

## HONORARY DEGREES

Learn about the work of keynote speaker Rita Dove, Michael Graves and Maggy Barankitse.

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## BRITAIN AWARD

Graduate Katie Dickerson embraces athletics, academics and service.

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## Saluting creative, compassionate Class of 2013

### Passion for service leads to McMullan Award

By BEVERLY CLARK

Emory College senior Eduardo “Eddie” Garcia has excelled as a scholar, residence life adviser, a tutor and mentor to pre-school children, and the founder of a medical interpretation service that has assisted hundreds of Atlanta’s immigrants and refugees. Along the way, he built a reputation for extraordinary compassion, generosity and kindness, and an unwavering dedication to building community, both on and off campus.

In recognition of his service, Garcia is this year’s recipient of the Lucius Lamar McMullan Award, which also comes with \$25,000, no strings attached. The award is given to an Emory College graduate who shows extraordinary promise of becoming a future leader, and rare potential for service to their community, the nation and the world.



EMORY PHOTOVIDEO

Despite difficult economic times, the Class of 2013 reached out to help others in national and international crises.

By KIMBER WILLIAMS

The enduring power of poetry, language and ideas will be highlighted at Emory’s 168th Commencement ceremony this year, featuring a keynote address by former U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winner Rita Dove.

The Class of 2013 will convene on the Emory Quadrangle Monday, May 13, at 8 a.m. to participate in Commencement exercises that are both steeped in time-honored tradition and enhanced with new, crowd-pleasing technology.

This year, for the first time, guests will observe the procession of more than 4,200 graduates aided by remote-operated cameras and large LED video screens installed alongside the central stage to provide

“a close-up view” of the event, complete with live text captioning, says Michael Kloss, chief of protocol and executive director of the Office of University Events.

A 44,000-square-foot tent — another first — will debut on McDonough Field, intended to offer overflow shelter for some 6,000 guests, who can also view the main ceremony remotely on a large video screen.

A ritual of pageantry rooted in the Middle Ages, the ceremony is expected to attract a crowd of about 15,000 to witness the conferral of degrees upon a class that will be remembered for its resilience, says President James W. Wagner.

The Class of 2013 arrived at Emory amid the depths of a global economic crisis, recalls Wagner:

“Many of their families had to adjust expectations about what they could contribute to their education. Many of our students ended up working longer hours to support themselves.

“But these students also showed great responsiveness to other people’s needs, whether it was the tsunami in Japan or the earthquake in Haiti,” Wagner adds. “They are tough and creative and compassionate and determined, and all of that shows in their resilience.”

Class members will also be recalled for their passion for community engagement and “the courage to raise questions about the institution” during some challenging years, says Gary Hauk, vice president and deputy to the University president.

“At the same time, they’ve been very committed to the University through leadership — very much engaged in work on campus and involved in important conversations about the place of the liberal arts at Emory,” Hauk notes.

Discovering resolve through difficult times can prove an education in itself, says Bobbi Patterson, professor of pedagogy in the Department of Religion, who will lead this year’s graduate procession as Emory’s first female chief marshal of the University.

“It draws us into the deepest well of who we’re going to be,” she explains. “This is a class that made choices to participate — often strongly — for the causes they believed were of value.”



Eduardo Garcia

The award was established by 1947 Emory alumnus William L. Matheson in honor of his uncle.

“I was shocked and so deeply humbled to receive the McMullan Award,” says Garcia. While some of the gift will go toward medical school, Garcia says he plans to give

EMORY PHOTOVIDEO

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## GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

### Christina Cross: Finding her future at Emory

By KIMBER WILLIAMS

While visiting with graduating senior Christina Cross over lunch, professor Deborah Lipstadt listened to her former student reflect upon her time at Emory.

“I actually had three study abroad experiences,” Cross recalled, “Spain, Nicaragua ... and Emory.”

When asked what she meant, the Milwaukee, Wis., native likened the culture shock of foreign travel with adjusting to

Emory — a world away from the hardscrabble life she’d known growing up.

For years, her family had drifted from town to town, state to state, buffeted by job opportunities, housing instability, and parental impulses. In 13 years of primary education, Cross had attended a dozen schools in three states, including three high schools.

In fact, her four years at Emory represent the greatest stability she’s known, admits Cross, one of six siblings and the first generation in her family to earn a university degree.

Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies, found the story both sobering and surprising — Cross had been relatively silent about her obstacles.

And given her superior academic performance — highlighted with fellowships, international and local engagement, and honor societies — the professor wouldn’t have guessed the disadvantages Cross had faced, making her Emory experience all the more impressive.



Christina Cross

EMORY PHOTOVIDEO

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# Commencement

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Congratulations, graduates! We've enjoying sharing your accomplishments and aspirations in this special edition of Emory Report. Best wishes for a happy and successful future.

To keep up-to-date with campus news this summer, visit the Emory News Center at [news.emory.edu](http://news.emory.edu) and look for the Emory Report eBulletin in your inbox each week.

Best of luck,  
**Kim Urquhart**, editor  
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## Social media guide

View Commencement photos, videos and stories on Twitter and Instagram by following [@EmoryUniversity](https://twitter.com/EmoryUniversity) and using hashtag [#Emory2013](https://twitter.com/Emory2013). Also stay connected with Facebook and the Emory Mobile App (text "EMORY" to 99699 for info).

