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MAY 11, 2015

MEMORIES & MILESTONES

Take a look back at some of the key moments shared by the Class of 2015.

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TIPS FOR NEW EMORY ALUMNI

Learn how to stay connected to your class and the university after Commencement.

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Class of 2015 will be remembered for ‘bold humility’



Emory's 170th Commencement celebrates the diverse achievements of the Class of 2015, from academic excellence to compassionate community service.

Emory Photo/Video

BY KIMBER WILLIAMS

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

Rooted in centuries-old tradition, graduation exercises will begin Monday, May 11, at 8 a.m., as the plaintive cry of bagpipes and the rumble of drums signal the opening procession that leads graduates, faculty, university trustees and dignitaries onto the Emory Quadrangle.

This year's ceremony coincides with the celebration of "100 Years in Atlanta," an observance kicked off in February honoring Emory's charter to establish an Atlanta campus in 1915.

As a result, this year's graduates represent a class that is in many ways "distinguished by paradox," says Emory President James Wagner. "For one thing, it has the unique distinction of entering during the fall semester when Emory celebrated its 175th anniversary, and graduating as Emory is celebrating its 100th anniversary," Wagner says. "That's a neat trick. It's possible, of course, because this year we are observing the centennial of Emory's replanting to Atlanta."

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 falter 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."

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McMULLAN AWARD

Jones puts emphasis on inclusion

BY MEGAN McRAINEY

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 dissonance, 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 accepted through her work with organizations such as the Center for Women and 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 extraordinary promise for future leadership and rare potential for service to their community, the nation and the world. The McMullan Award includes \$25,000 to be used as the recipient chooses.

"Jojo is absolutely amazing, and I think she is the true embodiment of the McMullan Award. I am always so impressed by all the work that she's been a part of, ensuring that Emory is a welcoming place for all students," says Chanel Craft-Tanner, assistant director of the Center for Women at Emory.

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 welcome and comfortable.

During high school, she also joined VISIONS Inc., a Boston-based non-profit 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.



Emory Photo/Video

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.

See McMULLAN on page 10

BRITTAIN AWARD

Garcia-Williams helps others with health

BY CAROL CLARK

Amanda Garcia-Williams has devoted her academic research and community service to reaching out to help others, from encouraging people to wash their hands to avoid spreading disease to extending a hand to support those experiencing extreme emotional duress.

A doctoral candidate in Rollins School of Public Health, Garcia-Williams is the 2015 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.



Emory Photo/Video

Through research and community service, Amanda Garcia-Williams has reached out to help others improve their physical and mental health, including extensive work on suicide prevention.

Candidates are required to demonstrate a strong character, meritorious service and a sense of integrity. Garcia-Williams receives the award, which also comes with \$5,000, during the central Commencement ceremony on May 11.

Garcia-Williams grew up on a walnut farm in Winters, California. Her parents inspired her to want to improve the lives of others. "They are really kind and generous people," Garcia-Williams says. "They do things like raise money to help with someone's medical bills or to get an air-conditioner for someone who can't afford one. They're always trying to help people in some way."

Garcia-Williams came to Emory in 2007 as an MPH student in the Behavioral Sciences and Health Education department at Rollins. While a student, she also worked at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion. Her master's thesis examined the perceptions of asking and being asked to perform hand hygiene among health care workers and the general public.

"Hand washing is something so simple but most people don't realize how important it is to staying healthy, not just in a hospital, but in everyday life," she says.

A member of her extended family died by suicide before Garcia-Williams entered the Rollins PhD program. "It became something I wanted to learn more about," she says. "I had never thought about suicide as a public health problem, but it is a leading cause of death in the United States."

See BRITTAIN on page 3

EDITOR'S NOTE

Congratulations to the Emory University Class of 2015! We are honored to share your many accomplishments in this special commemorative edition of Emory Report celebrating the university's 170th Commencement.

To keep up with Emory news this summer and beyond, please visit us online at news.emory.edu. The Emory Report eBulletin is also distributed via email weekly during school breaks and twice weekly during the academic year.

Best wishes,

Laura Douglas-Brown, editor
l.douglasbrown@emory.edu

Social media guide

View Commencement photos, videos and stories on Twitter and Instagram by following @EmoryUniversity and using #Emory2015. Also stay connected via Facebook and the Emory Mobile App.

Celebrate Commencement online via our social media hub at emory.edu/socialhub to see posts from your Emory peers, colleagues, alumni, family and friends. Contribute to the feed by using #Emory2015 in your social media updates.

More Commencement coverage online

Visit news.emory.edu to:

- See news coverage and photos of the 2015 ceremony.
- Read more student stories.
- View videos, including interviews with graduates.
- Learn about additional faculty awards given at school diploma ceremonies.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

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 classroom discussions and public forums, Rushdie would stimulate a stream of thoughtful conversations about culture, history, politics, religion, violence, poverty, creativity, film 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 Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini.

But just as Rushdie brought global experiences and insight to Emory, so 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 English Department in 2006, serving in that role until 2011, when he became University Distinguished Professor in Emory College.

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

"It's been a 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 the only time I've ever done it. And it's been educational."

"That's 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 a more 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 on campus each spring was widely divided, as Rushdie assumed the role of guest lecturer, addressing multiple classrooms within an assortment of disciplines.

In the end, that experience helped sharpen his own thinking. "It's quite interesting to be obliged by 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 this 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 fairytales, 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 1989 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 MARBL 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 40,000 files and 18 gigabytes of data gleaned from his computers.

"If they hadn't done that five-year project of organizing 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, were it not for the work that was done here."

Looking ahead, Rushdie envisions an ongoing relationship with MARBL, where he continues to add to his archive. In fact, MARBL received yet another transfer of new materials within the last year, he notes.

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

In fact, whenever he visits MARBL Rushdie inevitably discovers someone using his archive. "And I sort of tiptoe away," he says.



