

HONORARY DEGREES

Learn about the work of John Lewis, Ben Johnson III and Beverly Daniel Tatum.

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ALUMNI EVENTS

Emory alumni reunite with a rich array of Commencement traditions, activities.

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Class of 2014 is confident in their abilities and identity



The geographically diverse Class of 2014 spans the nation and the globe.



EMORY PHOTO/VIDEO

By KIMBER WILLIAMS

A sense of history and hope will infuse Emory's 169th Commencement ceremony, as civil rights icon and U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) delivers the keynote address during a year that marks the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Class of 2014 will convene on the Emory Quadrangle on Monday, May 12, at 8 a.m. to participate in

the pageantry of Commencement exercises that reflect centuries-old tradition, presented this year with a modern environmental twist.

For the first time, some undergraduate graduation gowns and professional doctoral gowns will be fashioned entirely out of recycled plastic bottles, reflecting Emory's role as a national leader in campus sustainability programs.

Gaze across the sea of graduation regalia — an estimated

2,900 "GreenWeaver" gowns — and you'll see the equivalent of 66,700 post-consumer plastic bottles that have been diverted from local landfills, according to Michael Kloss, Emory's chief of protocol and executive director of the Office of University Events.

Scholarship and achievement

A crowd of about 15,000 is expected to attend this year's Commencement ceremony, where

degrees will be conferred upon some 4,400 graduates. About half are earning bachelor's degrees from Emory College of Arts and Sciences and half from Emory's graduate and professional schools.

A geographically diverse group representing nearly all 50 states and many nations around the world — about 16 percent are international students — the Class of 2014 is woven with scholars who embody a variety of backgrounds

and interests, including decorated service veterans, award-winning student athletes, transfer students, and graduates over the age of 50.

Not only did the Class of 2014 experience snowstorms that shut down the campus twice this year (a rarity in Emory's history), students also witnessed another unusual event: Twice in the past four years (in 2010 and again in 2013) the campus hosted visits

Please see CLASS OF 2014 on page 2

McMULLAN AWARD

Pesce uses debate to help others

By BEVERLY CLARK

Debate has been the central, unifying theme for much of Matthew Pesce's life. The Atlanta native came to Emory ranked third in the nation as a high school debater, living and breathing the dedication to excellence it takes to be among the very best. And that success continued with regular college tournament wins and top 10 national rankings during his four years here.

But knowing there is more to life than the thrill of successful competition, Pesce sought out ways to use debate to serve others. Throughout his time at Emory, Pesce has devoted himself to applying the skills and experience of debate — keen analysis of complex issues, critical thinking, and persuasive, civil argument — to help transform the Emory community.

He's also worked to bring the skills and benefits of debate training to Atlanta Public School students as a coach and mentor through the Emory-founded Urban Debate League (UDL).



Matthew Pesce

EMORY PHOTO/VIDEO

"Matthew uses his fame in debate to be a role model for students who have not had the resources he has had to advance his education," says Melissa Maxcy Wade, executive director of forensics at Emory and founder of the UDL, which currently has more than 25 chapters around the country.

"He's managed to balance a rigorous academic schedule leading to highest honors in political science, comprehensive participation in other student organizations, and a four-year commitment teaching debate in some of Atlanta's most

Please see McMULLAN on page 4

BRITTAIN AWARD

Light embraces culture of service

By MARIA M. LAMEIRAS

As an athlete and a student, Megan Light found what she was looking for at Emory, but her coaches and professors say she has brought as much to the University as it has given to her.

Light, a graduating senior anthropology and human biology major in Emory College of Arts and Sciences, is the 2014 recipient of the University's highest student honor, the Marion Luther Brittain Award. The award is presented each year to a graduate who has demonstrated exemplary service to both the University and the greater community without expectation of recognition.

Candidates are required to demonstrate a strong character, meritorious service and sense of integrity. Light receives the award, which also comes with \$5,000, during the central Commencement ceremony May 12.

"I knew I wanted to play softball in college, and athletics has been a huge part of my success and experience at Emory," says Light, who will play with the Emory women's softball team in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III playoffs beginning May 8. Emory's women's softball team has won the University Athletic Association (UAA) Championship each of the four years Light has played. Among many other honors, she earned 2013 UAA Most Valuable Player, 2011 and 2013 All-America honors, and 2013 Academic All-America honors.



Megan Light

EMORY PHOTO/VIDEO

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Commencement

EDITOR'S NOTE

Congratulations, graduates! We enjoy sharing your accomplishments and aspirations in this special edition of Emory Report.

To keep up-to-date with campus news this summer and in the future, visit the Emory News Center at news.emory.edu/campus and look for the Emory Report ebulletin in your inbox each week.

Best of luck,
Leslie King, interim editor

Social media guide

View Commencement photos, videos, and stories on Twitter and Instagram by following @EmoryUniversity and using hashtag #Emory2014. Also stay connected with Facebook and the Emory Mobile App (text "EMORY" to 99699 for info).

Celebrate Commencement with the whole Emory community on our social media hub at emory.edu/socialhub. See tweets and Instagrams from your Emory peers, colleagues, alumni, family and friends. Contribute to the feed by using #Emory2014 in your social media updates.