Can't attend the ceremony? The 168th Commencement exercises will be streamed live online at [www.emory.edu/commencement/webcast](http://www.emory.edu/commencement/webcast).

## More Commencement coverage online

Visit [news.emory.edu](http://news.emory.edu) to:

- See photos from the 2013 ceremony.
- Read more student stories.
- View videos, including interviews with graduates and time-lapse scenes.
- Find out who won faculty awards and get highlights from school diploma ceremonies.

## JEFFERSON AWARD

# Nadine Kaslow is a mindful university citizen

By KIM URQUHART

Emory psychologist Nadine Kaslow often fields calls from the media to comment on mental health topics, such as coping in times of tragedy. On the day of her interview with Emory Report, she had just spoken to ABC News about the Boston Marathon tragedy that had rocked the nation the day before.

"What I try to do in these horrible situations is provide an empathetic psychologically minded view that's helpful to the public, to calm and educate people about the psychological impacts of tragedies," she says.

In the case of Boston, "I try to juxtapose the tragedy with the symbolism of the marathon: courage and strength, endurance, commitment and dedication."

These characteristics could also be used to describe Kaslow, who earned Emory's 2013 Thomas Jefferson Award for significant service through personal activities, influence and leadership.

How does she balance multiple roles as professor and vice chair in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science; director of the Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Professional Psychology for Emory School of Medicine; chief psychologist at Grady Memorial Hospital; and joint appointments in the departments of psychology, pediatrics and emergency medicine? Not to mention national leadership roles as president-elect of the American Psychological Association; editor of the *Journal of Family Psychology*; and resident psychologist with the Atlanta Ballet?

"I get involved in activities that genuinely matter to me," she explains. "I care about children and families, about reducing violence, whether it be gun violence or suicide prevention efforts on campus — I am passionate about making the world a safer place. I am dedicated to quality and culturally relevant patient care for underserved people, and also about innovative and interdisciplinary education and training."

A firm believer that exercise is key to physical and emotional well-being, Kaslow practices ballet almost every day.

"It's part of my self-care," she explains. "It's away time in which I have the opportunity to combine athleticism with artistry. I really love that."

As resident psychologist for the Atlanta Ballet, Kaslow leads wellness programs and therapy sessions. Her outreach includes helping ballerinas deal with body image issues and drive for perfection — concerns often shared by college students.

At Emory, Kaslow has counseled students on similar issues. A nationally recognized expert in suicide, she helped secure a three-year federal grant to launch a university-wide suicide prevention program, Emory Cares 4 U. Kaslow said she's proud that suicide prevention has been institutionalized — it's now part of the Student Counseling Center — and that the program has trained more faculty, staff and students as "gatekeepers" to recognize and respond to those in need. She hopes it has helped reduce stigma.



Nadine Kaslow

EMORY PHOTOVIDEO

A past-president of the University Senate and Faculty Council among other roles, Kaslow is a committed university citizen. Most recently she co-chaired the Committee on Class and Labor, a multi-year campus-wide examination of various aspects of class and status at Emory.

Kaslow's research focuses on culturally competent assessment and treatment of suicidal behavior and intimate partner violence in African American women, and the impact of intimate partner violence on children. She's also adapting a compassion meditation program for low-income African American men and women.

"I cherish being involved in the community, whether it's Emory, Atlanta, Grady or the psychology world," Kaslow says. "I'm invested in tackling challenging issues in our community and finding ways to bring people together and come up with a strategic and visionary plan for moving forward."

Kaslow, who recently won the Inspiring Mentor Award from the Grady Health Foundation, says she is thrilled to be presented with the Jefferson Award at Emory's 168th Commencement ceremony. "I think there's something very special in being honored at home. It means the most," she says. "The reality is, when you do community service you don't do it for public recognition. You do it because it matters. Receiving this award is just an extra special gift."

Kaslow, who last year gave commencement addresses at Wright State University and Pepperdine University, where she also received an honorary degree, offers this advice for Emory's Class of 2013: "Ask not what others can do for you, but what you can do for others. The people's lives you touch will be enriched and empowered. In turn, you will experience many riches and gifts, and find your life more meaningful, satisfying and fun."

## Taking a behind-the-scenes look at Commencement

By LESLIE KING

It takes an army-sized team to put on Commencement. Spearheaded by the **Office of University Events**, Commencement is the biggest annual event the office coordinates. "We take it very seriously and recognize that Commencement Day is sometimes the only time that extended family members have ever stepped foot on campus," says Michael Kloss, director. "We want their experience, just like the student experience, to be the best that Emory can offer."

Kloss' office produces the ceremonial aspects of the central ceremony, recruits and trains the 200-plus volunteers, works with the operations team to ensure that all setup and infrastructure is in place, and provides support to the schools as they plan their diploma ceremonies. "We run the Commencement website and produce school-specific help guides for students and their families," he explains.

