

FIVE-DAY WEEKEND

Commencement Weekend traditions celebrate big transitions.

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BUCKET LIST

Alumni suggest 175 things seniors should do before graduating.

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166th Commencement marks milestone for graduates and University

Volunteers handle sea of moving parts

By MARGIE FISHMAN

Over the past decade, Commencement volunteer Dawn Francis-Chewning has made an exception to her “anti-morning-person” stance to rise before dawn. She surveys the Quadrangle. For the briefest of moments, everything is still.

Surrounded by thousands of empty chairs, a soft breeze at her back, the lead business analyst for University Technology Services takes a few deep, cleansing breaths.

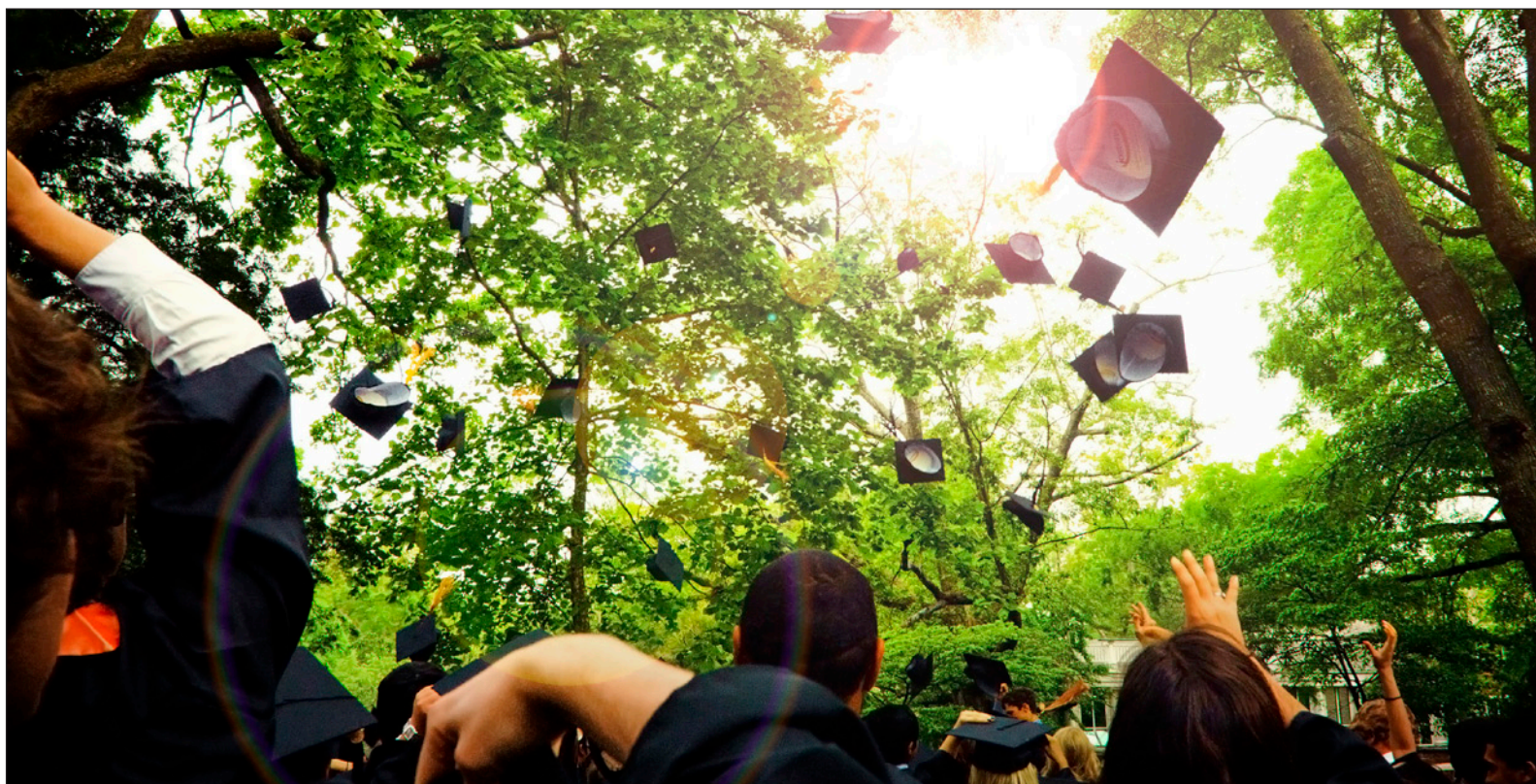
“It’s the serene lull before the storm,” she says.

On Monday, May 9, an estimated 15,000 students and their guests will participate in Emory’s 166th Commencement. Joining them will be more than 200 volunteers, many donning signature straw hats, who will direct and seat guests and generally preside over “organized chaos,” according to Chief Marshal Larry Taulbee.

The sea of chairs, precisely positioned on the Quad in an intricate layout to achieve maximum visibility, is thanks to the help of volunteer “chair wranglers,” responsible for setting up and breaking down all 15,000 chairs.

The Office of University Events and other organizers have worked hard to optimize the Commencement experience for visitors, who will stream in from around the world to watch their friend or family member graduate.

“We think of Commencement as 15,000 people collected together for one purpose, but for each family it is a very personal experience,” says Michael Kloss, executive director of the Office of University Events.



