Memorial Award

Jovonna Jones has devoted countless hours to ensuring other students feel included and accepted at Emory through organizations like the Center for Women and the Black Student Union. This dedication to inclusion has helped make Jones the 2015 recipient of the Lucius Lamar McMullan Award. The McMullan Award, made possible by a generous gift from Emory alumnus William Matheson 47G, recognizes Emory College graduates who show a mature recognition of one’s own weaknesses and need for help.

Easing transitions

Originally from Randolph, Massachusetts, Jones established her passion for helping others feel included well before college. During her senior year of high school in Boston, Jones worked with a program called Transitions to help incoming first-year minority high school students feel comfortable and safe. During high school, she also joined VISIONS Inc., a Boston-based nonprofit organization that trains in diversity, inclusion and effective communication. She is still involved with the organization, serving on the board of directors and as a youth consultant.

Class of 2015 will be remembered for ‘bold humility’

As the Class of 2015 gathers to celebrate Emory University’s 170th Commencement ceremony, the colorful pomp and pageantry will un¬fold amid a series of significant milestones, for both graduates and the university.

Founded in 1836 under the name Emory College, the university will mark its 170th anniversary on May 11, as the Class of 2015 celebrates the completion of their academic careers with the celebration of their academic achievements and community service.

More seriously, Wagner notes that the Class of 2015 “has demonstrated the possibility of living the paradox of humble boldness, or bold humility,” demonstrating “a willingness to work boldly toward noble ideals — social justice, support of refugee communities, public health and mental health in Africa and Latin America, access to education for undocumented residents of our country, peaceful resolution in the Middle East.”

At the same time, “these students have demonstrated real humility in the way they extend forgiveness and compassion to those who fall in our shared work,” Wagner says.

In doing so, they have seen “that people differ in the way we strive to realize shared ideals,” he adds. “This kind of insight requires a mature recognition of one’s own weaknesses and need for help.”

McMULLAN AWARD

Jones puts emphasis on inclusion

BY MEGAN MCKANEY

Jovonna “Jojo” Jones is no stranger to feeling left out, different and lonely. While it may be hard to believe that the leader and founder of an impressive list of Emory organizations and programs could ever feel like she didn’t belong, Jones says she has struggled on and off with those feelings since childhood.

“I sometimes felt, growing up, that I didn’t belong or that people weren’t welcoming me. It’s always been my mission to make sure others don’t feel that way,” Jones says. “Part of that is getting people comfortable with diversity, to orient themselves around embracing difference and not letting it always be a negative experience.”

During her time at Emory, Jones has devoted herself wholeheartedly to helping others feel heard, motivated and the rumble of drums signal the opening processional that begins Monday, May 11, at 8 a.m., as the plaintive cry of bagpipes and the color guard signal the arrival of the Class of 2015.

Memorial Award

Memorial Award

McMULLAN AWARD

McMULLAN AWARD

McMULLAN AWARD

McMULLAN AWARD

Memorial Award

Memorial Award

Memorial Award

Memorial Award

Memorial Award

Memorial Award

Memorial Award

Memorial Award

Memorial Award

Memorial Award

Memorial Award
Rushdie reflects on Emory experiences

BY KIMBER WILLIAMS

When Commencement keynote speaker Salman Rushdie launched what would become an ongoing relationship with Emory University nearly 10 years ago, it was clear the acclaimed writer had much to offer the academic community.

Through a series of discussions and public forums, Rushdie would stimulate a stream of thoughtful conversations about culture, history, politics, religion, violence, creativity, art and literature — including his own historic role amid an international free speech debate, when his novel “The Satanic Verses” drew death threats and a fatwa from Iranian Ayatollah Khomeini.

But just as Rushdie brought global experiences and insights to Emory, the university has left an indelible impression upon him.

Rushdie’s relationship with Emory began when he delivered the 2004 Richard Ellmann Lectures in Modern Literature. He joined Emory as Distinguished Writer in Residence in the Emory University in 2006, serving in that role until 2011, when he became University Distinguished Professor in Emory College.

New as Rushdie concludes his professorship, the award-winning author reflects upon his Emory years — a longstanding teaching role that brought benefits he never anticipated.

“Emory has been an uniformly good experience,” he says. “I’ve never really had an experience like this of being inside an academic institution over a long period of time — it’s only the time I’ve ever done it. And it’s been educational.”

“Thats what you hope will happen — that you get as much from it as you offer, and there’s no question that’s been the case,” he adds. “I don’t think I regret a minute of it. It’s been very good for me.”

Thinking through new ideas

Although he had frequently spoken at colleges, Rushdie discovered that stepping into the formal teaching role enabled “a much more direct engagement with students,” which he grew to appreciate.

During his first five years at Emory, Rushdie taught a month-long graduate seminar to a select group of students. However, in recent years his time at Emory each spring was widely divided, as Rushdie assumed the role of guest lecturer, addressing multiple classrooms within an assortment of discipines.

In the end, that experience helped sharpen his own thinking.

“It’s quite interesting, I think, the way that the fact that you have a lecture to give, to actually work out in an organized way what your thoughts are on a given subject,” he explains.

“If you’re a fiction writer, you very often don’t have to do that. There’s no sort of jumble in your head and you write your book out of it.”

For his latest novel, “Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-Eight Nights,” set for release in September, Rushdie found himself researching the great wonder tale traditions of the East, Western folk tales and Eastern European fairy tales, which he previewed in a public lecture at Emory’s Glenn Memorial Auditorium last year.

Writing that lecture “really was a way of telling myself what I thought about things, and that helped in the writing of the book,” he says.

MARBL and the memoir

But the work most directly impacted by his time at Emory was Rushdie’s critically acclaimed memoir, “Joseph Anton,” which for the first time documented his years spent in hiding following Khomeini’s fatwa.