More Commencement coverage online

Visit news.emory.edu to:

- See photos from the 2014 ceremony.
- Read more student stories.
- View videos, including interviews with graduates.
- Find out who won faculty honors and get highlights from school diploma ceremonies.

EMORY | report

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JEFFERSON AWARD

Carlos del Rio is a lifelong fighter of disease

By **HOLLY KORSCHUN**

As a physician, researcher, and public health leader, Carlos del Rio has spent his career working to prevent, treat and improve patient outcomes for infectious diseases locally and globally, with a particular focus on HIV/AIDS.

As an educator, he was program director of the Department of Medicine Residency Program, and co-chaired the committee that revised the medical school curriculum. He has taught and mentored hundreds of Emory medical and public health students, residents and fellows, and trained public health investigators all over the world.

As the 2014 recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Award, Emory's highest award for distinguished service to the University, del Rio exemplifies the personal and professional qualities of community involvement, influence, and leadership that are the hallmarks of the award.

Del Rio is the Hubert Professor and Chair of the Hubert Department of Global Health and professor of epidemiology at Rollins School of Public Health, as well as a professor of medicine at Emory School of Medicine and chief of the infectious disease service at Emory University Hospital. He is also the director for clinical sciences and international research of the Emory Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and directs the Emory AIDS International Training and Research Program.

Working with Mexico

A native of Mexico, del Rio grew up admiring heroes like Louis Pasteur, who developed vaccines to combat infectious disease. He first came to Emory as a visiting medical student in 1982 and then as a medical resident (1983–1989). He returned to Mexico as a physician and educator, and from 1992 until 1996 he was executive director of the national AIDS Council of Mexico.

He is still a leading collaborator with Mexico in a variety of Emory programs. In 1996 del Rio joined the Emory School of Medicine faculty, and

in 2009 he became chair of the Hubert Department of Public Health at Rollins.

As a clinician, and researcher and former chief of medicine at Grady Memorial Hospital, he has witnessed firsthand the toll of HIV/AIDS on patients in innercity Atlanta and in countries around the world. He has focused his work in the United States and developing countries on prevention and early diagnosis of HIV, access to care and compliance with antiretrovirals in hard-to-reach populations, including substance abusers.

"Dr. del Rio is an exceptional and incredibly committed local and global citizen," says James W. Curran, dean of the Rollins School of Public Health. "He has had an extraordinary impact on Emory not only in multiple areas of scholarship, research, administration, teaching and clinical care, but also in international research, training and intervention."

Over his years at Emory del Rio has always enjoyed the collegiality and collaborative environment that exists here. "Emory is a place that attracts outstanding students and faculty and fosters an environment that encourages and facilitates collaboration and cooperation across units. Emory is also a place committed to improving health locally and globally," del Rio says.

The association with Grady Health System is something that has been particularly attractive to del Rio, and he continues to see patients at the Grady Infectious Diseases Program HIV clinic.

As a national and international public health leader, del Rio is the vice-chair of the board of directors of the HIV Medicine Association of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, member of the board of directors of the International Antiviral Society and member of the advisory committee on HIV and STD of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Health Resources and Services Administration. He is editor-in-chief of NEJM Journal Watch HIV/AIDS, senior clinical editor for AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses, and is a member of the



Carlos del Rio EMORY PHOTO/VIDEO

editorial boards for the Journal of AIDS; Women, Children and HIV; and Global Public Health.

Del Rio has received many honors and awards including the James H. Nakano Citation from the CDC for an outstanding scientific paper published in 2000 and Emory's Marion V. Creekmore Achievement Award for Internationalization. Atlanta Magazine selected him as one of the 55 most influential foreign-born Atlantans in 2007 and he was elected in 2013 to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, one of 23 Emory faculty members who have been elected to the Institute of Medicine.

CLASS OF 2014: Students possess 'a remarkable joy'

Continued from the cover

from His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama, who is a Presidential Distinguished Professor at Emory.

The Class of 2014 will also be remembered for its "joyfulness," notes Emory President James Wagner.

"This class has been one that expresses a remarkable joy of a sort that comes from having confidence in their abilities, comfort with their own identity and values, and experience in successfully addressing opportunities and issues together in community," Wagner says.

This year's Commencement will also be highlighted by the conferral of three honorary degrees:

- U.S. Rep. John Lewis — Civil rights leader and voter education advocate; to receive an honorary doctor of laws degree
- Ben F. Johnson III, '65C — former chair of the Emory Board of Trustees and trustee emeritus; to receive an honorary doctor of laws degree
- Beverly Daniel Tatum — Ninth president of Spelman College, scholar, teacher, race-relations expert; to receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree

As keynote speaker, Lewis offers a personal perspective shaped by decades of public service and landmark moments in civil rights history.

He will discuss the importance of democratic engagement and the necessity for young people to be involved in the democratic process, using his own life and stories from the front lines of the civil rights movement to illustrate his point.

For more information on Commencement events, including plans for individual school ceremonies, visit www.emory.edu/commencement.

Can't attend the ceremony? Commencement exercises will be streamed live online at www.emory.edu/commencement/webcast



The Class of 2014 began a tradition when theirs was the first photo taken spelling out the year of graduation.

EMORY PHOTO/VIDEO

Oxford College Commencement

Barbara Stoll, George W. Brumley, Jr., Professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine and president and CEO of the Emory-Children's Center, will give the keynote address during Commencement exercises at Oxford College on Saturday, May 10.