Hats off to the Class of 2011 as they graduate May 9.

By LESLIE KING

Emory celebrates its 166th Commencement exercises on Monday, May 9 and this year, marks its 175th anniversary.

The anniversary will give the Class of 2011’s ceremony a historical tinge.

“Audience members carefully reading the Commencement program while waiting for the ceremony to begin will notice that while we’re observing Emory’s 175th year, this is only our 166th Commencement,” says Gary Hauk,

vice president and deputy to the president.

“It took two years for the first students to show up after Emory College received its charter, and another three to turn them into graduates. The college was closed during the Civil War [the 150th anniversary of which is being noted this year]. Other than that, Emory hasn’t skipped a beat!” he notes.

Also, the 175 logo, which has been used throughout this year, will be on a gonfalon, a type of banner used in the ceremony.

Held on the Quadrangle with more than 15,000 in attendance, the ceremony, lasting about 90 minutes, encompasses pageantry and tradition.

Anticipated to graduate are about 3,647 students, according to the University Registrar. Delivering this year’s keynote address is U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, who will also receive an honorary doctor of laws degree.

“As our graduating students set forth to shape their own lives and careers, they will be well served by the example of Janet

Napolitano, who has used her exceptional intelligence, integrity and humanity in behalf of positive transformation in the world,” says President Jim Wagner.

New this year, families will receive pocket guides with school-specific tips on everything from parking, walking routes and seating configurations. To avoid congestion on the Quad, the Office of University Events has developed a new pedestrian traffic plan, which will direct visitors around graduate seating to keep the area open for the processional march.

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Emory seniors find job market improving

By COREY BROMAN-FULKES

Knowing he would soon be in the market for a job, Emory College senior David Poliner watched his friends as they struggled to find work in 2010. But a lot has changed in a year: Poliner got multiple interviews and three job offers.

“My first offer wasn’t necessarily my first choice of positions, but it was incredible knowing I had something on the table. When the second and third came in, that was awesome,” says the history and economics major.

The job market has improved dramatically for job-seeking seniors.

Among business school students entering the workforce, about 60 percent of them already have jobs lined up. Since 2009, that number has steadily increased, says Andy

Rabito, BBA Career Management Center director for Goizueta Business School.

“We are seeing more employers in the mood for hiring. They’re looking at increasing their hiring goals, which is very positive,” he says.

Rabito expects about 90 percent of job-seeking BBA students to find work by the end of the summer, a nearly 10 percent increase from last year.

And, the positive outlook is spreading throughout Emory College of Arts and Sciences. They’ve seen more companies coming to career fairs, including Google, Microsoft and Apple.

About 60 percent of all Emory College seniors head to graduate school, internships, the military or gap-year opportunities after graduation. For the 40 percent seeking jobs,

Brittany Fields has already seen a 10 percent increase in on-campus interviews. Fields is associate director of alumni and employer relations for the Emory Career Center.

While official numbers won’t be out until summer, she expects about half of seniors entering the workforce to have jobs by graduation, up from 46 percent in 2009. These facts are alleviating stress for students, Fields says.

“They’re actually very pessimistic, sometimes more than they need to be,” Fields says. “There are jobs out there. It’s a matter of finding them and networking.”

VIDEO:

Visit emory.edu/emoryreport to hear more about the job market from Emory seniors.



Commencement

EDITOR'S NOTE

Commencement coverage online

Emory Report offers more Commencement content online, including web extras like in-depth stories and related videos. Visit www.emory.edu/emoryreport to:

- See photos.
- View videos.
- Get social, with live updates via Twitter and more.
- Hear Janet Napolitano's message to graduates.
- Find out who won faculty awards, who is retiring from Emory, and which employees earned an Emory degree.

Check www.emory.edu/commencement for all Commencement-related information, including schedules, answers to frequently asked questions, logistics, maps, inclement weather contingencies and more.

Can't attend the ceremony? Watch it on the web. The main ceremony will be streamed live online at www.emory.edu/commencement.

Follow along via live real-time captioning on your Internet-capable mobile devices.

Keep up with campus news this summer

This issue concludes Emory Report's regular publication schedule for the 2010-11 academic year.

Online publication resumes in June. To keep up-to-date with campus news, bookmark our website at www.emory.edu/emoryreport and look for the Emory Report eBulletin in your inbox each week.

Congratulations, graduates! We've enjoying sharing your stories—may your accomplishments, endeavors and aspirations during your college career serve you well.

Best of luck,

Kim Urquhart, editor
kim.urquhart@emory.edu

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JEFFERSON AWARD

Dennis Liotta transfers the excitement of chemistry to his vision and teaching

By CAROL CLARK

Dennis Liotta grew up in an Italian section of Brooklyn, where he was intrigued by chemistry from an early age. His first role model was his brother, Charles, 12 years older and now a chemist at Georgia Tech.

"Chemists don't just take what nature gives us," says Liotta, the Samuel Dobbs Candler Professor of Chemistry. "We take small building blocks and combine them together to create new components. It's a wonderful and important skill, both challenging and thrilling."

Liotta received the 2011 Thomas Jefferson Award, the University's top recognition for significant service to the institution through personal activities, influence and leadership.

When Liotta joined Emory in 1976, it was "a very fine regional institution with some pockets of excellence, but no one would have called it a major research university," he recalls. The next year, James Laney became president of Emory and Liotta found his second role model. Liotta credits Laney for garnering the 1979 gift of \$105 million in Coca-Cola stock from the Woodruff family.