Creation of the memoir was made possible directly “because of the work of the people at MARBL,” Emory’s Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, he says.

When Rushdie chose to place his archive with the library in 2006, the acquisition launched an intensive drive to preserve not only a trove of paper materials, ranging from diaries and notebooks to notes penned on napkins, but also born-digital materials — some 50,000 files and 18 gigabytes of data gleaned from his computers.

“If they hadn’t done that five-year project of orgaizing the work, I would have had to do it,” Rushdie says.

“What’s more likely is that I never would have done it. And that means the book could have never existed in the form it now exists, we’re not for it the work that was done here.”

And though Rushdie envisions an ongoing relationship with MARBL, where he continues to add to his archive. In fact, MARBL received yet another 1,000 or so new materials within the last year, he notes.

And though having a personal archive available for public consumption can sometimes be unsettling — “It’s a little bit weird,” he admits — Rushdie finds it a kind of satisfaction in knowing that the material has found a new life among literary scholars.

“In fact, whenever they visit MARBL, Rushdie inevitably discovers someone using his archive. “And I sort of tip-toe away,” he says.

CLASS OF 2015: Transforming individuals and communities

EMORY REPORT | MAY 11, 2015

CONCOMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Rushdie reflects on Emory experiences

EMORY REPORT | MAY 11, 2015

CLASS OF 2015: Transforming individuals and communities

EMORY REPORT | MAY 11, 2015

COMMENCEMENT

COMMENCEMENT

EMORY REPORT | MAY 11, 2015
Sy overcomes obstacles to achieve academic excellence

BY KIMBER WILLIAMS

For Emory senior Kadidia Sy, the prospect of completing undergraduate studies brings bright hopes for the future, a horizon brimming with possibilities.

As one of four Emory students selected to receive the 2015-2016 Robert T. Jones Jr. Scholarship, Sy will embark upon studies at St. Andrews University in Scotland this fall, where she plans to pursue a one-year Master of Letters in Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asia security — an opportunity that thrills her.

But for Sy, it is impossible to contemplate the future without acknowledging the past.

Memories of a childhood spent in a West African refugee camp along the Senegal River have faded a bit, to be sure. But colorful threads are still kept alive through family stories.

Her family fled from politically unstable Mauritania to a refugee camp near Podor in Northern Senegal, where Sy was born. The joy of finally moving into a homely one-room mud-hut house. Lives spent farming tomatoes and silk and herding sheep on leased government land — traditional occupations within the Fulani tribe, among the world’s largest groups of semi-nomadic people.

Looking back, those moments now seem a lifetime away for Sy, who graduates May 11 as a double major, with a focus in political science and Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies (MESA). In her spare time she helped found the student-run Association of Middle Eastern Studies and served as director of the Emory Model Arab League, all while working as an Arabic language tutor.

With funding from the Bobby Jones Scholarship, Sy plans to continue building in slavery and Islamic law, working toward a career in community development and conflict resolution as an international human rights lawyer.

This is the perfect path, she says, for someone whose experience straddles both time spent in an African refugee camp and in pursuit of higher education.

Resilience and courage

“I don’t remember it now, but my parents like to tell the story of when I was 5 years old and I went out to take care of the goats and sheep. I apparently got lost and they couldn’t find me for a day — but I was never worse for it,” Sy recalls, laughing.

That kind of resilience, along with the ability to show courage in the face of adversity, are qualities important to the Fulani people, part of a tradition that Sy says.

It also helps explain how a young woman with no formal childhood education — from a family that spoke no English — could journey from the president of the student-run student-run Association of Middle Eastern Studies to founding the campus Philosophy Club.

“Her background, her circumstances, are never something that she wears or uses — she’s not that kind of person,” she adds. “Instead, she projects an amazing kind of positivity, which I respect. I have no doubt that she will make a difference in the world.”

As one of four Emory students selected to receive the 2015-2016 Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship, one of Emory’s most prestigious undergraduate honors, Sy overcomes obstacles to achieve academic excellence.

At Emory, the chance to pursue degrees in political science and MEAS would prove “intense, but really rewarding,” Sy says.

“I liked the fact that Emory let me explore my interests in my country, Islamic law and slavery. It’s not something most schools offer — the ability to have that academic niche and still have a sense of community and support.”

Part of her experience included an intensive Arabic summer abroad program in Morocco — Sy’s first trip to Africa since her family left, says Rick Cornell, professor of pedagogy and Arabic Program coordinator for MEAS.

Yet through the challenges, Cornell saw her student thrive. “With Kadidia, it wasn’t just ambition; she delivered leadership and sense to others, always with a contagious smile and always moving forward.”

Sy attended Georgia Perimeter College, where she received the 2012 Clarkston Campus President’s Award, serving as an associate professor of political science at GPC, while also doctoral student at Emory.

“I think that I wanted to go to a university like that, that welcomed people from different cultures and backgrounds,” Sy recalls. “Emory became a focus for me, a goal I wanted to achieve.”

First, Sy attended Georgia Perimeter College (GPC), where she expected to take a few courses and then transfer. Instead, she completed two associate degrees, one in political science, another in philosophy.

She also blossomed, participating in the GPC Honors program, recently, the 2012 Clarkston Campus President’s Award Winner, serving as president of the Clarkston Student Government Association, and founding the campus Philosophy Club.

“She’s a person that is thoughtful, curious and driven — someone who doesn’t let much dream about her future or plan for it,” recalls Bob King, an associate professor of political science at GPC, who, while doctoral student at Emory.

“She’s an incredibly bright, driven and intellectualally curious scholar who will go on to make a huge impact in public health research and promotion,” wrote Kastiel in a nomination letter for the Brittain Award. “She has consistently demonstrated her passion for suicide prevention, her ability to excel academically, and her commitment to volunteering her time and energy to support the mission of Emory University and the wider community.”