For the **Emory Police Department**, Commencement means managing a huge influx of approximately 15,000 people and their cars. "It requires all of our available staff to work during the Baccalaureate and Commencement ceremonies, especially to handle the traffic and pedestrian flow into, across, and back out of the campus," says Chief Craig Watson.

**Transportation and Parking** goes into dual gear. "Not only are we welcoming, parking and transporting several thousand visitors into and out of some very tight spaces, but we still welcome, park and transport University and Healthcare staff to their jobs as if it's a regular day," says department communications specialist Alice P. Sloan.

"We expand our fleet to plus or minus 62 buses from our usual 35, hiring and training additional drivers to cover Commencement service as well as our other routes," Sloan says, to deal with the much more demanding traffic from about 6 a.m. until 9 a.m.

One of the most visible signs of Commencement preparation is the "Chair Rodeo," where about 14,000 chairs are set up on the Quad. **Campus Services** rounds up those plus another 6,000 for McDonough Field and the remainder for individual school ceremonies and receptions, says Karen Salisbury, chief of staff. "The Chair Rodeo brings volunteers from all over the

institution — Healthcare, academics, admissions, Campus Life. It is really an amazing event," she says. Campus Services staff puts in about 3,000 work-hours, Salisbury says.

Food is a big part of Commencement and **Emory Catering** provides custom menus for each event depending on the client's needs. Months in advance, linens, flowers and food are ordered, says Rebecca Cutts Denton, marketing manager for Emory Dining. "We work very hard to make sure each event meets the sustainability requirements, which includes using compostable materials." Emory Catering will produce over 15,000 desserts, for example, over the course of Commencement Weekend. Denton says there are anywhere from 10-30 events per day during this time, ranging in size from two to 2,000 people.

Families and guests can stay on campus in one of two residence halls, says Mary Romestant, director of operations, **Residence Life & Housing**. "Since some students remain in their rooms until the move-out deadline, the building staff, summer conference staff and Campus Services might only have a few hours to clean, do any major repairs that are needed, and prepare for incoming guests."

Guests or students with accessibility needs can rely on the **Office of Access, Disability Services and Resources**. This office handles accommodations for both the main ceremony and the diploma ceremonies, including requests for seating, hearing and visual impairments, access to reserved seating and more. Assistant Director Jessalyn Smiley says "we're handling the biggest age range possible, from mothers with strollers to Grandma, giving them a clear path to their seat, figuring out where to put the stroller... Our entire office works the day of Commencement."

Commencement planning for next year will start on Commencement Day this year.

"We leave each year's Commencement with a list of things that we would do differently next year based on observations and the wonderful feedback from our volunteers," says Kloss.



A dedicated volunteer team helps Commencement run smoothly.

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## EMORY | report

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# Commencement

## SCHOLAR/TEACHER AWARD

# Leslie Harris uncovers the past while building the future

By KIMBER WILLIAMS

As an associate professor of history and African American studies, Leslie Harris has earned praise both for her groundbreaking research into often overlooked aspects of the history of African American slavery and her generous classroom mentorship.

Yet, it is her ability to encourage difficult dialogues — to help people find their voices around issues of diversity and difference — that literally set the University talking.

In 2005, Harris became co-founder and director of Emory's Transforming Community Project (TCP), a five-year program designed to engage all sectors of the University in a process of discovery and dialogue about Emory's racial history — a program that still resonates throughout much of the campus community.

As this year's recipient of the 2013 University Scholar/Teacher award, Harris is recognized for the breadth of her service in scholarship, classroom and community. The award is chosen by Emory faculty on behalf of the United Methodist Church Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

A Winship Distinguished Research Professor in the Humanities who came to Emory in 1995, Harris reflects upon a career punctuated by unexpected turns. Yet somehow, her academic path seems to have unfolded naturally, as if it were simply meant to be.

The daughter of middle school and high school teachers, Harris says she grew up knowing that she did not want to be a teacher. "They worked all the time!" she laughs. "I went to college thinking that I would become a lawyer."



Leslie Harris

But it was while studying American history and literature at Columbia University that she was challenged to consider a life in academia. Devouring history books only fed her interest in research.

Harris didn't start out focusing on slavery. Early interests included 20th century African American history, women and gender. During graduate studies at Stanford University, the influence of both powerful books and inspiring mentors left her deeply curious about the history of African Americans in New York City.

Her first book, "In the Shadow of Slavery," began "as a study of emancipation in New York City between 1785 and 1827 and the lives of free blacks down to the Civil War," she recalls.

Trying to describe her work, "I kept getting confused looks," she says. "Finally, I realized that people didn't really know that there had been slavery in New York City, and I needed to tell that story."

Slavery has persisted as a research interest, growing to include slavery and masculinity, and sexuality and slavery. In 2011, Harris served as principal organizer for "Slavery and the University: Histories and Legacies," a groundbreaking national conference held at Emory.

Harris knows that some might be surprised at where her path has led — a modern historian teaching about slavery at a historic Southern university.

But it's been a good place to make a difference. "I wanted my work to be not just in the classroom, but to have a public impact," she explains.

"The issues of racial diversity are still with us," she adds. "Because of our history, we at Emory should really be, at the heart, leaders in examining those difficult questions of diversity and embracing it as an intellectual opportunity."