"Think how many choices the Woodruffs had for donating that money," Liotta says. "But they realized that Jim Laney was a visionary who could transform the University, and as a consequence, the city and the region. He is one of my heroes."

Medicinal chemistry

Liotta would soon apply some of that visionary spirit to his own work as an organic chemist. By 1988,

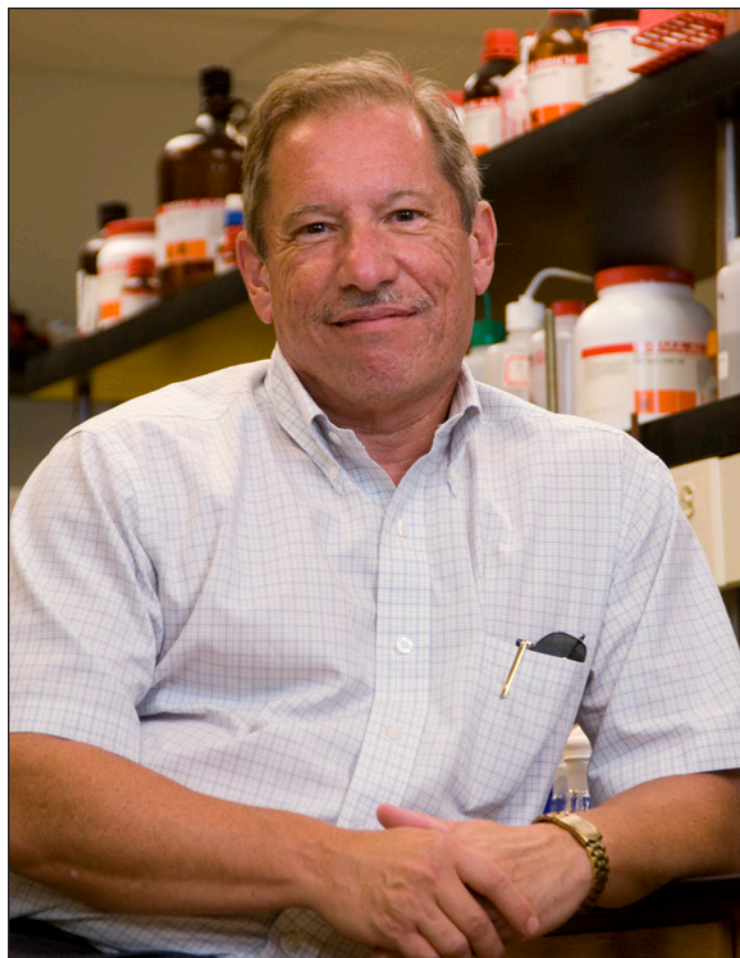
AIDS had become a major concern, but available treatments were not effective. Although Liotta did not have a background in drug discovery, "I decided I needed to do something," he recalls. "I was a fairly decent chemist and I thought that I could at least make some of the HIV treatment compounds more efficient."

In collaboration with postdoctoral researcher Woo-Baeg Choi and Emory virologist Raymond Schinazi, Liotta developed Emtriva, a breakthrough antiviral drug for the treatment of HIV, now used by more than 90 percent of HIV/AIDS patients in the United States, and by thousands more around the globe. Other medicinal inventions generated by Liotta's lab over the years include therapies for everything from cancer and rheumatoid arthritis to hepatitis B.

For years, Liotta strove to establish a biotechnology company focused on the needs of the developing world. In 2008, iThemba Pharmaceuticals officially began operations in a suburb of Johannesburg, South Africa. iThemba (pronounced e-tem'-ba) means "hope" in Zulu.

iThemba is just one component of Liotta's effort to foster what he considers a vital, missing element in global health—human capital in the developing world. He also spearheads the Emory Global Health Drug Discovery Program, which brings South African scholars here for hands-on research training.

Despite his success as a medicinal chemist, Liotta says his first love remains teaching.



Dennis Liotta

"When I first started at Emory, my first two publications were done with undergraduates. That was kind of cool," he says. "I've probably had more than 150 undergraduates work with me since. When they first come in, they don't know a lot, but they're wildly enthusiastic. They really

want to learn, and they tend to work very hard."

Being a good teacher is all about good communication, Liotta says. "I think that's also an important component of research, to be able to translate your ideas effectively and get people excited about them."

SETUP: Volunteers are secret of day's success

Continued from the cover

"Their world revolves around that graduate."

Throughout the day, volunteers hailing from all corners of the University tirelessly work behind the scenes to manage the flow of people and the ceremony. They escort the elderly and those with mobility impairments to their seats, calm late students rushing across campus half-robed, and troubleshoot problems, such as reuniting lost family members, serving as family photographers, and giving directions to every possible campus destination.

Order on the Quad

Taulbee, associate professor of political science, will for the second year lead the procession of University trustees, officials and honorary degree recipients to the wail of bagpipes. As deputy university marshal for 11 years, he worked closely with his long-serving predecessor, physicist Ray DuVarney.

The most demanding job on Commencement morning, according to Taulbee, belongs to William Size, deputy university marshal for Emory College and professor of environmental studies, along with eight other volunteers. Their task: Put 1,200 college graduates in alphabetical order in less than an hour.