Stoll, who is also senior vice president and chief academic officer and an associate dean of clinical services at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, joined the Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at Emory's School of Medicine in 1986. She is the first Emory Chair of Pediatrics to be jointly employed by and hold a senior leadership role at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, one of the nation's largest pediatric health care systems.

Oxford Commencement begins at 10 a.m., when a bagpiper leads the graduate procession onto the Oxford College Quadrangle. Recipients of the 2014 Williams Teaching Award and Eady Sophomore Service Award will also be announced during the ceremony. Oxford's Class of 2014 represents about 305 graduates.

A groundbreaking ceremony for Oxford College's new science building will take place immediately afterward at the building's site on the College Quad.

Oxford College's ceremony recognizes students who have completed their sophomore year in preparation for continuing on to Emory's Atlanta campus

—Kimber Williams

Commencement

College honors theses showcase original research

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. More student honors theses are online at <http://www.emory.edu/home/research/college-honors/>

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:



James Zainaldin



Zhuxiang (Emerson) Qin



Jeffeline Ermilus



Fiona O'Carroll



Maglyn Bertrand

Fiona O'Carroll, history

Honors Thesis: "The Instinct of Every Real Woman: The Ideas of the Anti-Suffrage Movement in the U.S., 1868-1920"

Adviser: Patrick Allitt, Cahoon Family Professor of American History

Research: Between 1868 and 1920, the most active, organized opposition to the American woman suffrage movement came from women, known as anti-suffragists. Defenders of the status quo, anti-suffragists drew on widely accepted religious, cultural and scientific ideas about gender and gender roles. Understanding the anti-suffragists' views can help us understand why the struggle for woman suffrage was such a long and arduous one.

Impact: By conducting independent research, I have learned how to ask questions and I have become more resourceful, self-reliant, disciplined and creative in answering them.

After graduation: Bobby Jones Scholar studying history at the University of St. Andrews, followed by either law school or graduate school in history

Maglyn Bertrand, music

Honors Thesis: "The Development and Revitalization of the Chilean and Argentine New Song Movement"

Adviser: Stephen Crist, associate professor of music history

Research: During the 1960s, certain Chilean and Argentine musicians and lyricists articulated the need for two new music genres. My thesis focuses on how various musicians helped each genre develop particular apolitical and political identities during the 1960s, the 1970s and the 1980s. My work focused on the genres as cultural manifestations, accompaniments to political voices, and as national and international genres in an attempt to understand their development.

Impact: My music history thesis has enabled me to draw upon information I have learned from my two majors, music and Latin American studies, as well as from other courses. I will continue to study music that allows me to focus on connections between music and politics, music and social/cultural movements, and various kinds of Latin American music.

After graduation: Internship at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Washington, D.C.; graduate school applications in ethnomusicology / musicology

Jeffeline Ermilus, sociology

Honors Thesis: "Voter Suppression in a 'Post-Racial' Society: Examining Allegations of Voter Disenfranchisement"

Adviser: Alexander Hicks, Winship Distinguished Research Professor in Sociology

Research: In light of the 2013 U.S. Supreme Court decision to repeal part of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, some observers claim the opportunity for voter disenfranchisement has grown. Using data from provisional ballots from the elections from 2004-2012 that were rejected due to insufficient identification, I examine the idea that voter identification statutes have a deterrent effect on turnout among minority populations, particularly African Americans.

Impact: My research centers around issues that have disparate effects on minority populations. In the future, when I'm a lawyer, I plan to work on policies that mitigate these inequities.

After graduation: Georgetown University Law Center

James Zainaldin, classics

Honors Thesis: "Education and Politics in Plato and Cicero"

Adviser: Garth Tissol, professor of classics

Research: My thesis explores the relationship between education and its political context in the works of Plato and Cicero. Specifically, I am concerned with the question: Does the educated individual have an obligation to participate in politics? I argue that Platonic education actually drives the educated person away from political service. I find that Cicero, in contrast, recommends an educational plan with the goals of political service firmly in mind.

Impact: The process of writing this thesis has provided an excellent opportunity to acquaint myself with the primary and secondary literature of a very specific topic. More important, I think, are the lessons I learned on how to choose a topic and manage the extended presentation of a research project.

After graduation: Harvard University for Ph.D. in classics

Zhuxiang (Emerson) Qin, economics

Honors Thesis: "What Happens to Marriage in China When Housing Prices Increase"

Adviser: Andrew Francis, associate professor of economics

Research: In China, the relation between a male's desirability in the marriage market and his possession of private residential assets has long existed. By examining annual data of 30 provinces in China from 1998 to 2011, I apply three models and discover that rising housing prices overall deter people from getting married. I also attempt to explain the complexity in analyzing the empirical relationship between marital dynamics and housing prices.

Impact: Participating in honors research allowed me to incorporate knowledge and skills from different classes and to develop an ability to apply economic theory in practical settings. In addition, the quantitative analysis training will help me make better decisions when I start up my own business in the future.

