as an international influence in the realms of politics, business and culture. Playing host to the Academy's Annual Meeting four times over the last three decades, the "capital of the New South" will once again open its doors to the Academy and ophthalmologists worldwide in 2008.

*EyeNet* spoke to George O. Waring III, MD, and Hans E. Grossniklaus, MD, MBA, both active Academy members and Atlanta residents, to get their insider recommendations on how to make the most of your time after meeting hours. From places for history and science buffs to spots for family fun and outdoor recreation, Atlanta is a unique conglomeration of sights and sounds, offering something for everyone.

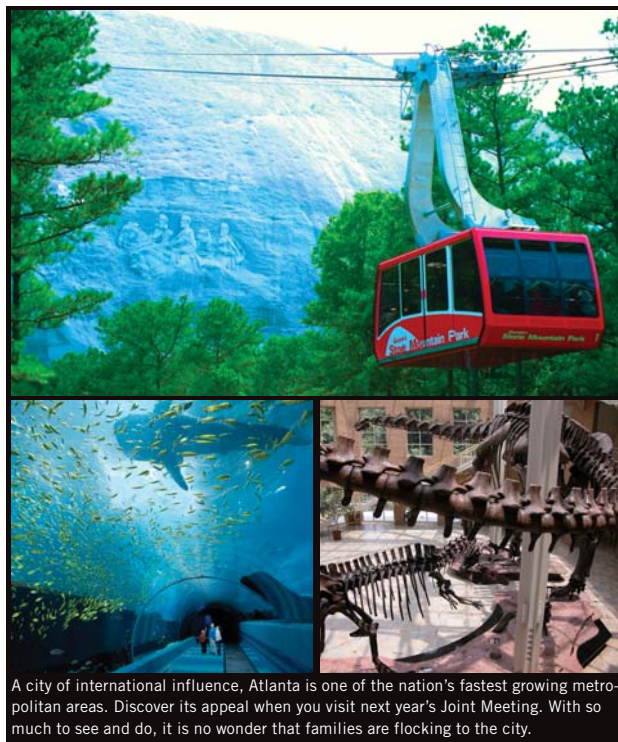
**CARTER CENTER AND LIBRARY** Peruse historical memorabilia from our 39th president's life and political career. The Jimmy Carter Library, which might be more succinctly described as a museum and research facility, is home to a vast archive of his documents, photographs, video and audio recordings. Visitors can tour an exact replica of the Oval Office, which Dr. Grossniklaus describes as quite impressive. Dr. Waring suggests a stop next door at the Carter Center, a nonprofit organization whose mission is "advancing human rights and alleviating unnecessary human suffering." The Carter Center is responsible for health programs created to fight disease in more than 70 countries worldwide. "It's a fascinating place. People interested in the eradication of tropical disease will really enjoy it," said Dr. Waring. *For more information, visit [www.jimmycarterlibrary.org](http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.org) and [www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org).*

### SWEET AUBURN HISTORIC DISTRICT

Tremendous strides in the civil rights movement occurred in Atlanta. The Sweet Auburn Historic District commemorates the accomplishments made by Atlanta's most renowned African-Americans. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born and raised, attended church, became a minister, and was ultimately laid to rest here. "It's highly meaningful to those of us who lived through the civil rights movement—it's where it all started," said Dr. Grossniklaus. *For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/malu](http://www.nps.gov/malu).*

**ATLANTA CYCLORAMA** Dr. Grossniklaus also suggested a visit to the Atlanta Cyclorama for "Civil War enthusiasts and American history buffs who want take a step back in time to July 22, 1864, and experience the Battle of Atlanta." This theater-in-the-round has been on display in Atlanta since 1893 and remains both the longest running show in the United States and the largest oil painting in the world. Visitors can browse Civil War artifacts and see the locomotive Texas, made famous by the chase and return of the locomotive General, stolen by Union forces. *For more information, visit [www.bcaatlanta.com](http://www.bcaatlanta.com) and search for "Cyclorama."*

**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION** Dr. Waring recommended a trip to the CDC, "especially for epidemiology aficionados." Visitors can learn about our nation's health promotion and disease prevention agency at the Global Health Odyssey exhibit. Tours begin at the Global Symphony, a 100-foot-long multimedia presentation that underscores public health and safety contributions made by the CDC. A variety of interesting documents, photographs and objects are on display, including a wooden intelligence test and an iron lung. *For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/about/resources/visit.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/about/resources/visit.htm).*



A city of international influence, Atlanta is one of the nation's fastest growing metropolitan areas. Discover its appeal when you visit next year's Joint Meeting. With so much to see and do, it is no wonder that families are flocking to the city.