## COMMENCEMENT: Resilience characterizes Class of 2013

Continued from the cover

Patterson also finds the class distinguished by "very innovative, creative, interdisciplinary scholarship," she adds. "I see them as hopeful, with a very bright outlook for the future."

Dove's appearance as this year's keynote speaker represents something of a homecoming for the renowned poet. In 2011, the Commonwealth Professor of English at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville came to Emory for a residency during Women's History Month. During Commencement, she will receive an honorary doctor of letters degree.

Hauk finds Dove's selection especially fitting, given the prominent role of poetry on campus — from the contributions of current U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey, who heads Emory's acclaimed Creative Writing Program, to the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library, a collection of rare and first edition poetry curated through Emory's Manuscript, Archives and Rare Books Library (MARBL). A speaker who embodies the potent eloquence of language and shared ideas is a good match for the Class of 2013, agrees Michael David Harris, a senior in philosophy who as the Emory College class orator will speak as "a proud humanities major."

"What's been important to me is being around people who feel their education is a major step in a process not only toward finding a job, but finding a fulfilling life," explains Harris.

"This has been a hard year for Emory," he acknowledges. "This class was exposed to a lot of change, forcing us to imagine what we want Emory to be and to articulate it."

"From the outside, it may not look ideal, but I think our class has overcome that," Harris adds. "We got on the boat during a storm, but missed the hurricane."

For information on Commencement events, including plans for individual school ceremonies, visit [www.emory.edu/commencement](http://www.emory.edu/commencement).

### Oxford College Commencement

Emory Provost Claire Sterk will give the keynote address during Commencement exercises for about 343 graduates at Oxford College on May 11.

Sterk assumed duties as provost on Feb. 1. Prior to her appointment, she was senior vice provost for academic affairs, where she oversaw development of academic and research programs at the University. A member of the Emory faculty since 1995, Sterk was appointed Charles Howard Candler Professor of Public Health in 2000.

Commencement begins at 10 a.m., when a bagpiper leads the procession onto the Oxford College Green. A reception will follow on the lawn at Haygood Hall.

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



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## GARCIA: McMullan Award winner shares his blessings

Continued from the cover

away a portion. "I'm giving it a lot of thought and prayer because I want to be sure that it can help make the biggest impact possible for people in need," he says.

Garcia is graduating with a major in chemistry and a minor in global health, culture and society. He will attend the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine at Texas Tech University next year and hopes to become a family physician dedicated to underserved communities.

Garcia spent the first 12 years of his life in Mexico until his family immigrated to El Paso, Texas, where he graduated from high school. He says his family and his Catholic faith motivate and push him to do his best and to serve others.

"My parents sacrificed everything to give us better opportunities. We didn't have a lot but we always had enough. They always taught me to be thankful for what you have, and when you receive blessings, you have an obligation to work to share those blessings and bless others," he says.

That ideal motivated Garcia when he came to Emory as a QuestBridge Scholar, part of a national program that matches

high-achieving, low- and middle-income students with some of the nation's top colleges and universities. Students are provided with a full scholarship.

In his freshman year, Garcia volunteered more than 300 hours in AmeriCorps' Jumpstart program, which prepares children from low-income communities for success in the classroom. He was named Emory's Corps Member of the Year, and rose to the position of team leader in his sophomore year, which involved an additional 300 hours of service.

His most enduring contribution to the community may be his work in co-founding the Emory University Volunteer Medical Interpreter Service (VMIS). This program trains Emory students to serve as medical interpreters for non-English speaking patients.

While volunteering in a free health clinic in Atlanta, Garcia noticed a serious lack of medical interpreters given the large Hispanic population they were serving, and had long recognized how language barriers make access to quality health care difficult.

Garcia recruited other Emory students to assist him in co-founding the organization, and secured a grant from

Emory's Office of the Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and a partnership with Grady Memorial Hospital. VMIS now thrives with a large group of undergraduate and graduate student interpreters, and collaborations with professors, local clinics and nonprofit organizations.

He has also been active as an RA, or resident adviser. In recognition of his exemplary leadership and his outstanding commitment to the Atlanta community, Garcia received the J.J. Canter Award from the Office of Residence Life and Housing in 2011.

"I feel I was placed here on a path by God, and it is expected of me to give back and make a difference, so I've been committed to what I am passionate about," Garcia says. "I love being connected to my community, and I've loved my time at Emory."

Visit [news.emory.edu/commencement](http://news.emory.edu/commencement) for a video interview with Eduardo Garcia.

## College honors theses showcase original research

To graduate with honors from Emory College, students must complete an honors thesis — a comprehensive project that involves months of original research and analysis on a topic of their choice under the guidance of a faculty adviser, a final paper and an oral defense of their thesis to a faculty committee.

This past academic year, 160 brave souls took on the challenge, producing new and original research and knowledge across multiple liberal arts disciplines in the humanities, natural sciences and social sciences.