After graduation: Massachusetts Institute of Technology for a master's degree program in finance

Jason Kim, neuroscience and behavioral biology, biology

Honors Thesis: "Motor Control of Heartbeat Coordination in the Medicinal Leech"

Adviser: Ronald Calabrese, Samuel C. Dobbs Professor of Biology

Research: Medicinal leeches have been important model organisms, particularly in motor systems research. Three different preparations with varying degrees of dissection were designed to investigate previously established paradigms of leech heartbeat motor patterns. The major findings include an analysis of differing heartbeat patterns in previously unexplored segments as well as the preservation of motor-to-muscular performance across preparations.

Impact: I was part of the Calabrese Laboratory for most of my undergraduate career and participated in several projects and research programs. My experiences there allowed me to fully contemplate a career in research and have prepared me for my graduate studies.

After graduation: Northwestern University PhD program in neuroscience

EMORY PHOTO/VIDEO

SCHOLAR/TEACHER AWARD

Abdullahi An-Na'im committed to positive change

By ELAINE JUSTICE

Abdullahi An-Na'im's commitment to the well-being of the wider world began early in his career as scholar, teacher and human rights activist.

An-Na'im, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law at Emory, credits the late Islamic reformer, activist and fellow Sudan native Mahmoud Mohamed Taha with changing his life forever.

"Taha called for a fresh reinterpretation of Sharia (Islamic law) in light of the drastically transformed present context of Muslim societies today, to ensure equality for all men and women, without any distinction and other objectives," says An-Na'im, who as a young law student at the University of Khartoum in the late 1960s joined Taha's reform movement.

Tragically, Taha was convicted of apostasy and sentenced to death in 1985.

"I left Sudan in April of that year," says An-Na'im, "reeling from the profound shock that my mentor had been publicly executed, his books were burned, and the Islamic reform movement he founded in 1951 had been banned."

As An-Na'im remembers it, Taha enabled him to confront and overcome "the contradiction between my belief as a Muslim that Sharia was divine and immutable, and my personal commitment to constitutional governance and respect for human rights."

An-Na'im dedicated himself to reconciling his Islamic faith and identity with his commitment to universal acceptance of and response for human rights. It is a quest that has taken him from the classroom to all corners of the world, inspiring colleagues and students, and ultimately generating the kinds of changes that Taha challenged him to work toward.

This is among the reasons An-Na'im has been named the 2014 recipient of Emory's Scholar/Teacher Award. The award is given on behalf of the United Methodist Church Board of Higher Education and Ministry to an Emory faculty member who has demonstrated exceptional teaching, concern for students and



Abdullahi An-Na'im

EMORY PHOTO/VIDEO

colleagues, and made significant contributions to the scholarly life of the university.

Looking at a secular state for Muslims

An-Na'im's latest book, "What is an American Muslim? Embracing Faith and Citizenship" (Oxford University Press, 2014) is perhaps his most personal, an application of his wide expertise in and deep commitment to the positive

evolution of law, religion and human rights in an often divisive and flawed world.

The book offers an argument for a secular state in which Muslims can be fully Muslim and fully American. He urges American Muslims to engage in the civil and political life of the country as citizens informed by their faith, rather than a community separated by religion.

One story that represents An-Na'im's commitment to the free exercise of faith within the larger community concerns one of his former students. She asked An-Na'im to visit her family to help resolve a crisis by explaining how Sharia would permit marriage of a Muslim woman to a Christian man.

Having equipped himself with the relevant verses of the Quran and explaining his view to the family, An-Na'im "happily guided the couple through the formation of a marriage contract on the spot, which is all it takes to constitute a valid marriage under Sharia."

"The response of that family is not blind concession to modernization or dominant culture," he says, "but a living embodiment of the historical dynamism and adaptability of Sharia."

"What makes the United States an excellent place to be a Muslim is the unique combination of freedom of religion and freedom from religion," he says, "because a religion coercively enforced by the state is not the religion of any believer."

A law school faculty member since 1995, An-Na'im serves as a senior fellow in the Center for the Study of Law and Religion, associated professor in Emory College of Arts and Sciences, faculty fellow of Emory Center for Ethics, and director of Emory Law's Center for International and Comparative Law.

A prolific scholar, he is the author of six books, editor and co-editor of 10 books, and author of more than 60 articles and book chapters. His research has been wide ranging and international, from the study of women's access to and control of land in seven African countries to a global study of Islamic family law, to a fellowship program in Islam and human rights.

McMULLAN: Pesce is 'a Renaissance student, scholar, leader, friend'

Continued from the cover

socio-economically challenged secondary school communities," Wade says. "He is the kind of student who has already made contributions to leveling the playing field in education and is poised to have a profound post-graduate impact."

These qualities helped make Pesce the 2014 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 extraordinary promise of becoming future leaders and rare potential for service to their community, the nation, and the world. The McMullan Award carries with it \$25,000 — no strings attached.

Described by other nominators as "a Renaissance student, a scholar, leader, and friend" who "combines his thinking with practice," Pesce has taken on difficult leadership roles as chair of the Honor Council, working to ensure efficiency and fairness, while treating all students with dignity and respect. As chair of the Emory Elections Board, Pesce reformed the Student Government Association's election codes (after other unsuccessful efforts throughout the years), tying together 18 separate elections that

happened throughout the year into a much simpler, streamlined process.

"He has demonstrated great skill at navigating the difficult waters of university bureaucracy in order to effect lasting, positive change," says Jason Ciejka, associate director of the honor council in Emory's Office of Undergraduate Education.