Garcia-Williams has been accepted into the 2015 class of the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS), an elite corps of “disease detectives” who investigate outbreaks and other public health crises at the CDC.

While her primary interest remains preventing violence and injury of all kinds, she says she is open to any assignment by the EIS. “It’s my dream job: I know I’ll be happy because I’m passionate about every aspect of public health.”

Even as she prepares to receive her PhD, Garcia-Williams says her greatest lesson remains the generosity of spirit she learned from her parents.

“Everyone can be engaged in helping people, and that’s what turns up public health — trying to help people in some way,” she says. “It doesn’t have to be a huge thing. You just have to try to do something.”
Jensen mentors students for success

BY LESLIE KING

The most important thing Robert Jensen learned about mentoring is that he learned in high school and middle school — not as a student, but as a teacher.

"I was a high school and middle school teacher for 12 years before I gave any thought to teaching at the university level," says Jensen, who is a mathematics education professor in Emory College of Arts and Sciences.

The many opportunities through- out those early years to mentor stu- dents "taught me the importance of listening first to hear the stu- dent's perspective before providing guidance," he says. "I learned that mentoring is not a one-size-fits-all enterprise during that time."

Jensen, director of the Division of Educational Studies, is the 2015 recipient of the George P. Cuttino Award for Excellence in Mentoring. The award was established in 1997 by John T. Glover 68C.

"It is satisfying to make use of knowledge I have gained over time to help someone else," Jensen says. "I derive both personal satisfaction in connecting on a meaningful level with another individual and, if my input proves productive, a vicarious thrill in seeing a student or colleague make progress toward achieving a particular goal he or she may have."

Emory College senior Andrea Simon has known Jensen for all of her four years on campus. He was an adviser and reader for her senior honors thesis for which she received highest honors.

"I found that he is very insightful about his students' strengths and weaknesses, both as a person and in their work," she says, noting that he balances praise and criticism in a very constructive way.

"Most impressive to me as a student and his adviser for my hon- ors thesis was his ability to scaffold what work needed to be done in a way that promoted me as a rising academic while still allowing me to take full advantage of the learning opportunity at hand," Simon notes. "He gave me the tools to be successful, but he never did the work for me."

Jonathan Dollar, another of Jensen's mentees, praises Jensen's keen direction and openness with creative ideas that result in "providing the space for student growth."

"Professor Jensen's insight aligning student interest and passion with academically enriched research allows for the cultivation of the space for student growth," says Dollar 14C.

"It was unexpected that some of the people who I have mentored have stayed important in my life even after the mentee-mentor relation- ship ended," he says. "This is a pleasant bonus I really didn't think about at the outset."

During 19 of his 31 years at Emory, Jensen worked closely with grad- uate students while serving as director of graduate studies for the Division of Educational Studies. His research has focused on mathematical thinking and the problem-solving behaviors students engage in when confronted with situations for which they have no clear solution path to follow.

"I now see that the act of problem posing is an integral part of the process that, unfortunately, receives too little attention in the curriculum at this time," he says.

The Emory Williams Award for Distinguished Teaching is the univer- sity's oldest teaching award, established in 1972 by alumnus Emory Williams 32C to honor faculty for fostering participation, inquiry and creative expression in the classroom; providing a model for teaching and scholarship; and mentoring students.

The 2015 winners:

Maria Anne Archetto
Associate Professor of Music
Oxford College

Gordon Churchward
Professor of Microbiology and Immunology
School of Medicine

Hannah L. F. Cooper
Associate Professor of Behavioral Sciences and Health Education
Rollins School of Public Health

Ellen Ott Marshall
Associate Professor of Christian Ethics and Conflict Transformation
Carder School of Theology

James Henry Morey
Professor, Department of English
Emory College of Arts and Sciences

Lisa Mukherjee
Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing
Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing

Douglas Robert Mulford
Senior Lecture, Department of Chemistry
Emory College of Arts and Sciences

Rafael L. Pando
Robert T. Thompson Professor of Law
School of Law

Susan Louise Tamasi
Senior Lecture, Program in Linguistics
Emory College of Arts and Sciences

Kristy L. Tenney
Professor of Accounting
Roberto C. Goizueta Business School

For Robert Jensen, a mathematics education professor in Emory College, mentoring provides the "vicarious thrill" of helping students and colleagues reach their goals.

"The challenges of navigating through coursework, becoming a part of a particular research community, completing a dissertation, and then determining 'what next?' — all the while trying to maintain a healthy focus on family and personal life — were challenges for me as well as the graduate students I advised," he recalls.

Jensen's role as mentor to undergraduates has grown gradually over the years.

"It was unexpected that some of the people who I have mentioned have stayed important in my life even after the mentor-mentee relation- ship ended," he says. "This is a pleasant bonus I really didn't think about at the outset."

For Robert Jensen, a mathematics education professor in Emory College, mentoring provides the "vicarious thrill" of helping students and colleagues reach their goals.

"Perhaps that is paralleled somewhat by my own children and chil- dren of siblings, friends and neighbors who I know well, and watched grow up and leave for college," he says. "I hope I have been able to pro- vide a good sounding board for an increasing number of undergraduates over the years."

Always giving 100 percent

Sari Flomenbaum, Class of 2017, stresses the quality of caring that Jensen brings to his interactions with students.

"In every single interaction I have had with him, I have felt cared for and supported. He always gave 100 percent of his energy to every interac- tion, whether with a student, professor or anyone else."

Any unexpected outcomes of mentoring relationships for Jensen?

"I now see that the act of problem posing is an integral part of the process that, unfortunately, receives too little attention in the curriculum at this time," he says.