Commencement as homecoming

Commencement was a blur for Amanda Penn when she graduated from Emory College in 2004. Now a volunteer manager for Commencement and senior human resources associate in the

Office of Development and Alumni Relations, she sprints around the Quad, redeploys volunteer staff when a student lineup is coming undone, and reunites family members after unscheduled bathroom breaks. A few years back, she had to escort off campus two enterprising women who decided to sell flowers, teddy bears and copies of (the free) Emory Wheel.

By 4 p.m., Penn is usually ready to collapse. "Everybody is a good pinch hitter," she says. "They just jump in and do what needs to get done."

Francis-Chewning fondly recalls her own Emory College Commencement in 1979, when a kind volunteer let her mother move closer to the stage.

"I never knew who it was, but it always was in my mind that somebody let my mom get the picture she always wanted," she says.

Later, she successfully campaigned for a designated parents' photography section at Commencement. This year, Francis-Chewning plans to volunteer for the University ceremony before switching to parent mode for her graduating son, Haynes Chewning, during the College festivities. Her other two children are graduating from Druid Hills High School and Georgia State University within one week of Emory's Commencement.

"Emory is a little world unto itself," she says. "Commencement is a wonderful, enriching experience."



Staff volunteers Betsy Hames and Renata Janssen-Decker

Commencement

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Honorees' work spans variety of professions

By LESLIE KING

Among those coming to campus for Emory's Commencement are the Homeland Security secretary, a sculptor, a philosopher and an expert on depression.

Janet Napolitano, the third secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, will keynote the May 9 Commencement ceremony.

Napolitano leads the nation's collective efforts to secure the United States from threats ranging from terrorism to natural disasters. She oversees Homeland Security's responsibilities related to counterterrorism, border security, immigration enforcement, and disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Prior to becoming secretary, Napolitano was in her second term as governor of Arizona and was recognized as a national leader on homeland security, border security and immigration. She was the first woman to chair the National Governors Association.

Napolitano will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree.

William R. Beardslee, who will receive an honorary doctor of science degree, is director of the Baer Prevention Initiatives, chairman emeritus of the Department of Psychiatry at Children's Hospital in Boston, and the Gardner/Monks Professor of Child Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

Beardslee has produced groundbreaking research on the protective effects of self-understanding in helping young people and adults to cope with adversity, and has studied self-understanding in civil rights workers, survivors of cancer, and children of parents with affective and depressive disorders. He also is a senior scientist at the Judge Baker Children's Center in Boston. He

has collaborated with Emory faculty in his research, and his father, William A. Beardslee, was a longtime religion professor at Emory.

Martha Nussbaum, who will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree, is a contemporary philosopher and public scholar. She specializes in moral and political philosophy and ethics, as well as ancient Greek and Roman philosophy. She is the Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago, and holds appointments in the philosophy department, law school and divinity school there.

Nussbaum is the author of "The Fragility of Goodness: Luck and Ethics in Greek Tragedy and Philosophy," which addresses questions about the meaning and vulnerability of life and luck. Her contributions to scholarship have been in the areas of feminism, international policy, global justice, animal rights and the humanities.

George Trakas, who will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters, is a sculptor and landscape artist. His installations typically incorporate a functional response to a particular site or environment. Recent major works include "Beacon Point" along the Hudson River in Beacon, N.Y., "Quai des Trois Dents" in Parc du Pilat in Loire, France, and "Waterfront Nature Walk" in Brooklyn, N.Y.

In much of his work, Trakas recycles local materials and incorporates them into the finished site, providing a strong sense of the character of the original place.

Emory is home to one his works, 1979's "Source Route," nestled in a ravine behind the Carlos Museum on campus. Trakas spent a week at Emory in April revisiting this work with students and faculty.



Keynote speaker Janet Napolitano

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Commencement

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Monday, May 9, 2011 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.
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CUTTINO AWARD

Cathryn Johnson's goal is to pass on the guidance she received

By MARY LOFTUS

Professor of sociology Cathryn Johnson wouldn't be at Emory if it weren't for her mentor, social psychologist Cecilia Ridgeway.

"I had a crisis in my final year and decided I should go work at a ranch in Montana," Johnson says. "She didn't laugh, she just looked at me very seriously and said, 'Why don't you try the academic world first? The ranch will always be there.'"

After Johnson entered the job market and began applying to schools, her mentor recommended Emory. "She knew someone in the department here and felt like it would be perfect for me. It's the only time she ever told me exactly what to do. I got a little sticky note saying, 'You must apply.' And I did," Johnson says.

As the director of graduate studies and former director of undergraduate studies in sociology, Johnson has encouraged mentoring in the department both formally and informally. For nearly a decade, the sociology department has had an active peer mentor program, where seniors work with younger students in the major.

Mentoring as a good fit

For her efforts, Johnson is the recipient of the 2011 George P. Cuttino Award for Excellence in Mentoring, an honor she says she shares broadly with her community. Established in 1997 by trustee John T. Glover, the award is named in honor of the late history professor George Peddy Cuttino who was known as a guide and counselor beyond the classroom.

Her nominators said Johnson was an excellent candidate for the Cuttino award due to the history of work she has done to develop programs that make mentoring a "central and routine feature" of the sociology department, as well as the "extent and depth of her mentoring . . . She is extremely attentive in all of her mentoring and especially involved when students need extra help."