Pesce will graduate with highest honors with a bachelor's degree in political science and a minor in development studies. As a SIRE (Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory) undergraduate researcher and a junior and senior fellow at Emory's Center for Law, Politics and Economics, Pesce has excelled academically. He recently worked as a conflict resolution intern at The Carter Center, while also completing an honors thesis on the Chinese rubber industry under adviser Rick Doner, professor of political science.

With all of his other involvement, Pesce has remained an active college debater, rising to 7th place nationally as a junior and serving as vice president of the Barkley Forum, Emory's award-winning debate program.

Pesce says the most challenging and rewarding activity has been as a mentor and instructor in Atlanta UDL, which uses the competitive motivation of tournament debate to teach the skills of critical thinking, computer research,

oral presentation and advocacy. The program offers guidance in public speaking, advice in college preparation, and role models to at-risk teenagers.

"It's been an amazing process to see struggling students gain confidence in themselves, learn to solve problems in constructive ways, engage with advanced material, and display tolerance for opposing viewpoints," Pesce says. "I came to understand the trials my students faced on a daily basis and the incredible opportunities education can provide."

After graduation, Pesce will work as a business analyst in the strategy and operations division at Deloitte. He plans to attend graduate school in economic development, business or law, with an eye toward a career in academia or in a civil servant role that will enable him to contribute to society through his service and leadership.

"In his character, his intellect and his dedication to Emory, he is in every sense a model student and a remarkable person," Ciejka says. Adds faculty adviser Judy Raggi Moore, director of Emory's Italian Studies program, "Matthew strives to give his honest best in all in which he engages...His desire to contribute to a better world comes from a deeply felt urge to give back, to help others as he has been helped, and to encourage all to strive to be their best."

For Emory's 169th Commencement

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Emory University is composting and recycling during its Commencement celebrations including Commencement Brunch, Lullwater Open House, and multiple graduation ceremonies across campus.

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fm.emory.edu/recycling

By 2015, Emory's goal is to divert from landfills 65% of overall waste and 95% of food waste.

sustainability initiatives

Commencement

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Gray is first joint global biomedical engineering graduate

By KIMBER WILLIAMS

As Warren Gray joins Emory's 2014 Commencement ceremonies as a Laney Graduate School student marshal, he'll likely feel a flash of déjà vu — not two weeks ago, the biomedical engineering major was participating in graduation exercises at Georgia Tech, too.

As the first student to graduate from the Global Biomedical Engineering (BME) joint Ph.D. program, conducted in partnership with Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology and Peking University (PKU), Gray has logged academic experience at all three institutions.

Created by the Emory School of Medicine and Georgia Tech College of Engineering, the interdisciplinary program represents a collaboration between public and private universities that is both highly unusual and highly acclaimed — since its founding in 1997, the BME program has been ranked second in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

But Gray's decision to join the first cohort of graduate students entering the Emory-Georgia Tech-PKU program in 2009 hinged upon the program's dedication to international learning. In addition to dividing time between Emory and Georgia Tech, students spend a year of study and research at PKU, which Gray considers one of China's premier institutions.

During the first two years of his program, Gray attended classes at both Emory and Georgia Tech, co-advised by professors at both schools. His third year was spent in China, fulfilling a desire "to interface with people scientifically and culturally."

"I love the idea of working with people, learning about differences not as a way to separate us, but to see how a lot of our fundamentals are the same," Gray recalls. "In the future, the world will be more interconnected. I wanted to be a part of that."

Healing the human heart

As a chemical engineering undergraduate at Oregon State University, Gray had long wrestled with a decision about his next academic step.

Performing church mission work in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina opened his eyes to medicine. He remembers heart attack survivor Robert Weaver telling him,



Warren Gray

EMORY PHOTO/VIDEO

"My heart is weak today — other parts of your body heal, but your heart doesn't heal."

The words haunted him: "I thought nearly every part of your body was regenerative, except for the brain. But I learned that cardiac muscle tissue doesn't regenerate, it forms a scar (that doesn't contract), which can sometimes lead to heart failure. The big problem after heart attacks is that heart muscle dies."

Instead of becoming a physician who prescribed treatments to heal the human heart, Gray wanted to develop them.

Gray's first year was spent exploring how microscopic nanoparticles could be used as a vehicle to deliver therapeutic drug molecules directly to heart muscle cells to aid cardiac function.

While in China, his focus expanded to improving blood vessel formation to help increase blood flow to the heart. His research was built upon employing "a new type of architecture" for cell-based drug delivery, using bow-tie dendrimers — a class of radially symmetric, branched polymers.

Since returning to Emory, Gray's work has centered on an emerging realm of stem cell therapy, specifically the regenerative potential of exosomes — small molecules loaded with microRNA and proteins which are excreted by cells, then signal other cells to help form blood vessels and mitigate scar formation in damaged heart tissue — in amplifying the body's natural beneficial response.

It's possible that a pharmaceutical firm someday could "farm" and concentrate those secreted exosomes, which might then be injected directly into damaged heart tissue, notes Gray, who is working with Emory on filing a provisional patent surrounding his research.

"That's one of the great things about the program — there is biomedical research going on, but also research related to the translational application side," Gray says. "This is something that could actually be helping patients within the next decade."

Freedom to imagine, explore

When Gray came to the program, "I knew that I would be doing research, working in developing new therapies, but I didn't know one of them would be my own idea — that instead of being a lab rat, I would be able to develop into a scientific thinker."