Jensen mentors students for success

The intersection of law & business communications environment your industry finance healthcare HR intellectual property

Summon your potential

with a Juris Master Degree

The law impacts every area of social and economic life. Understanding its influence on individual and institutional decisions has never been more crucial. The Juris Master (JM) is a customizable 30-credit-hour program that is designed to enhance your knowledge of the law within your chosen profession or industry. Employee family members receive the Emory Law School Founder's Scholarship. The degree can be completed full-time in one year or part-time in up to four years.

Discover how to enhance your knowledge of the law within your chosen profession or industry.

Join us for an upcoming Juris Master (JM) Information Session to learn more about this exciting new degree.

Learn more at www.law.emory.edu/jm or call 404-727-6802

"I deal with rules, regulations, and guidelines, from interpreting them to trying to implement them in effective, efficient ways. I see the JM program as a way to help me be more effective and efficient in what I do on a daily basis."

Patty Olinger, Director of Emory University's Environmental Health and Safety Office

"The Juris Master program has provided me the legal knowledge to perform my job and advance my career."

Thomas George, Director of Employee Relations

"The Juris Master Program will help me provide better care to my patients, better education to my students, and better service to the University."

Wendy Wright, Chief of Neuropsychology at the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit at Emory University Hospital Midtown and Associate Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery at Emory School of Medicine
Thomas G. Long has made a significant impact on the Emory University community and beyond. His contributions have been recognized through the Jefferson Award, an annual honor presented to individuals who have demonstrated exemplary service and leadership. For Thomas G. Long, this recognition is not just a personal honor, but also a testament to his dedication and commitment to improving the world around him.

As a former professor of homiletics and dean of the Graduate Division of Religion at Emory University, Long has been a influential figure in the field of preaching and ministry. His work has been shape the lives of countless students and alumni, guiding them in their journeys towards becoming effective leaders in their fields.

In his career, Long has been involved in various aspects of religious and community work. He has served as a chaplain in different settings, taught at several universities, and authored numerous books and articles on preaching and ministry. His work has been recognized with several awards, including the “Eagle’s Wings” Excellence in Teaching Award.

The Jefferson Award is given to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service and leadership in their communities. Thomas G. Long is a fitting recipient of this award, as his contributions have had a profound impact on the university and beyond. His legacy of encouraging young preachers continues to inspire and shape the lives of those around him.

In conclusion, Thomas G. Long’s contributions to Emory University and the broader community cannot be overstated. His dedication, passion, and commitment to service have made a lasting impact on those who have had the privilege of knowing him. As we honor him with the Jefferson Award, let us reflect on the legacy he has left and continue to work towards creating a better world for all.
CLASS OF 2015
Memories and milestones

Emory's Class of 2015 shared many university milestones, including two major anniversaries: The undergraduate class arrived at Emory in 2011 as the university celebrated the 175th anniversary of its founding, and graduates as Emory celebrates 100 years on the Atlanta campus.

Take a look back at just a few of the acclaimed speakers and scholars, world-class resources, deep commitments to community engagement and sustainability, and uniquely Emory traditions that the Class of 2015 had the opportunity to experience over the last four years.

SPRING 2014
The Oxford Organic Farm opens at Oxford College, offering hands-on learning opportunities for a variety of classes.

MAY 2014
The Emory women's tennis team wins the NCAA Division III national championship.

AUGUST 2014
Emory University Hospital treats the first Ebola patients in the United States, developing protocols shared with health care providers around the world.

FEBRUARY 2014
"Seamus Heaney: The Music of What Happens" opens at the Woodruff Library, drawn from Emory's archives of the late Irish poet and Nobel Prize winner. Heaney gave his last public reading in the United States at Emory the year before.

DECEMBER 2013

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2014
Two ice storms close Emory and most of Atlanta for several days — possibly the most "snow days" in one year in the university's history.

AUGUST 2014
The opening of Elton Rae Hall marks the completion of Emory's eight-year project to redevelop residences for first-year students.

AUGUST 2014
The Commission on the Liberal Arts, which began in 2012 to explore the future of the liberal arts at Emory, issues its final report. Events begin the next semester with ColA Critical Conversations: the Emory Story Project, uniting students, faculty, staff and alumni to share experiences.

AUGUST 2011
At the beginning of the new school year, Songfest unites students from each first-year residence hall on the Emory campus to write and perform songs celebrating their respective communities.

SEPTEMBER 2011
The Class of 2015 joins in their first Emory Homecoming celebration, an annual fall tradition.

SEPTEMBER 2011
The Michael C. Carlos Museum unveils the oldest Egyptian mummy in the Western Hemisphere.

DECEMBER 2011
Emory celebrates the 175th anniversary of its founding in Oxford, Georgia, culminating with a campus celebration Dec. 7.

OCTOBER 2013
Emory receives the 2013 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award, which honors outstanding commitment to a diverse and inclusive campus community, for efforts including the Advisory Council on Community and Diversity, launched in 2012.

OCTOBER 2013
His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, Presidential Distinguished Professor at Emory University, returns to campus for a series of events.

DECEMBER 2014
Emory University achieves its 10-year goal to reduce energy usage by 25 percent — ahead of schedule!

JANUARY 2015
"African Cosmos" opens at the Carlos Museum, part of Emory's year-long Creation Stories project.
JANUARY 2012
All Emory campuses become officially tobacco-free.

FEBRUARY 2012
The Research Commons, now known as the Emory Center for Digital Scholarship, celebrates its grand opening in Robert W. Woodruff Library.

JUNE 2012
Natasha Trethewey, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of English and Creative Writing and director of Emory’s Creative Writing Program, is named U.S. Poet Laureate. She serves two terms in the role.

SEPTEMBER 2012
Emory joins Coursera to offer online courses worldwide, giving the public free access to the expertise of Emory faculty.