Acclaimed author Salman Rushdie (left) has served as University Distinguished Professor in Emory College since 2011, interacting with students both formally and informally.

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CLASS OF 2015: Transforming individuals, communities

Continued from the cover

Out of that recognition grows "the real transformation of enabling and ennobling each other and our communities," Wagner explains. "So I salute this class for enabling others while ennobling themselves as well as our community."

Creating a sustainable ceremony

A geographically diverse group, representing every state in the U.S. and 77 foreign countries, the Class of 2015 includes some 4,572 graduates, about half earning bachelor's degrees from Emory College of Arts and Sciences and half representing Emory's graduate and professional schools.

The ceremony represents the culmination of months of work by hundreds of university employees who each year volunteer their time to help guide visitors, set up thousands of chairs for guests, and shepherd graduates through their important day.

This year's event continues Emory's quest to create a more environmentally sustainable experience for the 15,000 guests expected to gather for university-wide and individual school and college exercises.

Last year, Emory undergraduates — and some professional doctoral candidates — for the first time donned graduation gowns fashioned completely from recycled water bottles, representing about 80,000 plastic bottles that were diverted from landfills, notes Michael Kloss, Emory's chief of protocol and executive director of the Office of University Events.

In addition to continuing the tradition of "green" regalia, this year's ceremony features programs made of recycled paper; an increased emphasis on carpooling, both for staff and visiting families; increased mass transit campus shuttle service; water bottle refilling stations; and "a continued university-wide goal toward a zero landfill waste Commencement," Kloss says.

Bins for recycling graduation gowns will be placed in the Oxford Road bookstore and the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. There, the recycled fabric will find a second life when it is shredded for use in carpet fibers and blankets, Kloss says.

In other changes, the Office of International Student Life and the Emory Alumni Association will host a new International Graduation Recognition Ceremony this year on Friday, May 8, at 5 p.m. in the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Administration Building (WHSCAB) Auditorium.

The Laney Graduate School (LGS) Master's Ceremony will for the first time be held Sunday, May 10, at 3 p.m. in the Starvine Ballroom at the Emory Conference Center Hotel, followed by a reception in the Lullwater Ballroom — a scheduling shift driven

by campus construction on the Woodruff Library Plaza, the traditional site for the LGS reception, Kloss adds.

Honoring distinguished guests

Among those receiving an honorary degree during Commencement will be renowned author and human rights advocate Salman Rushdie, University Distinguished Professor at Emory, who will deliver the 2015 Commencement keynote address.

Considered among the greatest writers of his generation, Rushdie earned critical acclaim in 1981 when his second novel, "Midnight's Children," won the Booker Prize for Fiction. He drew worldwide attention after Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini called for his death following the publication of his book "The Satanic Verses" in 1988.

As University Distinguished Professor, an appointment that concludes this spring, Rushdie spoke, taught and engaged with students and faculty on wide-ranging topics through a series of public talks, classroom lectures and university forums.

In 2006, Rushdie placed his archive at Emory's Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library (MARBL), a decision that he has credited for making possible his 2012 memoir, "Joseph Anton," which described his years spent living under Khomeini's fatwa.

In announcing Rushdie as keynote speaker, Wagner noted that the selection celebrates both Emory's literary eminence — with an acclaimed creative writing program and a robust collection of papers from a growing number of esteemed poets and writers — and "Sir Salman's own contributions to modern literature."

Three other distinguished guests will join Rushdie in receiving honorary degrees: Former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, chair of the board of directors for the Center for Civil and Human Rights, will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Former Emory Provost and Chancellor Billy Frye 54G 56PhD, an Emory alumnus who served as interim president of the university (1993-1994) and dean of what is now the Laney Graduate School, will receive an honorary doctor of letters degree.

Philanthropist and Emory benefactor R. Randall Rollins, chairman of the board of directors for Rollins, Inc., will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree.

For more information about honorary degree recipients, see [page 12](#).

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

Those who can't attend are invited to view the ceremony, which will be streamed live online, at www.emory.edu/commencement/webcast.

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Sy overcomes obstacles to achieve academic excellence

BY KIMBER WILLIAMS

For Emory senior Kadiata 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 Asian security — an opportunity that thrills her.

But for Sy, it's 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 parents' flight from politically unstable Mauritania to a refugee camp near Podor in Northern Senegal, where Sy was born. The joy of finally moving into a homemade one-room mud-brick house. Lives spent farming tomatoes and okra and herding sheep on leased government land — traditional occupations within the Fulani tribe, among the world's largest group 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 (MESAS). 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 studies in slavery and Islamic law, working toward a career in community building 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.

Resiliency and courage

"I don't remember it now, but my parents like to tell the story of when I was 7 or 8 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 no worse for it," Sy recalls, laughing.

That kind of resiliency, along with the ability to show courage in the face of adversity, are qualities important to the Fulani people, part of a traditional tribal code.

It also helps explain how a young woman with no formal childhood education — from a family that spoke no English — could journey from the arid plains of Senegal to find academic success at one of the nation's top liberal arts research universities.

Sy was 11 years old when her parents and seven siblings came to Atlanta. She started middle school while simultaneously learning to

read English language nursery rhymes. By the time she entered Decatur High School, Sy was taking Advanced Placement classes.

"My drive for higher education has always come from my parents," she explains. "They never went to school — they never had the opportunity. But they instilled in their children a desire to strive for higher education, in the hope we would go back to Mauritania and help change the social situation there."

Discovering an academic oasis

From the beginning, Emory was her dream destination. Growing up near Decatur, she came to view the university as a kind of academic oasis.

There were so many reminders. One of her high school history teachers had attended Emory. Even the woman who helped her family settle in Atlanta, a former Peace Corps volunteer, had gone to Emory.

"I knew 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, receiving the 2012 Clarkston Campus President's Award, serving as president of the Clarkston Student Government Association, and founding the campus Philosophy Club.