A sampling of students describe their work:

**Charles L. Evavold**, physics

**Honors Thesis:** “Defined Orbital Elements and Solution Parameters for Binary Star System ET Tau”

**Adviser:** Richard Williamon, senior lecturer in physics and director of the Emory Planetarium

**Research:** One of the only ways observers on Earth can determine the mass and related properties of a star system is by looking at the orbit of eclipsing binary stars. My research centered on the binary system ET Tau. We were able to combine data taken at Fernbank Science Center with novel data taken at Emory’s observatory. This project was originally started by my adviser 27 years ago. With updated data and advances in modeling techniques, we reached a meaningful solution for this star system. We intend to publish these findings soon.

**Impact:** My research in astronomy has helped me develop laboratory methods and gain computational experience. My time here working for the observatory has helped reaffirm my love of the stars and of investigation. My research work has also been a great experience to prepare for graduate school.

**After graduation:** Working for a health care software company, and eventually graduate school in physics



Charles L. Evavold



Rebecca Levitan



Preston Carter Hogue



Victoria Reines



Perrinh Savang

EMORY PHOTO/VIDEO

**Preston Carter Hogue**, history and religion

**Honors Thesis:** “The Tie that Binds: White Church Flight in Atlanta, 1955-1985”

**Adviser:** Joseph Crespino, professor of history

**Research:** As residential neighborhoods in Atlanta transitioned from being predominately white to predominately black in the 1960s and 1970s, white churches in those communities had the opportunity to integrate. Although a few stayed in the changing communities, many immediately fled, but most congregations lingered in the transitioning neighborhoods as they disputed the proper response to the changes. All of them faced deep moral and spiritual struggles throughout the process. My thesis uncovers and explores those struggles.

**Impact:** My research helped me to understand how the evangelical church in the United States became deeply racially divided ... I plan to work with low-income urban communities to overcome the social, economic and spiritual barriers to growth and development often created by white flight in the period I researched.

**After graduation:** Mission Year

Ionic frieze, and installed them on the Nashville Parthenon, a life-sized replica in Tennessee. This allowed us to gauge how visible the Parthenon frieze would have been in its original viewing conditions with color.

**Impact:** My adviser and I hope to publish the findings in 2014. We also hope that our experiment will spur some changes and improvements to the Nashville Parthenon to complete the building by installing a permanent Ionic frieze.

**After graduation:** Pursuing a master’s degree as a Bobby Jones Scholar at St. Andrews University in Scotland

**Victoria Reines**, biology

**Honors Thesis:** “Targeted Clinical Drug Trials for Intellectual Disabilities: The Decision-Making Process”

**Adviser:** Stephanie Sherman, professor of human genetics

**Research:** This study explores decision-making about clinical drug trial participation and medication for individuals with intellectual disabilities. By interviewing parents of individuals with Fragile X Syndrome or Down Syndrome, we assessed the factors that influence parental decision-making about potential clinical drug trial involvement for their children. Because targeted clinical drug trials for intellectual disabilities are so new, research has not yet explored how decisions are made for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

**Impact:** I will pursue a specialty in health-related law, and I am specifically interested in health policy and bioethics.

As a lawyer, I plan to continue working with bioethical issues and advocating for health care-related policies.

**After graduation:** Boston University School of Law

**Perrinh Savang**, interdisciplinary studies

**Honors Thesis:** “Making Spaces: Gay and Lesbian Student Activism at Emory University (1972-1998)”

**Adviser:** Leslie Harris, associate professor of history and African American studies and Winship Distinguished Research Professor in the Humanities

**Research:** My research examines how gay and lesbian activism at Emory University changed from the 1970s to the 1980s, particularly with respect to the gay and lesbian movement occurring nationally at the time. Using archival material and interviews, I have constructed a historical narrative that traces how gay and lesbian activists fought for recognition and inclusion within the university and the challenges they faced while doing so.

**Impact:** After exploring the struggles and accomplishments of past activists, I have come to realize the importance of history in defining not only how far a community has come regarding human rights and equality, but also how far it may still need to go. I want to incorporate historical research within activist work in hopes of motivating communities to appreciate and advocate for social change.

**After graduation:** Humanity in Action Fellowship

## Not ready to stop learning?

### Join Emory’s MA in Bioethics Program.

The program offers a practical course of study to help you identify and address the values and ethical challenges that confront you in your field. The degree will differentiate you by providing a foundation for critical thinking that is profoundly transformative in principle and practice. You will be a better professional, armed with different perspectives and enhanced insights into framing the issues that confront you.

Emory’s program offers dual-degree possibilities not available elsewhere. Kevin Wack is Emory’s first dual

MA in Bioethics/Master of Theological Studies (Candler School of Theology) graduate, headed to the Health Law program at Georgia State in the fall. Says Wack, “The dual degree allows each field to strengthen the other. It helped me gain practical experience in a clinical setting incorporating both ethics consultations and pastoral counseling.”

**Our graduates advance the national discussion:**

Wack’s capstone project was a thesis exploring Catholic views regarding embryo adoption.



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# Commencement

## BRITTAIN AWARD

# Dickerson dives into athletics, academics and service

By MARY LOFTUS

When Katie Dickerson looks back on the Katie of four years ago, she hardly recognizes her. “This has truly been a transformative place for me—the people I’ve met and the experiences I’ve had,” the Emory College senior says.