DECEMBER 2012
Campaign Emory, the most ambitious fundraising project in the university’s history, concludes after raising nearly $1.7 billion.

AUGUST 2013
Emory College celebrates the official opening of its new library and academic commons.

MAY 2013
The Emory men’s tennis team wins the NCAA Division III national championship.

JANUARY 2013
Oxford College’s Language Hall, built in 1874, reopens after extensive renovations.

FEBRUARY 2013

MARCH 2013
Emory’s women’s swimming and diving team wins its sixth consecutive NCAA Division III national championship.

APRIL 2015
The Emory WaterHub marks its grand opening. The first campus water recycling facility of its kind in the country, it is projected to help Emory reclaim up to 400,000 gallons of wastewater daily.

FEBRUARY 2015
Emory kicks off its celebration of the university’s “100 Years in Atlanta.”

JANUARY 2015
Emory receives official notice that its accreditation is reaffirmed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, the culmination of a multi-year process that included the development and approval of Emory’s Quality Enhancement Plan, which offers an intensive focus on teaching undergraduate students about “The Nature of Evidence.”

AUGUST 2013
Songwriter Paul Simon performs and speaks at Emory for the Richard Elmann Lectures in Modern Literature.

SPRING 2013
“The Campus Life Compact for Building an Inclusive Community at Emory” is released. Dean of Campus Life Ajay Nair, who joined the university in August 2012, engaged students and other stakeholders to create the compact to build dialogue on social justice issues.

January 2015
Dooley, Emory’s skeletal Lord of Misrule, is celebrated each spring during Dooley’s Week, when he has the power to dismiss classes.

View an interactive version of this timeline with videos, slideshows and links to full articles: news.emory.edu
Dissertations showcase original scholarship

Samantha Allen, women's, gender and sexuality studies
Adviser: Elizabeth Wilson, professor of women's, gender and sexuality studies.
Research: From the early days of sexology to the work of Sigmund Freud, researchers have understood sexuality as being the product of a drive or a sexual instinct. Unusual forms of sexuality, like sexual fetishes, have traditionally been seen as pathological deviations of that drive. But if we follow psychologist Silvan Tomkins in thinking of sexuality as being primarily affective (or emotional), then atypical forms of sexuality are neither pathological nor unusual — just different.
Impact: In my field of queer theory, scholars too often think of sexuality as either a pernicious historical construct or a straightforward biological force. An affective (or emotional) theory of sexuality has the potential to solve this debate because it can still see sexuality as being biological without stigmatizing atypical forms of sexuality like sexual fetishes or homosexuality. Part of my dissertation research was completed in Indiana as the 2013 John Money Fellow at the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction.
After graduation: Staff writer for the Daily Beast

Tressie McMillian Cottom, sociology
Adviser: Robert Smelser, professor of sociology
Research: My research asks if for-profit colleges like the University of Phoenix are legitimate and how they gain critical financial, legal and public support. I not only aim to explain how for-profit colleges expanded so rapidly but what their growth means for the social mobilization of the over two million students enrolled in them.
Impact: My research has been featured in several academic journals, academic books and over 40 public press articles. I am frequently invited to consult with higher education policymakers, think tanks and student activist organizations that are trying to understand the scope of for-profit higher education and inequality. The goal is to produce quality research that bridges academic, political and private sector silos. I am especially proud to support the Communithan 100, a group of for-profit college students fighting for student loan reform.
After graduation: Assistant professor of sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University and associated faculty at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University

Jessilyn Dunn, biomedical engineering
Dissertation: “Genome-scale DNA Methylation Changes in Endothelial Cells by Disturbed Flow and its Role in Atherosclerosis”
Adviser: Harajong Jo, John and Joan Portmann Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Emory University and Georgia Tech
Research: As a student in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory, I studied how blood flow affects the development of cardiovascular disease. More specifically, I investigated the cells that line the inside of blood vessels (endothelial cells) and how mechanical forces caused by blood flow change access to DNA, causing disease-specific gene expression and leading to blockage of blood vessels which causes heart attacks and strokes.
Impact: I published my major findings in the Journal of Clinical Investigation in 2014, I discovered a novel epigenetic mechanism that controls disease-related gene expression that may ultimately control atherothrombosis, heart attacks and strokes. My research may provide a new therapeutic target for cardiovascular disease.
After graduation: Postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University
Jonathan Drucker, psychology
Adviser: Lawrence Baranov, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Psychology
Research: Selfhood — the experience of being a person — is grounded in the feeling of having a body and being able to use it to interact with our environment. We extend this sense of embodiment to other people in order to understand their personhood.
Impact: Using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), brain systems involved in a) representing our bodies and b) preparing to make intentional actions were implicated in the much more abstract task of thinking about people. This helps advance the idea that complex cognitive processes are embodied in evolutionarily older neural systems for perception and action.
After graduation: Post-doctoral appointment at the Atlanta VA Medical Center

Orion Paul Keifer Jr., neuroscience
Dissertation: “The Development and Application of Ex Vivo Magnetic Resonance Imaging Techniques to Understand the Neural Basis of Pavlovian Fear Conditioning and Extinction”
Adviser: Kerry Resul, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences
Research: How the human brain changes with learning is a fundamental question in neuroscience. It is often studied in humans through indirect means like magnetic resonance imaging, which can provide indirect clues about the structure and function of the brain. However, what these changes in MRI signals mean on a cellular level is unclear. My work focused on studying mice using MRI and then analyzing the cellular makeup of the brains with microscopy to understand what the MRI signals may mean.
Impact: Essentially it is providing clues on what MRI changes really mean on a cellular level, which may allow for a better understanding of human brain function and dysfunction.
After graduation: Finishing medical school as a student in the Emory MD/PhD program

