every one question you answer you raise another five questions."

Vempala teaches a course each semester, alternating between graduate level courses such as Algorithmic Geometry or a mixed class of undergraduate and grad students called "Computing for Good."

The course is project-oriented, with students forming teams to address a problem that directly helps individuals or communities in need. Earlier this year, students developed a computer system that didn't require high-speed Internet or high power to assist doctors in Cameroon, West Africa, in keeping track of patients' lab work and results. – PR

Franklin West, 28
Research Scientist
University of Georgia
Bogart

Like the stem cells that he studies, Franklin West has morphed into something else.

He began his college career at Morehouse in pursuit of a biology degree and an ecology-centered career. But the more he thought about his interest in conservation, the more he thought about biotechnology.

"This is a merging of the two best worlds for me, a biotech approach with an ecology slant. Now I'm trying to create stem cells from endangered species," says West, who already has put his imprint on one of the most significant discoveries in the stem cell field.

West (and his UGA mentor, Steve Stice) created stem cells that can turn into any type of cell in the body from adult livestock, a technique that could lead to new therapies for human disease while building disease resistance in animals.

So West has started his own lab at UGA, where he's focusing on endangered species preservation and reproduction through stem cell technology. – JG

Chris Young, 32
Chief of Protocol and Director
of International Affairs
State of Georgia
Atlanta

Chris Young is an honors graduate of both Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia School of Law, but says, "You don't go to school to learn to do what I do."

Young is the state's first chief of protocol and director of international affairs, and what he has done is significantly increase Georgia's presence on the international stage.