Originally from Annapolis, Md., Dickerson loved her hometown but “decided to venture into the Deep South because I really liked the atmosphere at Emory, the diversity and that people are ethically engaged.”

A multi-sport athlete in high school, she was recruited to play basketball with the Emory women’s team. “I was all about being the star athlete in high school and then I came to Emory and rode the bench, but I did it with joy. I really love my team. Every day I wanted to work hard for them,” she says. She also captained the Emory Lacrosse team this year.

“Katie is probably the most well-rounded student athlete to play in our program during my tenure here at Emory,” says Christy Thomaskutty, head women’s basketball coach.

A double major in neuroscience and behavioral biology, and anthropology and human biology, and a global health, culture and society minor, Dickerson was one of four seniors selected to pursue master’s level work as a Bobby Jones Scholar next year.

At University of St. Andrews in Scotland she will study neural and behavioral sciences and will focus her research on learning about episodic memory in children to see if the likelihood of developing neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s can be predicted. “To get to travel around Europe and get to be part of this Bobby Jones family is just incredible,” she says.

During her time at Emory, Dickerson was also involved with the Wesley Fellowship, the United Methodist campus ministry; was a Teach for America campus coordinator; was a member of Alpha Phi Omega co-ed national service fraternity; was Mortar Board honor society president; a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority; and was on the Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honors Society executive board.

“There was very little sleep involved,” she says, laughing. “When you have a busy schedule, a lot of it for me is just being really meticulous about planning things. My planner has gotten down to 15-minute increments now, which is really sad.”

With enough credits since the end of her sophomore year to graduate, Dickerson still found time to take or audit seven classes this semester, getting in as many as she could outside her major before “they kick me out.”

Ultimately, she would like to go to medical school. Through volunteer work in Ghana, she saw “how much good there is to be done in the world with a medical degree.”

She was shocked to win the Marion Luther Brittain Award, Emory’s highest student honor, given for service rendered to the university without expectation of reward or recognition. Last year, the Brittain award went to Dickerson’s good friend and orientation leader Evan Dunn. “I know what a big deal it is, which definitely contributed to my shock,” she says.

Dickerson plans to donate the \$5,000 that comes with the honor to the Appalachian Service Project (ASP), a nonprofit she has worked with since high school that does free home repair for needy families throughout Appalachia. “ASP has been such a big part of my life, that sometimes when I think of money, I think of how many roofs it equates to, and that,” she says, “is five roofs.”



Katie Dickerson

EMORY PHOTO/VIDEO

Visit [news.emory.edu/commencement](http://news.emory.edu/commencement) for a video interview with Katie Dickerson.

## Liberal arts majors in demand on job market

By COREY BROMAN-FULKES

The problem-solving skills of a liberal arts major are in demand, no matter the industry, says Career Center Director Paul Fowler. As graduating students prepare for life after college, Emory College seniors talk about how their liberal arts education has helped in the job-search process:

- “I’m not one person who can do one thing. I’ve got a diverse skill set, and I can apply those in a lot of different ways and can fill a lot of different needs. The flexibility is probably the biggest part of the liberal arts major.”  
—Ernest Brown, economics and political science major, job offer in consulting
- “Having a liberal arts background provided me skills to pursue jobs that I may not have otherwise.”  
—Alex Pill, anthropology and human biology major, job offer in consulting
- “Having the ability to think outside the box and being able to think and analyze situations instead of doing it the rote way is something companies saw.”  
—Madison Li, economics and Chinese language and literature major, job offer in IT consulting
- “I think [a liberal arts education] is an asset because it opens the door to the entire world for you... It gives all these opportunities by giving you core skills you’ll need in any career-field path you want.”  
—Jenae Ward, history and international studies major, job offer with Teach for America
- “Many of our recruiters tell us they’re looking for smart, adept students who can come in and hit the ground running. They’ll teach them what they need to know on the job. If they have those critical thinking skills, decision skills, the ability to analyze and articulate ideas it doesn’t matter what the job is. They’re in demand across all industries.”  
—Paul Fowler, Emory Career Center executive director

See more in a video at [news.emory.edu/commencement](http://news.emory.edu/commencement).



EMORY PHOTO/VIDEO



Ernest Brown interned at the Metro Atlanta Chamber this spring.

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## Honorary degrees recognize leaders in literature, architecture, peace-building

Emory is recognizing the distinctive contributions of three cultural leaders with honorary degrees at Commencement this year.



Rita Dove

Former U.S. Poet Laureate **Rita Dove**, the keynote speaker, is known for her interdisciplinary approach and collaborative artistic ventures. She is receiving an honorary doctor of letters.

The Commonwealth Professor of English at the University of Virginia and a major figure in American and African American literature, Dove has written more than a dozen

books and edited two poetry anthologies. Her book "Thomas and Beulah" won the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry.

Dove is the only poet to have received both the National Humanities Medal and the National Medal of Arts, two awards among an extraordinary array of honors that also includes the Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal, White House Presidential Scholar and Guggenheim Fellow. She is cited as a mentor by Emory's Pulitzer Prize-winning Natasha Trethewey, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of English and Creative Writing and the current U.S. Poet Laureate.