Brendan Ozawa-de Silva, religion
Dissertation: “Becoming the Wish-Fulfilling Tree: Compassion and the Transformation of Ethical Subjectivity in the Lopang Tradition of Tibetan Buddhism”
Adviser: John DRM, associate professor of religion
Research: This dissertation explores the possibility of viewing ourselves as beings who have “compassion at the core” in order to make a contribution to the emerging fields of contemplative science, positive psychology and the interdisciplinary “science of compassion.” It draws upon drawings from Tibetan and Sanskrit texts from the Buddhist Lopang (lobschen) tradition, as well as contemporary research in psychology, neuroscience, phenomenology and anthropology that focuses on compassion, emotions, empathy, embodiment and meaning in life.
Much of this research involves a neointervention away from an individualistic account of selfhood toward a recognition of the deeply social and moral nature of experience itself and the implications this has for our understanding of human nature, compassion and ethics.
Impact: Three years ago I was invited to give a talk at Life University on my dissertation research and was offered a job within six months to develop programs there based on compassion training and research. We have since launched the first Masters in Positive Psychology program to have a track in contemplative science and secular ethics; and have also launched the Center for Compassion, Integrity and Secular Ethics at Life University, which will promote research into compassion and pro-social emotions in conjunction with community programming.
The flagship project is creating a university degree program for prisoners in Georgia.
After graduation: associate professor of psychology at Life University

Doctoral education at Emory, a top national research university, focuses on the creation and transmission of knowledge for the next generation of intellectual leaders. Emory encourages scholarship about solutions to pressing and complex public issues — scholarship that takes risks, challenges conventions and crosses the boundaries of academic disciplines to reach outside the university and make a difference in the world.

Here are a few examples of the dissertations of this year’s PhD recipients from the Laney Graduate School.
At Emory, the high caliber of resources of a national research university adds depth and rigor to the undergraduate liberal arts education. To graduate with honors from the Emory College of Arts and Sciences, students must complete an honors thesis, a comprehensive project that involves months of original research and analysis on a topic of their choice under the guidance of a faculty adviser. The result is a final paper and an oral defense of their thesis to a faculty committee. Here is a sample of the work of students from the humanities, natural and social sciences, describing their research, its impact and their post-graduation plans.

Vincent Vartabedian, biology
Honors thesis: "Development of a Tumor Membrane-based Vaccine for Breast Cancer. Studied as a Monotherapy and in Combination with Immune Checkpoint Blockade Antibodies"
Adviser: Penna Lamy Selvaraj, professor of pathology and laboratory medicine.
Research: Current cancer treatments, like chemotherapy, have severe side effects and aren’t very effective due to differences between different people’s cancers and differences between cells within the tumor. Here, we propose the use of a personalized can- cer vaccine made from tumor cell membranes and decorated with molecules that stimulate the immune system. We tested it against two types of breast cancer, alone and with antibodies that block immune system "off switches." We show that our modified vac-cine alone reduced tumor burden, but it did not show extra efficacy when used in combination with the antibodies that block immune system "off switches."
Impact: I’ve had the pleasure of working in the Selvaraj lab since my freshman year. When I first came in, I had no research experience. However, after examining my grad- uate student mentor Jana Patel, I collaborated on projects that led to multiple publications and designed my own projects that contributed to my thesis work. Thanks to my lab experience and the SRE research partners, SRE Grant, and SURE programs, I have become a confident researcher.
After graduation: Graduate student at The Scripps Research Institute in San Diego, likely studying immunology.

Ellen Dias De Oliveira Chiang, anthropology
Honors thesis: "Queering of Black Masculinity and Performative Utopias"
Adviser: Craig Hadley, associate professor of anthropology.
Research: My thesis explores the sociocultural influences on pa- rental perceptions and decision-making regarding HPV vaccination in Brazil. Within my sample of parents, HPV vaccination has more than just a biomedical identity; it intersects the realms of parenting, sexuality, gender roles, power, stigma and social inequal- ity. Additionally, acceptance of the HPV vaccine was independent of the parents’ HPV knowledge levels.
Impact: My honors research experience showed me the value of interdisciplinary collaboration and enhanced my understanding of the sociocultural influences on the uptake of health services. In the future, I intend to continue examining the complexities of health care distribution, access and utilization.
After graduation: Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Taiwan.

Irina Lucaciu, neuroscience and behavioral biology
Honors thesis: "Emotional and Cognitive Content of Auto-biographical Memories of Trauma in Women with Past-Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: An fMRI and Narrative Analysis Study"
Adviser: Robin Froehlich, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Psychology.
Research: Some individuals who experience trauma develop post-traumatic stress disorder, while others do not. I investigated differ- ences in the way traumatized women with or without PTSD narrate their trauma memories and process emotional stimuli. I compared the emotional and cognitive content of trauma narratives, as well as brain activation in areas previously shown to be involved in emotional and cognitive processing. I found that women who developed PTSD seem to have more emotional memories than resilient women. However, brain activation in the amygdala, a structure involved in emotional process- ing, suggests that they are also more avoidant when presented with negative stimuli.
Impact: I plan to continue my study of memory processes at the University of St. Andrews by joining the O’Connor Memory Judgments Lab. I will be studying the way in which we use our memories to say that something happened, and how that differs from what actually happened. I am hoping to continue the same av- enue of research and study memory, language and cognition at the doctorate level, while also pursuing a PhD in medicine.
After graduation: Master of philosophy in behavioral and neural sciences at the University of St. Andrews as a Bobby Jones Fellow.
Continued from the cover

Jones praised as ‘bridge builder’ across Emory

Jones continued her personal mission at Emory as president of the Black Student Alliance. In 2013, she helped found the Black Student Union, a space dedicated for black student programming, organizing and community. As a staff intern at the Center for Black Subjectivity, she says her core mission hasn’t changed a bit.