"Kadiata is thoughtful, intelligent and driven — someone who doesn't so much dream about her future as plan for it," recalls Bob King, an associate professor of political science at GPC, who also did doctoral studies at Emory.

"It's always full steam ahead," King says. "Rarely does her past hold her back."

Exploring educational interests

When Sy was awarded the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke scholarship, a national honor that provides up to \$90,000 for undergraduate transfer students, her last year at GPC, there was no question where she wanted to study.



Emory Photo/Video

Kadiata Sy was 11 years old, had no formal childhood education and spoke no English when her family moved to Atlanta. Now, she's been chosen as a Bobby Jones Scholar, one of Emory's most prestigious undergraduate honors.

At Emory, the chance to pursue degrees in political science and MESAS would prove "intense, but really liberating," 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 Rkia Cornell, professor of pedagogy and Arabic Program coordinator for MESAS.

Yet through the challenges, Cornell saw her student thrive. "With Kadiata, it wasn't just ambition; she delivered leadership and service to others, always with a contagious smile and always moving forward."

"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."

Ask Sy what has kept her going along her academic journey and she'll talk of luck.

"When I think about relatives back home who've never had this chance . . ." she says, her voice faltering. "To be given the opportunity, I always felt as if I just had to try. I just had to try. I mean, what did I have to lose?"

BRITAIN: Garcia-Williams is 'passionate about every aspect of public health'

Continued from the cover

Support for suicide prevention

Her PhD adviser, Nadine Kaslow, professor of psychiatry in the School of Medicine, received a campus-wide suicide prevention grant to launch a program called Emory Cares 4 U. Garcia-Williams volunteered to work on many essential aspects of the program, such as assisting in the development of a comprehensive suicide prevention web site: www.emory-caresforyou.emory.edu.

When Emory's counseling center took over Emory Cares 4 U, Garcia-Williams continued her close involvement, including volunteering as a QPR Gatekeeper Instructor. QPR is an education program that trains students, faculty and staff about how to recognize the warning signs of suicide and how to refer someone for professional help.

The bottom line, Garcia-Williams says: "If your gut's telling you something isn't right, don't be afraid to ask someone if they need help. You may be able to help them access the resources they need to get out of a dark place."

For her dissertation, Garcia-Williams researched how college students experience and respond to suicidal peers. "Some students

engage in a caregiving role to others in emotional duress," Garcia-Williams says. "They may provide this support for a long time, because it's their friend."

While mental health interventions typically focus on the person in crisis, they should also consider the people supporting them, Garcia-Williams says. "I'm hoping my research will help bring attention to this topic, and lead to ways to get resources to peers helping others, so that they also take better care of themselves."

Engaged in helping people

The University of Rochester named Garcia-Williams a Virtual Mentoring Network to Enhance Diversity of the Mental Health Research Workforce Scholar. In addition to her work with suicide prevention, she served on academic committees, volunteered to teach yoga classes at a local recreation center, and served as a science fair judge at an elementary school.

Garcia-Williams "is an incredibly bright, driven and intellectually curious scholar who will go on to make a huge impact in public health research and promotion," wrote Kaslow in a nomination

letter for the Britain 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 supporting 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 sums 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."



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CUTTINO AWARD

Jensen mentors students for success

BY LESLIE KING

The most important thing Robert Jensen learned about mentoring 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 throughout those early years to mentor students "taught me the importance of listening first to hear the student'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 towards 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 weakness, both as a person and in their work," she says, noting that he balances praise and critique in a very constructive way.

"Most impressive to me as a student and his advisee for my honors 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 next generation of independent thinkers," says Dollar '14C.

He also credited Jensen for "his guidance [which] allowed for me to grow as a researcher, asking the most essential questions but allowing me to take ownership in my own work."

When Jensen first arrived at Emory in 1984, he had just completed his own graduate program so he identified closely with graduate students.



Emory Photo/Video

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 time and, in recent years, his concern for them has sharpened.

"Perhaps that is paralleled somewhat by my own children and children of siblings, friends and neighbors who I knew well, and watched grow up and leave for college," he says. "I hope I have been able to provide 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 gives 100 percent of his energy to every interaction, whether with a student, professor or anyone else."

Any unexpected outcomes of mentoring relationships for Jensen? "It was unexpected that some of the people who I have mentored have stayed important in my life even after the mentee-mentor relationship 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 graduate 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.

Emory Williams Teaching Awards

The Emory Williams Award for Distinguished Teaching is the university'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
Candler School of Theology

James Henry Morey

Professor, Department of English
Emory College of Arts and Sciences

Lisa Muirhead

Clinical Assistant Professor of Nursing
Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing

Douglas Robert Mulford

Senior Lecturer, Department of Chemistry
Emory College of Arts and Sciences

Rafael I. Pardo

Robert T. Thompson Professor of Law
School of Law

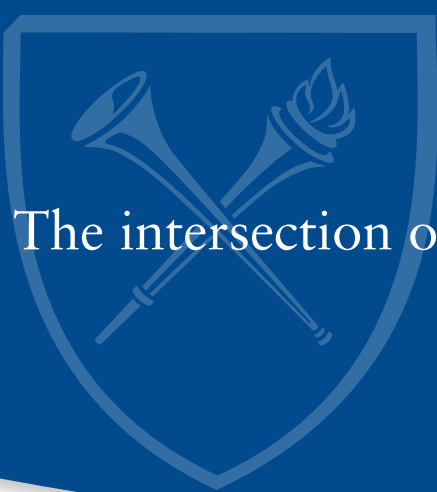
Susan Louise Tamasi

Senior Lecturer, Program in Linguistics
Emory College of Arts and Sciences

Kristy L. Towry

Professor of Accounting
Roberto C. Goizueta Business School

For listings of other 2015 faculty awards from each of Emory's schools, please visit news.emory.edu.