**Michael Graves** is renowned for redefining the architect's role in society. His distinctive combination of classicism and modernism sparked influential designs



Michael Graves

ranging from iconic buildings to everyday objects. He is receiving an honorary doctor of fine arts.

One of a group of modernist architects dubbed the "New York Five," Graves is founding principal of the firm Michael Graves & Associates. Its portfolio includes Emory's Michael C. Carlos Museum. Graves's first project on campus involved adaptive re-use of the former law building, a Henry Hornbostel landmark now known as Carlos Hall, to provide classrooms and gallery space. Its success led in 1993 to a 35,000-square-foot expansion, followed by gallery renovations.

Graves is the Robert Schirmer Professor of Architecture, Emeritus, at Princeton University, an American Institute of Architects (AIA) Fellow, and a Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His many honors include the National Medal of Arts and the AIA Gold Medal.

**Marguerite "Maggy" Barankitse** is distinguished for her courageous work over two decades on behalf of



Marguerite Barankitse

SPECIAL

victims of violence in the central African country of Burundi. She is receiving an honorary doctor of humane letters.

Barankitse founded the multifunctional service agency Maison Shalom (House of Peace) in the wake of severe ethnic violence between Tutsis and Hutus in the early 1990s. She began by providing a home for orphaned children who survived the attacks. Maison Shalom's mission has expanded to include education, health programs, vocational training and reconciliation, as the organization helps heal and support young people and families affected by war, poverty and disease.

Barankitse is the recipient of several international honors, among them the prestigious Nansen Refugee Award from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; she used the generous monetary part of the prize to help start a hospital.

—From staff reports

### For Emory's 168th Commencement

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**Zero Waste:**

Emory University is composting and recycling throughout its Commencement celebrations including Commencement Brunch, Lullwater Open House, and multiple graduation ceremonies across the Emory campus. By 2015, Emory's goal is to divert from landfills 65% of overall waste and 95% of food waste.

\* Zero waste is defined as 90% or greater diversion from landfills through recycling, composting or repurposing materials.

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# Commencement

## CUTTINO AWARD

### Mentoring is mutual and a high priority for Karen Stolley

By LESLIE KING

Karen Stolley, chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, is the 2013 honoree for the George P. Cuttino Award for Excellence in Mentoring.

"The award means a great deal to me because it recognizes and honors an ongoing conversation that I have had with students, graduate students and colleagues for the 20 years that I've been at Emory," says Stolley, who is associate professor of Spanish. Mentoring, she says, "is a validation of the interconnectedness of what we're all trying to do." It is a large part of her work and mentoring colleagues as well as students is "part of what the nomination spoke to."

She points proudly to a plaque on her office bookshelf for a 2009 Mentoring for Leadership award from the President's Commission on the Status of Women.

That award was given to a pair of faculty, in this instance, Stolley and Violla Hartfield-Méndez. "This meant a lot to me, too. We saw ourselves as being involved in



Karen Stolley

a long process of mutual mentoring over a number of years. I actually see mentoring always as a mutual process."

With undergraduate students, there can initially be a kind of verticality to it, Stolley notes. "Over time, that relationship shifts

and grows and that's what I really enjoy." What are some unexpected results of mentoring relationships for Stolley?

"Beyond this award?," she laughs.

"One of the lovely surprises is to have former graduate students who become colleagues. Or undergraduate students who go away and then come back to visit, and they are fully-fledged adults with professional responsibilities," she says.

Stolley finds an institutional commitment to mentoring that mirrors her own, particularly in Emory College, a "liberal arts college at the heart of a research university." In addition to her teaching, academic and institutional duties, Stolley is a key player in helping Emory and the Latin American Association organize the annual Latino Youth Leadership Conference.

Stolley is part of a committee that determines the programming content to be delivered for the more than 1,000 middle and high school students who come to Emory's campus for a Saturday in November. "We work with college students from across the greater Atlanta

area and train them to be mentor guides. It's to encourage young Latino students to be thinking about college as a path that they can choose."

Stolley's research focuses on colonial and 18th-century Spanish America; her book, "Domesticating Empire: Enlightenment in Spanish America," will be published this year by Vanderbilt University Press.

"I'm a person who thinks about education holistically," she says. "And my family tells me that I tend to live out loud, so I don't make a clear separation between my intellectual or professional or academic life, and my personal life." And bringing that all together is at the heart of mentoring for a liberal arts education.

"I have two daughters and I say to them all the time you have to thank your teachers. You have no idea how much it means for them to hear from you what you got from them," she says.

Stolley's younger daughter will enter Emory as a freshman this fall. "I'm excited to experience Emory as a parent," she says.

## GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT: Cross maximizes Emory's advantages

Continued from the cover

"I know that for students who come from a background without privilege or parents who've gone to a university, it's a whole new world," she says. "But Christina saw it as a smorgasbord — a buffet of opportunities that she would be crazy to pass up. She was determined to make it, and she did."

This month, Cross graduates with a bachelors degree in sociology, a wealth of new experiences, and a future — this fall, she begins doctoral studies in sociology with a fully funded fellowship at the University of Michigan.

None of it, Cross insists, would have been possible without what she found at Emory: academic support, financial assistance, abundant opportunities, and room to grow.