“‘She is a bridge builder, the nucleus uniting various units of the Emory community in their efforts to affirm and execute a common vision,’” says Dianne Stewart, associate professor of religion and African American studies. “Rarely do we see students at Jojo’s age with the maturity, discipline, focus and talent to both excel academically and emerge as a model community servant.”

Jones will pursue her Master of Fine Arts in photography at Georgia State University this fall. While it sounds like an abrupt change in gears, she says her core mission hasn’t changed at all. “Even though I’m going to art school, I’m interested in using that time to prepare myself for a different framework for how I think about policy and issues. Ultimately I want to take that knowledge and use it for nonprofit or policy work,” Jones explains. And an eventual career in politics may also be in the cards, she says. “I guess there are a lot of things I’m trying to interject,” Jones admits with a laugh. “I want to use photography to get at the nuances of important issues through an artistic lens alongside the institutional. It’s hard to transform the world when we depend on the same structures over and over again.”

Presented by the Emory Alumni Association and the Student Alumni Board, the 100 Senior Honorary recognizes the most outstanding seniors in Emory’s undergraduate schools, including graduates of Oxford College, Emory College, Goizueta Business School and the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing.

Announced during Founder’s Week, recipients participate in leadership training programs during the spring and are honored at a reception with their parents during Commencement Weekend. After graduation, members of the 100 Senior Honorary will act as alumni leaders in a variety of volunteer capacities.

The 2015 Senior Honorary includes the following students:

Meeva Aggabao 15C
Josephine Akinwumiju 13OX 15C
John Bailey 15C
Yugenderan Balamohan 13OX 15B
Orli Berman 15C
Nicholas Bertha 15B
Kate Bozeman 15B
Caitlin Brown 15N
Rosalie Carr 15C
Adam Chan 15C
Jaison Charles 15B
Elizabeth Dawes 15C
Ashla Deane 15C
Brian Dieker 15B
Izazyme Dodd 15B
Rebecca Du 15C
Jadey Dunbar 13OX 15N
Juliana Dunn 13OX 15C
Michelle Feldman 15N
Alexander Fields 15B
Austin Fusi 15B
Nicole Goetz 13OX 14C
Kimberly Goodwin 13OX 15N
Ashley Gowen 15N
Keith Graeves 15N
Katherine Haath 15C
Alexander Heideman 15C
Kimberly Herard 15C
Joshua Jacobs 15B
Leah Jacobs 15B
Vishal Jain 15B
Krysten Johnson 13OX 15C
Joannia Jones 15C
Simeon Khouzam 15C
Andrew Kim 15C
Francis Kim 1200X 15B
Alexandra Kletz 15B
Prashnita Krishnamurthy 15C
Koja Krower 15C
Emily Lapham 15C
Nancy Larson 14C
Stacey Leeman 15C
Daniel Lin 15C
Irina Lucalu 15C
Camden Macdowell 15C
Rashmi Madhavan 15C
Kayaa Majeunder 15C
Tad Marnoia 15C
Walter Mason 15N
Fakak Mavani 13OX 15C
Domingo McCoy 15N
Bearma McElroy 15C
Farling Mang 15B
Martha Monterrosa 13OX 15B
Danielle Moskovitz 15C
Michael Nathin 15B
Cori Newman 15C
Ahyan Niazi 15C
Zhizhu Nie 15C
Ayman O’Grady 15C
Okeoghenie Ojapa 15C
Adalsba Okucha 15C
Erika Oliver 15C
Christian Olsen 15B
Alexandra Palmer 13OX 15C
Oliver Papin 15C
Aakash Parleka 15B
Man Patel 15N
Olivia Peyton 15C
Karolynne Poroullos 15B
Dylan Price 15B
Anusha Ray 15C
Behit Rehmanuzzaman 15C
Evan Rhea 15B
Malcolm Robinson 15C
Cleo Rocchi 15C
Claudia Rowe 15B
Ryan Rusakodi 13OX 15C
Aarni Safara 15B
Kevin Satterfield 15C
Samamtha Scott 15C
Brian Setchlin 15N
Niyeti Shah 15C
Jessica Simon 15B
Hannah Smith 15B
Sara Stavile 15C
Gabriela Suarez 15N
Jung Sub 15C
Xenia Svir 15C
Laurie Taylor 15C
Krista Tenblay 15B
Amy Van Pelt 13OX 15C
Analys Vaipaisaisane 15C
Christie Wehrer 15N
Aaron Weiner 15B
Matthew Wells 15B
Edmund Xu 13OX 15C
Yige Yao 15B
Anna Yoo 15C
Dansong Zhang 15C

Members of the 100 Senior Honorary will serve as alumni leaders, helping classmates stay connected to the university.

For Emory’s 170th Commencement

Emory composts and recycles for its Commencement celebrations including Commencement Branch, Lullwater Open House, and multiple graduation ceremonies across campus.

Find bins to help us recycle and compost.
BY MICHELLE VALJUGERSEY

During Commencement, excited colleagues come together on Emory’s Quadrangle to make the formal transition from student status to that of degreed alumni. The Emory Alumni Association knows that life as a college graduate is filled with change — in college, career and so much more. "We want to keep in touch with you. Tell us if you'll be embarking on a new career, if you're on the path to grad school, or if you're pursuing a service opportunity," says Stacey Gall, alumni services manager, technology and engagement strategy. “You'll register your home and business addresses and update your contact information for the alumni directory.

Once you've shared your information, you can search for classmates, alumni and friends, find your alumni chapter or affinity group, select events in your area and around the world, register for alumni email, and so much more," she notes.

2. Tell us where you’re headed.

"We want to keep in touch with you. Tell us if you’ll be embarking on a new career, if you’re on the path to grad school, or if you’re pursuing a service opportunity," says Jennifer Crabb Kyles B06X 00C, senior director of alumni relations. "We will tailor communications to your destination city and introduce you to your new Emory alumni chapter."