Cathryn Johnson

Whether faculty to graduate student, graduate student to undergraduate, or colleague to colleague, she says mentoring fits in with Emory's collegial, friendly atmosphere. "There is a feeling that we want you to succeed here," says Johnson.

"Not only do I enjoy mentoring, and learn as much from the students as they do from me, I'm still being mentored now at 53," she says. "Also, I encourage students to have more than one mentor—different styles meet different needs."

Johnson's favorite part of Commencement is the hooding ceremony for the new PhDs. And sometimes, yes, she gives them advice about where they should go next.

"I had a similar situation to my own, where I told one of my graduate students she really needed to interview with the University of Vermont. She was afraid it would be too cold there," Johnson recalls. "Then she got the offer and she decided to go, and hasn't regretted it."



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Commencement

BRITTAIN AWARD

Silas Allard combines law and religion for human rights

By MARY LOFTUS

Silas Allard cobbled together odd jobs for a few years in St. Louis after college, trying to pay his rent while volunteering for Amnesty International and Students for a Free Tibet. Then he started working at the Center for Survivors of Torture and War Trauma in an afterschool program with children newly resettled from Afghanistan, Somalia, Liberia and dozens of other countries.

The experience solidified his commitment to pursue a graduate program that would allow him to combine his interests in law and religion, which he found through the Center for the Study of Law and Religion joint degree program.

Allard, a candidate for Juris Doctor and Master of Theological Studies, is this year's recipient of Emory's highest student honor, the Marion Luther Brittain Award, which honors service to Emory and the greater community without expectation of recognition.

His nominators called Allard a "tireless and mature student leader" and "community builder" through his stellar academics, his work as co-chair of a conference honoring the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights held at Emory, and his service with the Emory Public Interest Committee.

"I came in wanting to think about human rights in a broad sense, which has a strong legal component but in a myriad of ways is influenced by religion and religious communities around the world," he says.

Asylum and migration are interests

By combining the "constructs, language, methodologies and hermeneutics" of law and religion, Allard believes he can influence human rights policies and practices, particularly in the areas of asylum and migration.

"I am deeply troubled by the way in which refugees are perceived as incapacitated and pitiable, particularly by the legal regime of asylum—a view which leads to

understandings of asylum as an act of discretionary charity," he says. "People seek asylum because they have been forced to make an often difficult and devastating choice. An ethical asylum law recognizes that decision."

He was grateful for the opportunity to work as a research assistant for Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law Abdullahi An-Na'im, whose emphasis is on Islam, human rights and the secular state.

And through experiences such as serving as editor-in-chief of Emory International Law Review, clerking at the ACLU of Georgia, National Security/Immigrants' Rights Project, and interning at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva last summer, Allard has gained practical experience that informed his academic perspective. "I want to be able to navigate between both worlds," he says.

The \$5,000 stipend that accompanies the Brittain award will allow Allard to move to New York City, where he will serve as a law clerk in the office of the chief judge of the Court of International Trade.



Silas Allard

Festive traditions at Emory Commencement Weekend celebrate transition of students to alumni

By TANIA DOWDY

For Emory College senior Shannon Fleming, the journey to graduation has been a slow one, interrupted by semesters off to overcome medical issues and balance college with motherhood.

"It's been something I've been waiting for, for a long time," she says. "The closer I get, I think wow, I'm going to be an Emory alum."

As the Class of 2011 transitions to the next phase of their life at the 166th Commencement Exercises, Emory Commencement Weekend May 5-9 kicks off the celebration.

The five-day festivities celebrate Emory's "oldest and newest graduates," says Gloria Grevas, Emory Alumni Association director of alumni and student programs.

The events include traditions like the Candlelight Crossover and the Corpus Cordis Aureum induction ceremony for alumni celebrating their 50-year reunions.

Special this year, says Grevas, is that Emory's 175th anniversary celebration will be incorporated into the 50-year reunion.

And the Jake Ward Golden Heart Award recipient, 99-year-old Emory Williams '32C, plans to attend the event to accept the honor.

At the Candlelight Crossover, Emory alumni will welcome the graduates, illuminated by the candles they carry, as they cross the Houston Mill Bridge to the Miller-Ward Alumni House, symbolizing their transition from students to alumni.

As the event coordinator, Grevas shares students' exhilaration. "It is really thrilling to see students leaving the Emory campus and going out into the world as alumni, and exploring what their next steps are," she says.

Fleming's next steps include taking a year off to prepare for law school. But for now, she's taking this moment to soak in her accomplishment.

The EAA's blog, EAAvesdropping, and Facebook fan page will be updated throughout the weekend.

For a full schedule of Commencement Weekend activities, visit alumni.emory.edu/commencement.



From the newly graduated to the newest alums at the Candlelight Crossover, to the Corpus Cordis Aureum at their 50th reunion, the circle is complete.



Commencement

SCHOLAR/TEACHER AWARD

David Lynn's interest explodes into collaborative chemistry

By CAROL CLARK

"My brother liked to build models. And I liked to blow them up," recalls David Lynn, chair of chemistry department and the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Chemistry and Biology.

Their childhood experiments led to his brother's career as a building contractor

and Lynn's as a groundbreaking chemist who is not afraid to make sparks fly. "The joke in the family is, it's a good thing that we no longer collaborate," Lynn says.