"I was expecting a great education and I got it," Cross says. "The resources I found here are amazing."

Cross points to Emory Advantage for making it possible; her parents couldn't afford to contribute toward her education. Designed to assist students who can demonstrate financial need, Emory Advantage strives to make an Emory education attainable for any qualified student, regardless of income.

There were moments of self-doubt, reminders of a past that few shared.

During a class, Cross once found herself with other students assessing Atlanta neighborhoods not unlike her own. Spotting a used-tire store, she interpreted it as a positive sign, a resource both handy and affordable. So she was surprised to learn some students didn't know such stores existed.

"When I first came here, I was nervous to share my point of view," she recalls. "Over time, I learned how important it is to speak up in class if only to hear people say, 'I've never thought of it that way.'"

Despite her non-traditional background, Cross had something to offer. She came for an education, yet she contributed, too.

"There's been so much growth — being a part of this community, I learned to validate myself, know that there is something I bring to the table" she says. "It reaffirms you, makes you stronger."

What kept her going? Cross credits important people entering her life at critical times, but "a lot of it has to do with her own internal resources that allow her to believe that she belongs and deserves, that she's capable and has a contribution to make," says Dianne Diakité, associate professor of religion and African American studies, whom Cross recognizes for encouraging her to pursue a PhD.

"We just helped guide and nurture something that is already there," adds Diakité.



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## Commencement traditions link generations

By MICHELLE VALIGURSKY

Campus graduation traditions abound at Emory, from seniors who walk by candlelight with classmates and friends, to returning alumni who don golden robes to walk the Quad during Commencement.

For Mary Regina Messier Cumbie '48N and Kerri Woodward '13C, Commencement Weekend from May 9-13 and the 168th Commencement exercises at Emory University will mark an important first for their family. The grandmother and granddaughter will proudly walk the Quad together, each in their respective caps and gowns.

"It is so exciting for me to share this tradition with my granddaughter 65 years after my own graduation. Kerri is the first of our family's next generation to attend Emory, and now we get to share in a very special day," Cumbie says. "The Emory Alumni Association (EAA) has made it possible by honoring me as part of the Corpus Cordis Aureum."



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The Corpus Cordis Aureum (CCA), or golden corps of the heart, was created to honor Emory alumni who have graduated 50 years ago or more. "The tradition represents the true cycle of our student to alumni experience," says Carol So '10C, Emory Alumni Association assistant director of student and alumni programs.

During the CCA induction ceremony, the Judson C. Ward Golden Heart Award will be awarded to Barbara Reed '57N-'79N. Established in 2010, Jake's Golden Heart Award seeks to recognize Emory alumni who demonstrate the same

values of service, generosity of spirit, and loyalty to the university embodied by Dean of Alumni Judson "Jake" Ward '33C-'36G.

Camaraderie will abound at a special Wonderful Wednesday to kick off Commencement Weekend. Then, on May 9, Atlanta Braves all-star Chipper Jones will be featured during Senior Class Day. The ceremonial Coke toast and the 10th anniversary Candlelight Crossover processional across the Houston Mill Bridge to the Miller-Ward Alumni House will formally launch graduating seniors into the realm of active alumni.

"I am unbelievably excited for Emory Commencement Weekend. While it is certainly bittersweet to see four fulfilling years in the College conclude, I have long anticipated this weekend spent with family and friends," says Woodward.

"Knowing that my grandmother will also participate in these Emory traditions means the world to me. Her experiences at Emory are initially what drew me to this university," she says. "I am honored and overjoyed to share the Emory Commencement traditions with my grandmother and carry these Emory memories into my next phase of life."

For up-to-date event postings and invitations, stay tuned to the official Emory alumni blog The Post, the EAA's Facebook page and Twitter feed. See the full schedule of Commencement Weekend activities at [www.emory.edu/commencement/schedule](http://www.emory.edu/commencement/schedule).



EMORY PHOTOVIDEO

## CLASS OF 2013 BY THE NUMBERS

### CLASS PROFILE

#### TOTAL GRADUATES

4,228



#### FEMALE GRADUATES

56%



#### MALE GRADUATES

44%



#### INTERNATIONAL

71  
COUNTRIES



#### NATIONAL

47  
STATES



Excludes Hawaii, North Dakota and South Dakota

- AGE OF YOUNGEST UNDERGRADUATE 20
- AGE OF OLDEST OVERALL GRADUATE 65
- MILITARY SERVICE GRADS/DEPENDENTS 54
- EMORY COLLEGE GPA ≥ 3.5 46%
- EMORY COLLEGE AVERAGE GPA 3.39

### DEGREES AWARDED

#### TOTAL DEGREES

4,316



#### DUAL DEGREES

88



- UNDERGRADUATE: 2,233
- GRADUATE: 1,352
- DOCTORAL: 723
- CERTIFICATES: 8

\*All figures correct as of May 7

### COMMENCEMENT DAY

»14,000

chairs on the Quad



»66+ dorm rooms rented by families/guests



»200+ volunteers

»15,000 desserts served May 9-13



»800+ candles for the Candlelight Crossover



»1,000 Coke products for the Coca-Cola toast