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"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



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Wendy Wright, Chief of Neurology of the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit at Emory University Hospital Midtown and Associate Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery at Emory School of Medicine



EMORY
LAW

JEFFERSON AWARD

Patterson has broad impact across the university

BY MARIA M. LAMEIRAS

In the course of her career with Emory University, Bobbi Patterson has held varied positions and championed initiatives that have touched all parts of the campus.

Patterson, a longtime Emory administrator and faculty member, is the 2015 recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Award, which honors a member of the faculty or staff for significant service to the university through personal activities, influence and leadership.

"Her service is longstanding and so wide spanning that it is difficult to think of aspects of the university that she has not touched," wrote Sherryl Goodman, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Psychology and a longtime colleague, in a letter nominating Patterson for the award.

"I am fortunate to have had many opportunities to walk across campus with Bobbi and observe how she greets and is greeted by all, from groundspeople and housekeeping staff members to the university president, with numerous students in between," Goodman wrote. "In so many ways, she is the face of the university."

But before Patterson became an integral part of the university as an administrator, professor and alumna, she says the thread of her life was already woven into Emory's tapestry. Her father, Lawson H. Bowling Jr., served as clinical director at the former Georgia Mental Health Institute on what is now Emory's Briarcliff property when she was a child, and her brother and husband are both Emory College graduates.

Patterson joined Emory professionally in 1981 as associate university chaplain and, in the intervening decades, has served as dean of students, director of the Emory Scholars Program, founder of the Theory-Practice Learning (TPL) Program, a faculty associate of the Office of Sustainability Initiatives, and now professor of pedagogy in the Department of Religion. She earned her PhD in interdisciplinary studies from Emory in 1994.

In addition, she served on the task force that led to the creation of the Emory Center for Women and on the Task Force on Dissent, Protest and Community that led to the university's current Open Expression Policy; and chaired the first president's task force on LGBT issues.

Through her scholarship on community-partnered learning and service, she founded the TPL Program, which offered workshops, trainings and placement coordination for faculty and community

leaders. She has remained engaged in community-partnered teaching and research through Emory's Center for Community Partnerships.

Among other programs she has initiated is Emory as Place, a program of the Office of Sustainability Initiatives designed to educate students, staff and faculty about Emory's living systems, built environments, human histories and values.

"I feel like I have been very lucky to be part of a place like Emory. I am from Southern people and place is a pretty strong thread of the Southern tapestry," Patterson says. "I began to realize that place-knowing and place-being is an art and a practice that has a strong ethical intention and practice to it. I think it is a skill that is critical in a world where most people won't have the privilege of being in one place for a long time."

For Goodman, Patterson "strongly exemplifies the values of Thomas Jefferson."

"I am so happy that the committee recognized the qualities that Bobbi exemplifies and the bountiful contributions she has made — and continues to make — to multiple aspects of the university, all of which make her an ideal recipient of the Jefferson Award," Goodman said after Patterson was announced as winner of the award.

Helping foster Emory's identity

Gary Hauk, vice president and deputy to the president and an expert on Emory's history, has worked with Patterson in many capacities over the years.

"Bobbi Patterson has grown with the university over the past three decades and in many ways has helped to foster the university's maturing self-identity," Hauk wrote in support of Patterson's nomination for the Jefferson Award. "She easily can stand among the ranks of previous Jefferson Award winners — extraordinary faculty members and administrators deemed to have advanced the university and society in positive ways."

Both as a graduate of Emory College and as director of sustainability initiatives at Emory, Ciannat Howett says Patterson has had a profound influence on her and on the university.

"What Bobbi contributes to the university is a soulfulness and a willingness always to be there when students or the university needs her and to put so much of herself into what she does," Howett says. "She has given so many years and so much to this place to make it a place where you want to be."



Emory Photo/Video

Bobbi Patterson, a longtime Emory administrator and faculty member, joined Emory professionally in 1981. In the decades since, she has held a variety of roles and become, in many ways, "the face of the university," according to a letter nominating her for the Jefferson Award.

Patterson says she is humbled to receive the Jefferson Award. "It is an amazing thing and a great joy for me, but it is not possible for a single person to get any award. I have been lucky enough to work with administrators and colleagues who gave me a lot of opportunities and space and power to try things out," she says. "It's just not possible to do it by yourself. I feel completely overwhelmed with gratitude for this place and to be a part of it and to give back to it. And it has borne such fruit."

SCHOLAR/TEACHER AWARD

Long leaves legacy of encouraging young preachers

BY VALERIE LONER

If you had to describe Thomas G. Long's career in two words, "grand slam" would be a good choice.

The baseball metaphor is appropriate for the Atlanta native and passionate Braves fan who is also a widely respected preacher, professor, author and mentor. Long, who is retiring as Candler School of Theology's Bandy Professor of Preaching, arrived at Emory in 2000 after an already distinguished career in academia, religious publishing and the church.

Long "does more than simply teach students; he prepares them for growth in ministry with helpful, critical feedback, and a spirit of encouragement, which creates stronger preachers and leaders," one student wrote when the current senior class recently honored Long with the "On Eagle's Wings" Excellence in Teaching Award.

That's just one of the many reasons why Long has been chosen as this year's 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 colleagues, and made significant contributions to the scholarly life of the university.

"He is widely regarded as the pre-eminent figure in this field, and his citizenship as a member of the faculty has been exemplary. . . . He is a recognized leader in every respect, who, at the same time, is always willing to serve the collective," Candler Dean Jan Love noted in a letter nominating Long for the award. "For these reasons, he is a model of what it means to be a scholar/teacher."

For Long, teaching is the heart of his vocation. "The student is the whole object for a teacher," he says. "A teacher who doesn't keep the students in view is missing the objective."

Nurturing students' gifts

Long's former students laud his encouraging spirit and ability to coach developing preachers.

"He sees gifts in people that you never saw in yourself," says Daniel Ogle O8T, now an ordained United Methodist pastor, who also served as Long's teaching assistant during his student days. "He has this unique gift and calling to help people see the gifts that God has given them for ministry even if they can't see it in themselves."