Lynn received the 2011 University Scholar/Teacher Award, selected by Emory faculty on behalf of the United Methodist Church Board of Higher Education and Ministry. He was recognized for his

contributions to plant chemical biology, dynamic molecular self-assembly, chemical evolution and chemical education.

Lynn's chemical interests grew beyond explosions while he was a college student in North Carolina. "One day, I walked out of an organic chemistry class and I noticed a leaf on a tree branch that was hanging over a banister," he says. "I thought, 'That leaf is coordinating billions of reactions going on all the time.' I remember marveling at that, and I've never stopped marveling."

Test kitchen for primordial soup

That simple insight drove Lynn to focus on how order comes from chaos. After joining Emory in 2000, he helped establish the Center for Chemical Evolution, a collaboration between Emory, Georgia Tech and other institutions, funded by the National Science Foundation and NASA. The center is testing theories for how chemical reactions may have led to life emerging from Earth's primordial soup, some 3.5 billion years ago.

In 2002, he received the Howard Hughes Medical Institute award, worth \$1 million. He used the funds to create a program called On Recent Discoveries by Emory Researchers (ORDER), a series of seminars where graduate students teach freshmen.

"Rather than just spending 24/7 in a lab, graduate students need to put their research into a broader context and learn to explain it to the public," Lynn says of the philosophy behind ORDER. An added benefit of the program is exposing freshmen

to the possibilities of a career in academia, nurturing growth of the research community, Lynn says.

Lynn is also committed to helping the lay public understand the ongoing research into the evolution of life, and its relevance to modern-day life. Atlanta is an interesting location to focus on this goal, he says, since it is the epicenter of the debate between science and religion.

Change in a flash

"This is where the friction is, and where you have friction, that's where changes can occur," he explains.

Both religion and science strive to make sense of the world, Lynn says. Rather than reciting facts that demonstrate evolution, Lynn believes that the best way to help people understand it is through compelling stories. He has helped pioneer collaborations between Emory scientists and playwrights, dancers and other artists. The recent performances of a science flash mob in downtown Atlanta, using a group of people to show how molecules evolve, is one example of this daring convergence of science and art.

"Sixty percent of Americans don't accept the tenants of evolution because they don't see them as part of their experience," Lynn says. "So somehow we need to find ways to create space for a dialogue. If there is one lesson that emerges from the study of chemical evolution, it is that molecular diversity underpins both the structural intricacy of biology, as well as the complexity of our ideas and dreams."



David Lynn

McMULLAN AWARD

Creative, courageous leadership defines Noor Najafi's college career

By BEVERLY CLARK

Graduating senior Noor Najafi is the recipient of the 2011 Lucius Lamar McMullan Award, one of Emory's highest student honors which also comes with \$20,000—no strings attached. The McMullan Award, endowed by Emory alumnus William L. Matheson in honor of his uncle, is given to a graduating senior who exhibits "outstanding citizenship, exceptional leadership and rare potential for service to his or her community, the nation and the world."

Najafi was cited by several nominators as an exceptionally innovative and creative leader and scholar. With a near-perfect 3.9 GPA in Emory College, the religion major has taken part in undergraduate research with religion professor Richard Martin, and law professor Martha Duncan. He is the recipient of the Robert Woodruff Scholarship, Emory's highest merit award, and has been inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and other honor societies.

These achievements only tell part of the story.

Najafi came to college seeking to challenge and expand his worldview. As the son of Muslim refugees from Afghanistan, he was struggling with questions about his identity, faith and family, and how to move beyond feeling like an outsider.

"Emory gave me the space to be me, and to come out of my shell to help others," he says.

Healing and empowering

His own experiences have led him to be passionate about social justice, and an unwavering advocate for greater intercultural and interfaith understanding. "I've really sought to create opportunities where none existed, to empower the disempowered, and to transform and heal the wounds caused by intolerance, homophobia, hate, prejudice, discrimination and ignorance," he says.

One of his nominators noted that throughout his college career, Najafi "has taken leadership where there is no pre-made path, no position to be elected to, or ready-made audience ready to cheer him on."

This leadership has included establishing an organization to reduce the stigma about mental health, forming the Queer Students of Faith Group and founding a Quran/Bible study group for Christians and Muslims.

Najafi also organized the monthly Cafe Unity, a popular event for creative performances on campus, and co-founded Sacred Artistry to provide an outlet for the Emory community to explore how spirituality and art give meaning to life. He served as a member of the Inter-religious Council and co-founded the Emory Meditation Student Group to explore practices from different traditions. He volunteered regularly at the International Community School and Refugee Family Services in Atlanta, serving as a tutor, interpreter and community resource.

Paving the way

And he's done it all while managing a chronic illness, Crohn's Disease, that he has not allowed to diminish his life. In addition, Najafi has worked two part-time jobs for the majority of his college career—one in the Computing Center at Cox Hall and the other in the Office of Religious Life.

"I hope that in my commitment to social justice, multiculturalism, and interfaith and artistic initiatives on campus, I have helped create new doors for future student scholar-activists and leaders on campus and paved the way for exciting new developments to come," Najafi says. "I felt deeply touched, exhilarated, humbled and grateful all in the same breath to be so recognized and honored with the McMullan Award."