**FERNBANK MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY** "A first-class natural history museum," is how Dr. Grossniklaus described the Fernbank Museum. A number of permanent collections are housed there, including the Giants of the Mesozoic, an exhibit that features the largest dinosaur ever classified. Composed of 40,000 limestone tiles containing the fossil remains of marine animals that lived millions of years ago, the museum floors are a fascinating part of the experience. Dr. Grossniklaus also suggested checking out Friday Night Martinis and IMAX—described by the museum as "a burst of cultural cuisine, sophisticated cocktails, one-of-a-kind film presentations, mood-setting live music and an eclectic atmosphere." *For more information, visit [www.fernbank.edu](http://www.fernbank.edu).*

**GEORGIA AQUARIUM** In the heart of downtown, the largest aquarium in the world is an 8-million-gallon aquatic haven for more than 100,000 fish and marine animals. The themed galleries—such as Cold Water Quest, featuring beluga whales and African black-footed penguins; and Tropical Diver, with its coral reefs—offer five impressive exhibits. For a more thorough visit, guests can arrange behind-the-scenes tours, as

well. Drs. Waring and Grossniklaus both agreed: "The Georgia Aquarium is a must-see!" *For more information, visit [www.georgiaaquarium.org](http://www.georgiaaquarium.org).*

**STONE MOUNTAIN PARK** For an activity-packed day of family fun, consider a trip to Stone Mountain Park, located just outside of Atlanta. The park's backdrop—a carving of three famous Confederate figures into the side of the world's largest piece of exposed granite—is also the largest high-relief sculpture in the world. There's something to suit everyone's favorite outdoor pastime, including hiking, golf, fishing and a laser light show. Kids will enjoy the scenic train ride around Stone Mountain, a cable car ride to the top or a relaxing cruise around the lake in a paddlewheel boat. "I go there a lot," said Dr. Grossniklaus. "It's a great place for physical activity and enjoyable for the entire family." *For more information, visit [www.stonemountainpark.com](http://www.stonemountainpark.com).*

*Dr. Waring is in private practice and has lived in Atlanta for 28 years. Dr. Grossniklaus is professor of ophthalmology and pathology and director of the pathology laboratory at Emory University. He has lived in Atlanta for 18 years.*



**The Joint Meeting of the Academy and the European Society of Ophthalmology** will take place in Atlanta, Nov. 8 to 11. It will be preceded by Subspecialty Day, Nov. 7 to 8. As information on the programs for the Joint Meeting and Subspecialty Day becomes available, it will be published in *EyeNet Magazine* and on the Academy's Web site ([www.aao.org](http://www.aao.org)).

There's much more to see during your stay in Atlanta. Explore the creation of *Gone with the Wind* at the Margaret Mitchell House & Museum ([www.gwtw.org](http://www.gwtw.org)) and *The Road to Tara* Museum ([www.visitscarlett.com](http://www.visitscarlett.com)). View more than 11,000 works at the High Museum of Art ([www.high.org](http://www.high.org)). Take a step behind the scenes on a CNN Studio Tour ([www.cnn.com/tour/atlanta](http://www.cnn.com/tour/atlanta)). Immerse yourself in everything Coca-Cola at the World of Coca-Cola ([www.woccatlanta.com](http://www.woccatlanta.com)).

For city information, visit the Atlanta Visitors and Convention Bureau at [www.atlanta.net/ACVB](http://www.atlanta.net/ACVB) or Frommer's Atlanta at [www.frommers.com/destinations/atlanta](http://www.frommers.com/destinations/atlanta).