This speaks to one of the biggest changes that Long, who is also an ordained minister in the



Emory Photo/Video

Thomas Long has impacted generations of students through his teaching and scholarship.

Presbyterian Church (USA), has witnessed in his four decades of teaching.

"There's a different student out there now," he explains. "Forty years ago, you could assume that everyone in the class wanted to preach and preach well."

Now, "some of them are quite tentative about a call to ministry, and are there in an exploratory mode," Long explains. "I have to teach across a broader waterfront."

To assist students who are discerning their callings, Long puts more emphasis on the theological focus of preaching. Some students will become church leaders, while others will use their gifts in chaplaincy roles, in nonprofits and in community development.

And some, like Kimberly Wagner O9T, may become professors themselves. Wagner, who is working on her PhD in homiletics in Emory's Graduate Division of Religion, will be Long's last doctoral advisee.

"In his always quiet steady way, he just kept approaching me," she recalls. "He said, 'Have you thought about teaching? Have you thought about preaching?' He gets in your head, but in the best possible way."

Influential scholarship

Ted A. Smith, associate professor of preaching and ethics, joined the Candler faculty in 2012, but has known Long for decades, starting when he was an

undergraduate. He also took two of Long's courses at Princeton Seminary.

Although Smith had significant preaching experience prior to seminary, his first course under Long changed the way he preached. "My whole preaching style, which I still carry with me, came out of that class," he says.

Smith later served as Long's teaching assistant, and today calls him a colleague and friend. He also appreciates Long's gift for writing and his prolific body of work.

"Tom's ability to combine writing for the academy and writing for a broader public is truly remarkable," Smith says. "The thinking is original and insightful, and it's informed by a huge body of research."

Long's 1989 book, "The Witness of Preaching," is one of the most widely used texts on preaching, appearing on class reading lists in seminaries throughout the world. In 1996, Baylor University named him among the 12 most effective preachers in the English-speaking world. In 2010, "Preaching" magazine named "The Witness of Preaching" one of the 25 most influential books in preaching for the last 25 years.

While Long is officially retiring, he isn't giving up working at Candler. For the next five years, he will direct a new Candler initiative, made possible by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, aimed at helping recent alumni become leaders in their communities.

He also has a full slate of dates to preach and teach, including serving as a visiting professor at Yale University next spring.

And, of course, there will be lots of Braves baseball. Some things don't change.



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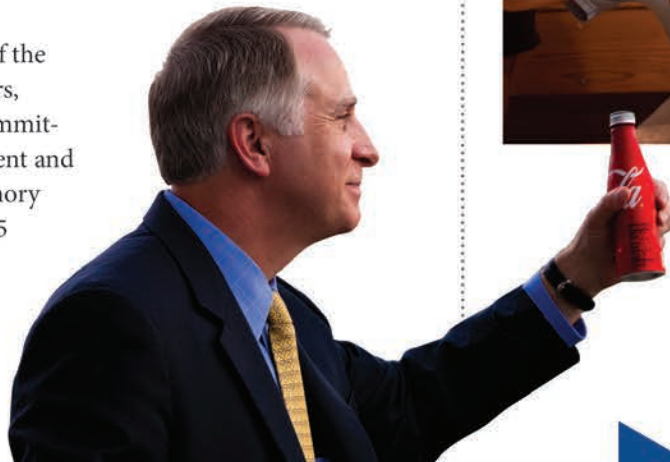


EMORY
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CLASS OF 2015 Memories and milestones

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.



AUGUST 2011

The Class of 2015 arrives on campus. Among the many welcome traditions is the annual Coke Toast led by President James Wagner.



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.

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.



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.



Each November, Emory Cares Day unites students, faculty, staff and alumni for an international day of service projects.

DECEMBER 2013

The Carlos Museum opens "Romare Bearden: A Black Odyssey," an exhibit of the acclaimed 20th-century artist.

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!



OCTOBER 2013

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

OCTOBER 2013

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



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.

OCTOBER 2014

Emory acquires an extensive archive of literary icon and Georgia native Flannery O'Connor.

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.



AUGUST 2014

The opening of Eléonore Raoul Hall marks the completion of Emory's eight-year project to redevelop residences for first-year students.



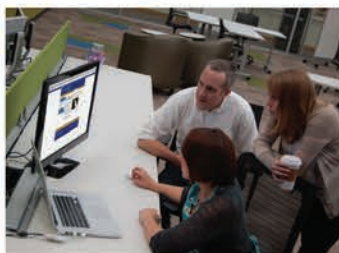
JANUARY 2012

All Emory campuses become officially tobacco-free.



JANUARY 2012

"Mandala: Sacred Circle in Tibetan Buddhism" opens at the Carlos Museum.



FEBRUARY 2012

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



MAY 2012

The Emory men's tennis team wins the NCAA Division III national championship.

MAY 2012

Emory debuts its Maymester program, an intense, three-week summer academic term.

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.



Each March, Alternative Spring Breaks offer students the option to spend their week off as a week on, helping community organizations.

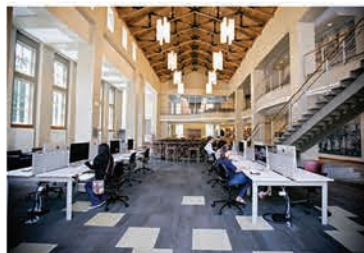


AUGUST 2013

Emory's new Black Student Union opens in the Dobbs University Center.

AUGUST 2013

Oxford College celebrates the official opening of its new library and academic commons.



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.



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

SEPTEMBER 2013

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

JANUARY 2013

Oxford College's Language Hall, built in 1874, reopens after extensive renovations.



FEBRUARY 2013

"And the Struggle Continues: The Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Fight for Social Change," an exhibit documenting the civil rights organization's history, opens at the Robert W. Woodruff Library.

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."



FEBRUARY 2015

Emory kicks off its celebration of the university's "100 Years in Atlanta."