As part of that commitment to transform and heal others, Najafi plans to pursue a master's degree in psychology and counseling to become a practicing psychotherapist, and then continue with doctoral work. He hopes to do a combination of clinical work, research and teaching in the future with an integrated and inclusive approach to health and healing, "not limited to biological frameworks but include spiritual, psychological and social dimensions and aspects in this important conversation."



Noor Najafi

Commencement

175 things to do before graduating

Graduation is always bittersweet – seniors rejoice over the end of schoolwork and revel in the culmination of years of hard work. At the same time, feelings of nostalgia have them thinking, “If only I had time to...”

In commemoration of the University's 175th anniversary, the Emory Alumni Association asked alumni to contribute 175 things seniors should do before they graduate.

Here's a sampling of campus suggestions:

- 1

Plan a picnic at Lullwater on a beautiful spring afternoon.
- 20

Have lunch/coffee with one of your recent or former professors.
- 2

Go cheer on the Eagles at a sporting event!
- 78

Thank a food service worker, shuttle bus driver, a security guard, a construction worker or a grounds crew worker for all of their hard work that too often goes unnoticed.
- 56

Go to the observation deck on the 10th floor of the library to get an incredible view of the Atlanta skyline.
- 66

Go visit the original campus in Oxford and see where it all started.
- 19

Take a complete tour of Emory . . . into buildings that you have never stepped foot in, eateries you never tasted and paths never walked (and bring an umbrella just in case).
- 70

Go to the astronomy open house in the Math and Science Center to see the moon and Saturn at the observatory.
- 67

Visit the Alumni House! Take a tour of the Miller-Ward Alumni House, www.alumni.emory.edu/millerward. Come eat lunch in the garden and check out the beautiful spaces available for use by alums.
- 4

Spend at least one summer in Atlanta.

To see the full list, visit the Emory Alumni Association's Facebook page.

TAKE NOTE

Commencement day travel suggestions

Expect delays traveling to and around Emory's campus on Commencement day, Monday, May 9.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to telecommute with the permission of their manager. Expect Commencement guests to arrive early on campus and use shuttle service from parking decks to Commencement exercises. The parking deck in the Oxford Road Building will be dedicated to guests with special accessibility needs.

For updates and shuttle schedules, visit transportation.emory.edu.

Emory Village under construction

Many of the roadways outside of Haygood Hopkins Gate are in a temporary state of flux as DeKalb County proceeds with construction of a new roundabout and streetscapes in Emory Village. As construction enters its ninth month, the footprint for the future Village is taking shape outside of Emory's main campus entrance.

The traffic lights in the intersection of Dowman Drive, North Decatur Road and Oxford Road have been removed, and a three-way stop was installed as a temporary replacement until the roundabout is completed later this summer.

The \$2.1 million, 10-month DeKalb County project will improve the aesthetics, traffic flow and streetscapes along this section of the heavily traveled North Decatur Road corridor. The county has added new sidewalks, curbs, bike lanes, crosswalks and eventually, over 50 new trees will be planted in the Village. These improvements will moderate traffic flow through the Village, and support it as a community gathering spot.

All Village businesses remain open during the construction, including Commencement day lunch options like Everybody's Pizza and Saba. Pedestrian crosswalks continue to allow access through Emory Village.

For updates, visit www.emoryvillage.org.

Commencement is zero waste event

Emory is composting food, service ware and recycling bottles and cans throughout its 166th Commencement celebrations. To provide a “Destination Zero Waste” Commencement, Emory Recycles and the Office of Sustainability Initiatives are partnering with many campus organizations to reduce the amount of waste ending up in local landfills.

Events included in Destination Zero Waste are the Commencement Brunch, the President's Open House, graduation ceremonies organized at four schools, three reception rituals and other festivities around campus.

Unsure of where to deposit litter? Look for one of the Emory Recycles volunteers wearing the green “Destination Zero Waste” buttons to ensure proper disposal methods.

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Heading across America on a bicycle built for two

By MARGIE FISHMAN

Not long after graduation, Emory College senior Anna Snyder and her boyfriend, Kevin Kelly '09C-'09G, will pedal under the famed Gateway Arch in St. Louis, nosh at the Taste of Chicago and hunt down aliens in Devils Tower, Wyo. during their 5,000-mile adventure on a bicycle built for two.

Stretching from Savannah to Seattle, the couple's tandem trek will raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for pediatric cancer to honor the memory of Snyder's father, an avid cyclist who died of cancer when she was still in high school.

“The way my parents raised me was to do what you love and enjoy life,” Snyder says.

The three-month coast-to-coast tandem tour begins at Tybee Island, Ga. and will end on the breathtaking cliffs of Cape Flattery, Wash., the northwestern-most point of the continental United States.

“Our plan is to dip the rear wheel in the Atlantic and pedal until we can put the front wheel in the Pacific,” says Kelly, currently a program coordinator for Emory's Office of International Affairs.

On a budget of about \$25 a day, they will camp, “couch-surf” with other cyclists and stay with friends and family. Taking advantage of free WiFi along the way, the couple will blog regularly about their travels from their website, www.touringtandem.com.

An anthropology major who hopes to join AmeriCorps upon her return, Snyder met Kelly three years ago on an Outdoor Emory trip to build

affordable housing in Juarez, Mexico. They shared a “strange sense of humor” and a travel itch bordering on addiction. By the end of the weeklong trip, they were an item.