After defending his doctoral work, Gray remained at Emory to collaborate with his research adviser Michael Davis, associate professor and director of the Pediatric Center for Cardiovascular Biology at Emory School of Medicine.

"While many were skeptical of this program because it involved a year overseas in the middle of training, Warren and I embraced it as a chance to take part in a global research setting, gain new skills, and really cultivate his independence," Davis says.

"I think he will be doing amazing things in the near future."

By participating in two different commencement ceremonies, Gray is "a bit of an anomaly." Usually Emory/Georgia Tech BME students pick one school to walk at, "but I've worked at both institutions, so I'll walk at both institutions," he says.

Cheering him on will be his wife, Whitney Gray, an Emory physical therapy student with an undergraduate degree in neuroscience. By the time they both graduate, "we will have a total of 46 years of education between us," he jokes.

Not ready to stop learning?

Join Emory's MA in Bioethics Program.

Receive a foundation in critical thinking that is profoundly transformative in principle and practice. You will be a better professional, armed with enhanced insights into framing the ethical issues in your field.

As an undergraduate in philosophy, **Aric Edwards** learned "slippery words like 'truth'" and grappled with the practicality of ethics. This led him to the Emory program, which catapulted Edwards from slippery to sticky, helping him see the real-world implications of ethics through a practicum at the Department of Human Genetics, work

at the Institutional Review Board, and a job postgraduation at the Hope Clinic as a clinical trials regulatory specialist.

His thesis was on direct-to-consumer genetic testing. As the FDA bans products like 23andMe's genetic testing service, Edwards reminds us of the need for an "active citizenry" such that "bureaucratic systems don't control the gates of access. Individuals have a right to control their genetic information's meaning." You might say that Edwards has become an expert in sticky slopes.



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Commencement Portrait Sessions will take place:
Barnes&Noble Bookstore @ Emory University
Second Floor (textbooks/computer store area)
Sunday, May 11, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
and Monday, May 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



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Expanded social media enhances alumni experience

By MICHELLE VALIGURSKY

During the Commencement festivities taking place on campus from May 7 through May 12, more than 20 alumni-related events, including a new international student desert reception, reunite visiting alumni from across the globe. “Commencement unites alumni with students and families to appreciate and participate wholly in the Emory experience,” says Carol So ’10C, assistant director of alumni and student programs at the Emory Alumni Association.

For future Emory Residence Hall Director and Fellow Maija-Liisa Ehlinger ’14C, Commencement is steeped in both tradition and great memories. “I cannot imagine a more transformative experience than the one I had here at Emory. I am leaving not only with a great degree and an appreciation for interdisciplinary learning, but also with the confidence needed to succeed no matter what the future holds,” she says. Beginning this summer, Ehlinger will serve as a fellow in the Office of Health Promotion. “I’m excited about spending another year on the campus I love in order to help create a healthier student body.”

Fellow senior Rasheika Martin ’14C says, “My time at Emory has been characterized by growth. I have grown as a student, a professional, a thinker and a woman.

“In August 2010, I started college having a set plan as to how my life would unfold. I can honestly say that not a single, concrete goal on my original list has come to fruition, and gladly so. I adjusted my initial life plans into new aspirations that I have since realized.”

Corpus Cordis Aureum

Ehlinger and Martin will march on the Quad alongside Emory’s oldest alumni. “Each year, Emory’s treasured alumni don golden robes to walk alongside their student counterparts during the Commencement ceremony,” says Gloria Grevas, Emory Alumni Association director of student and alumni programs. “This time-honored tradition pays homage to the generations who have built our Emory legacy.” This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Corpus Cordis Aureum (CCA), or golden corps of the heart, which was created to honor Emory alumni who have graduated 50 years ago or more.

During the CCA induction ceremony on Sunday, May 11, the Judson C. “Jake” Ward Golden Heart Award will be given

to J. Joseph Edwards ’54Ox, ’56B, ’58B and Patricia Carter Edwards ’61C. Established in 2010, the Golden Heart Award seeks to recognize Emory alumni who demonstrate the

same values of service, generosity of spirit and loyalty to the university embodied by Dean of Alumni Judson “Jake” Ward ’33C, ’36G.

This year, the association is expanding its live coverage of Commencement on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. “If you’re looking for a way to stay connected during Commencement Weekend, become part of the Emory Alumni Association’s #emoryTBT project by sharing your Commencement throwback photos. Use the hashtag on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook, then head to our social hub to check out our board to see what your friends are sharing at alumni.emory.edu/emorytbt,” suggests Tania Dowdy ’08Ox, ’10C, the association’s social media specialist. “Be sure your social profiles are public to be included in the hub.”

“Emory is home to me,” Ehlinger says. “I am looking forward to the transition from Emory student to Emory alum. I know that Commencement Weekend is going to be incredibly busy, but I hope I remember to keep it in perspective and enjoy the moments.”