MARCH 2015

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.



MAY 11, 2015

Commencement for the Class of 2015 features keynote speaker Salman Rushdie, concluding the celebrated author's tenure as University Distinguished Professor, which began in 2011 after serving as Distinguished Writer in Residence since 2006. Rushdie's annual campus visits included formal public lectures and a variety of classroom interactions, giving students the opportunity to engage with him in multiple settings.

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

Dissertations showcase original scholarship

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.

Samantha Allen, women's, gender and sexuality studies

Dissertation: "Feeling Fetishes: Toward an Affective Theory of Sexuality"

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 sexual instinct. Unusual forms of sexuality, like sexual fetishism, 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 fetishism 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



Samantha Allen



Tressie McMillan Cottom



Jessilyn Dunn

Courtesy photo

Tressie McMillan Cottom, sociology

Dissertation: "Becoming Real Colleges in the Financialized Era of U.S. Higher Education: The Expansion and Legitimation of For-Profit Colleges"

Adviser: Richard Rubinson, 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 mobility 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 Corinthian 100, a group of former for-profit college students fighting for student loan reform. My hope is that my work shifts the conversation about for-profit colleges from one about villains and victims to one about the possibilities of an educational system that works for everyone. The book is under contract and this fall I'll be a keynote speaker in South Africa to think about what for-profit higher education looks like internationally.

After graduation: Assistant professor of sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University and associated faculty at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University



Jonathan Drucker



Orion Paul Keifer Jr.



Brendan Ozawa-de Silva

Emory Photo/Video

Jessilyn Dunn, biomedical engineering

Dissertation: "Genome-scale DNA Methylation Changes in Endothelial Cells by Disturbed Flow and its Role in Atherosclerosis"

Adviser: Hanjoong Jo, John and Jan Portman 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 studied 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 atherosclerosis, 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

Dissertation: "Neural Bases of Core and Conceptual Self: Implications for the Representation of Other Persons and Groups of People"

Adviser: Lawrence Barsalou, 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 Ressler, 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 Lojong Tradition of Tibetan Buddhism"

Adviser: John Dunne, 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 does so by drawing from Tibetan and Sanskrit texts from the Buddhist Lojong (blo sbyong) 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 reorientation 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

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Honors theses highlight undergraduate research

At Emory, the high caliber of resources of a national research university adds depth and rigor to the undergraduate liberal arts education.

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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.

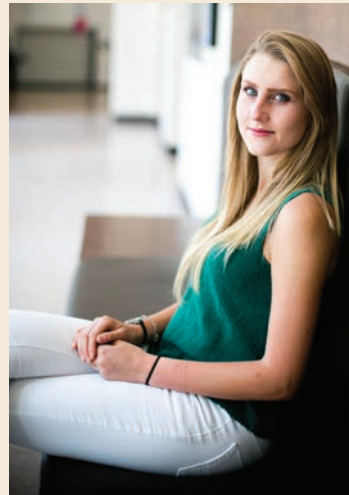
Here is a sample of the work of students from the humanities, natural and social sciences, describing their research, its impact and their post-graduation plans.



Troizel Carr



Ellen Dias De Oliveira Chiang



Irina Lucaciu



Vincent Vartabedian



Michael Fires



Hal Zeitlin

Emory Photo/Video

Troizel Carr, theater studies

Honors thesis: "Failure in Excess, Desire in Abundance: The Aesthetic Queering of Black Masculinity and Performative Utopias"

Adviser: Michael Evenden, professor of theater studies

Research: I focus in on the ways that queering black masculinity, which produces a black queer masculinity, opens up different ways of being and knowing for notions of normative black masculinity in performance art. I created and developed my own performance art piece called APOSTROPHE TROIZEL to grapple with these concepts.

Impact: I intend to continue focusing on the queering of black masculinity in performance studies at New York University's Performance Studies program. Additionally, I want to pursue a career as a performance artist and possibly go into the professoriate.

After graduation: Residence hall director with Emory's Office of Residence Life in Few Hall and working as a fellow in the Office of Health Promotion

Ellen Dias De Oliveira Chiang, anthropology

Honors thesis: "'Those who love, vaccinate': An Anthropological Perspective on HPV Vaccination in Brazil"

Adviser: Craig Hadley, associate professor of anthropology

Research: My thesis explores the sociocultural influences on parental perceptions and decision-making regarding HPV vaccination in São Paulo, 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 inequality. 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

Michael Fires, political science

Honors thesis: "The Growing Divide: Exploring Recent Political and Population Changes in the American Electorate"

Adviser: Merle Black, Asa G. Candler Professor of Politics and Government

Research: I explored in all United States counties whether domestic migrants were more likely to support the Republicans or Democrats in presidential elections from 2000-2012. The study also aimed to answer whether increasing division and polarization in American politics contributed to increased homogenous sorting in American communities along political and ideological lines. Ultimately, domestic migrants from 2000-2012 did not lead to an increase in one-sided political change, one party does not appear to benefit more than the other from domestic migration, and polarization does not appear to contribute to increased homogenous sorting in the American electorate.

Impact: I am attending law school but I have always been interested in politics and government from my work on numerous political campaigns. This research allowed me to explore a hot topic that is frequently discussed in today's media — polarization and ideological divisions — and has helped me answer questions I have had about the true prevalence of these themes in our own society. This research will help me pursue a career that is simultaneously involved in law and politics.

After graduation: Law school at Georgetown University Law Center

Irina Lucaciu, neuroscience and behavioral biology

Honors thesis: "Emotional and Cognitive Content of Autobiographical Memories of Trauma in Women with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder: An fMRI and Narrative Analysis Study"

Adviser: Robyn Fivush, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Psychology

Research: Some individuals who experience trauma develop post-traumatic stress disorder, while others do not. I investigated differences 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 develop PTSD seem to have more emotional memories than resilient women. However, brain

activation in the amygdala, a structure involved in emotional processing, 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 Judgements 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 avenue of research and study memory, language and cognition at the doctorate level, while also pursuing a JD degree. My ultimate goal is to use the knowledge about thoughts, emotions and language generated by neuroscience research to inform better educational and social policy.