3. Make career contacts and enhance your skills.

"Be sure to join the Emory Alumni Association LinkedIn group," says Carolyn Bregman B82L, senior director of alumni relations. "With more than 21,000 active members, the Emory Alumni LinkedIn group is an unparalleled resource for making professional connections, sharing industry news, and searching for new career opportunities."

"You can check out our events, listen in to streaming Coach Chats on professional development topics, or listen to podcasts of past programs. Once you are established, volunteer to be a career contact for a current student or other alumni."

4. Be social and keep in touch.

"Once a month, listen in to streaming Coach Chats on professional development topics, or listen to podcasts of past programs. Once you are established, volunteer to be a career contact for a current student or other alumni."

5. Plan your volunteer and social activities by joining an affinity group or chapter.

"With more than 55 chapters and affinity groups around the world, no matter where you live or work you can always stay in touch with Emory," says Maura Klein B06X 10C, assistant director of regional volunteer programs. "Check the event calendar regularly and plan to join your fellow alumni and friends at happy hours, faculty lectures, signature programs, sporting events, theater trips and so much more. And each November, get involved by starting or joining a project to improve our local communities on the Emory Cares International Service Day.”

As an alumnus or alumna, you’re invited to participate year round in virtual and in-person events.” says Carol So 10C, assistant director of student and alumni programs. “Leverage the power of the Emory network and tap into the resources and expertise of more than 133,000 alumni around the world.”

To learn more about the full range of benefits and services available to Emory graduates, visit www.alumni.emory.edu.
Honorary degrees celebrate exceptional leaders

BY STAFF REPORTS

A mayor who focused her administration on ethics and collaboration and two leaders who helped move Emory to greater prominence and achievement are among the honorary degree recipients at this year’s Commencement.

In addition to Commencement speaker Salman Rushdie, who will receive an honorary doctor of letters degree, three others will be honored:

Shirley Franklin
Former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree presented by the dean of Emory Law School, Robert Schapiro.

Shirley Franklin
Franklin was elected the first African American female mayor of a major Southern city in 2001. Her eight-year mayoral tenure was marked by a collaborative approach, joining with many local and regional officials to address challenges of metropolitan regional planning, economic development and infrastructure replacement.

Accomplishments of her administration include launching the Atlanta Beltline initiative, improving the city’s airport and water infrastructure, developing business and public sector partnerships and alliances, and creating the Atlanta Regional Commission on Homelessness. As mayor, Franklin also led the city in acquiring the papers of Martin Luther King Jr. now housed at Morehouse College.

Currently, Franklin serves as chair and chief executive officer of Purpose Built Communities and also president of management consultants Coe- Franklin and Associates, Inc. She is chair of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights and co-chair of the United Way of Greater Atlanta’s Regional Commission on Homelessness.

She is also the Barbara Jordan Visiting Professor of Ethics and Political Values at the University of Texas at Austin’s Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs.

In 2005, TIME magazine named her one of the top five mayors in the country, and U.S. News & World Report listed her as one of “America’s Best.” She is a recipient of the 2005 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

Billy E. Frye 54G 56PhD

He continues the mission of the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation, created in 1967, to support medical research and public health issues at colleges and universities. Family patriarch Wayne Rollins and his wife, Grace Rollins, founded a center for ministry in the Candler School of Theology and helped to establish the Rollins School of Public Health.

Rollins has also given time and service at the highest levels, as a member of the Emory University Board of Trustees from 1988 to 2001; the Winship Cancer Sciences Center Board 1988 to 2001, serving as vice chair from 1990 to 2001, on the finance committee from 1988 to 1994, and on the executive committee from 1991 to 1994, becoming emeritus trustee in 2001.

Rollins is chair of the board of global consumer and commercial services company Rollins Inc. He is also chair of the board of oil and gas services company Marine Products Corporation and RPC Inc.

R. Randall Rollins

He serves as chair of the board of global consumer and commercial services company Rollins Inc. He is also chair of the board of oil and gas services company Marine Products Corporation and RPC Inc.

Oxford College Commencement features Morgan as speaker

Oxford College Commencement 2015 begins Friday, May 8, with an interfaith baccalaureate service at 5 p.m. in Oxford’s Old Church. Commencement ceremonies are Saturday, May 9, at 10 a.m. on the college’s campus.

Approximately 350 students will graduate from Oxford, having completed their sophomore year before continuing on to Emory College. Commencement ceremonies are Saturday, May 9, at 10 a.m. on the college’s campus.

Among Frye’s many honors are Emory’s Thomas Jefferson Award and the Emory Medal. He was recognized as one of the 175 Makers of History during Emory’s 175th anniversary celebration in 2011.

“Choices and Responsibility,” that served as a road-map for a particular time in Emory’s history.

As a national spokesperson and leader in the preparation for a digital future, Frye raised public awareness of the imminent disintegration of millions of books and the need for libraries to address these losses through digitization. The Frye Institute, a joint 10-year program sponsored by Emory and the Washington, D.C.-based Council on Library and Information Resources, was named in his honor. Its mission was to train academic administrators in the integration of libraries and information technology.

Among Frye’s many honors are Emory’s Thomas Jefferson Award and the Emory Medal. He was recognized as one of the 175 Makers of History during Emory’s 175th anniversary celebration in 2011.

Oxford College’s Commencement event include the announcements of the 2015 recipients of the Emory Williams Teaching Award and the Virgil Y.C. Eady Senior Honors College Award.

Special guests include members of the Oxford Class of 1965. As the latest inductees into Corpus Cordis Aematus, which honors alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago, they will don gold robes, walk in the graduates’ procession, and be seated in a special section.

— Cathy Wooten