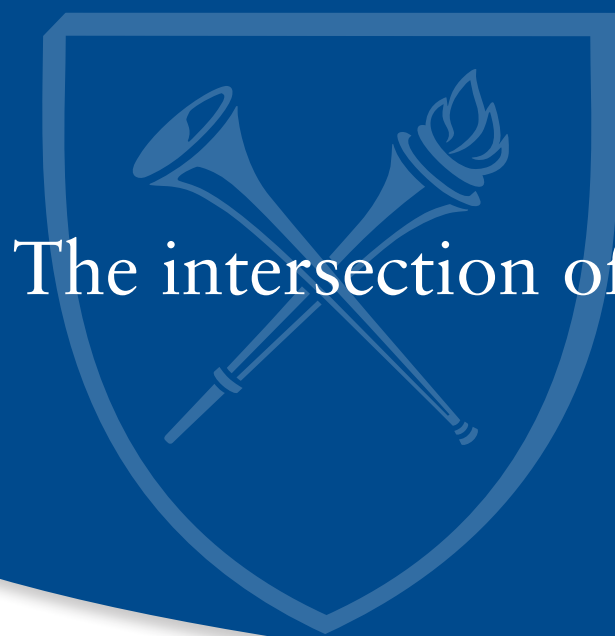
See the full schedule of Commencement Weekend activities at <http://www.emory.edu/commencement/schedule/index.html>



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CUTTINO AWARD

Mentoring pays personal, professional dividends for Brown



Peter J. Brown

EMORY PHOTO/VIDEO

By MEGAN McRAINEY

Peter J. Brown, professor of anthropology and global health, is described by his students as a rare blend of cheerleader and critic. He treats his students as equals from the day they first walk nervously into his office, taking a personal interest in their lives and careers. He'll not only be the first to cheer a student's success but also be the first to point out that they're capable of better. He encourages his advisees "to learn how to take care of themselves, yet he never leaves us out on a limb," writes Leslie Jo Weaver, a former student.

Brown is the recipient of this year's George P. Cuttino Award for Excellence in Mentoring, established in 1997 by John T. Glover '68C.

"One of the greatest pleasures of being a professor is working with students, both undergraduate and graduate students, and watching them develop," says Brown, who joined Emory in 1978. He describes being

a mentor as "a difficult balance between three things": encouraging students in order to build their self-esteem, offering constructive criticism when needed, and "simply getting out of their way when they are smarter than you."

Svea Closser, a former student, notes Brown "has a gift for steering his students gently toward good ideas and away from bad ones, while never interfering with the process of learning and inspiration that allows students to own their work."

"As a teacher myself now, I know how hard this is," says Closser, who is an assistant professor of sociology and anthropology at Middlebury College.

Leandris Liburd, another former student, also praised Brown's commitment to those he teaches.

"Dr. Brown is not afraid to resist and renounce prevailing wisdom or take a stand for what he believes is in the best interest of the students and the discipline," says Liburd,

director of the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Brown, whose work focuses on medical anthropology and global health, has mentored students in public health, medical anthropology and medicine. He says he aims to help pre-med students understand that individual health is wrapped up in a much larger system of social and cultural influences and inequalities.

Professors who spend a significant portion of their time mentoring students have less time for research and scholarship, Brown admits, but their impact on their academic fields is no less important.

"I decided a while back that you can write volumes of extremely specific research but when you look at how many people actually read that work, it's relatively small given the amount of effort that goes in to it," says Brown. "But one can invest in people, and that pays dividends."

BRITTAİN: Light known as 'an educator in the gift of giving'

Continued from the cover

In addition to athletics, Light embraced Emory's culture of service, working with Volunteer Emory since her freshman year, volunteering at a homeless shelter, coaching softball for younger students in local leagues, and serving on Emory's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee to coordinate educational, community-service, and leadership-development opportunities for all student-athletes.

"My father has been a volunteer at a homeless shelter for more than 25 years and I started going with him when I was 11 or 12. It is something I have always enjoyed," Light says.

Emory head softball coach Penny Siqueiros wrote in her Brittain award nomination letter that she and others learned much from Light's example as a player and a person.

"A clear example that stands out in my mind is, after grueling practices over a number of weekends, Megan would change out of her practice attire and head to a homeless shelter in Atlanta to serve food to the needy," Siqueiros wrote. "She is an educator in the gift of giving, whether she knows it or not."

Academically, Light discovered a passion for public health at Emory, and traveled to Ghana to do volunteer work at a hospital through the Cross-Cultural Solutions program.

"This was my first exposure to anything besides American medicine. Seeing how people are cared for firsthand in the hospital in Ghana and realizing how much they needed and how much needed to be done in public health there was one of the most important experiences I have had," says Light, who will enroll in the Rollins School of Public Health (RSPH) in the fall to pursue a master of public health degree in global health.

Light has worked in the Department of Global Health at RSPH with assistant research professor Jorge Vidal doing quantitative DNA analysis for a study on pneumonia in South Africa and at the Global Center for Safe Water, where she worked on a rapid assessment tool to examine fecal contamination for rural or urban low-income areas with director Christine Moe, the Eugene J. Gangarosa Professor of Safe Water and Sanitation.

"I began as a pre-med major, but my introduction to public health through work at the Rollins School of Public Health and at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention helped me realize that public health was what I wanted to pursue," she says.

After earning her master's degree, Light hopes to work with the World Health Organization, CARE International or another organization focusing on international community health and community development.



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Honorary degree recipients are leaders in education and civil rights

By STAFF REPORTS

Three individuals will receive honorary degrees at Emory's May 12 Commencement.