After graduation: Master of philosophy in behavioral and neural sciences at the University of St. Andrews as a Bobby Jones Fellow

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: Periasamy 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 cancer and differences between cells within the tumor. Here, we propose the use of a personalized cancer 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 vaccine 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 learning and working with Dr. Selvaraj and my graduate student mentor Jaina 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 SIRE research partners, SIRE Grant, and SURE programs, I have become a confident and competent scientist.

After graduation: Graduate student at The Scripps Research Institute in San Diego, likely studying immunology

Hal Zeitlin, economics

Honors thesis: "Silent Economics: The Cooperative Effects of Hypnotic Meditation"

Adviser: Kelli Lanier, instructor of economics

Research: I examined the impact of meditation alone versus the same meditation preceded by hypnotic relaxation procedures (hypnotic meditation) on the economic cooperative behavior of 160 undergraduates. Hypnotic meditation is used to relax a meditator before they practice any scientifically valid form of meditation. There was a significant change of relaxation within the hypnotic group, greater than the change in the meditation-only group. The meditation-only group maintained cooperative behavior for two of three rounds, and the hypnotic group for all three. Since these results could be attributed to random variation, I recommend that the study be repeated with a larger sample.

Impact: A growing amount of scientific evidence has revealed that certain meditation practices can positively change the human brain. All across America, and even in Atlanta, meditation has begun to be used as a tool to improve both public and private schools. I am interested in helping to introduce scientifically valid meditation practices into American schools, for the benefit of the youth. My thesis experience provided me an opportunity to begin a professional investigation into meditation and its effects on pro-social behavior.

After graduation: One-year internship with The Levy Centers for Mind-Body Medicine and Human Potential; after the internship, joining the Houston Teach for America corps (granted a one-year deferral)

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100 Senior Honorary recognizes outstanding undergraduates



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

Tom Brodnax

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 Founders' 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:

Meera Aggarwal 15C
Josephine Akinwumiju 13OX 15C
John Bailey 15C
Yugenderan Balamohan 13OX 15B
Orli Berman 15C
Nicholas Bertha 15B
Kate Bowman 15B
Caitlin Brown 15N
Troizel Carr 15C
Adam Chan 15C
Jason Charles 15B
Elizabeth Davies 15C
Asha Deane 15C
Brian Diener 15B
Jazmyne Dodd 15B
Rebecca Du 15C
Jayde Dunbar 13OX 15N

Julianna Dunn 13OX 15C
Michelle Feldman 15N
Alexander Fields 15B
Austin Fuss 15B
Nicole Goetz 13OX 14C
Kjerstin Goodwin 13OX 15N
Akshay Goswami 15C
Keith Graves 15N
Katherine Heath 15C
Alexander Heideman 15C
Kimberly Herard 15C
Joshua Jacobs 15C
Leah Jacobs 15B
Vishal Jain 15B
Krysten Johnson 13OX 15C
Jovonna Jones 15C
Simone Khouzam 15C

Andrew Kim 15C
Frances Kim 12OX 15B
Alexandra Kletz 15B
Priyanka Krishnamurthy 15C
Kolia Kroeger 15C
Emily Lapham 15C
Nancy Larson 14C
Stacey Leiman 15C
Daniel Lim 15C
Irina Lucaciu 15C
Camden MacDowell 15C
Rashmi Madhavan 15C
Kaeya Majmundar 15C
Tad Manalo 15C
Walter Mason 15N
Falak Mawani 13OX 15C
Domoneek McCoy 15N

Breanna McElroy 15C
Fanlong Meng 15B
Martha Monterroso 13OX 15B
Danielle Moskow 15C
Michael Nathin 15B
Cori Newnam 15C
Ahyan Niazi 15C
Zizhou Nie 15C
Aneyn O'Grady 15C
Okeoghene Ogaga 15C
Adaobi Okocha 15C
Erika Oliver 15C
Christian Olsen 15B
Alexandra Palmer 13OX 15C
Oliver Paprin 15C
Aakash Parlecha 15B
Moni Patel 15N
Olivia Payton 15C
Karoline Porcello 15B
Dylan Price 15B
Anusha Ravi 15C
Berit Reisenauer 15C
Evan Rhea 15B
Malcolm Robinson 15C
Cleo Rochat 15C
Claudia Rowe 15B

Ryan Rusiecki 13OX 15C
Aamil Sarfani 15B
Kevin Satterfield 15C
Samantha Scott 15C
Brian Sestrich 15N
Niyeti Shah 15C
Jessica Simon 15B
Hannah Smith 15B
Sara Stavile 15C
Gabriela Suarez 15B
Jung Suh 15C
Xinlai Sui 15C
Laurie Taylor 15C
Krista Tremblay 15B
Amy Van Pelt 13OX 15C
Analy Varajas-Gonzalez 15N
Christie Wehner 15N
Aaron Weiner 15B
Matthew Willis 15B
Edmund Xu 13OX 15C
Yige Yao 15B
Anna Yoo 15C
Dongni Zhang 15C

McMULLAN: Jones praised as 'bridge builder' across Emory

Continued from the cover

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 Women, Jones spearheaded two programs to engage undergraduate women: I Am Woman, a wide-ranging discussion group; and Elect Her, a program to address the low numbers of women serving in elected positions in the Student Government Association (SGA).

"We had about 10 women run for elected SGA positions, which was awesome. We had done a survey before the workshop and not many were thinking

about running. After the workshop, more undergraduate women felt like they could be engaged politically on campus. It's nice to know that this project helped women see themselves as leaders and support each other in that," Jones says.

Model community servant

Jones has combined her extensive community service with exceptional academic achievement. She majored in African American studies with a minor in philosophy and was awarded highest honors for her thesis, "Radical Sight: Frederick Douglass, Contemporary Photography and the Visual Folds of Black Subjectivity."