The couple bought their first tandem bike off Craigslist in 2009, an inexpensive model that belonged to a comedian who used to take it out on dates. Last month, they upgraded to the elite Santana Arriva, took out a personal insurance policy and bought an industrial-strength lock.

Among onlookers, “riding tandem inevitably causes a double-take and a smile,” says Kelly.

It also brings the couple closer together. Both 5-foot-10, they learned to trust each other and communicate constantly, calling out commands to shift gears and warning about inevitable bumps in the road.



Anna Snyder '11C and Kevin Kelly '09C-'09G are biking across America after Commencement.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEVIN KELLY

Commencement

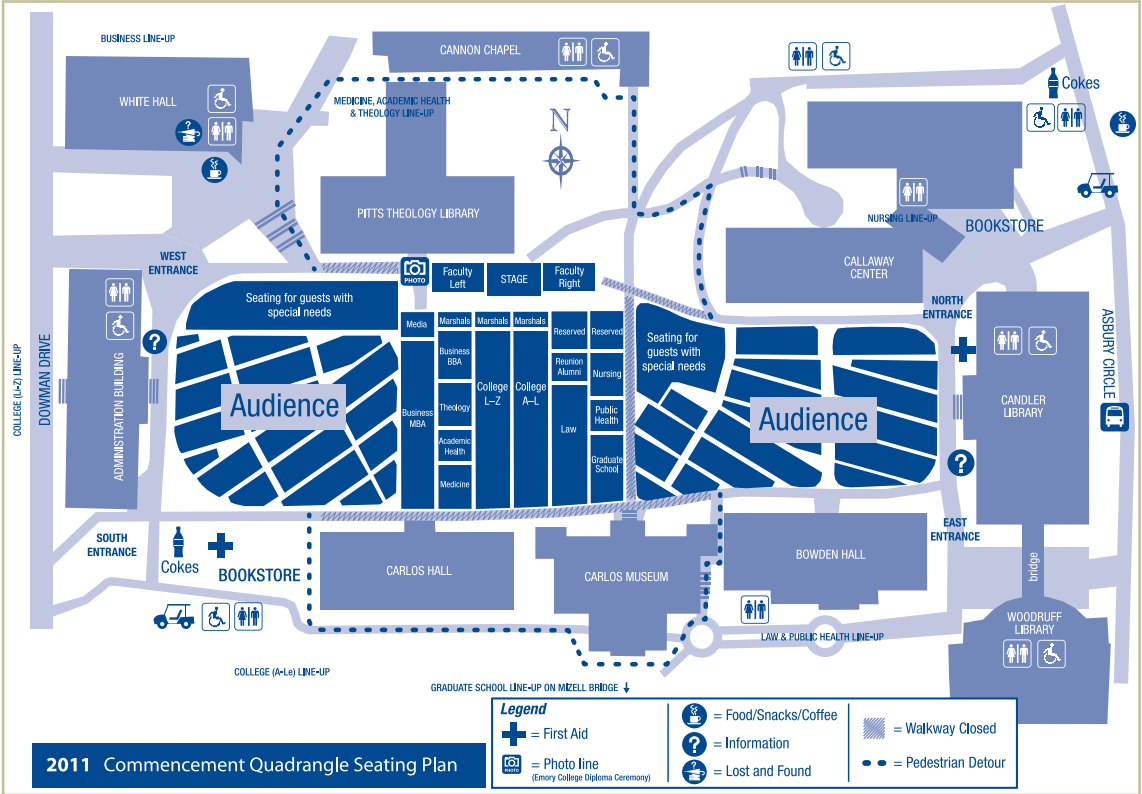
COMMENCEMENT: Ceremony combines history and traditions

Continued from the cover

Also new this year is the option for Commencement visitors to stay on campus. Residence Life made available a limited number of residence hall rooms for family members and graduates' guests. Stays include wireless access, 24-hour staffed concierge desk, passes for parking, some meals and access to the Woodruff P.E. Center

"We had no idea this would be so popular," says Michelle Wu of Residence Life and Housing, who is overseeing the option.

In the event of rain, the ceremony will continue with the audience invited to use umbrellas. For severe weather, the ceremony on the Quad would be cancelled. Portions of it would be included in the Laney Graduate School's PhD ceremony, which would move to the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts. See the Commencement website for inclement weather information on each school's ceremony.



2011 Commencement Quadrangle Seating Plan

Use this guide from the program to find your graduate.

Commencement 2011 will be webcast live on the Commencement website and available later for archival viewing.

For detailed information for graduates and guests, visit the Commencement website at www.emory.edu/commencement.



Oxford College ceremony

Oxford College's ceremony for its estimated 383 graduates will be Saturday, May 7, beginning at 10 a.m. on the college green in Oxford, Ga.

The speaker is four-time Emory graduate Robert Pennington, president and CEO of Willis Investment Counsel.

Awards to be presented include the Eady Sophomore Service Award and the Emory Williams Award for Distinguished Teaching.

For more information, visit www.oxford.emory.edu.



original image



altered image

Photo hunt

Can you spot the five differences between these two photographs?

Visit www.emory.edu/emoryreport to check your answers, or use a QR code reader in your smartphone to scan the code below.



A Commencement tradition

The Atlanta Pipe Band, led by alumnus Henry D. Frantz Jr., will usher in Commencement at 8 a.m. with the "Emory & Old St. Andrews March."