Commencement keynote speaker **U.S. Rep. John Lewis** (D-Ga.) will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Lewis began a career of service early in his life; at the age of 23, he was one of the architects of and a keynote speaker at the historic March on Washington in August 1963.

The icon of the Civil Rights Movement helped found the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and was its chairman from 1963 to 1966. SNCC organized sit-ins and other student activities for civil rights.

Lewis also served as director of the Voter Education Project, helping to register millions to vote.

In 1977, Lewis was appointed by then-President Jimmy Carter to direct more than 250,000 volunteers of the federal volunteer agency ACTION.

He was elected to the Atlanta City Council in 1981 and to the U.S. Congress as representative of Georgia's Fifth Congressional District in 1986. Lewis currently serves as senior chief deputy whip for the Democratic Party in the House of Representatives and is a member of the House Ways & Means Committee, serving on subcommittees on oversight, income security and family support.



John Lewis COURTESY OF JOHN LEWIS

Lewis is the recipient of numerous awards from national and international institutions, including the 2011 Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honor. He holds a B.A. in religion and philosophy from Fisk University, and is a graduate of the American Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ben F. Johnson III, '65C, who was chair of Emory's Board of Trustees for 13 years, will be awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree.

During his tenure of leadership, Johnson oversaw governance of the University, helped shape its leadership team, and tended to its long-range fiduciary health until stepping down in November 2013. As board chair, Johnson led the search committee that recommended appointment of Emory President James Wagner.

Also during his tenure as chair, Emory oversaw development of a university-wide strategic plan and a campus master plan, and launched the most ambitious fundraising campaign in Emory's history, raising \$1.69 billion to support teaching, research, scholarship, patient care and social action.

Beverly Daniel Tatum, the ninth president of Spelman College, will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree.

Tatum, widely recognized as a scholar, teacher, race-relations expert and leader in higher education, is an accomplished administrator who has led Spelman in growth and recognition since 2002. President Barack Obama appointed her in 2010 to the Advisory Board for the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

In 2005, Tatum received the prestigious Brock International Prize in Education for her innovative leadership. Tatum also is a member of several national non-profit boards including the Institute for International Education, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and Teach for America, and is chair of the Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education.



Ben F. Johnson, III

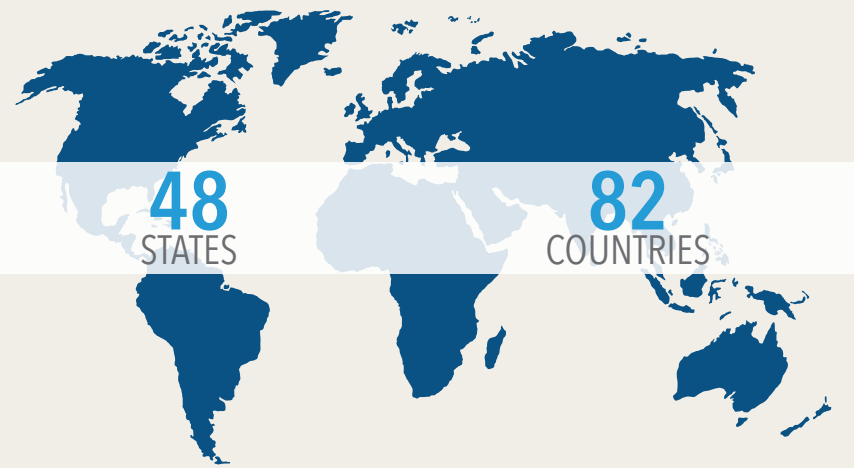
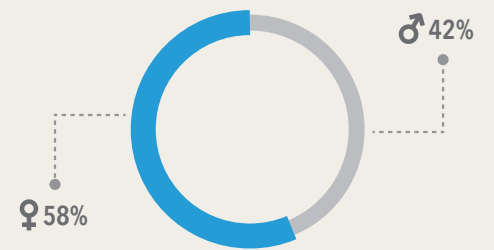


Beverly Daniel Tatum

CLASS OF 2014 BY THE NUMBERS

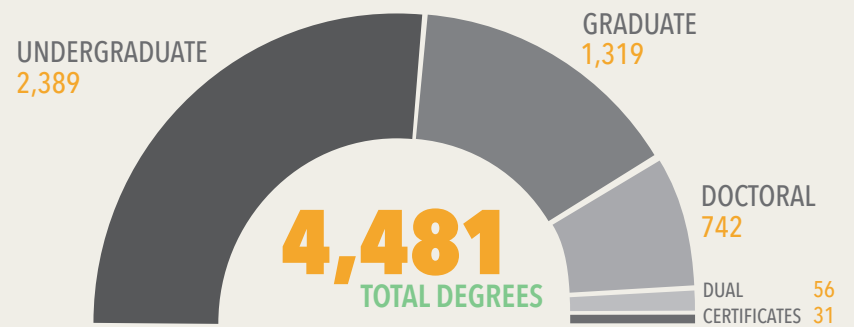
CLASS PROFILE

4,425
TOTAL GRADUATES



Age of youngest undergraduate: 19 Emory College GPA \geq 3.5: 46%
Age of oldest overall graduate: 63 Emory College average GPA: 3.37
Military service graduates/dependents: 60

DEGREES AWARDED



*All figures correct as of May 5

GREEN FACTS