"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 Masters 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 a bit.

"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 non-profit 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 intersect," 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."



Jovonna Jones

"No Child Left Behind," an image from Jovonna Jones' portfolio.

For Emory's 170th Commencement

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

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Find bins to help us recycle and compost.

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

5 steps for success as new Emory alumni

BY MICHELLE VALIGURSKY

During Commencement, excited collegians 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 a great way.

So how can new graduates make the most of their alumni association benefits and connect to more than 133,000 alumni worldwide? Stop by the Miller-Ward Alumni House on Houston Mill Road to visit your lifelong home on campus, and consider these five steps to success:

1. Join the Emory online community.

"This summer the Emory Alumni Association is rolling out a new interactive online community for alumni members around the world," 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 98OX 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 82L, 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.

"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."



Emory Photo/Video

Commencement Weekend traditions like the Candlelight Crossover, held this year on May 7, mark the transition of Emory students into Emory alumni. The Emory Alumni Association offers a broad range of benefits and services to graduates.

4. Be social and keep in touch.

"If you're leaving campus, the best way to keep in touch with your classmates is to connect with the Emory Alumni Association through social media. Follow @AlwaysEmory on Twitter to get a behind-the-scenes look at the work days of CEOs, artists, entrepreneurs and others," says Tania Dowdy 08OX 10C. "Follow us on Twitter and Instagram, like us on Facebook, get in touch with interesting alumni through our YouTube and iTunes playlists."

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 08OX 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.

Corpus Cordis Aureum

Each year, graduating students are joined during Commencement by members of the Corpus Cordis Aureum (CCA), or golden corps of the heart, made up of Emory alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago. Wearing gold robes, these alumni march in the processional together and are recognized during the ceremony.

New members are inducted into the CCA on the Sunday before Commencement. During the induction ceremony, the Emory Alumni Association presents the Judson C. Ward "Jake's" Golden Heart Award, named for the 1933 Emory College graduate noted for his service, generosity of spirit and loyalty to the university.

The 2015 winner is Sidney Yarbrough III of Columbus, Georgia. After graduating from Emory College in 1959 and Emory School of Medicine in 1963, Yarbrough completed service in the Air Force and then returned to Emory for residency training in orthopedic surgery. In 1970, he settled in his hometown to open a private orthopedics practice. Known for his outstanding patient care, Yarbrough's contributions to the field are widespread.

Yarbrough has made time to deepen his service to the School of Medicine, serving on the board of advisors to lend support to the work and causes in medical education and research, development and advocacy. He and his wife, Becky Yarbrough, have also made many philanthropic gifts to Emory.



Emory Photo/Video



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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 Courtesy photo

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 metro-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 Clarke-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 Leaders." She is a recipient of the 2005 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

Billy E. Frye 54G 56PhD

Past Provost and Chancellor Billy E. Frye will receive an honorary doctor of letters degree presented by the dean of the Laney Graduate School, Lisa Tedesco. Frye was Emory's first provost, later becoming chancellor.

Frye returned to Emory in 1986 to become dean of the graduate school and vice president for research; two years later, he was named provost and vice president for academic affairs. He served as Emory's interim president from 1993 to 1994.

As provost, maintaining a sense of community in the face of the university's rapid expansion was a top priority for Frye. He set goals and guidelines for Emory to know itself and prepare for its future by devoting a large amount of time over several years to conversations with stakeholders in the Emory community. The result was a 1994 document titled



Billy E. Frye 54G 56PhD Emory Photo/Video

"Choices and Responsibility" that served as a roadmap 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.

R. Randall Rollins

Philanthropist R. Randall Rollins will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree to be presented by the dean of the Rollins School of Public Health, James Curran.

Rollins is one Emory's most generous living donors. In addition to the Rollins School of Public Health, his philanthropy has included gifts to the Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center, the Emory School of Medicine, the Winship Cancer Institute, Yerkes National Primate Research Center and the Candler School of Theology.



R. Randall Rollins Emory Photo/Video

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 also has given time and service at the highest levels, as a member of the Emory University Board of Trustees from 1988 to 2001; the Woodruff Health 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.

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 quad.

Approximately 350 students will graduate from Oxford, having completed their sophomore year, before continuing on to Emory College, the Goizueta Business School or the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing for the completion of their undergraduate degrees.

This year's speaker is John Morgan, chair of the Emory University Board of Trustees and owner of South Carolina-based Morgan Timber and South Coast Commercial. Morgan graduated

from Oxford College in 1967 and received a BBA from Emory in 1969.

Other highlights of Oxford College's 2015 Commencement event include the announcements of the 2015 recipients of the Emory Williams Teaching Award and the Virgil Y.C. Eady Sophomore Service Award.

Special guests include members of the Oxford Class of 1965. As the latest inductees into Corpus Cordis Aureum, 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

CLASS OF 2015

BY THE NUMBERS



4,572
TOTAL GRADUATES

57%
FEMALE

43%
MALE

FROM 78 COUNTRIES • 50 STATES

YOUNGEST GRAD

20
YEARS OLD

OLDEST GRAD

69
YEARS OLD

MILITARY SERVICE GRADS/DEPENDENTS: **48**

47% of Emory College grads have a GPA \geq 3.5

Emory College average GPA **3.37**

4,633
TOTAL DEGREES

61 DUAL DEGREES

2,417 UNDERGRADUATE

1,434 GRADUATE

776 DOCTORAL

6 CERTIFICATES

COMMENCEMENT DAY

14,000 CHAIRS ON THE EMORY QUADRANGLE

200 VOLUNTEERS TO SET UP AND HELP THE DAY RUN SMOOTHLY

12 water bottle refill stations to reduce waste

100 percent compostable serving items used by Emory catering partners

3,000

"green" Commencement gowns made from **80,000** recycled plastic bottles

All figures correct as of May 4.